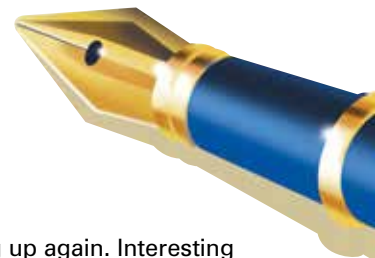


# Readers Letters



Dear Leigh,

I have just read that IPAF has given its Lifetime Achievement in the powered access award to Dan Kaplan! Dan Kaplan!!!. I cannot beleeeve it! How did this happen????? Compared to others he is a minnow in the access industry!!!

I don't know the man, so I cast no aspersion on him personally, I am sure he is a fine individual and talented and that he has been very influential in the American rental industry. But the global powered access market??? Come on!!

Dan Kaplan?!?! I do not get it. Was it because the annual shindig was held in America and he is American? It just makes no sense. I knew hardly anything about his career so googled it and to be honest I am still baffled - he doesn't even seem to have been much of a 'character'. If an American was needed what about Art Moore of Snorkel, or Wolf Haessler of Skyjack? Or Guy Ramsey or John Parker or Dick Moyer or the man that started Marklift.

And why was it held in America again? What is wrong with countries where members are? Like Denmark or Germany or Belgium - Brussels would have been a good one! Or Ireland rather than somewhere so far away most members are excluded from.

I am so angry and its not the first time so this time I decided to write it all down before I calmed down and forgot about it.

**Winston Smith**

I can't afford to upset the Powers That Be at IPAF, if I do my partners will give me hell if they take it out on us. So as you can see I have not used my real name.

*Yes we could see that the Winston Smith name was not the one he has on his email address! Awards such as this can be a nightmare, people love them or hate them, usually depending on whether they have won or not. The IAPAs appear to have been modelled on the Oscars and like the Oscars there is one lifetime achievement award a year, and clearly there are too many people of merit in our industry to ever be covered by one annual award. One problem the judges have is that these awards only go to those who have applied or have been entered. It is typical for this type of award for larger companies or self promoters to be more predominant among the entries, and thus due to simple odds among the winners.*

*Perhaps there is a case for the association to do more research to unearth a wider spread of applications? In this case without knowing who the other applicants were it is impossible to comment. And at the end of the day it is down to the judges vote, have a judge on the panel who makes a passionate case for one person, while others are indifferent on this category you can guess who wins.*

*It comes down to the old adage 'You have to play to win'.*

Ed

**Reputations**

Interested to see Guy Willet popping up again. Interesting piece - to be fair I did not expect it to be. But got sucked into reading the whole thing and it made a lot of sense, which is something for a computer illiterate like me. I would like to see more things like this in the magazine rather than just machines and gossip.

**Vince James**

*We have suggested to Guy Willet that he considers doing another couple of articles, the feedback was a little disappointing - lack of, not anti - we really do appreciate you letting us know what you think of our articles so please do take the time and get in touch, even if it is just a one line email.*

Ed

**Stolen crane returned**

Good morning,

As you know on September 1st, 2017 a Liebherr LTM1300-6.2 300 tonne All Terrain Crane was stolen from the Hovago Cranes yard in Dordrecht. Pretty unusual that the target of such a theft is a six axle All Terrain crane. But the crane was gone. For the last five months we were informed from various sources that the crane was offered for sale. And from the photo's we received it was clear that somebody was trying to sell our crane by using various traders around the world. But the search for the crane went on without results.

You can imagine our surprise when earlier this month, we received a call from the Federal Police of Antwerp. They have a team, formerly known as AULA, that is specialised in these kind of crimes. And in one of their operations, they recovered the Liebherr on an industrial area in a village somewhere in the Antwerp area.

This was what we had hoped, and more or less expected. This crane was too big to quickly ship overseas, or to drive overland across borders. As well as the size, the weight and the dimensions make it impossible to travel unnoticed, especially since you need special road permits in most European countries to travel with this crane.

We were very pleased to see that the crane still was in excellent condition and it will be checked out by Liebherr first.

We would like to thank you for participating in the search for the crane, and of course we thank the Federal Police of Antwerp for their efforts to secure our crane. Well done!

Kind Regards,

**Marcel Reimslag**

General manager

Hovago.

*This was excellent news both in that the crane was recovered, but also that the criminals did not manage to profit from their deeds. We published the story on our website and in the magazine in the hope that by helping spread the word, traders are on the alert should they be offered such a machine. We feel though that there is much more that could be done and would advocate a global database of stolen equipment - the crane, aerial lift and even telehandler markets are specialist enough that this is practical, while for earthmoving and other equipment a global register would simply be too large for easy searches/references. Traders or parts suppliers could simply check a serial number to see if it has been reported stolen or not.*

Ed

**David James R.I.P**

UK crane and access industry veteran David James died suddenly at his home on March first. He was 74. James started out in the crane hire industry with Scott Greenham Crane Hire he then moved to PTP (a sister company within BET) the company that pioneered self-propelled aerial lift rental in the UK and which for many years was the market leader until acquired by Loxam in 2000 to create its UK business.



He joined Nationwide Access in 1995 with responsibility for health & safety and remained with the company until he retired in 2006, but also did some auditing work with Kimberly Access as part of its programme to dramatically raise its game in terms of health & safety practices etc.

David James was well known in the industry for his uncompromising fairness and ethics. He was passionate about safety and doing things properly. The online report of his passing resulted in numerous tributes. The following are just two from people who worked closely with him over the years.

*All of us who worked with Dave will remember him as a great friend and true professional. His honesty and unique personality set him apart. His knowledge of the industry was excellent. He was uncompromising, and it was always good to have him on your side*

*RIP Dave*

**Mike Evans**

*I was very sad today to learn of Dave's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Dave at Scott Greenham cranes, PTP aerial platforms and Kimberly Access. Not only was Dave a very capable Health Safety and Training Manager he also possessed an in-depth practical knowledge of equipment, particularly cranes which was his first love.*

*I send my sincere condolences to his wife Pam and his family.*

*May you rest in peace Dave.*

**Ray Ledger**

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