



# James Latham gets a lift



James Latham introduced Combilift 4-way forklifts into its depots over ten years ago, replacing previous combinations of sideloaders and counterbalance trucks.

The results of better storage density and improved overall handling procedures led to Combilifts being Latham's preferred trucks at the company's 10 sites across the country.

The latest addition is a fleet of six 4 tonne machines for the new Leeds depot. With a footprint of 69,000ft<sup>2</sup>

the Leeds depot is smaller than the former site, but an impressive 39% more storage space has been achieved.

"The key element for the extra capacity was the ability to store the whole of our product range as high as possible," says Director Andrew Wright, "and we have realised this by installing racking to 9.3m, the highest at any of our depots.

Guided aisle systems have also enabled us to keep aisle widths at a minimum in certain areas of the warehouse to further maximise available space."

James Latham has a standard specification for its Combilifts – the C4000 LPG model, enabling trucks to be moved from one depot to another if needed.

Due to the demands of lifting full loads to the top beam it was initially thought that larger trucks would be needed, but Combilift engineers incorporated extra capacity into the trucks whilst maintaining the same physical dimensions as the rest of the fleet.

"Most of our customers don't want to hold stock until they need it, and same day or next day delivery is a typical scenario," says Andrew, "so efficient handling, storage and picking is vital.

As well as the excellent storage density in the new premises we have doubled and in some cases tripled throughput, and eliminated double handling to offer excellent customer service."

