

Freddy Brown – Forklift truck pioneer

Warehouse & Logistics News is sad to report that Freddy Brown, the creator of the Man Rising VNA truck and the Bendi articulated forklift, passed away on Sunday 16th October. Freddy's family have told us that he died peacefully in his sleep with his wife Annie at his side, after fighting a brave battle against Alzheimer's disease.

Born 2nd April 1937 in Hampshire, Fredrick Leslie Brown grew up during the Second World War in the Prince of Wales pub, near a US military base. Freddy left school with a string of sporting achievements but in his words "unable to read or write".

At a time of conscription, Freddy opted to find an apprenticeship at a local forklift manufacturer called

Lansing Bagnall, where he found not only his life passion but also Annie, the love of his life and wife of 53 years.

Despite his earlier academic shortcomings, Freddy achieved a Masters Degree in applied mathematics and chose as his thesis, "Space utilisation within the warehouse," which many would argue was a project he continued working on throughout his life.

A move to the Midlands in the mid 1960's brought many changes, not least two children and a new circle of friends based around the water skiing community in Netherton. It was during this period he became British Champion and subsequent years saw him featured every week in the opening titles of World of Sport,

which you can find on youtube.

At the same time, Freddy had pioneered a new type of forklift which combined space saving and order picking to create the Man Rising VNA forklift which is now established worldwide as the industry standard. Fast forward a few years, and a new invention to save space saw his trucks featured on BBC's Tomorrow's World, which led onto the numerous innovative steps credited to Freddy by the industry.

When he felt he was no longer competitive at waterskiing, Freddy threw himself into his next sporting passion of snow skiing, where he excelled at the highest level of both off and on-piste skiing.

The 1980's saw him make another sea change in the industry when he

pioneered the articulated truck with the Bendi, which was viewed with much derision at its conception. The Bendi has since gone on to be a huge success as it has now sold worldwide in its tens of thousands and created a whole new market sector.

In 2003 Freddy received the Queen's Award for Innovation, which was presented to him by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

As everyone who knew him will remember, Freddy's sense of fun never left him and you had to be permanently on your toes for practical jokes and general mischief. So it was only fitting to his memory that the dress code for the celebration of Freddy's life at Brockencote Hall, near Kidderminster, held on Monday 31



October, was casual and cheerful.

Freddy's family has set up a Just Giving page for Freddy's friends in the industry to contribute to research into Alzheimer's disease: www.justgiving.com/Transliftfreddy

Indigo announces strategic partnership with CNX

Indigo Software announces it has developed a strategic technology partnership with CNX Corporation, based in Chicago, to develop and support third party web and mobile applications using the Valence framework in the UK. The two companies share extensive synergy with the Valence Framework already used in its development of Indigo WMS.

Indigo WMS is a leading warehouse management software solution and compatible with the IBM i series. Designed for creating web and mobile applications on the IBM i platform, the Valence Framework provides tools to combine the business logic of RPG with state of the art, Ext JS JavaScript framework from Sencha. Tens of thousands of leading organisations and 60% of the Fortune 100, use the Sencha framework to develop desktop and mobile applications.

Indigo's partnership with CNX ensures that Indigo WMS users have a proven warehouse management

solution, plus advanced web and mobile functionality and security for building out their own custom applications. Technically, Valence offers an HTML5-based user interface based on the robust Ext JS framework, used for both desktop web apps and mobile apps.

Glenn Melville, Software Development Manager at Indigo Software commented, "Indigo's Valence knowledge and the company's ability to develop enterprise level applications using Ext JS are highly sought after and bring tremendous value to customers seeking web and mobile applications."

"CNX is very pleased to be expanding its relationship with Indigo as a Valence strategic partner," said Robert Swanson, Senior Partner at CNX. "Indigo has been a very enthusiastic supporter of Valence since its beginnings, and the experience Indigo has with Valence will be a great help to both CNX and end customers as Valence expands into new markets."

INDIGO SOFTWARE
www.indigo.co.uk



System Group scoops industry award



System Group's Emily White receives her Institute of Couriers' award from Tracy Aust, principal at West Thames College.

System Group, which trains drivers for local and national logistics operators, has seen one of its rising stars win a top award for her commitment to the industry.

Twenty-six-year old Emily White, who works at the firm's Carlisle training centre, has scooped the Institute of Couriers' Chairman's Citation Award at a ceremony at the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall, London.

Emily manages and coordinates the logistics training that her firm delivers to customers across the UK, which includes warehouse and forklift training and helping drivers to gain the skills to become commercial vehicle drivers.

The IoC National Courier Silver C Awards recognise achievement in the courier industry and reflect personal development at the highest levels within the sector.

Emily was joined by her colleagues at the awards, which took place at a gala evening attended by over 150 people from across the courier industry.

She started working at System Group as an auditor and archivist before recognising the opportunity for career advancement.

This led to her gaining specialist qualifications and an RTTB licence, boosting her professional skills and enabling her to drive a forklift in the warehouse.

In receiving her award from Tracy Aust, principal at West Thames College, an ecstatic Emily said: "Thank you so much for this

award - it means so much. I'm so enthusiastic about training.

"And thank you to System Group for supporting my continued development within the industry."

Emily hopes her success will pave the way for other women to see working in logistics as a viable option with good career prospects. She's seen as a skills' ambassador, who's keen to get more people involved in the industry.

"The industry is male dominated but I hope that this success sends a strong message and will encourage more women to consider this as a real career opportunity."

Colin Gordon, business development director at System Group, said Emily's skills and contribution to the industry have been recognised at the highest level.

He said: "Her hard work and dedication to quality is truly commendable. She's an inspiration and further endorses our group advocacy of promoting women in logistics."

"I'm also pleased for the team surrounding her, who have trained and supported her to get to this point, and who I know are overjoyed at the outcome."

The news follows earlier success for Emily, who recently won her heat in the RTTB International Operator of the Year competition, booking her place in next year's final.

SYSTEM GROUP
www.system-group.com

Smart-Space new builds mark start of major site investment for Marley Eternit

One of the UK's leading manufacturers and installers of temporary, semi-permanent and permanent buildings has completed two projects for Marley Eternit, the leading provider of roof systems to the UK construction industry.

Smart-Space has designed and built a clip and slate store and an engineering store at Marley Eternit's manufacturing and distribution site in Beenham, near Reading. The buildings form part of a major £3 million investment at the location, which will see the company increase its production capacity and enhance customer service through a comprehensive reorganisation of the facility.

A 15m by 30m clip and slate store with five metre eaves, a thermal roof and composite walls was completed within two weeks. The weather-proofed storage area is more easily accessible both for suppliers and for customers, expands the yard storage area and significantly reduces the amount of movement on-site associated with collections and deliveries.

The new 30m by 15m engineering store, which is fully insulated with 100mm composite roof panels and 80mm insulated walls, replaces a much older, smaller main store. Built in three weeks, the store includes a contractor's office and a

mezzanine level. It is twice the size of the original and consolidates the storage of all parts, which were previously held in several locations for the five production lines.

The old store will be demolished to make way for a new building, which will house a new curing chamber and racking system that will significantly extend the site's production capability. In addition to the production capacity benefits, the results of the development include enhanced spares availability, a reduction in plant downtime and greater delivery efficiencies.

"Smart-Space listened carefully to what we had to say and provided us with buildings that meet all of our requirements," says Marley Eternit's works manager at Beenham, Fraser Dear. "Working closely with our senior project engineer, Holly White, they provided a turnkey solution and were responsible for design works, planning, buildings control and new drainage. They worked quickly and well on a live and busy site and have provided us with a comprehensive aftercare package. We're very pleased with the results."

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