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NEW TRAINING SUPPORT ROLE

The CPA has appointed Mel Edwards as training and skills support manager, in a newly established member facing role. In her new position, Edwards will work with CPA members to understand their training needs, and help find suitable courses and funding to develop their workforces. She will also build partnerships with training providers, colleges, awarding organisations and other industry bodies on members' behalf, and support the association's careers and apprenticeship teams in promoting the lifting industry as a career to people of all ages.



Mel Edwards

Edwards began her career in 1989 at the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), where she worked as a records administrator, supporting its equipment operator card and certification schemes, including the Certificate of Training Achievement (CTA) and the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS). She later advised on equipment training grants and funding, set up the CPCS Logbook Monitoring Programme and, from 2011, worked on developing and delivering the CPCS scheme.

In 2018 she joined Falcon Tower Cranes as training manager, where she has set up and run the company's training centre.

Speaking of her new role at the CPA she said: "I am very much looking forward to working with CPA members, listening to what they need and helping them navigate training, skills, recruitment and funding opportunities and making the process as straightforward as possible. With the overall aim of supporting personal development."

PUPILS TAKE THE LEAD

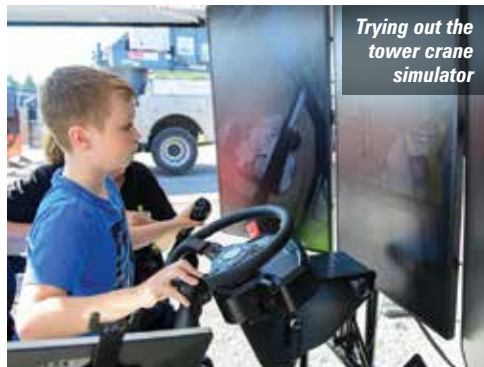
Giving instructions to a crane operator proved a memorable introduction to lifting careers for school pupils attending Lincolnshire Construction and Engineering Week held on the 22nd to the 24th of September.

The three day event, organised by Lincoln Group Training Association, introduced young people to the industry through practical activities and direct contact with industry professionals. The CPA joined member company FJ Crane Hire to support its 'Big Lift Challenge', putting lifting operations at the centre of the pupils' experience.

Rather than simply watching a crane demonstration, pupils instructed the operator as a load was manoeuvred through an obstacle course. The challenge gave them a practical insight into the communication and teamwork involved, showing how the person directing a movement contributes to the operation alongside the operator.

It was also a conversation starter about the different responsibilities within a lifting team. Moving a load involves more than simply operating the controls: planning, awareness of the surroundings and clear coordination are essential.

Pupils also tried the CPA tower crane simulator and completed a crane activity sheet while waiting their turn. The sheet encouraged discussions about the main parts of a tower crane, matching loads to lifting applications and working through load calculations.



Trying out the tower crane simulator



30 YEARS OF CHIG

Three decades of shared experience and technical collaboration were celebrated last month as the CPA's Construction Hoist Interest Group (CHIG) marked its 30th anniversary.

Colleagues gathered at the Heart of England Conference Centre in Coventry, for the group's 41st Steering Committee meeting and 37th open meeting, with delegates joining in person and online. The open meeting was chaired by CPA council vice chairman Kirsty Archbold-Laming, who has led the CHIG since 2013 and is a director of Southern Hoist Services, one of the group's founding members.

Gordon Gedling of Hoist-it gave a talk on CHIG's history, from its beginnings to the people who have contributed over the years. He also acknowledged the long term work behind the group's industry guidance, which draws on experience from different organisations to find practical solutions to shared problems.

Alongside an anniversary cake and souvenirs, the meetings covered technical topics including landing gates, maintenance and thorough examination, transport platforms, working at height, hoist ties and rescue from height. There was also an update on BS 7212, which was published in June.

For CPA, the anniversary recognised the ongoing contributions of its members and 30 years on, the CHIG remains a forum for the construction hoist sector to share knowledge, examine technical questions and contribute to guidance for those working with the equipment.



Kirsty and Gordon