

# Readers Letters



## Bauma not the 'Greatest'

I read your Bauma article with interest, and while I understand that it is the largest construction equipment show on earth, is it really the "Greatest" as per your headline?

I have attended four shows in the past having been to my first bauma in 2001 - I missed 2007 - but the last time I reached the conclusion that it is an event that has grown beyond any sensible point. It simply is way to big, too expensive to attend let alone exhibit at. The crowds are dreadful, getting in each morning or home each evening is a ridiculous bun fight. Then given all the talk about the environment it is hard not to look around the show and thing what a waste of precious resources. All this and half the stands I went on I had to fight the crowds and the people I wanted to speak with were occupied with other visitors. The distances between stands means that getting around the show is hard going and slow. My hotel cost an 'arm and a leg' and I just hated it. I cannot believe though that I am seriously considering attending again this year. Every fibre in my body screams don't go, but on the plus side you do get to see some of the latest cranes, and bigger ones than are displayed at other smaller shows - but quite honestly the best way to see these machines is via a far far cheaper visit to the factory when such a machine is on test. You have more time with company staff and can see the crane in action.

I realise this is a bit if a rant all over your headline, I do appreciate the magazine, which is one of the few I even bother taken out of the envelope these days. If I do come this year I will of course stop by and introduce myself. So don't take this personally.

**Phil Jones**

*Well - it is an opinion and not one that is exclusive to Mr Jones. This year a number of major companies have decided not to exhibit, including JCB and Haulotte, but Bauma has a momentum of its own, and it is a brave larger company that decides to stay away. We expect this year's show to be as popular as the last one with more than 500,000 visitors. BUT one thing that might change it is the seeming move towards more isolationist and protectionist global economy, which could shift the focus to more regional or local events? But don't hold your breath.*

**Dear Leigh,**

As discussed on the phone, I sent the following letter to the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit suggesting that it take some action regarding a strange incident with a machine on eBay that someone was trying to pass off as one of mine.

"Hi My Name is George Alcock I own Hylift Access Hire

Today a man called Alan rang me asking about the history of a 2002 Nissan Cabstar cherry picker which he was looking at on a farm in Crewe. I told him I have never had one of them. This machine was advertised on eBay item number 173708904869. He told me that it had my company logos on it and said he would send me the photos, which he did. And sure enough the lift did have my logo on it, just as he had said.

I reported it to eBay and also rang the seller Michael Kynaston, of High Farm in Crewe. I told him to remove the logo's from the machine as this had never been a Hylift machine. He said he would but later I wondered..

Why would you put another company's logo on a machine? The only thing I could think of was that it had been stolen? I think you may need to give him a call and check this out, I have attached photos.

Regards

George Alcock

Merseyside

**What do you make of it Leigh?**

Des Alcock (My first name is George, but everyone calls me by my middle name Des)



*The seller had the machine listed for £11,995 and it is clear to see from the photographs that the original signwriting has been painted over and the Hylift decals applied. One question is - were these original decals or had the seller made them up? It is a hard to understand what was going on here, you have to assume that there is some form of scam, but what is it? An effort to deflect attention away from the real owner?*

*Any thoughts or ideas much appreciated.*

**Battery developments**

An interesting article on batteries in this issue, I am not convinced though that the lithium battery swap-out has been fully thought through. One big question I have is what about recycling them? Lead acid batteries are easily recycled with around 90 percent or more of an old battery being converted into commercially viable materials. At the moment that cannot be said of lithium batteries. Clearly with so many going into service in the automotive and small appliance market there is demand and that should spur entrepreneurial types to develop a service that exploits this. But surely there is an onus on manufacturers to take the old batteries back when they sell a replacement battery sometime in the future, whether than be in five years or 10 years? I wonder how many companies have made plans to deal with old batteries from the machines they sell?

Regards

Felix Gusterson

*A good point and one that we will raise again with manufacturers. Mr Gusterson is not the first of our readers to raise this issue and so far questions to manufacturers have simply resulted in an acknowledgement that there is an issue but that a solution will be found long before the first batteries need replacing.*

**Chris Taylor 1971–2019**

**Chris Taylor of Redline Competency Services and president of the Telehandler Association of Australia passed away on Friday, following a freak accident at his home. He was just 47.**



A highly experienced trainer, he spent almost his entire career working to train others on the best practice and safe use of a variety of equipment including telehandlers, access equipment and cranes. He was owner and founder of Cobra Training and Licencing services and also worked with National Hire, Hilti Australia and Cobra Plumbing.

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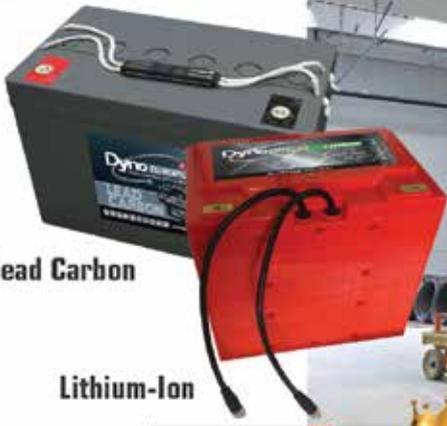
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