

## Readers

## Letters



Dear All,

Further to our recent prosecution of Mr Andrew Weeks under Section 9 Fraud Act 2006, for the production and sale of Education Certificates and other Industry Based Qualification cards, I am pleased to announce that, following numerous hearing delays, Mr Weeks was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court earlier today.

His Honour Judge Berlin sentenced Weeks to a Custodial Sentence - three years and eight Months. Half of the sentence is to be served in prison, with the remainder served on licence following release. Needless to say, that this is a really good sentence and should act as a deterrent to others, committing similar offences.

Once again thank you to all of you who were involved with bringing this matter to its rightful conclusion. Please can you pass this message and my sincere appreciation on to others within your organisations who I do not hold contact details for.

The BBC are currently interested in this case and are due to feature our investigation on a new TV series, currently in production.

Best Wishes

**Crispin Steele**

Trading Standards  
Officer

Warwickshire  
County Council



*This concerns Andrew Weeks, 53, who produced counterfeit training cards and certificates, originally trading as 'Nuneaton Print'. An investigator working for the Construction Industry Training Board was able to buy a Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) card. Its lawyers issued a cease and desist undertaking, which Weeks signed, agreeing to stop producing counterfeit products. But he then changed his business name to 'Yorkshire Novelty Print' and carried on as before.*

*Warwickshire Trading Standards officers then began their own undercover investigation and contacted him to buy a GSCE certificate, which he duly provided. At no time did Weeks ask the buyers if they had actually gained any qualification or undergone any training to operate the machines. Weeks was also sued by CSCS for copyright infringement and ordered to pay damages of £6,000.*

Hi Clare,

Didn't catch up with you at Vertikal Days this year, hope to next time!

So so sad about Dave George I read of his passing on Leigh's poignant piece on the website and in the magazine. I had no idea he was so ill and missed his jovial calming presence at Donnington.

I'm sure it was a difficult one for you all and I certainly raised a glass of rum in his memory the night I read the sad news. Bless him and onwards/upwards with Vertikal Days 2019 in his memory.

Have a nice evening and kindest regards to you all at team Vertikal.

**Mike Allanson**

Universal Crane Mats Ltd

*The following is an open letter sent to Tim Watson and the CPA, following the posting of a video on Vertikal and other websites of an overturned telehandler recovery that went wrong.*

Tim,

Another horrendous example of how lifting operations are still going dreadfully wrong on site despite the claims of stakeholders and major card schemes that they have "upped their game."

I have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the attached video clip posted this week which shows a crane, (possibly two?), taking part in the recovery of a telescopic handler that has toppled over whilst fully extended and elevated.

Difficult to make out whether there's a tandem lift being attempted but a combination sling onto the telescopic handler extended and elevated boom clearly fails during the recovery and the VRT ends up back on the floor.

A thousand questions come to mind particularly regarding the competency of Appointed Persons/Lift Planners who achieve their qualification without ever seeing a lifting appliance and indeed some who have never participated in a practical slinging and signalling of a load, in their lives. Purported competence off the back of deskbound knowledge sessions by card schemes and the AP NVQ that at best is lacklustre and offers industry dubious competency for overseeing lifting operations. It would not appear to be fit for purpose.

When this dangerous incident is seen it makes one wonder how the Crane Interest Groups can continue to support the current modus operandi for national card schemes and APs and their training/testing and associated NVQ.

As for the telescopic handler operator and the failure to counter lateral stability issues another area of massive concern and need for improvement for the card schemes and site supervision in what is now sadly a daily occurrence.

Let's hope nobody was injured and that the HSE are able to establish what went on if indeed the site bothered to report a dangerous occurrence. I am unaware of the location/date etc.

At the very end of the video clip the voice that lapses into the vernacular, says it all.

Regards,

Mick Norton

**David Lane** 1947 - 2018

**UK crane rental industry veteran David Lane passed away last month following a short illness. He began his crane career with G W Sparrows & Sons in the mid 1960s as a hire controller at the company's Gloucester depot.**

In 1969 he was promoted to open a new depot for the company in Doncaster and quickly established himself in Yorkshire. His reputation grew to the point where he was recruited by Hewden Stuart, where he took on his first sales role. He was then asked to move to Stockton on Tees to open a new Hewden crane depot, where he was quickly adopted as a 'Teessider', which in those days was no easy task for someone who was clearly exposed as a southerner as soon as he opened his mouth. He even became a Middlesbrough supporter!

He went on to hold various senior sales roles, including opening a group sales office in London which played a key role in establishing Hewden - which in those days was predominantly a Scottish and North of England business - with the major industrial/petrochemical industry which was centred in London.

He retired in 2012 and has since enjoyed travelling with his wife Yvonne both in the UK and overseas, including Australia. He was diagnosed with cancer only a month ago and passed away peacefully at home on Saturday October

27th, surrounded by his family. He is survived by wife Yvonne, children Simon, Debbie, Becky and Emma along with four grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on 26th November followed by a celebration of his life at the Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm, just as he had requested it.



**Lachlan 'Graham' Campbell** 1937-2018

**UK access industry veteran Graham Campbell passed away on Monday November 7th. He began his access career in 1967 when he joined John Rusling - the Instant scaffold and UpRight dealer for the UK - as a sales manager. In 1987 he left to set up his own sales company and became a Genie dealer for its Superlift, PLG Air Hoist and AWP type products.**

He was highly successful, especially with end user sales, and formed C&G Platforms Ltd with his wife Catherine to handle the growing business. Although it remained largely a regional Genie dealer, the husband and wife team developed C&G into a business offering service, repairs, replacement parts and training - most of which

were outsourced - along with new and used equipment sales. They sold the business to Lifterz in March 2010. He leaves behind his wife Catherine. The funeral/memorial service will be held at Dewsbury Golf Club on December 3rd at 12:30.



**Edward 'Eddie' Clancy** 1956- 2018

**As we went to press, we learnt of the sudden death of Eddie Clancy, the owner and chairman of UK-based Emerson Crane Hire, following a heart attack and fall at his home in Spain, he was 62.**

A larger than life character, Clancy 'officially retired' in 2001, but has remained active in the business, albeit from a distance. The business has been run on a day to day basis by his son, managing director Liam.

Clancy was born in Stratford, London and grew up in Dagenham East London. His father Luke had moved to London following a tough upbringing in Ireland to look for a better life, but things remained tight financially. In a bid to do better Clancy took a motor mechanic apprenticeship, with spells at Arleigh Green College. His first full time job was working as a mechanic for the Alan Kemp garage in Barking. Kemp would later join Clancy as workshop manager at his budding crane company, today his son Stuart is Emerson's workshop manager.

Clancy's next job was working alongside his father as a steel erector/rigger for Interlink at the Shell Haven Oil Refinery in Essex. It was here that he became interested in cranes and lifting work managed to save enough to help buy his first crane, which he operated from his home in Dagenham.

This turned in his first venture Emerald Crane hire in 1982 which grew at a rapid rate. As the recession of 1991 began to bite the heavily leveraged business ran into difficulties and went in administration.

After facing a good few challenges Clancy began again with Emerson Crane Hire, which expanded at a steadier pace with son Liam joining the business. Clancy retired in 2001 and moved to Spain with his second wife Barbara where the two had a daughter Lily. He continued to play a very active role in the business, but increasingly at arm's length.

Clancy had something of a reputation, and probably upset more than his fair share of people during his career in the crane rental industry, including some employees. However, with others he was loyal and supportive, and was a true advocate of bringing new people into the industry, he was instrumental in the development of the Emerson training centre. He had a reputation for his bad jokes and sense of humour, loved a glass of wine and a curry and lived life to the full, right to the end.

