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READERS LETTERS

The following letter refers to a photograph in the September issue of the magazine that shows a loader crane recovering a truck. It is set up on the edge of what looks like a mountain road with the smallest of outrigger mats. The letter is also poignant in that it refers to Bill Green and Hans Aarse, both of whom passed away this year. Having said that Mr Pole makes a good point.

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Dear Sir,

Many many years ago - in the 1990s - Mr Bill Green and Janine Japes de Cock explained to me about additional support under standard outrigger 'feet'.

We had, up until then, used 8 foot and 12 foot wooden railway sleepers. I had seen, and used lightweight plastic squares in Holland, with Hans Aarse. 8 foot and 12 foot sleepers on a five leg crane can be quite heavy to carry.

These two persons stated that British crane drivers did not need lightweight pads (Not in those words).

So now, in 2025, and that road in the picture enclosed looks strong enough not to need additional mats????

Life goes on

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Fred Pole.



RED IS THE NEW GREEN

October issue

I found the article on page 60 of your October issue was a very thought provoking and interesting item. It certainly makes sense and made me sit up and think, but I do think anyone thinking of doing the same needs to be aware of what type of work the crane has been used for, and more critically where it has spent most of its working life. If it has worked for 12 years on a dockside on constant cycle work it is likely to be shot through with corrosion.

And don't forget that contractors in the UK began to get nervous about tower crane age following the accident in Battersea, London, in 2004 or 2005, when an ancient tower crane collapsed and killed a man in the street. If I am not mistaken, the crane was a 30 year old BPR and was in a dreadful state. I imagine structural testing has come a long way since then, and I definitely think that companies are more aware and professional these days.

Hats off to Wolff though, this looks like a good initiative and, as I said, an interesting read.

Yours Sincerely William Jenkins



Wolffkran's stand with the refurbished 100B at Vertikal Days

NICE JOB MIKE!!

I read the letter from Mike Applin Jr of Lifting Crane & Rigging in Cranes & Access magazine that arrived this morning about the damage that the current tariff regime is inflicting on the US crane rental industry, as well as crane manufacturers in the USA!! I totally and utterly agree with every point he makes in his really good and well thought through letter. I just hope above all that the letter reached its intended recipient, and that he read it and took the message on board.

Sadly, I doubt that even if it did reach him, my other two wishes will not come true.

I thought that we were all about making America Great again, but I cannot see how this helps achieve this. In fact, I think it does the opposite.

Please do not print my name, given these uncertain times, you have to be careful.

BRIEF, TO THE POINT AND ODDLY AMUSING

While the following correspondence is a classic piece of spam - it did cause a chuckle in the office.

Hi Boss,

Hope this email finds you well.

We are producing the scaffolding net and fall arrest net to your market now. Do you need it?

Best regards

Andy Fan Sales Manager

SUGRAND GLOBAL

WHAT HAPPENED IN BATTERSEA

We checked to details of the Battersea issue that Mr Jenkins referred to... It occurred in September 2006, with the crane operator Jonathan Cloke, 37, and Michael Alexa, 23, who was simply washing his car in the street alongside the job site, losing their lives, while a third man was injured. The crane was a 28 year old BPR hammerhead. The wrong manual was supplied with the crane and, following the manual, the installation crew installed the 12.2 tonne counterweight for the short back mast while rigging it with the long back mast that only required an eight tonne counterweight. As a result, slew ring bolts began to shear and were simply replaced when spotted until the slew ring parted company with the tower. A tragic incident from which many companies learnt lessons.



UK TOP 30 CRANE COMPANY RENTAL SURVEY

Good morning,

I recently submitted details for the above category, fleet investment should be £2.5 million following some recent purchases.

I have also attached some pictures of our fleet that you could possibly feature, should we make the top 30 next year.

Kind Regards,

David Dougall

Horizon Reinforcing & Crane Hire Co Ltd



TRIBUTES TO THE LATE BILL GREEN

Last month, we published an obituary/tribute to industry veteran Bill Green, who passed away in October. After publication we received a good number of messages. Here are a few of them.

"This is very sad news indeed and I wanted to add my condolences to all of Bill's family and friends. Bill was a great help and inspiration to me when initially taking on a sales role at Grove for the Manlift range of access platforms and was even more of a support when I worked with him closely when Grove UK was set up in Bicester.



Bill Green

He was just a great person to have around you, always a smile and a genuine desire to help you if he could. I regret that we haven't seen each other in recent years, but hearing this news hit me hard and reminded me how big an impact he had on my early career, and I will always be very thankful to him for that."

RIP Bill

Steve B

"Sad news. Bill was a real character and friend. I have great memories from the 1980's and 90's."

RIP Bill!

Greg Davis

"It was very sad to hear this news. I had many a trip with Bill to the USA, Germany and around the UK... he was a delight to be with and was always helping me to grow as a crane man. Condolences to his family. RIP Bill."

J from Grove

"Bill was a real ally when I joined Grove and first entered the lifting equipment industry in the 1980s - patient and inspirational. We worked hard but enjoyed it and had a lot of fun along the way that decade, and some great memories. Always professional, personable and hugely knowledgeable, Bill will be greatly missed by all - colleagues and customers alike - who had the pleasure and privilege of working with him."

RIP Bill

Paul Richards

"What a guy! A great supporter when I was a young Editor at Cranes Today and again when Vertikal Press launched. Always ready to give friendly advice, not afraid to speak the uncomfortable truth while remaining polite and charming. Thanks for your support Bill."

RIP.

TW

"Sad news indeed as another great name from the crane world leaves us. I have fond memories of my years dealing with Bill, and our trips to Germany, Portugal, Spain, Holland and Gleneagles, to name but a few. My condolences to Pam and family."

PLB

"It was very sad to hear this news.

Bill was a lovely man and a character, and the industry is infinitely the poorer for his passing.

Rest In Peace Bill."

Jim Longstaff

"Another legend leaves us. I have very fond memories of Bill and of the time we both worked at Grove Europe. He always had a smile on his face and was willing to help us younger sales guys navigate the market as it developed, and we gained experience and knowledge.

Condolences to Pam and the family

RIP Bill."

Ian James





MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to thank our readers, sponsors and contributors for the fantastic support that you have given us throughout this year, all of which helps to make our publications, events and other activities a success.

We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous year in 2024.

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C&A

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THIS ISSUE WILL INCLUDE:

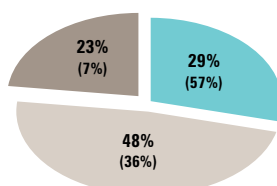
TRUCK MOUNTED AND ALUMINIUM CRANES

What had become a niche market in Europe, is seeing renewed interest in truck mounted cranes, mostly on commercial chassis, whilst the adoption of 'aluminium' truck cranes continues to expand.



MAST TYPE LIFTS AND MAST BOOMS

We examine the use of mast type lifts, which bridge the gap between low level work platforms and small slab scissor lifts, alongside the latest mast boom developments and new entrants to what was once a niche market.



RENTAL RATE GUIDE

After another tough year for many rental companies, the annual C&A UK & Ireland survey gives an indication of the latest crane, access and telehandler rental rate trends as well as gauging the mood of the sector by looking back at 2025 and predictions for 2026.

CONEXPO PREVIEW

We highlight key developments, product launches and things to look forward to during the major North American show Conexpo in Las Vegas in March 2026.



RIGGING EQUIPMENT

We take a look at the market for rigging equipment and services, including the latest products and developments.



LOOK BACK AT 2025

We review the lifting industry and world events from another eventful year...



Every issue of **C&A** is also packed with our **regular columns** and **news** plus **reader's letters**, **books**, **models**, **training**, along with the latest news from **CPA**, **ALLMI**, and **IPAF**.

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