www.colle.eu | info@colle.eu | +31 (0)46 - 45 74 100



## Another Summit

The IPAF Summit and awards dinner returned to the UK this year and as a result attracted a record number of delegates. The event was last held in the UK four years ago, moving to Amsterdam, Rome and Miami in the intervening years. The increasingly international event was held at the Beaumont Estate in Old Windsor, on Thursday April 3rd. Many of the delegates arriving the evening before attended a networking event at the Eton College rowing club at Dorney Lake - the site of the London Olympic rowing events. A number of the more adventurous attendees took the chance to go out on the course and received instruction on how to row in a team. with mixed results.

The following day the Summit and Annual General Meeting were held at the main venue and included a wide range of speakers, including Genie president Matt Fearon giving his view on the prospects and development potential for large booms and their safe operation. **Bill Plummer, chief financial** officer of United Rentals and his colleague Fred Bratman head of investor relations gave a fascinating talk on how to win investors and funding for your business, passing on their experience working for the world's largest equipment rental

Earlier in the day mastclimbers and aerial work platforms audiences were separated. In the aerial lift section, Mark Keily and Peter

**Douglas of Nationwide Platforms** discussed some of the problems that the UK's largest aerial lift rental company has experienced and the solutions and policies that have been devised to overcome them.

The audience was also treated to a series of videos and information on Brazil, as Antonio Barbosa, IPAF country manager attempted to both sell the business and lifestyle prospects of his country and lure delegates to the world cup later this vear.

In the mastclimbing session safety, why operator training is vital and the latest regulations were examined by Kevin O'Shea, director or safety and training at Hydro Mobile, **Bobby Reese from Mastclimbers** LLC and Romina Vanzi IPAF MCWP department manager.





In the combined afternoon session David Miller, deputy chief inspector of air accidents in the UK gave a enthralling talk on how the Air

**Accident Investigation Branch** (AAIB) is organised, and how it goes about investigating accidents, monitoring and collating near



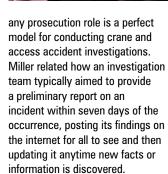


## IPAF summit CFA





misses and anonymous concerns. What became crystal clear to most of those attending the presentation is that the AAIB's no-blame culture and complete independence from any other government body or



The AAIB's role is purely to investigate an incident, while those who are responsible for prosecution, look at the publicly available reports and information, and using those, makes an entirely separate decision on whether there are sufficient grounds for prosecution. As a result there is no secrecy and no hiding facts in case they might prove useful in a prosecution, etc.. All of the delegates that we spoke to agreed that if the UK Government

- among others - were to adopt this well proven formula/format for investigating construction and industrial accidents the workplace would quickly become a safer and more open place.



One other presentation well worth mentioning came from IPAF technical director Chris Wraith, who discussed IPAF's accident statistics and how some in the industry and the general construction media are misunderstanding the results that it publishes, from the increasingly successful programme. Too many people are taking the rising number of fatalities recorded in the statistics as an indication that more accidents are occurring. And yet the truth is almost certainly to the contrary. The higher number of fatalities shown in the numbers is purely down to the rapid increase in the number of companies inputting data and therefore a higher percentage of the actual incidents being reported than in the past. The misunderstanding is apparently causing some contractors to be concerned and consider returning to alternatives such as ladders or scaffolding, both of which are generally acknowledged to carry higher risks. Wraith therefore proposed that a

Wraith therefore proposed that a new summary statistic be generated that might be easier to compare with other industries or with road or air accidents. This might be based on the number of fatalities per machine day. Taking the estimated worldwide rental park - now almost a million machines - and dividing it by the estimated average utilisation currently achieved to give a total number of days operated which can then be divided by the number of fatalities to give fatalities per







thousand days operated. On this basis the figures suggest that using an aerial work platform for working at height might even be safer, or as safe, as flying on a scheduled commercial aircraft flight. It is certainly a great deal safer than driving to work or taking the train. The effort to develop a comparison is ongoing and input from all those interested would be much appreciated.

The evening was of course reserved for the annual IPAF lapa awards dinner, with almost 450 attending the sell-out event. Comedian Dominic Holland compered the award presentation and was highly amusing, while keeping the award presentation moving along at a much appreciated brisk pace.



The winners were:

- · Low level product of the year -The Pecolift from Power Towers
- Mastclimbing product of the year - Scanclimber's Double Decker
- Vehicle mounted product of the year - The 72 metre Ruthmann Steiger T720
- · Self-propelled boom product of the year - Genie's 180ft SX180 telescopic boom
- Contribution to safe working at height - Peter Douglas of Nationwide Platforms in the UK
- Powered Access Pioneer award -Galmon Singapore and Desmond Ong
- · Innovative use of access equipment award - Fraco mastclimbers of Canada
- · Access rental company of the year - AFI-Uplift of the UK
- · Instructor of the year Tony Radke of NES Rentals - USA
- · Training centre of the year Mills Rental of Brazil
- · Outstanding customer service award - Access Plus of the UK
- The IPAF president's award went to Hans Aarse for his work establishing IPAF in the Benelux region.

And finally, the Life Time Achievement award was presented to Mike Evans, an interview and career review

for Evans was published in the March issue of Cranes & Access.



Finally in a closing statement that many attendees missed as they headed for the bar, the location for the 2015 IPAF AGM and Summit was announced and will return to the USA for the second time in two years being held in Washington DC on March 26th.



machines, powered lifting machines and runways and light crane structures.

To see what it takes to become a TEAM card holder, simply scan the code or visit

www.leea.com.au

