HEADLINES

Queen Elizabeth II became Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 6 February 1952 following the death of her father, King George VI and ruled until her passing on 8 September 2022.

Our longest serving Monarch

Rest in Peace

There has been lots of activity since the publishing of our last Newsletter in June, new Prime Minister,(now 2) passing of our Queen, a new King, cost of living crisis, Ukraine still under threat and Mr P threatens the Big Red Button.

Life goes on. As a committee we had much debate and some very tough decisions to make at the time of the passing of Our Majesty as to whether our Bow Shackle Ball, 10 September 2022, would go ahead or be cancelled. After much communication with committee members and our President communicating and taking sound advice from HQ at Lyneham, the decision was made to go ahead with the function, but in a very much revised format. The so-called Bow Shackle Ball was re-named to Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Dinner and all forms of entertainment planned were cancelled, this included live entertainment and disco music. The evening was very successful; indeed, I would say we learned some very good pointers for future events, mainly, you do not require entertainment or music for people to enjoy themselves, many old acquaintances were re-ignited and talk of the old times was sufficient for those in attendance. Thank you and well done to the committee, under the stresses of change, still produced a magnificent night. Additional reports on the evening are detailed further within this Newsletter.

Unfortunately, the other event of the same weekend, Eden Valley Veterans Parade, due to take place on 11 September 2022, was cancelled, so we will have to wait another year to Parade our Standard at this event.

We held a very successful Annual General Meeting on 10 September, with a record number in attendance and further members joining in online, from as far away as Australia. A copy of the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this Newsletter.

My last item in this Headline is to encourage any members who are experiencing difficult times or hardship due to the current Cost of Living Crisis to make use of the various agencies available that can help, please, do not suffer in silence, if you are experiencing difficulties, I urge you to consider the use of the telephone numbers and email addresses provided within the Newsletter or if you are not sure, contact your relevant committee member representative through the Branch email address, they will point you in the correct direction. recymechbranch@gmail.com

OBITUARIES – RECOVERY MECHANIC

Ex.WO1 Brian Lincoln
24-02-1944 to 30-09-2022

I first met Brian when 6 Armd Wksp REME was formed in Munster from the remnants of 12 Det FRG Juliette in 1983. Brian had been promoted to WO2 in the second batch of WO2 promotions in November 1982 while a S/Sgt instructor at SEME Bordon. Brian's life in the army was a long and varied, 22 years and 8 months. Brian joined up in 1963 and served with many different units during his career. 1 Div HQ & Signal Regt Verden, QRIH Paderborn, 60 Station Wksp Olen Belgium, Lifeguards LAD Windsor are but a few, he also did 3 tours of NI, served in Libya, as Gaddafi was coming to power and Jordan as an instructor. A couple of stories from his time at 1 Div HQ & Signal Regt LAD in the late 60's & early 70's. On arrival at Verden Brian started the LAD club and at the time he used to like collecting Germany roadside town signs by way of using the oxy/acetylene kit off his recovery vehicle and they would be put on display on the walls of the LAD club. On another occasion Brian was tasked with changing all 7 tyres on his Leyland at Verden, he could only get innertubes for Scammell tyres. His AQMS at the time said change them anyway, much to Brians disagreement. A couple of days later he was task to collect a casualty from Flensburg, on the way to the casualty on the Autobahn he had a blowout, changed it, and carried on. Then all 6 remaining tyre had blowouts. He got replacement wheels after a long wait from 7 Armd. Brian's nickname in the REME was Gripper, this was due to the very strong hand shake he gave you. Brian loved a good beef curry, especially on exercise. 5 or 6 tins of compo stewing steak in the pot, with curry powder, preferably left-over night to mature. In 1985 Brian was promoted to WO1, but only held this rank for a few months before his discharge from the army. He was offered a commission as a Captain just before his discharge but refused it.
After Brian's discharge his fist job in civilian life was an HGV driving instructor, but that didn't last, he then moved on to becoming the Transport manager for Associated Dairies in Leeds, which became known as ASDA. After his retirement Brian settled in Northallerton.
It was an honour to have known him as a comrade in arms, a boss, friend in the army and a true friend out of the services. Arte et Marte.

Chris Zeil

COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership: Ian McDonald

An insight into our Corps nickname "Bluebell"

'Bluebell' metal cleaning products were a household name in the 1930's, long before our Corps was born in 1942. Bluebell was even merited a specific and relevant contextual reference in Patrick Hamilton's 1935 novel 'The Midnight Bell', the first in his famous London trilogy.

When I joined the Corps in 1980, each Corps or Arm had its own nickname, which was used over the radio to summon a specific cap badge, to a location, using Slidex and Griddle, long before BATCO or Bowman. Our nickname was indeed Bluebell.

This came about from the days when soldiers had brass buttons, buckles, and cap badges. Like all good soldiers you never pass up on a freebie. So, soldiers used to come to the workshops or LAD and obtain metal polish from our stores. In fact, it was the Metalsmiths and Armourers who used the polish, not many Recy Mechs polished brass recovery calculators in those days.

Like many others I can remember Sgt Bill Warwick, who was a REME General Duties soldier telling us this little bit of information during our basic recovery course. Sgt Bill Warwick taught, Recovery Mechanics, Bombs and Bangs, and Radio's and Voice Procedure. Some courses even had the pleasure of going to the golf course and sending scores back to Sgt Warwick via slidex. What a character he was, rest in peace Billy Warwick.

Ours Corps memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum is set amongst wild meadow Bluebells, planted a few years ago by the Corps Association. I have yet to see them in full bloom, and I plan to do so next year. Bluebells usually flower from late March to early May.

Secretary: Chris Zeil

Merchandise

We have seen a sharp increase in membership recently and we do have our own unique Branch Tie, so all new to the Branch might want to consider purchasing the Branch Tie, shown in the attached photograph.

Made of top-quality material with the design displaying our unique logo. Cost of the tie, complete with packaging and postage is £25.00. Another example of Branch merchandise is the plaque , also shown below. At a purchase price of £29.00 including package and postage, a unique great reminder of your days as a Recovery Mechanic.

The Branch have a good selection of items for sale to members, currently we are working on a plan to catalogue all merchandise available and place it in our media sources so members can have access at all times, meantime why not consider the two items shown. particularly all our new members.

Communications: Matt Lambert

I want to say what an honour it was to attend the 'Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Dinner' and also how privileged I was to invite guests who really enjoyed the evening, they equally, also felt privileged to attend such a function. Below are the comments of thanks received:

"It was a privilege to be invited to the memorial dinner held on the 10th of September 2022. It was great to be part of helping to raise money alongside our REME troops who were very welcoming and a lovely group of people".
A great night - Thank you to the organisers!

Craig Lambert (brother)

"*I attended the QE dinner and I have to say it was very enjoyable I met new people had great food and raised plenty of money for charity. I will be there again next year and recommend it to anyone, the people are fantastic and plenty of laughs. I'd like to thank REME and all the organisers for a fantastic night"*

John Lynch (friend)

I would also like to support the words of the Chairman during our AGM, we require volunteers to step forward, by doing so we can more or less guarantee to continue the great work everyone has done and look forward to more of the same calibre of functions.

My wife Marade and I went to London to watch the funeral procession of our late Queen, we eventually arrived in Hyde Park along with thousands of others where we watched the event on a big screen. Thinking about how the Branch could honour the late Queen on this sad occasion, we decided that flowers would be the best option. The photograph shows the flowers we laid on behalf of the Branch and the card displaying our Branch Logo.

Veterans Member: Steve Robertshaw

In this Newsletter I would like to encourage members to support their various veteran society's close to where they live, if possible, attending their events, even if it's only a monthly meeting with the local REME Association or perhaps a local breakfast club.

The reason I ask is there has been an upsurge of veteran's clubs which seem to have good funding from the government for now, sadly a lot of these groups seem to be failing due to lack of attendance, I believe a couple of REME Associations have had to close due to not enough people attending.

In Newton Aycliffe where I live the local Veterans hub is struggling through having very few attendees' despite to my mind being an excellent facility. Those who attended the Memorial Dinner and took home a wood commemorative coaster from veterans' woodcraft will have seen just a tiny bit of what comes out of the Hub.

The wealth of facilities available to veterans is amazing and I encourage you to check out what's available near you.

Sporting force are the only association which is expanding as far as I can see and its worth a look to see what they offer, as well as offering Veterans loads of activities outside of their area, they almost always have free gyms for veterans. Indeed, they are soon to open a brand-new facility in Darlington which along with a standard gym they are opening hydrotherapy pools.

I know I'm batting on about Sporting Force but honestly its worth a look, they even have a recruiting facility and advertise jobs, from major administrative posts to ushering at sporting events. Just look on Facebook at their various sites.

Reservist Member: Mark Omahony

OVERSEA VISIT 2023

It is proposed that an overseas trip is planned, open to all members including family. The event is scheduled for 15-17 September 2023.

Below is the outline, the detail to be worked through once numbers of those who wish to attend has been confirmed, and initial deposit of £25.00 has been received. The deadline for this is 06 January 2023. Persons interested should register intent by voting via the branch Facebook page or email me direct at mark@knowriskuk.com.

When numbers are known on 06 Jan. travel, hotel, other costs will be explored and passed to those attending by end March 23. Final numbers can then be confirmed by end April. All bookings confirmed by end May 23.

Visit outline:

WW1 Tour of Ypres and Permission to parade and participate in the wreath laying last post ceremony 2000hrs 16 Sep 23 at Menin Gate.

Winston Churchill said of Ypres, '*a more sacred place for the British race does not exist in all the world*'.

Guide: Mr Barry Kitchener (not related to WW1 General) Barry has a business Fallen Railway Men of the Great War and a good personal friend. Very knowledgeable.

Outline Itinerary: 15/09/23 RV Union Jack Club Waterloo, coach to Folkstone, others can RV at Folkstone and join coach party, Eurotunnel to Calais. Arrive Calais move to Essex Farm Cemetery which includes hospital bunkers, the cemetery and an introduction to the Commonwealth War Graves commission and the work they undertake. Lunch at local hostelry. Visit Hooge Crater museum and Langermark German Cemetery. Travel to Varlet Farm Hotel for the evening, dinner and stay.

16/09/22: Move to Flesquières, visit Deborah D51. Talk by curator on its reclamation from location it was hit and buried, the recovery by 118 Rec Coy (Northampton's finest) to its new home. Return to Varlet Farm approximately 1400hrs shower, change into mufftie.

The Branch has been granted the very great honour by the Menin Gate Last Post Association of participating in and laying a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate 16/09/23. Dept 1830hrs from Vartlet Farm and move to Menin Gate. 2000hrs last post and wreath laying ceremony. We will need to arrive in good time as a branch to claim the most prominent position, form up and keep the 'civvies' away from our ranks, those laying the wreath and our standard. 2030hrs move to pub for dinner, drinks etc.

17/09/23: Lazy breakfast, depart in good time to visit site of the Christmas Truce and Ploguestreet Memorial. Dept in good time to visit hypermarket and Eurotunnel home.

NOTE: If members have history of family KIA, buried in and around the Ypres Salient Barry has kindly offered to investigate these family members and make the tour that more personal which is always more interesting. Any enquiries can be discussed with Mark by anyone attending.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Service of Remembrance Saturday 12 November 2022 – Albert Hall
Remembrance Day Parade Sunday 13 November 2022 - Cenotaph

OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

Provisionally: The Bow Shackle Ball - 30 September 2023 in Carlisle
(Members interested in attending should vote now on the Branch Facebook page.)

Tour of Ypres – 15 – 17 September 2023.
(Members interested in attending should vote now on the Branch Facebook page or directly to mark@knowriskuk.com.)

Provisionally: Eden Valley Veterans Parade – date not yet known.

HAS ANYBODY SEEN…

This is a new section within the Newsletter which shall be included in each Edition. The idea being that membership who wish to attempt to contact Recovery Mechanics of yesteryear can appeal through the Newsletter for assistance. Just let us know through the pages of our Facebook Account or email the branch email address, recymechbranch@gmail.com who you are trying to trace, and we will include it in the Newsletter and hopefully someone can help you in your search.

Can anyone help we have a request from Col (Retd) Mike Capper making enquiries about a Recovery Mechanic named Fred Dalton. We know that he served in Batus many years ago, he is not listed within our membership, should anyone know of Fred or his whereabouts, please let it be known so we can reunite a couple of old comrades?

MEMBERSHIP SUBMISSIONS

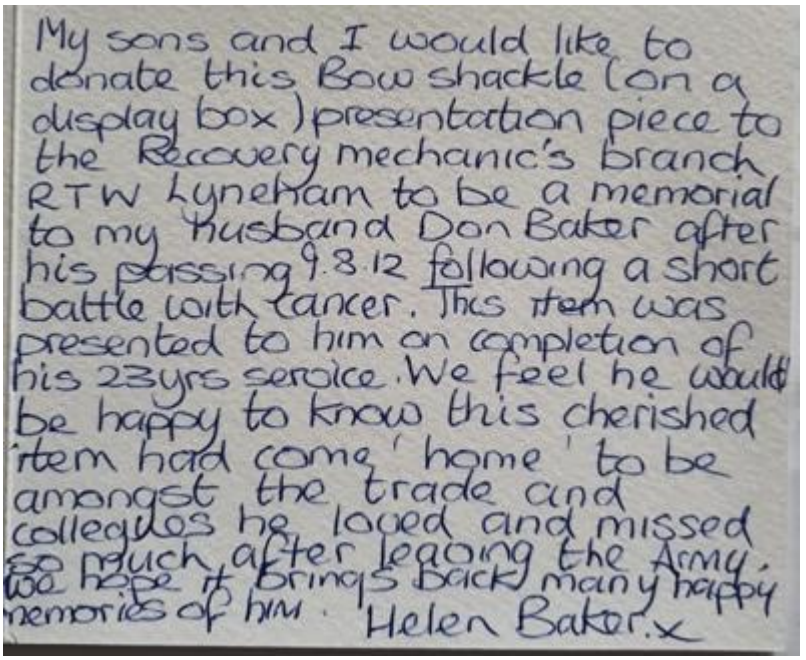
Article by Stuart Martin - Recovery industry Seminar and Tow Show 2022 at Telford International Centre - See Addendum to the Newsletter

Recovery Mechanics – Queen Elizabeth Memorial Dinner 2022 – by Bryan Cronie

As previously mentioned in the introduction and Matt's submission, we did hold a very successful function on Saturday 10 September 2022. The function was held in the Cedar Court Hotel on the fringes of Bradford. Also, as previously alluded to, due to the passing of Her Majesty much rearranging had to be undertaken at very short notice to allow us to go ahead and also meet with requirements and requests of REME/REME Association HQ at Lyneham. Indeed, several people had to withdraw their attendance, including our guest of honour. After much committee debate, discussion by our President with HQ sources the decision was made to go ahead under the following conditions, a) we renamed the function, changing it from "Bow Shackle Ball" to "Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Dinner" and b) we cancelled all planned entertainment, music in the form of a disco and a live act. After a 2 minute silence and the President reading out a message to all from the guest of honour the function got underway with the serving of a very good 3 course meal. Traditional toasts were made towards the end of the meal, 4 in total Her majesty, the Late Queen Elizabeth, The King, The Colonel in Chief and Absent Friends.

Did the cancellation of the disco and live entertainment dampen the mood and atmosphere on the night? Answer, not one bit, truth be known, I think most people in attendance (62) would agree that the night was probably up there with the best of Recovery Mechanic functions. Great venue, great food, great raffle, great auction and best of all, great company, meeting new people, reminiscing with old friends not seen for many years, great stories being told, many tales and yarns were spun, a lot of catching up had been completed prior to people retiring to bed, some in the wee small hours.

As a committee we experienced a great learning point from the night, you do not require to spend lots of money on entertainment to enjoy yourself, something that will definitely be a consideration for future events. Talking of future events, it is the intention of your Branch to hold an annual ball, the location will be rotated around the country each year on a 3-year cycle basis, south, middle, and north, starting with the north in 2023. One of the Branch aims is to be in a position to help others through charitable donations, we raised in access of £1700 on the evening, part will go towards purchase of a new Standard for the Branch which will enable us to do more around the country and save on postage as we currently have to post our Standard to the locations where required, a donation will go to the REME Charity and remainder will cover the running costs of the Branch.



The attached script shows that this Bow Shackle was presented to the Training Wing at Lyneham by Helen Baker and her sons as a memorial to her late husband Don Baker, It graced the centre of a table at the Memorial Dinner, borrowed from the Training Wing, it made a beautiful centrepiece for a Recovery Mechanics function.

John Sibley is seen here holding the largest thing an old and bold Recovery Mechanic ever had between their legs, a Centution Gear Stick, and yes, it has a knot in it. There is a long story attached to the reasons why it is knotted and mounted on a plinth. For those of you who wish to refresh your memories, dig out Edition 5 of the Branch Newsletter, the full story is recorded within its content.This piece of history will now also be used as a centrepiece at Branch Functions. When not in use it will grace the displays of Training Wing Lyneham as a historical piece of Recovery Mechanic history.

Very few photographs were taken on the night around the tables, mainly again due to and out of respect to our late Majesty. A couple are shown below.

To all of you out there who have doubts about attending your Branch Annual Black-Tie Ball, "The Bow Shackle Ball", start digging out your "Glad Rags" now, in preparation for the next function, a special treat for the ladies, a weekend away enjoying what we were all very used to, loyal REME Family Members, having a good time. The next function will be in the Carlisle area on 30 September 2023, possibly followed by a REME Birthday Breakfast on the morning of 1 October 2023, the Corp birthday. So, get booked up now, details are on the Branch Facebook web page.

USEFUL TELEPHONE & EMAIL CONTACTS

REME Connect Tel: 01249 894507
REME Association Tel : 01249 894524 / 01249894507
Royal British Legion Tel: 0808 802 8080
Service of Remembrance (R Albert Hall) Tel: 02070877929 SSAFA Tel:0800 731 4880
Combat Stress Tel:0800 138 1619 PTSD ptsd.org.uk
Help for Heroes helpforheroes.org.uk
Service of Remembrance (R Albert Hall) festivalofremembrance.seetickets.com
REME Association Recovery Mechanic Branch recymechbranch@gmail.com
Additional numbers and email addresses can be found on our Facebook Page under the tab"Files".

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the Branch Membership will always be close at hand, we are all in this together, and here to help. In the event of any member experiencing difficult times, they must not hesitate to contact the branch. If we as a group cannot assist with a situation, we certainly know where help may be available.

Anyone wishing to make contact, for whatever reason, please do so by using the branch email address: "recymechbranch@gmail.com"

AND FINALLY

And Finally – John Sibley

I can honestly say that I had no idea how the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would affect me personally. I knew it would, but the extent to which I felt her loss came as a complete shock to me. I have reflected on this over the past few weeks and really I'm still at a loss as to why the death of a woman I'd never met in person should so deeply affect me. I can only reason that the oath I took all those years ago to be "faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her successors" had meant far more than I ever imagined it could. So much has been said about Her Majesty over the last few weeks that there can't be that much more anyone can add, except perhaps that she was the best boss I've ever had or ever likely to have. God bless her.

We sadly have lost a couple of stalwart members of the committee recently.

Firstly, Matt Lambert, a larger than lifer character that brought a dedicated level of professionalism to everything he did. Matt was our communications member who's main duty was to look after the Facebook page. But, as you can imagine Matt was always up for giving anyone a hand when needed, especially the Chairman with the newsletter! Matt will leave a big hole in the committee, and I'd like to pass on my thanks on behalf of the branch to him for the outstanding contribution he has made while serving you all.

I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Bob Fullbrook, without Bob the branch wouldn't be in the great position it is. He has been a stalwart of the committee from the get-go. He was a founder member of the RBL branch committee and continued through into the association. He endured the constant bombardment of red tape and bureaucracy from the RBL and yet he still continued. Although for all those who know Bob it was with much gnashing of teeth and more than a few expletives!! When we switched to the association branch, Bob was at the forefront again helping to shape the branch we have today. Never short of voicing his opinion whether it be a good or bad idea, you couldn't help but listen to Bob. He has given 4 years continuous service to the branch members serving on our committee, but he will probably be best remembered for his excellent organisation of the Cenotaph parades, most especially the march in 2018 when over 80 Recy Mechs were on parade.

Thanks Bob, for everything you have given to the branch. Big boots to fill but Ian MacDonald is just the man to do it providing he's not in Monchengladbach! Welcome Mac, I'm sure you will be a great asset to the committee.

As this will be the last newsletter of 2022, I will also take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Cheers

John

ADDENDUM ARTICLE – By Stuart Martin.

Recovery industry Seminar and Tow Show 2022 at Telford International Centre

Scribe; Stuart Martin

Reference; http://recoverytowshow.co.uk/

For those who are not aware I am the Civil Service (CS) Course Design Manager at DSEME for Recovery Training. This includes all career courses for Regular and Reserves, Equipment courses and other services (RMs & RAF). I annually like to attend the Professional Recovery Tow Show, which encompasses several events including an Industry Seminar, Black Tie Awards dinner then a 2-day trade show.
I go for several reasons, there is an industry seminar, which updates all attendees on legislative changes, and best practise, the black-tie dinner (I do not attend, as it would be inappropriate in my position). The Tow Show has industry stands with all manner of items related to vehicle recovery (or not) and a demonstration of techniques and new equipment and a continuous personal development.
This year's Industry Seminar had the following Keynote Speakers;
Sheena Hague from National Highways. Who gave an update on Smart Motorways, which included changes to the Highway Code from Sep 21 (Rule 264), and a request for Recovery Operators to become involved in the 3rd year report? Especially about safety of 'refuge areas', and near miss data. There was an interesting debate around Hard Shoulder safety and the 2000-mile and that the Highway Agency do not cover (non-Motorway & Dual carriageway) and who monitors safety of that part of network. *This interested me, as there is always a debate whether REME Recy Mech can work roadside. The simple answer is 'Yes!' We train all Class 3 & 1 to same standard required by PAS 43 and the SURVIVE Guidelines.*
Paul Farley from Motor Insurance Bureau. You end these individual up approaching when uninsured driver hits you. An interesting presentation of what they do, more info can be found at their webpage; https://www.mib.org.uk/
Peter Carroll from Tendo Consultancy for AVRO. Not an issue that affect us in REME, but this was a presentation around statutory recovery fees. In Civilian Industry these have not been reviewed since 2008, it is putting operators out of business. Especially when the recovery operator only gets a percentage of the fees, Highways England and Police take a cut first. The police can use as a fines system, on example given was a police area fining £100, for every minute a recovery operator in more than 20mins to get on scene. Peter gave a presentation on how to get message to the right people in government from his experiences as a Special advisor in the 2010 coalition government. https://www.avrouk.com/Statutory Fee
Andy Lambert from Recovery Industry Support Charity (RISC). Gave an update on the charity and what support it gives to Recovery Technicians. https://www.riscuk.net/
Mike Cutts, Light Vehicle Director from Iveco. Gave a presentation on the new Electric Iveco Daily. These are popular Chassis within the Recovery industry for the <7.5t market.
Mark Hartell from Institute of Vehicle Recovery (IVR). Mark gave an update on IVR and training. The IVR are the organisation that manages the IVR training modules that meet the requirements of both NHSS17/17B and Publicly Available Specification 43 (PAS 43). They are written against the National Occupational Standards (NOS)* the modules are delivered by approved, independent training providers. We were updated on the outcomes of the AGM and advised on next AGM. From a training review we were updated that a new NOS was being written and being broadened to include

moving vehicles & salvage. Within their own catalogue of courses, especially Electric Vehicles (EV) including a heat check protocol, and handover to and from Fire service.
https://www.theivrgroup.com/ivr-training
*It is worth noting that to meet the Army Requirement I use the NOS when designing recovery training
Richard Goddard from Professional Recovery Operators Federation (PROF). Described what PROF is and how it is there to support in campaigns like AVRO are perusing. https://www.profeduk.com/
On the second day I attended the Tow Show, this was the industry day with a huge amount of stands. The list of stands is in the following link (http://recoverytowshow.co.uk/directory/), across all three halls of the Telford International Centre. The area outside was put aside for demos.

Merc EKA 1

One stand that particularly grabbed my attention was a Company called Rydam who were offering a conversion to the old EKA Compact Recovery gear mounted on Freddie, or in this case a Mercedes, for Singaporean Army. Twin winch conversion to the Atlas Crane. I spoke of a passing operator who said, "30 k for truck and 30 k for conversion and you have as good a rotator as you can buy for 100's of thousands".

New Underlift 1

They also offer a longer and bigger under lift recovery boom with T bar, although as I am reminded (constantly) by Daz Ako that as soon as you lift a casualty you are over stressing axles in accordance with the plated weights and capability. I know many of the civilian operators who bought Ex-Army Freddie etc… do not use then for support tows, the use them for X country ability and tractive effort.

While walking the floor it was sad to walk past Allianz stand and not see Jack stood there for a chat. Recy Mechs, I did see, Gav Harper at the Boniface stand in full sales representative mode. Andrew Gray at the Professional Recovery Drivers Club (prdc.co.uk/welcome-to-the-prdc-website/) stand and I had lunch with Frank Taylor who I met at the Road Rescue Recovery Association (RRRA). I had a good catch up with Frank and reminded him that I had not seen at ARV or SNCO reunions for a few years now.

Demonstrations.

Demo 1

First demo was, A City Light doing a lift with a Spec frame of an Electric Car on high-speed highway dollies. These dollies are able to do 70 mph. allowing the recovery vehicle to keep up with motorway traffic.

Demo 2 & 3

Second demo was, Winch up on T35 slide bed using dollies to load an Electric BMW. Another reason for this demo was that BMW insist that vehicle tow eye is used during winching, If Brother straps are used and BMW dealership see marks on wishbones they will void warranty on the car, meaning Recovery operator foots the bill. It also demonstrated use of catch strap.

Third demo (photo above – demo 2) was a 5t VLA slide beds demonstrating the power of slide bed lifting a motor home. This also showed the use of various positioned repeater lights so road users can see the task at all times.

Demo 4

Forth Demo was a brand new truck based on a Scania S series then converted in Holland to T Cab and with boniface-interstater-mk6 recovery kit. As part of the demo was the flexibility that the body builder can do with the stowage bins.

Fifth Demo was a light show. This brand new recovery truck beacons, working lights and repeaters are all LEDs, which are connected to a computer in the cab, giving over 300 combinations of the lights flashing sequences. Including colour combinations of Amber, Red and white. It can also be paired to another vehicle by GPS. The point of this is, rather than a chaos of beacons and repeaters, if the beacons and repeaters are synchronised then a clearer message sent to other road users.

Demo 5

Sixth Demo was a side over side on an artic tanker using side pull there is two winches at work, one over the front stabiliser and the second is chassis drag winch. The compassion to the old Holmes Recovery gear (for those who served in BATUS may remember the Western Star) being used similarly. Second part of the demo was the hydraulic light bar.

Demo 6

Demo 7

The seventh demo was showing the capability of the Boniface Interstater under lift. Using the under lift, two endless slings onto pedestals and forks and one winch as check tackle. The under lift was full raised then using tilt and extend the tanker was taken to point of balance where it was lowered with check winch. Impressive to watch.

Demo 8

The eighth demo was based on a recent task done by an operator where an excavator slipped off the trailer. Rather that attempting to swing excavator onto trailer the object was to lift the excavator straight up and drag the trailer under excavator. This showed the versatility of the rotator. In this example, the boom has four winches. Two winches used to lift the excavator, while a third winch dragged the trailer. It also showed use of spreader bars and bring a winch down to a low winch position using the D rings and pulleys.

The Last demo was a loaded container being righted onto catch bags. The layout again with this rotator was interesting and demonstrating how to shift weight by changing from high to low winching. With the boom at 40 degrees and fully retracted the operators had maximum pull-on boom. Using the chassis drag winch in a 1:1 double indirect the recovery vehicle was stability by switching from high and low winching. Finally, as the casualty was nearing point of balance, the drag winch was disconnected bags positioned and the final last pull over onto catch bags. Another impressive demo.

Demo 9

Summary.

I would recommend a visit and best of all the Tow Show is free to get into see you there Sept 2023.