

In brief

The results of the February Centurion draw were: 1st, Colin Johnson, G. & C. Johnson (Claxby) Ltd; 2nd, Theo de Pencier, Freight Transport Association; 3rd, Clive Hampson, Hampson Haulage.

CEVA Logistics has won a competitive tender with the largest out-of-town shoe retailer in the UK, Brantano, and the high street retailer Jones Bootmaker. The retailers have a combined store portfolio of over 250 nationwide.

Race tyre supplier Dunlop Motorsport has taken delivery of 15 New Actros 1842 BigSpace tractor units from Mercedes-Benz dealer Midlands Truck & Van. Supplied under a CharterWay contract hire agreement from Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, they will provide tyre support at events such as the Isle of Man TT, Le Mans 24-hour race, as well as at rounds of the MotoGP, FIA World Endurance and British Touring Car championships.

Exact Logistics and Karus have developed a logistics software package called Palsist to meet the demands placed on Exact Logistics by its expanding German business. It allows rapid data entry, automatically checks postcodes and addresses and sends electronic responses to customers as well as updating information on the firm's transport control system. Adam Shuter, MD at Exact Logistics, says: "International deliveries represent about a third of our business. This new system allows us to process more German consignments efficiently without increasing our costs."

Reefers for Yeardley

KRONE

BRIAN YEARDLEY Continental has added temperature-controlled transport to its portfolio.

The company has taken delivery of three Krone 'Mega' thermal curtainsided refrigerated trailers. The company says that over the cold winter months they have proved to be a great asset to the business it undertakes throughout mainland Europe.

MD Kevin Hopper says: "After meetings in the summer of 2012 with various customers – some of whom are the largest chemical companies

in Europe, manufacturing water-based chemicals which are prone to freezing during the winter months – it was decided that we would invest in these curtain-sided trailers.

"They are fitted with thermal curtains and fridge units so that we can transport our customers' chemicals at the exact temperatures they require. This means keeping them heated to stop them freezing

in the winter and likewise in the summer they must be kept cool during transit.

"We are delighted with the success we have had with these refrigerated trailers and the response we have had from our customers."



Terrain-savvy intelligence

ISEE

Volvo Trucks is rolling out a new version of I-See – its terrain-savvy intelligent cruise control – for the new FH.

The latest incarnation remotely obtains up-to-date information about the road's topography from a central server, so all trucks equipped with I-See have access to the same information.

Previously the system remembered the gradient characteristics and locations for journeys undertaken by the truck it was installed in. The improved system means that data from all other users is uploaded wirelessly to Volvo's servers, which then in turn update all vehicles fitted with the system.

"Your own truck need not have driven on a particular hill

even once," explains Christer Pehrsson, business area manager for long-haul operations at Volvo. "It's sufficient that someone else with I-See has covered that same stretch of road."

I-See takes care of gear selection, acceleration and engine braking on hills in the most fuel-efficient way possible. Fuel savings of up to 5% are claimed for long-haul operations.

ACQUISITIONS

Isuzu Truck UK turns 100% Japanese

Isuzu Motors Ltd Japan has acquired a 100% shareholding in Isuzu Truck (UK) Ltd for an undisclosed sum.

Isuzu Truck (UK) was formed in 1996. The company managed to successfully negotiate a management buy-out from RAC plc in 2004, with Isuzu Motors Ltd Japan retaining a 15% share in the company. MD Nikki King says: "When we bought the company we offered share options to all our employees of the time. We are delighted that, through the sale of the company to Isuzu, many of our long-term employees will benefit with a cheque of at least four figures."

Having built up her company's turnover to just over £24million per annum, King (65) will be staying on as MD until August this year to ensure the handover

is effected smoothly and it is planned she will have some involvement in a non-executive capacity post-retirement. Isuzu's Masayuki Murata will become chairman of the company and will divide his time between the UK and Belgium where he retains his role as chairman of Isuzu Europe. Previously Murata was CEO of Isuzu Australia where Isuzu has had market leadership for well over 20 years.

Isuzu Truck UK has announced the appointment of a brand new main dealer to cover north London. The new Enfield-based company, known as Isuzu North London, joined the Isuzu truck dealer network with effect from February this year. It is providing full sales, service and parts coverage for the Isuzu truck marque.