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(L-R) Karin Nars, Norty Turner and Karel Huijser

IPAF president and board members confirmed

Norty Turner of United Rentals was confirmed as president during the federation's 2020 virtual AGM on the 23rd April. He succeeded Brad Boehler in October, who had stepped down after leaving his role with Skyjack. Karin Nars of Dinolift was confirmed as deputy president and JLG's Karel Huijser as vice president.

On the board Nick Selley of AFI-Uplift continues in an 'ex officio' role, while the three members seconded last year - Pedro Torres of Rival, Julie Houston Smyth of Lolex and Ben Hirst of Horizon Platforms - were also confirmed.

In his inaugural address, Norty Turner said: "It is traditional for an incoming IPAF president to set out some key objectives for their term in office. My first priority will be to work with the IPAF board, Council and senior management, to support our team and members worldwide through this global public health crisis and assist our industry's recovery from this challenging situation."

"Beyond that I am looking forward to supporting Peter and the team in increasing sustainability in our industry, embracing and integrating new technology into everything we do including innovations such as an app for operators and managers and paperless IPAF courses, while adapting more of IPAF's training programme for eLearning and virtual reality applications."

New chairmen for IPAF in Italy

Paolo Pianigiani of Imer has been appointed chairman of the IPAF Italian Country Council and Roberto Geromin of Gianfranco Savani chairman of the Italian Training Working Group.

The Country Council includes representatives from manufacturers, distribution and service companies while the Training group is made up of instructors or representatives from IPAF training centres. It addresses training related issues including legislation and regulations, while participating in events or seminars and updating courses.

Paolo Pianigiani and Roberto Geromin



Exclusive credit control benefit for members

IPAF members in the UK can benefit from preferential access rates to the debt recovery and credit referencing services of Top Service, which also offers specialist assistance in dealing with late payments and disputes.

For details of this and other IPAF membership benefits see www.ipaf.org/benefits



IPAF assists members through pandemic



IPAF has enacted a robust business continuity plan to protect its teams around the world, allowing key functions of the organisation to continue in order to maintain support for members and the wider industry.

Events have been postponed, international travel has all but ceased, and wherever possible, IPAF team members are working remotely. IPAF is used to conducting meetings via video conference however the Council meeting and AGM were held virtually - using Microsoft Teams - for the first time ever, while the federation's annual report has been published online and is available to download at www.ipaf.org. Printed copies will be produced at the first opportunity.

The federation has continued to work with national governments, health & safety bodies and international standards organisations to ensure safety and best practice continue to be maintained and shared. In the UK it has worked with Build UK and the Hire Association Europe to challenge the UK HSE on what to do if machines on site need a LOLER thorough inspection renewal during the Lockdown. It has signalled that it is committed to work with IPAF to ensure machines can continue to work, perhaps alongside an enhanced daily pre-use inspection.

In April the ISO 21455:2020 standard for uniform platform controls, was published, the culmination of a decade of work from IPAF and its members. IPAF has also worked hard to promote those parts of its training programme available in eLearning, including operator theory modules as part of a PAL Card renewal, while PAL Cards due to expire have been extended by 90 days, to allow their continued use if restrictions prevent attendance at an IPAF training centre.

Updated eLearning versions of the 'MEWPs for Managers' course in English and German and a special ANSI A92 compliant 'MEWP Supervisor' in the US have also been released.

Chief executive Peter Douglas said: "The challenges presented by this unprecedented public health crisis will probably mean we have to do things a bit differently in the future. As lockdowns are lifted we have issued guidance to training centres allowing them to provide the instruction and practical assessments required to obtain or renew a PAL Card while maintaining social distancing measures. We will continue with our projects to assist members meet training demand worldwide, as well as improving accident reporting, issuing new safety and technical guidance including Andy Access posters and Toolbox Talks, while helping members boost productivity and sustainability."