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Cranes & Access: www.Vertikal.net/en/journal.php

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What was

Clapham crane collapse

A 100-tonne capacity Kirow 810 (UK) rail-mounted crane owned by Balfour Beatty Rail caused havoc at Clapham Junction for up to 75,000 commuters in January after it toppled over blocking two of the station's four rail lines. Nobody was hurt in the incident. **C&A January 2004.**

Haulotte on the move

The French aerial platform producer got off to flying start in 2004 with the acquisition of the financially troubled UK rental firm, UK Platforms – the firm that it helped set up in 2001.

C&A February/March, 2004.

Hird Snr retires

Peter Hird, owner and managing director of Peter Hird and Sons announced his retirement at the age of 65 early in the year to make way for his eldest son, Peter Hird Jnr, who took over as managing director and joint-owner.



Peter Hird Jnr

C&A February/March, 2004.

Amco Veba acquires Ferrari cranes

Italian knuckle boom crane producer Amco Veba acquired Flli Ferrari cranes for an undisclosed sum, effectively doubling the size of its crane division. **C&A February/March, 2004.**

Holland Lift appoints UK distributor

Holland Lift, The Netherlands-based producer of heavy-duty scissor lift work platforms appointed Russon Access as its new UK and Ireland distributor in March, while later at bauma, Spanish aerial lift producer Matilsa also announced a UK dealership agreement with Russon.

C&A February/March, 2004.

Spanish train bombing

191 people were killed and 1,800 injured when ten bombs exploded on four packed, early-morning commuter trains in Madrid. Spain's interior minister later named the Islamist extremist group, the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, as the perpetrators.

Independent calls in the administrators

Vertikal.net reported in April that Independent Access Services, at the time the third largest powered access rental company in the UK, called in the administrators.

Vertikal.net, April 8, 2004.

With 2004 now firmly stored in the vaults of memory, C&A digs deep and stirs up some of the more topical headlines that have graced its news pages during the past 12 months.



bauma celebrations

bauma celebrated its 50th anniversary in March and opened its doors with the news that JLG had acquired Manlift's Toucan and Liftlux product lines. With record numbers of visitors in attendance, Terex also announced that it had won its 'super lift' patent infringement case against Liebherr. **March, 2004.**

New owner for JD Crane

The Peterhead-based crane hire company, JD Crane Group, was sold to new crane rental company JBK Rental Services. The company was set-up specifically for the acquisition of JD Group, which operated around 90 cranes spread across six depots in Scotland and the north of England. **C&A April/May, 2004.**

Liebherr refutes Demag court case victory



In the Liebherr/Terex-Demag court saga, Liebherr-Werk Ehingen denounced Terex-Demag's claims that it won a general prohibition ruling for 'Y-type' boom guying systems from the Mannheim regional court in Germany. Liebherr said that the ruling only related to an outdated variant of 'Y-type' guying systems and subsequently appealed against the decision.

C&A April/May, 2004.

the score in 0004

Manitowoc and JLG complete Manlift deal

Manitowoc excited the aerial work platform industry on completing the Manlift sale to JLG. Later in the year, senior managers at JLG confirmed that the first JLG-Liftlux units would appear in April 2005. C&A April/May, 2004.



Toucan 1210

Manitowoc to supply Grove's to Kobelco

Manitowoc reached an agreement to supply Grove all-terrain cranes to Kobelco on an OEM basis for sale under the Kobelco brand exclusively in Japan. C&A April/May, 2004.

JLG signs European telehandler deal

JLG signed an agreement with SAME Deutz-Fahr Group for the distribution of its European agricultural telehandler line, the designs of which JLG purchased the previous year. C&A April/May, 2004.

HSE starts three-week blitz

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) began a three-week "Nationwide blitz" of hundreds of UK job sites as part of the FaTal Risks Campaign 2004 - an EU wide initiative to address the three major causes of fatal and serious injuries in construction. Vertikal.net June 7, 2004.

Maxim files for Chapter 11

Maxim Crane Works in the US, at the time the world's largest crane hirer with 1,500 mobile cranes and 1,000 aerial lifts, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in June. In January 2005, the way would become clear for Maxim to emerge under new ownership. Vertikal.net June 23, 2004.

SED breaks visitor record

Almost 20,000 visitors passed through SED's gates back in May for what turned out to be another record year for the UK's premier construction equipment show. C&A June/July 2004.



Bouffault replaced at Manitowoc

The Manitowoc Crane Group (MCG) named Phillipe Cohet (pictured) as its new executive vice president for Europe, Middle East and Africa, following the departure of Jean-Yves Bouffault at the end of September. C&A August/September 2004.



AJ Access acquires Cox Plant

AJ Access Platforms acquired the access rental fleet of Cox Plant for an undisclosed cash sum. The purchase included over 100 machines that were incorporated into to AJ Access' core used equipment business. C&A August/September 2004.



Martin Ainscough speaks out at crane conference

Martin Ainscough, chairman and CEO of Ainscough Crane Hire, criticised UK crane hire companies for their lack of support at a crane safety conference held in London in June, after just nine UK mobile crane firms turned out for the event. Mr Ainscough, who urged the HSE to audit crane hirers, also called for swingaway jibs to be made a thing of the past. Vertikal.net June 15, 2004.

Hewden pays for Canary Wharf crane collapse

Hewden paid a full and final settlement of £4.875 million following the collapse of a tower crane at the HSBC headquarters at Canary Wharf, London in May 2000, which killed three workers. The settlement capped more than three years of litigation. Vertikal.net July 9, 2004

UpRight opens in Mexico

UpRight opened a new 28,000 square metre production facility in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. The opening followed close behind the closure of the firm's Madera plant in the US. C&A August/September 2004.

National Crane Group formed

Twenty-eight UK crane hire companies combined their resources and crane hire services in mid-2004 to provide a nationwide crane hire facility with access to more than 500 mobile cranes. Dubbed the National Crane Group, the group's intention is to provide an alternative to the larger UK national crane hire firms. Vertikal.net August 11, 2004.

Liebherr and Haulotte in UK moves

Liebherr Great Britain closed down operations at its Hatfield site after 38 years and moved to a new 10-acre purpose built facility in Biggleswade near Bedford. Also in a UK shift was Haulotte, which moved into new purpose-built premises in Telford. C&A June/July, 2004.



Aichi appoints UK dealer

Aichi of Japan used the Platformers' Days event in Germany to announce the appointment of EasiUpLifts as its distributor for self propelled lifts in the UK and Ireland. Kenjiro Nezuka (left), Aichi's Executive officer, International Division and Theo

Plichta (second left) European sales manager were present to congratulate Harry McArdle (right) and John Ball of EasiUpLifts on the new agreement.

C&A October 2004.



Ainscough receives the first of thirty LTM1055-3.1s. Left to right: Neil Partridge, Reinhold Breitenmoser, Martin Ainscough, Hans Georg Frey, Steve Cooke and David Milne.

Ainscough in largest Liebherr crane order

Ainscough did some early Christmas shopping and placed a massive order with Liebherr Ehingen for a grand total of 37 new all-terrain cranes.

Vertikal.net October 27, 2004.

Farewell to Malcolm Cardy

Malcolm Cardy, European divisional manager of Genie Industries and the firm's longest serving European employee, quietly exited the access industry in 2004 and headed off to Missoula, Montana.

November 1, 2004

The Platform Company opens vehicle mount division

The Platform Company opted for 40 new 3.5-tonne chassis Nissan Cabster trucks, equipped with 14- and 18-metre Oil & Steel booms, to mark the opening of its new vehicle-mounted platform division in October.

C&A October, 2004.

Left: Mark Milligan, The Platform Company Vehicle Mount Division general manager and Lee Perry, The Platform Company sales director.



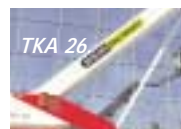
GT calls in the administrators

Geoff Till Access filed for voluntary administration back in October for protection while the firm restructured its debts and balance sheet. The company emerged nine weeks later as GT Access Ltd.

C&A October 2004.

Palfinger buys Bison

Palfinger extended its truck-mounted platform portfolio with the purchase of one of Germany's leading producers, Bison Stematec. Palfinger entered the access market just 12 months earlier with a 20-metre, 3.5 tonne truck mount (see Cranes & Access September issue page 31).



US IPAF safety conference

More than 200 delegates attended the first ever Aerial Platform Safety Conference in Dallas, Texas, in November organised by Aerial Work Platform Training Inc (AWPT), the US affiliate of the UK's IPAF.

Vertikalk.net November 10, 2004.

IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman.



Bryn Thomas takes UK's first GMK 7430

Bryn Thomas Crane Hire rounded off a good year with the delivery of the UK's first Grove GMK 7450.

The 450 tonne all terrain crane was supplied complete with Mega Wing Lift boom support system. C&A December 2004.



Manitou dealer convention

More than 700 delegates from Manitou dealers across the globe celebrated the production of 200,000th Manitou rough terrain fork truck and the unveiling of a new corporate identity and logo in November at the company's 2004 World Dealer Convention. Manitou said that it plans to reach 300,000 units by 2010.

C&A December 2004.

STGO plates become law

The deadline for fitting STGO plates to cranes passed in early December 2004, but it soon became clear that confusion over the presentation of certain information displayed on the plates and interpretation of the law helped delay many companies from completing the task. C&A December 6, 2004.

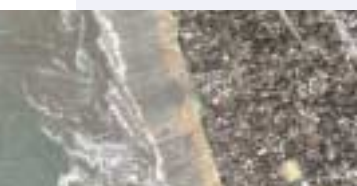
Asian earthquake disaster

In the early hours of December 26, 2004, an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 9.0 occurred under the Indian Ocean and generated tsunamis that just hours later would become the deadliest natural disasters in modern history. The earthquake originated undersea just north of Simeulue island, off the western coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia.

The resulting tsunamis devastated the shores of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and other countries, with waves of up to 15-metres high.

The east coast of Africa, 4,500 kilometres west of the epicentre was also effected.

At the time of writing, at least 200,000 people are known to have died as a result of the tsunamis. Officials have ceased counting.



Receding waters, Kalutara Beach, Sri Lanka, shortly after a tsunami struck.

Denmark's largest crane hirers merge

BMS and Kran Ringen, two of Denmark's largest crane hirers, decided to merge operations, effective October 1, 2004, to create one of Scandinavia's largest mobile crane and access rental companies. The merged company, which kept the BMS trade name, has a fleet of 110 cranes and over 400 aerial work platforms.

Vertikal.net November 27, 2004.

BMS was awarded second place in the Crane Job of the Year award at the 2004 ESTA awards, held during bauma week in Munich.



Rival in 1,000 unit JLG order

Holland's largest access rental company, Rival, placed a €29 million order for 1,000 JLG booms and scissors, a significant number of which were boom lifts of 26 metres and over. Several hundred units will be divided between existing Rival rental fleets, while the majority is destined for new ventures with local partners in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Vertikal.net December 2, 2004.

Bush re-elected

As the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel pulsated in a last minute glimmer of hope before fading into darkness in front of the world's eyes, George W Bush was re-elected President of the United States on November 2, 2004.

