

READERS LETTERS

THE DOG'S BOLL**KS

While we are fortunate to receive more than our fair share of letters and correspondence about the magazine, we have never ever had a response to a front cover as we did last month - it was universally appreciated. Most of the input said much the same "great" Brilliant cover" "Great cover" "Fab cover" "Best cover ever! No one else would do such a thing." "Hi Love the cover!" "Hi Leigh is that one of your dogs on the Front Cover? Cool I love it!"

For those of you who missed it - here it is again.



ESTA ARTICLE:

Eloquently written and very much a very serious subject. Infrastructure is creaking all over northern Europe and governments are largely ignoring the issue. On a similar note we have problems in the UK with the new demands by some police forces for Police Escorts for GVW of 100 tonnes. That means anything over approx 60 tonnes, assuming the low loader outfit weighs 40 tonnes.

There is no joined up approach and whilst you might be able to secure an escort in one county you can't in the next. I've appraised the CPA and they are going to start lobbying government and police but the more pressure we can bear via any other groups with influence, the better. Feel free to contact me to discuss further.

Robert Law

RICHARD 'DICK' LEE KOBERG 1941 - 2023

Dick Koberg, the founder of Dica outrigger mats has died. He passed away in hospital on June 27th in Guthrie Center, Iowa at the age of 82.

Koberg was born and grew up in in Durant, Iowa. After school he initially trained as a teacher before enlisting in the US Army, serving from 1961 to 1964 as a cryptologic repairman. After leaving the services he found work with the Northern Mutual Insurance Company, leaving in 1969 to join his Uncle Leo Levien who owned the car dealership Levien Chevrolet in Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1977 he acquired his own dealership which became Koberg Chevrolet in Carroll, Iowa - north west of Des Moines - selling it in 1984.



Dick Koberg

Later that year he joined Bowie Manufacturing that made mobile veterinary equipment. During his time with the company, he expanded its business into the utility truck market. One day a fleet manager working for one of his customers said: "Can you build me a better outrigger pad"? He took up the challenge and created a hybrid fiberglass and wood outrigger mat that was stronger, longer lasting and easier to handle than the existing wood mats.

In 1987 he decided to leave Bowie to set up Dica with his wife Carolyn, using the first two letters of their first names to commercialise his new outrigger mat concept. After conducting a thorough research and testing programme he reached the point where he was happy with the product and finally incorporated the business in 1989.

Today, Dica is a leading manufacturer of outrigger mats, cribbing, ground protection and jack pads based at a 3,250 square metre facility in Urbandale, Iowa, with additional manufacturing facilities in Minnesota and Ohio. Dica remains in Koberg family ownership and is managed by Dick's three sons - chief executive Kris, marketing director Kevin and strategic accounts manager Kerry who works alongside his wife, sales manager Kelly. Dick's wife Carolyn and daughter Katie are non-executive directors.



Dick and Carolyn Koberg



(L-R) Kris, Dick, Carolyn, Kevin, Kerry Koberg

GOOD TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Hi

Over the years I have received Cranes & Access through the post to my university address. The postal system at the university is not as efficient as it should be as the university becomes increasingly reliant upon digital methods, can my copy of Cranes & Access be sent to my home address instead of the School of Construction Management at the University. I hope this is possible. The home address is xxxxxxx. If there is an electronic version of the magazine that is fine. The magazine is excellent, it is used for the modules on the BSc and MSc programmes to give students awareness of the increasing importance of cranes and access.

Many thanks. Kind regards

Roger

School of Construction Management and Engineering

Hello Roger,

Thank you for your kind words, and yes we can have the magazine delivered to your home address. You can also access the magazine online as www.vertikal.net. I will be very happy to continue sending a hard copy to you.

Many thanks

M Miller

Hi Margaret,

Many thanks for the email. I have accessed the magazine online (great website), but hard copy is good to put in our resource room for the students to see. I like your publication because it has good technical articles and is easy to follow. Keep up the great work and the contribution made to the construction industry.

Kind regards

Roger

RITA BARNES 1947 - 2023

Rita Barnes - the wife of crane industry veteran Barry Barnes of Demag/Terex - passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday July 5th, following a complication with an operation, she was 75.



Rita Barnes

The couple were friends since their schooldays and were married for 55 of them, having held their wedding on Rita's 21st birthday. Rita Barnes or the 'Lovely Rita' as he often referred to her, was known to many in the crane industry both in the UK and elsewhere as she would frequently join customer groups on trips to major exhibitions and factory visits and was very much involved with the business. She was known not just by Demag customers, but also competitors, if not personally, because Barry would often refer to her by name.

In a message sent shortly after she died Barnes said: "I am deeply saddened to let you know that my wonderful wife, lovely Rita passed away at 5.45pm on 5th of July.

Rita was and will be my number one 'Go To' for everything. She leaves an adoring husband and two loving children Kelly and Brad and most caring five grandchildren. She is sadly and devastatingly missed and in thoughts and hearts forever."

Barry Barnes entered the crane industry as a teenager, when he joined Demag in 1965 and spent his entire career with the company, remaining on board after Demag was acquired by Terex. He retired in 2011 and before long became a crane consultant and advisor.



Rita and Barry Barnes