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**HUNDREDS OF MACHINERIES ON DISPLAY**

# New president speaks out on apprenticeships

The newly elected IPAF president Nick Selley has called on the industry to attract more young people by creating apprenticeships and raising the profile of the career opportunities. "Young people are the future of our industry. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and during my presidency I will strongly promote the need for our members to further develop their apprenticeship programmes. In my own company - AFI - one in eight employees is an apprentice and we will be looking to continue this in the future. The hire industry creates very good opportunities, but IPAF needs to increase the industry's profile to encourage more young people to come on board."

"When it comes to training IPAF is certainly relevant - our accredited courses are fundamental to the industry. But we need to be more proactive in raising industry standards. We don't just want to report accident statistics - we also need to develop initiatives to reduce them. Safety is paramount and our members need to believe in these values. And if IPAF is to be relevant to the industry it cannot act in isolation. That is why I will be seeking to develop closer collaboration with other industry groups in the UK and overseas, to ensure that IPAF is central to industry developments."

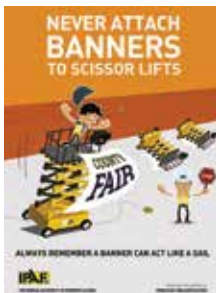


IPAF president Nick Selley speaks out on the need for more apprenticeships

## IPAF's 'Guardian Angel'

IPAF technical & safety executive Chris Wraith has been named as a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Guardian Angel for creating the Andy Access character used to spread safety messages for those operating aerial work platforms and "making a demonstrable difference in the world of health and safety and accident prevention, through personal initiative, diligence, enthusiasm and commitment."

Wraith said: "While I came up with the idea for Andy Access, he wouldn't have been such a success without the support of IPAF's staff around the world, or the enthusiastic buy-in from our members including rental companies, manufacturers and network of IPAF training centres."



Andy Access and his creator Chris Wraith.

# Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group Safety Alert Protocol

A Safety Alert Protocol has been developed by the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group MEWPs Group. The Protocol describes a voluntary standard for Safety Alerts issued by contractors and others who have incidents they believe may be related to the design, manufacture, maintenance or use of aerial work platforms. It is intended to guide the author of a Safety Alert so that it is seen as authoritative and helpful for those that receive it. A standard format is included for the layout and content of Safety Alerts.

IPAF technical and safety executive Chris Wraith said: "Safety Alerts are always issued with good intentions, but sometimes omit key information, which can lead to speculation and over-reaction when they are received. We hope that this Safety Alert Protocol will help the industry improve safety whilst maintaining productivity."

Kevin Minton, director of the CPA and chairman of the group added: "This is a great example of hirers, contractors and safety specialists working together to improve communications in the sector."

Members of the group include the CPA, IPAF, HSE, CITB, BCSEA, FASET, SAFed and NPORS, as well as significant representation from major construction companies.

It meets twice a year to share information on aerial work platform safety, and has set up working groups to produce guidance and address specific issues.



## New guidance on Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of platforms

IPAF and the CPA also issued joint guidance on the Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of aerial work platforms at Vertical Days last month.

The guidance has been endorsed by the UK Health and Safety Executive and developed for the Strategic Forum for Construction - Plant Safety Group, as an essential reference document for all those who have any management or supervisory responsibility for the safe condition of a work platform. It recognises that it is extremely important for all platforms to be kept in safe working condition throughout their working life to ensure continued safe and efficient operation.

There are three key elements to ensure they are kept in a safe operating condition: Inspection, Maintenance and Thorough Examination, and the guidance outlines why these should be given equal emphasis to ensure the safest possible working practices.

