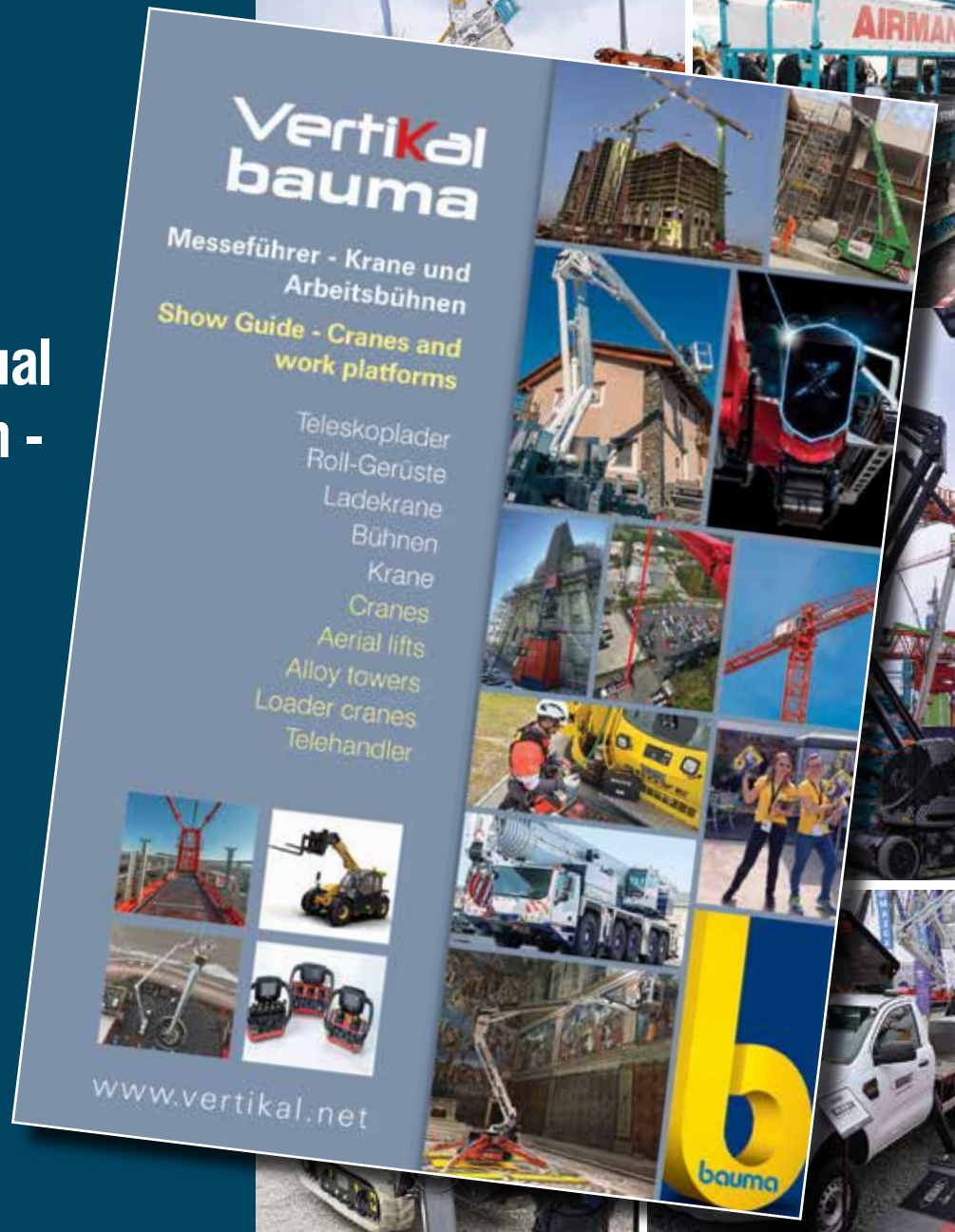


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April 7th - 13th 2025

READERS LETTERS

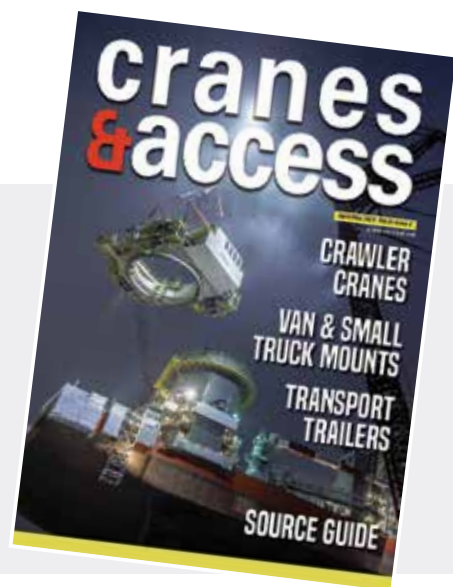
COVER OF THE YEAR ... CHOSEN BY YOU, OUR READERS

The 2024 Cranes & Access cover competition launched in the last issue, saw some enthusiastic reader participation with the April/May issue emerging as the clear favourite capturing 39 percent of the votes. The June issue achieved a strong second place with 18 percent, while issues July/August and December/January each only received two percent of reader votes coming in last place and taking the wooden spoon.

Winning reader

Congratulations to **Harry Sharp** of Encanto Exterior Cleaning whose name was pulled out of the hat from among those that had picked the winning cover. His prize - a bottle of champagne and one of our Going Up in the World books.

As a reminder here are last year's covers



BOUGHTON WINCH CRANE

I have an International Boughton winch crane and what I believe is a BTD 8 track base. Not many of these were ever built, let alone are still around. I brought it a few years ago off a Welsh mountain side with all good intentions, but as usual life and work get in the way.

I am now selling it as all it's doing is deteriorating more and it seems a shame for it to just sit like this. It drove on and off the lorry and into where she sits now. Steering clutches were seized but main clutch was working well. Everything on the crane worked well and engine sounded sweet, apart from all the symptoms of needing a head gasket.

First few pictures are as I bought it, and the other ones are as it stands now. Got plenty of pictures to show how it's come apart already. All the parts are there except a seat.

Will Jones

Will Jones is on Facebook as Grey fergies

Boughton winch is surprisingly still in business, we approached it to find more history on this crane but have so far not had a response.



CARLO LOCATELLI R.I.P

One of the great mobile crane pioneers Carlo Locatelli of Locatelli Gru in Italy has died. He passed away on Sunday, February 16th following a period of ill health, and more than 18 years after handing over the ownership and management of the business that he helped build. He leaves behind his wife, daughter Claudio, son Marco and three grandchildren, on whom he apparently doted.

The Locatelli crane company was founded by Paulo Locatelli in 1954, with young Carlo becoming involved very early on while training as an engineer although it was not his first choice of career. The company originally built basic industrial/municipal and lattice boomed cranes for use by companies in the immediate area.

But in 1962, under the growing engineering influence of Carlo, the small business introduced its first telescopic crane, an Italian version of the American style 'cab down' Rough Terrain cranes which had been pioneered by Austin-Western and in the early 1960s by Pettibone and Galion. The Locatelli's were almost certainly the first Rough Terrain cranes to be designed and built outside of the USA.



Locatelli began with cranes like these

A swing cab Rough Terrain crane arrived in 1977 and around that time the company began talking to UK based Coles cranes following an introduction by the Coles distributor Movimat which sold cranes from both companies, however it never really came to anything. In 1995 Locatelli signed a contact with German manufacturer Krupp to supply Krupp branded Rough Terrains on an OEM basis. The relationship lasted a good few years.



Locatelli was the first non-American manufacturer to design and build Rough Terrain cranes - Carlo is on the left

Carlo began handing over the day to day management of the business around 18 years ago and then in 2007 the family agreed to sell the business to Venpa 3 following discussions with sister company CTE. In 2011 the business was acquired by the Plana Group, made up of local investors in the Bergamo area, where Locatelli is based and has its roots. Plana remain the owners of the business.

Last year Locatelli celebrated its 70th anniversary and Carlo was there to join in with former and current employees and their families. A comment we have received said: "Carlo Locatelli was a great pioneer of the crane industry. He leaves an invaluable legacy of genius, humility and passion. A passion that has accompanied an extraordinary career, marking a precise and glorious era for the mobile crane market in Italy."

The company statement said: "Engineer Carlo Locatelli, was a fundamental figure in the long history of Locatelli Crane. After almost 20 years of new management, his entrepreneurial spirit and innovation continue to live on in the machines we produce and the values we carry forward every day."

"Thanks to his commitment and determination, Locatelli Crane has built solid foundations, allowing us to achieve the standards of excellence that distinguish us today. The new Locatelli crane team together with the Plana Impianti Industriali Group remember him with esteem and gratitude."

"His name will always remain an important part of our narrative."

A couple of other comments received also express the impact Carlo Locatelli had on the industry and the people that make it:

"Ing. Carlo Locatelli left us yesterday. For years at the helm of the family business Locatelli Crane, he was a kind captain, who was able to passionately manage an entire era of the world of lifting. I owe much of my professional career to him, and I will fondly cherish indelible memories of him, never trivial encounters, engaging dialogues and fatherly advice. Thank you Carlo."

Michele Mortarino



Carlo Locatelli

"Talking about Carlo, for me becomes difficult, because my colleagues and I from 1975 to around 2000, we shared with him a good piece of the road he made, of professional and human growth. Locatelli, in the 1970s, was nothing more than a promise in the field of cranes and lifting... then precisely with the common experiences gained, in addition to the desire to grow and confirm themselves on a technical level ... Locatelli became one of the most important Italian manufacturers, with strong recognition and respect from all the other players in the sector..... Slowly, it has become a splendid and solid reality in the world of Italian lifting and beyond....."

Carlo more and more involved and focused on what would later become his creature In 1975 Locatelli developed three models, in the 2000s, it designed and built 11 models, where were sold all over the world.

Ciao Carlo You will always remain in our hearts. Thank you for everything you have taught us.

Piero Pinzauti



Carlo Locatelli celebrates 'his company's' 70th anniversary



Carlo's engineering influence remains - last year Locatelli unveiled its largest RT to date, the 100t Gril 110.100

BARRY JACK BARNES 1943 - 2025

We have received the sad news that veteran UK crane rental entrepreneur Barry Barnes has died. He passed away in the early hours of Monday morning, March 10th, surrounded by his family having suffered a short illness, he was 81. He leaves behind son Chris and daughter Debbie. His wife Christine sadly passed away in 2020 during the Covid pandemic.

Barry Barnes started work as an apprentice mechanic in 1958, shortly after his 15th birthday, working on transport trucks and cranes. It seems that cranes became something of a passion of his and in 1978 at the age of 35 he purchased his first crane, a 12 tonne Coles Hydra 120T, a two axle, single cab/"cab down" truck crane, and started a one man crane rental company trading as Great Harwood Crane Hire covering the area north of Manchester.

He and his wife Christine ran the business together for around 10 years, building it into a very successful company with a fleet of around 20 cranes. As a result of their success, they began receiving enquires to acquire the business, leading them to accept a buyout offer from Grayston White and Sparrow, allowing them to take early retirement in the Isle of Man.

But that did not last long. Barely six months later Barry set up Mann Crane Hire with his son Chris and they built this into a 15 unit fleet, the business is still run by Chris Barnes, who took over the reins in 2006. Given the size of the Island, he has gradually reduced the fleet to six carefully selected new cranes.

When GWS left the Great Harwood area some years later and closed the business, Barry could not resist getting back into it and set up a new Great Harwood Crane Hire with his daughter Debbie, which they built into a 22 crane operation, before selling it to Frank Barnes - no relation.



Barrie Barnes



Christine and Barry Barnes



Barry Barnes in 2018 with a restored Coles Hydra 120T at Vertikal Days

KEVIN WOODS R.I.P

Sadly, we have not been able to obtain sufficient details on the untimely passing of UK crane rental manager Kevin Woods who passed away over the weekend of February 1st. We learnt of his death from the following letter.

Dear Leigh

I'm very sorry to have to pass on the news of Kevin Woods of Ainscough has died. Kevin worked as a lift supervisor for Ainscough for over 30 years mainly out of the Hayes depot. His health was declining over the last few years, and he sadly passed at the weekend from leukemia.

His close colleagues from over the years gathered together to meet up with Kevin a few weeks ago and many had smiles on their faces when reminiscing over the jobs completed in the past and old time sheets....

Respectfully
Malcolm Rodger

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