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On the cover:

A Niftylift 150T trailer platform working in Milton Keynes, UK



C & a contents

16

Heavy lift



22

Trailer lifts



43

Apex preview



SUBSCRIPTIONS: Cranes & Access is published eight times a year and is available on payment of an annual subscription of £40.00. If you wish to subscribe, please send a crossed cheque made payable to The Vertikal Press Ltd to: Subscriptions, The Vertikal Press, PO Box 6998, Brackley, Northants NN13 5WV. Address changes should also be sent to this address. Please include the address label from a recent issue with all correspondence and allow 3 months for changes to be effective.

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Kran & Bühne: The Vertikal Press also publishes a German magazine which deals with the same issues as Cranes & Access, but is written for German users and buyers. Details available on request.

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Comment 5

News 6



Haulotte buys Bil-Jax, Palfinger buys Wumag, Terex buys Fantuzzi, Manitowoc quits shipbuilding, Nationwide and The Platform Company become Nationwide Platforms, 2,500 tonne crane collapses in Houston, JLG, Skyjack, UpRight/Snorkel and JCB all announce lay-offs, New city crane from Kobelco? Manitou launches new models, Bobcat upgrades telehandlers, Terex-Demag opens UK facility, First half results round up.

Heavy lift 16

Developments resulting in lifting capacities in excess of 4,000 tonnes have transformed the industry where only 60 years ago a mobile crane lifting five tonnes was a big lift. We look at the trend for major manufacturers to offer larger capacity cranes which have increasingly been designed and built by the heavy lift contractors themselves.

Top 30 Rental company survey 25



Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Cranes&Access rental fleet survey of the Top 30 UK/Ireland crane, powered access and telehandler rental companies has been expanded yet again, check out the companies on the move and how they have grown over the past 12 months.

Trailer lifts 35

As the self propelled aerial lift market in the UK has become more and more sophisticated, the trailer mounted lift has increasingly become a niche product, available more from tool hirers than the national powered access rental companies. Cranes & Access takes a look at recent market and product developments.

Apex preview 43

The international specialist access equipment show Apex will open its doors once again in Maastricht in mid September. Since moving to a three year cycle in 2005, well away from Bauma and Intermat, the show has gone from strength to strength. We take a look at some of the likely highlights to look out for.



Face to face 51

Cranes & Access talks to Herbert Ortner, the recently appointed CEO of Palfinger about its acquisition of Wumag and its core crane business.



Vertikal Days review 52

The second Vertikal Days event - showcasing cranes, access equipment and telehandlers - was held at Haydock Park in late June. In spite of the 'summer' date the weather was not kind. However this did not deter almost 1,000 lift equipment buyers from turning out to meet suppliers and view the latest equipment innovations



regulars

Pasma Focus 59

ALLMI Focus 61

IPAF Focus 63

Training 65

Books & Models 66/67

Your letters 68/71

Innovations 72

What's on? 74

On-Line directory 86/87

In the next C&A

The October issue will feature: Self propelled boom lifts, the Vertikal Check, Rough Terrain cranes, the SAIE show in Bologna, Outrigger mats and a review of APEX.

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25



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Design & Artwork by:

bp design Ltd.

Tel: 01707 642141 Fax: 01707 646806

email: studio@bpdesign.info

ISSN: 1467-0852

© Copyright The Vertikal Press Limited 2008

The Vertikal Press also publishes:



For users & buyers of lifting equipment
August/September 2008 Vol. 10 issue 6

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Press**

The Vertikal Press Ltd.
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c&a comment



Every cloud has a silver lining.

Where has the summer gone? The now familiar August wash-out began much earlier this year, and even moving Vertikal

Days to the end of June didn't improve the weather - it poured.

The successful second gathering of the crane, access and telehandler fraternities was marked not only by torrential rain on the second day, but also strong winds from the start. These were a major contributing factor to an unfortunate incident involving a fully erect, indoor, narrow-aisle scissor platform with sail-like banner attached to the side of the basket. The machine blew over, thankfully without anyone being injured.

As it is pointed out to us from time to time, our web site www.vertikal.net covers a disproportionate amount of crane and access accidents which could give a misleading image of a 'dangerous industry'. So to have a platform topple at Vertikal Days was the last thing anyone needed. However, they say every cloud has a silver lining and indeed several positives resulted from the incident.

Firstly, it made the industry take a good look at the way it exhibits at trade shows, from the equipment chosen to the training of the stand personnel. All too often, equipment is demonstrated in unfamiliar surroundings (this was a special indoor machine on show outside, at full height on uneven ground) and staff manning the stand may well be trained in the art of sales, but are not necessarily trained fully in the operation of the equipment.

Secondly, the speed with which representatives from the major aerial lift manufacturers convened a meeting (the following morning) to review the lessons that could be learned from the incident. Within another day or so IPAF had published basic guidelines which are expected to form the base of the draft Code of Practice covering training levels for sales staff and staff involved in setting up equipment at exhibitions.

It all goes to show that investigations do not need to take years before results are made public and that improvements to safety within the industry can be discussed and implemented very rapidly. But like most incidents, it has also shown that most can be avoided by having trained personnel using the right equipment for the job and using it appropriately. Somethings never change.

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.

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