

Bare necessities

Ainsley Fraser drops in on the CV Show

This year's Commercial Vehicle Show at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham was notable for one particular reason ... basically no trucks! Okay, there were some tractor units coupled under tanks and trailers – and some rigid units supporting displays for workshop equipment and other bits of kit. But Iveco (well done!) was the only major commercial vehicle OEM to exhibit. We've been here before ... with the cartel of major manufacturers deciding that a boycott would force the partner organisers, the trade associations, to move to a bi-annual show, alternating with some of the other major European events.

However, what the show lacked in chassis, it made up for in vans, workshop equipment, tyres, components, service providers ... and every electronic device, gizmo or electrical accessory known to man. We don't have many van fleets in the waste industry – maybe a few 3.5 tonne gvw mini-skip loaders and service vans – but that's about it. Many owners of waste companies however, favour chunky 4x4s as their company cars and it registered that Fiat has joined the sector with a worthwhile looking new contender, the Fullback.

Elsewhere in the show, I did find one waste vehicle – Powerday's low-entry Dennis-based Hyva-equipped skip loader – sorry, 'Urban Safety Vehicle', which was shown up in the air on a vehicle lift in Hall 5. But the truck accolade has to go to Iveco, firstly for being big enough to go it alone and secondly for a display of trucks and vans which included not one, but three vehicles which have won Truck / Van of the Year awards in their respective categories – the Stralis in 2013, the Daily in 2015 and the Eurocargo in 2016. We don't tend to see big numbers of Iveco products in the waste industry, but there is no doubt that the latest iterations of these models are a

significant step forward. The Trakker 8x4 rigid in particular, has been successful with military users – and if it's tough enough for the army, then it's probably well suited to what we do with our vehicles.

There was some potential good news for operators from the RHA, who launched their new FR8 insurance package, partnering with insurance brokers Griffiths & Armour and insurer, Aviva. The thing that registered with me was that the scheme is designed to put good risk management at the centre of the business, with best practice, compliance and good claims history by client fleets being rewarded through potentially better premium structures. Needless to say, you need to be a member of the RHA to take advantage of the new service – and being a member of its waste disposal functional group might not be a bad idea anyway.

Finally, just a note for the diary ... the RHA is promoting National Lorry Week from 19th to 24th September 2016 under the slogan 'Love the Lorry'. The campaign already has a dedicated website www.lovetheorry.co.uk and let's face it, anything which can improve and develop the image of our industry has got to be good news.

And for everyone in our industry who may have been disappointed with the absence of truck chassis and waste related product at the CV Show ... well now you have another good reason to come to WASTE '16 at Salford on 9th June!

