

Safety just part of the access package

IPAF's Access Summit, 'Marketing Safety is Profitable' (*Cranes & Access*, April/May 2003 page 8), held in April focused on the role of safety. Yet this was firmly set in the context of the need for the industry to deliver an increasingly comprehensive 'access solution' package to its customers.

SPEAKING AT the Summit, Loxam managing director, Bernard Fournier, made the point particularly strongly when he reminded that rental customers are no longer looking at price alone but increasingly for a total package that includes both safety and productivity.

The approach to delivering this mix of safety and productivity is exemplified by the regulatory framework in the UK. Bill Callaghan, chair of the Health and Safety Commission, took considerable care to set out the rationale of the sometimes misunderstood, goal-setting rather than prescriptive, central thrust of the British approach to delivering improvements in safety at work.

Clearly designed to encourage the maximum participation in which everyone takes on their own responsibilities for safety, this is preferred to the rigid, 'rule book' alternative.

Accepting the major task ahead in bringing about the required culture change, he argued:



Bill Callaghan, HSC chair, reminds that safety is everyone's business

"We must get health and safety out of the box labelled 'health and safety', and integrated into every aspect of working life." He stressed that everyone, not just employers, need to recognise safety as their own business – not someone else's.

In achieving this he underlined the importance of everyone working together and described the theme of the Summit as "a reflection on IPAF's long-standing commitment to this vital subject." He continued by highlighting IPAF's key role: "The Federation has had a long and fruitful dialogue with the HSE; long may it continue." ■



Paul Adorian, IPAF managing director (centre) with the international panel of speakers at this year's Access Summit.

IPAF reports strong financial base for expansion

IN HIS ANNUAL report to IPAF's 19th AGM, outgoing President Nicholas Davin highlighted the significant strengthening of the Federation's financial position. He was especially pleased with this achievement because it had been secured during a period of general economic recession and also because it was one of his central aims on taking over the presidency two years ago.

The strong financial base is an equally fitting testament to the work of Paul Adorian. On his retirement at the end of the year, he will be handing over IPAF in a position of strength to his recently appointed replacement, Tim Whiteman. ■



Outgoing IPAF President, Nicholas Davin of Aerial Platform Hire hands over the IPAF presidency to Peter Bennett of Turner Access

PAL card recognised by Highways Agency

UNDERLINING ITS commitment to a policy of requiring all suppliers working on its network to have fully qualified and registered operatives, the Highways Agency is publishing a pamphlet this month entitled *Workforce Registration/Skill Card Requirements for Suppliers*, detailing which cards it recognises.

IPAF's PAL card is one of those that the Agency accepts for Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) operators.

The Highways Agency re-iterates its support for the Confederation of Construction Client's aim of achieving a safe, stable and skilled industry that is competitive and competent. It recognises the important role played by registration/skill card schemes that provide evidence of the competency of an operative, and the publication of the pamphlet sets out clearly the Agency's registration/skill card requirements. In this it will assist in the identification of recognised cards by its own staff as well as those of its agents and suppliers. ■

Over £1000 raised for Lighthouse Club

THE TRADITIONAL collection at this year's Luncheon, which followed the IPAF AGM and Access Summit, raised a grand sum of £1275 for the UK's Lighthouse Club. IPAF has long been a strong supporter of Lighthouse Club and invited Don Baldry to remind of its aims and achievements. ■



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