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NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

READERS LETTERS

Dear Leigh

It was great to see you at the CPA Stars of the Future Awards 2024 last week. This event was a fantastic showcase of young talent in our industry. I was particularly impressed by the number of training providers and mentors now available, a stark contrast to the situation when I first entered the industry in 1979.

Back then, as a young man transitioning from the army to becoming a crane operator, I was fortunate to be taken on by G. W Sparrow & Sons in Southampton, a company you are well acquainted with. At the time, Sparrows was the only company that I knew of with a training school, which was located on Lower Bristol Road in Bath.

The training school, managed by George James and Graham Hicks, provided foundational training despite the large number of trainees and limited resources. After completing the week-long course, successful candidates were recommended by George for further training at the depot.

In those days, the variety of crane manufacturers and models was extensive. With the support of experienced operators and particularly my mentor, Frank Lane, I honed my skills as a crane operator.

By 1999, I had advanced to becoming a CITB Plant Instructor, giving back to the community that had supported my growth.

Since joining Commhoist 23 years ago, I have achieved significant success in training and mentoring our field staff. One notable success is Zac Bradshaw, who was voted CPA Lifting Technician 2024, an award sponsored by Liebherr GB. Zac started with us only two years ago, and has quickly progressed from driving a van, to becoming an aerial work platform Supervisor, TM Operative, Slinger/Signaller, passing his HGV, and ultimately becoming a CPCS Crane Operator.

Reflecting on my career, I realise that my achievements were made possible by the initial training and mentorship I received from George James and the mentors at G. W. Sparrow, the company founded by your family, and in particular run by your father Gordon.

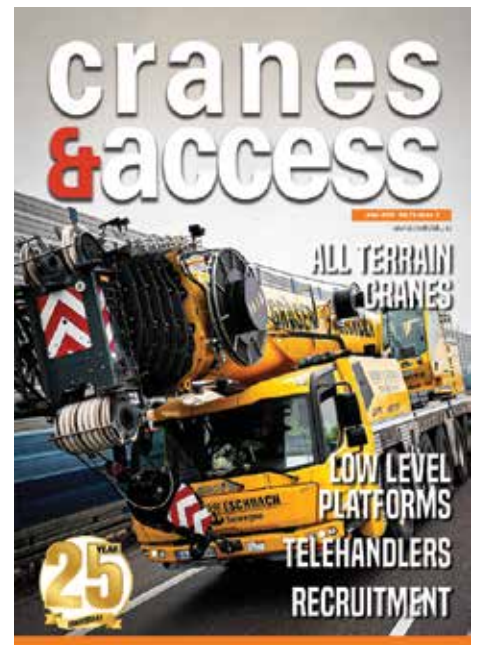
As I approach retirement this September, I have decided to extend my career by at least another year, with the hope of mentoring a few more stars of the future.

Regards

Stephen Mooney

Operations & Training Manager

Commhoist Group



NICE MOVE

I just wanted to say what nice surprise the latest issue of Cranes & Access was when it landed in our offices today. First to see the compostable wrapping, while it might not be as immediately attractive as the old plastic wrapping it is doubly attractive in playing a small part in reducing plastic waste.

It was also fascinating to learn that this was the 25th anniversary of the title. Well done to you all for such an achievement. It was good to see the lead article too. As always, a good and informative read. Thank you, I hope you keep it up for another 25 years although I might have retired by the time the mag celebrates 50 years.

Keep up the good work

Reg Gormley

ONLINE INTIMIDATION

Hi Leigh,

As an enthusiastic supporter of your excellent website, I have noticed the ever increasing intimidation of your Inputters by means of the Thumbs Down button. This is clearly being orchestrated by a former industry executive, who told me of this practice during a long conversation with him personally at a crane conference in Edinburgh during late 2011. This negative practice is inhibiting debate on the subject of Safety Matters and targets people who speak up.

Try being a mystery shopper yourself and see the Reaction as it is deliberately intended to stifle debate by all Vertikal readers ???

Kind regards

Mike Ponsonby



We have held an open discussion on this issue before and had an online poll on the subject in which a majority thought that overall it was a positive feature. We take care to look out for orchestrated campaigns and measures are in place to prevent it. The sad thing is that some of our readers will put a thumbs down on almost anything, while a slightly larger number of readers will give a thumbs down to comments by certain individuals no matter how sensible and correct the comment might be. It is hard to know how to deal with those. Fortunately, the majority do tend to 'vote' intelligently and outnumber the naysayers.

We would though welcome more input and comment on this issue.

The Editor

THIS MONTH'S COMMENT

Congratulations on a lucid and attention-holding opinion piece about the tariffs! Really summed up the issues.

Very thought provoking and insightful.

Thank-you.

All the best,
Tim



Many thanks to all of this month's plaudits. Following numerous suggestions, the comment is now on the Vertikal homepage as well where people can add their own comments.

Editor

CRANE SAFETY 2024 RAISING SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CRANE AND LIFTING OPERATIONS

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

15 October 2024
London

Now in its eighth's successive year, the Crane Safety seminar returns in 2024, refocused to support all those involved in lifting projects.

Join us at the IMechE's London Headquarters this October and explore how engineers are addressing the complexities of maintaining safety and minimising risks.

Expect new presentations and case study insights showcasing a diverse range of projects, new technologies, innovative strategies and much more.

Join this specialist engineering community and get the technical expertise and best practices that will enable your organisation to reduce risk of incidents, ensure compliance with latest safety standards, and maximise the potential of emerging technologies for your lifting projects.

TOPICS IN 2024 INCLUDE:

- Maintenance and integrity
- Operations and training to address skill gaps
- New and emerging technologies
- Changes in legal/health and safety landscape and their engineering consequences
- Updates from the industry regulator HSE
- New and emerging technologies like condition monitoring
- Case studies and lessons learned from offshore and large infrastructure projects, as well as urban challenges

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

INCLUDE:

- Jamie Davies, Principal Inspector, HSE
- Stephen Bradby, Technical and Engineering Leader, Select Plant Hire
- Craig Hook, Head of Lifting, Sir Robert McAlpine
- David Hall, Lifting Manager, Align JV
- Per Fenger, Head of Offshore Lifting, Liftra
- Tim Ryan, COO, Metswift
- Yusuf Warsama, Chartered Mechanical Engineer & Technical Sales Manager, Mammoet
- Oliver Linton, Engineer, Mammoet

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

All Heads, Directors, Managers and Engineers who are involved in the following areas are strongly recommended to join this online seminar, including:

- Lifting Operations
- Project Management and planning
- Site Management
- Equipment assesment and purchasing
- Safety, Risk and compliance
- Maintenance, condition monitoring
- Accident and investigations

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**Early Bird ends 23 August 2024:
book your place today to join this industry-leading conference!**

EVENT CO-LOCATED WITH NET ZERO CONSTRUCTION 2024:

For the first time, we are delighted to announce both Crane Safety 2024 and Sustainable and Decarbonised Construction 2024 will take place on the same day, with attendees able to access the presentations and knowledge sharing at both of these construction industry technical seminars.

https://eventsportal.imeche.org/event/sessions?id=Crane_Safety_2024

JOHN PURSLOVE BARKER 1936 - 2024

Access industry pioneer and the first president of IPAF, John Barker has died. He passed away peacefully on Sunday July 7th following a battle with late stage prostate cancer. He was 88 in May.

John Barker started out in the Royal Air Force and continued flying twin engined aircraft through much of his business life. He came to prominence in the powered access market after he was appointed managing director of Simon Dudley and Simon Access in or around 1974. In the late 1970s he led a massive global acquisition programme, acquiring Milwaukee based self-propelled boom lift manufacturer Krause in 1978, which became Simon Krause.

The US expansion continued throughout the 1980s, with Skywitch scissor lifts, fire ladder company Ladder Towers Inc of Pennsylvania, Nolan truck mounted lift in Ohio, Telelect digger derricks in South Dakota, and boom truck manufacturer RO Holdings in the Mid-West, all added over the next few years.

Back in Europe UK acquisitions included Norfolk based self-propelled lift manufacturer Simon Gala and fire platform company Gloster Saro, while in Ireland Cork based trailer lift manufacturer Eurolift was added, followed by Abbey Equipment in Australia, and finally in 1992 the Italian truck mounted lift company Cela.

By then Simon Access had grown from a single UK plant to 22 companies around the world with combined revenues of £152 million and 15 percent of the global powered access market.

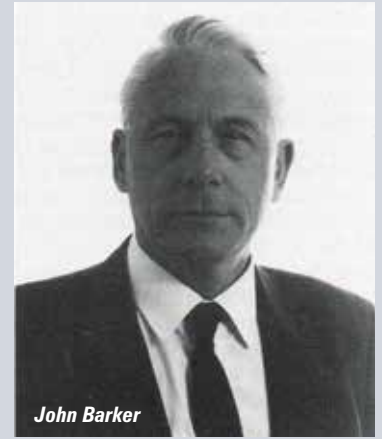
The challenge of bringing a very disparate group of companies spread across the globe together into a cohesive business, became an almost impossible struggle when coupled with a sharp market downturn following the first Gulf War, as well as the arrival of a number of more focused competitors. As a result Simon's access assets were sold and the business closed.

In addition to his global group building role John Barker was appointed as the first president of IPAF, when it was formed in mid-1983 from the merger of the International Work Platform Association (IWPA) - mostly made up of rental companies and dealers - and the international Federation of Hydraulic Platform Manufacturers (IFHPM) an association of manufacturers. He was also very closely involved in the federation's formation.

Barker's full time access career ended in 1994 when he left Simon, but he went on to work with Janes Defence publications and moved into the aircraft access and de-icing market and more recently in 2020 he represented Swedish low level lift company Safelift in the UK.

John Barker could at times come across as a little on the pompous side - 'bombastic' as one of his friends said - but he had a good heart, a great sense of humour, was good natured and very comfortable in his own skin and did not mind it if someone made fun of something he said, in fact he would usually find it as funny as everyone else. He was intelligent, witty and good company. He will be missed by many.

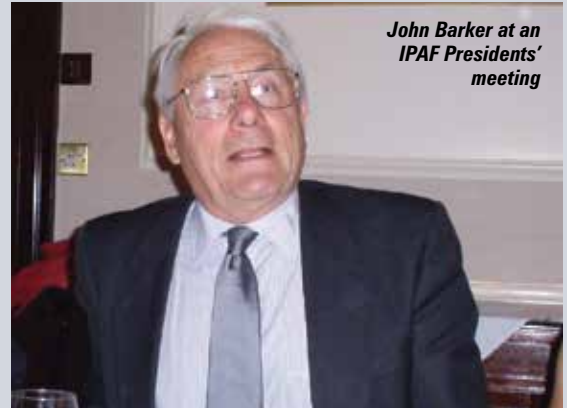
Sadly, he lost his wife Pat a few years ago but leaves behind his son Richard and daughter Sally.



John Barker



John and Pat Barker



John Barker at an IPAF Presidents' meeting

JOHN H. MACGREGOR 1945 - 2024

We have received the sad news that UK crane industry veteran John MacGregor has died. He passed away on Monday July 15th following a long illness. He celebrated his 79th birthday in May.

John MacGregor spent his entire career in the construction equipment industry having joined the tower crane division of Liebherr GB in 1963. He had two spells away from Liebherr, during which time he worked with companies such as Blackwood Hodge, Wyseplant, Baldwins and Morrow UK, only to return each time, the last time in 1995 when he was appointed area sales manager mobile cranes, remaining with the business until he retired in 2011.

In the words of one of his colleagues at Liebherr: "John was a larger than life character and a legend in the industry who made many friends and had an incredible knowledge base. He still enjoyed talking about the industry right up until his final days. May he rest in peace."

He was also a great family man and adored his late wife Barbara, children Karl and Elizabeth, and his four beloved grandchildren.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

John's funeral will be held on Tuesday August 6th at 13:00 at Nene Valley Crematorium, 305 Doddington Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 2NX. *Satnav - use Millers Park postcode - NN8 2NG*



John MacGregor



John MacGregor on his retirement with Richard Everist of Liebherr

RUPERT AARON SCOTT 1967 - 2024

We received the tragic news that long time UK access industry salesman Rupert Scott passed away suddenly on Tuesday June 11th having suffered a brain aneurysm. He was only 56 and had been in work as normal on Monday, leaving at the end of the day, never to return.



Rupert Scott

He had joined UK rental company Quick Reach in August 2022 after 17 years with Nationwide Platforms. He began his tenure at Quick Reach on the hire desk and was promoted to area sales manager in November. Prior to getting into the rental industry, he had worked with Clancy Docwra at St Pancras Station in London.

A statement from Quick Reach said: "We are deeply saddened to share the news of the sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague, Rupert Scott. Rupert was a valued member of our team known for his sense of humour, warmth and unwavering positivity. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his fiancée, family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.

A London boy, Rupert met the love of his life Kass O'Reilly during his time working at St Pancras. The two had finally become officially engaged on

Christmas Day and were planning the wedding for next May. In addition to his fiancée, he leaves behind his mother Valerie and elder brother Adam.

Kass O'Reilly said: "On behalf of Valerie Scott, Adam and I, we would like to thank each and every single person who has shown us so much love and support during this time."

A good many of his friends and colleagues have commented on how funny and kind he was and that he was a real gentleman. A few examples show the level of affection for him.

"Rupert was so liked and loved by so many. He had such a lovely friendly way about him, he always had time for a chat, such a lovely fella, witty funny and a gentleman."

"He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him."

"RIP to one of the most funny, loveable gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure to know."

"Everyone adored you and you always made so many of us laugh... Thank you for touching the hearts of many on this Earth."

The family has asked that any donations go to the link:

[<https://donate.justgiving.com/charity/ehaat/donation-amount>](Essex & Herts Air Ambulance service).



PLATFORM GÜNLERİ 2024 *Keep Rising!*

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