



Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to another edition of your National Newsletter.

CMPE NEWS

CMPE 60th National AGM

This was held at the Alma Lodge Hotel in Stockport, Cheshire. Unfortunately the number of members attending the weekend event were down on previous years.

The Friday evening was a relaxing get-together and buffet and a chance to catch-up with friends, which eventually migrated to the bar before retiring.

Saturday morning saw the National AGM meeting which did not bring any surprises and went well with the usual officer's reports and Chairman's address being received. This was followed by a light buffet lunch.

Saturday evening was the Annual Dinner Dance with music from 3 musicians and various guest singers. The theme of the night being timeless classics from the "American Songbook".

The food served at dinner was exceptionally good from starter to sweet and the hotel staff went out of their way to make the weekend a very pleasant stay.

Sunday morning, after breakfast, it was time to pack and say good-byes to all the friends old and new.

Next year's National AGM weekend will be held by our National Vice Chairman/Chairman Elect, Michael Farrington of Wessex Branch, and it will be held in Southampton on Friday 20th July to Sunday 22nd July 2025.

Please diarise this event !!!!



Wessex Branch Summer Charity Night

This was held on the 15th June and was well attended by over 70 members and guests. The charities selected were the Salvation Army and Wessex Cancer trust, both being close at heart to our committee members.

The evening started with a round of 'heads and tails' with the winner receiving £40.00 cash and the runner up a bottle of Prosecco. A 3-course meal and cheese and biscuits followed along with coffee. Raffle tickets were sold by Pete and Sally and everybody as usual for Wessex branch were very generous, raising an amazing £800.00 towards branch funds and future charity evenings.

The charities were both in attendance and were presented with their cheques the value of £1,000 each. They both gave a short appreciation speech and gave an overview of their charity.

The Paul De Souza band played for us and were great entertainment as usual - a Wessex branch favourite!

All in all, another successful and very enjoyable evening for Wessex branch. We extend our thanks to our loyal members and guests and for the funds that they have collectively raised over the past year for such worthy local charities.

Michael Farrington.





INDUSTRY NEWS

CPA names new chief executive.

The Construction Plant-hire Association has named Steven Mulholland as its new chief executive.



The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) has been without a chief executive since the departure of former RAF wing commander Stu McInroy last December after just six months in the job.

Steven Mulholland starts his new job in August.

With Steven Mulholland, the CPA has chosen someone steeped in the plant-hire industry, much as they did with the long-serving Colin Wood, who led the

organisation from 2001 to 2018. Like Wood before him, Mulholland already has a long track record in plant hire, and with the CPA. Wood came from the mobile crane hire business; Mulholland is from general plant stock, having co-founded Mulholland Plant Services in Scotland 25 years ago before selling up to Thomas Plant Hire last November.

Steven Mulholland is currently also the CPA's chair and has been a CPA council member for 10 years.

CPA president Brian Jones said: “Steven has a tremendous amount of experience in the plant rental industry and having been the CPA chair for over six years and a council member for several more years, is familiar with the association, the CPA team and many of our members.

“Steven has formed part of several working groups, including the Plant Sector Representative Organisation (PSRO) and those carried out with CITB. He has also been a board member of the Scottish Plant Owners Association (SPOA) for many years. I am confident he will lead CPA to new levels of support for our members’ businesses.”

Steven Mulholland said: “I am delighted to continue my work with the CPA and look forward to commencing my new role as chief executive. In my view, the most important factor is continuity. CPA council members, CPA staff, along with the executive team, have all done a fantastic job to get our association to where it is today. It has grown in numbers and improved in professionalism in the services we are able to offer members, and this must continue in an ever-changing world.”

In other developments, communications manager Adam Godwin will become a director of the CPA. He has been with the organisation for 19 years.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Liebherr premieres hydrogen-powered wheeled loader.

Liebherr has shown off the world's first prototype large wheeled loader with hydrogen-fuelled combustion engine.



The prototype L 566 H (*left*) is being hailed as the world's first wheeled loader with a hydrogen engine.

A demonstration at the Liebherr [plant](#) in Bischofshofen, Austria, was accompanied by the opening of the first hydrogen filling station in the state of Salzburg.

"To make progress in hydrogen research, we need to have access to hydrogen. We built this filling station to further advance our goals for decarbonising construction machinery," said Herbert Pfab, chief technical officer of Liebherr Bischofshofen.

For smaller vehicles up to about 15 tonnes, battery-electric solutions are generally considered suitable. However, for larger machines hydrogen reciprocating piston engines have been shown to offer better potential.

As part of the development of the hydrogen wheel loader, Liebherr Bischofshofen has opened its own hydrogen filling station (*below*), in partnership with Maximator Hydrogen, which is not only the manufacturer of the filling station, but also a Liebherr research partner. Together, they are working on mobile filling facilities so that machinery can be refuelled directly at the construction sites.



INDUSTRY NEWS

Yanmar dealer opens new depot.

Hunt Forest Group, Yanmar dealer for the south and southwest of England, has opened a new “super depot” in Somerset.



Hunt Forest Group (HFG) has merged the operations of its Sparkford and Cheddar depots into a single facility in Green Ore, near Wells.

HFG has 25 staff across the showroom and workshop at Green Ore, which is one of seven locations run by the dealership. (The others are in Chilbolton, Dorchester, Nether Stowey, Isle of Wight, Blashford, and Tilshead).

Corben Hills, HFG's construction representative, said: “By centralising our resources and expertise, we're better equipped to meet the diverse needs of our customers, whether they're involved in agriculture, construction, or in need of compact equipment solutions.”

HFG was established in 1967 and has been a Yanmar dealer for six years. It also sells John Deere tractors.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Volvo refreshes excavator range.

Volvo Construction Equipment has given its excavator line-up a makeover.



According to Volvo's publicity, "The new excavators are made to help customers achieve more for less, and work with more precision and speed than ever before. Thanks to the new electro-hydraulic system and the automation of boom and bucket movements, operator fatigue is reduced and efficiency increased, enabling precise digging and shorter cycle times with minimal input."

It says that the intelligent technology behind the new electro-hydraulic system enables sensors to monitor operator movements and send signals to command the enhanced main control valve.

"The result is smooth and precise movement of the excavator's boom, bucket and other attachments, as well as more accurate digging and loading," Volvo claims.

The first models to be introduced are the EC500, EC400 and EC230 crawler excavators, in the 50, 40 and 23 tonne class respectively.

Other efficiency-boosting features include a smart cooling system, engine speed regulation and engine pump optimisation to further minimise energy consumption, as well as an auto power boost function to ensure an automatic setting of the system pressure.

Volvo Smart View with Obstacle Classification gives operators 360° visibility of the machine's surroundings, thanks to its camera and new radar detection system. The operator is alerted if objects or human beings are detected nearby – or even far away; the radar's reach can be set on the screen, depending on the confinement of the work site.



The new generation functionality can be enhanced with the addition of Volvo's smart solutions including Volvo Active Control, On-Board Weighing and Dig Assist 2D and 3D machine guidance and control technology.

And, according to Volvo, operators of its new excavators will be more comfortable than before. Seals have been improved to keep more dust out of the cab and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system has been revamped to improve air circulation



Other features include USB and Bluetooth connections to charge and/or listen to mobile devices. There is now keyless engine start and an always-on camera. And there is a coolbox in the cab.

Kurt Deleu, head of product management for excavators, says: "We have always been proud to lead the market with our innovative line of excavators, and now with this new range we are helping our customers get even more out of their machines. This modern design significantly improves the operator experience, allowing machine and human to deliver a powerful performance fit for the challenges of today's worksites."



Thwaites swings to rotating seats.

Thwaites is planning to start production of a new 9-tonne cabbed dumper with a rotating driving seat.



The Thwaites Rotator is expected to be available from distributors in the second quarter of 2025.

Designed by Thwaites engineers and built by the UK manufacturing team, the Rotator is a 9-tonne dumper that gives the operator a rotating position, enabling 360-degree visibility, making it as easy to drive forwards as backwards.

Limit switches ensure the operator seat is always securely engaged, locking out all drive and control functions until so. Tilt sensors will alert the operator audibly and visually when it is safe to tip, depending on the gradient.

Some of Thwaites' competitors have already entered this territory. Wacker Neuson has a site dumper with a rotating seat. Mecalac offers an entire rotating cab.

Thwaites general manager Andy Sabin said: "We are excited by the Rotator, the design and engineered solutions built into the machine, really offers the market an advanced Thwaites alternative, all to further improve visibility, operator safety and performance.



"The cab size, steps from both sides, and rotation mechanism are all best in class. We are also delighted with the control we are going to be able to deliver to operators, via the Thwaites oscillation and articulation system built into this machine".



Approved



CMPE Certificate of Competence

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