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# **European Rental Evolution**

The mistakes we made – so that you don't have to!



#### **Kevin Appleton**

**Rental TURKEY** 

- CEO, Lavendon Group (aerial equipment rental): 2002-2012
- Non Executive Director, Ramirent (general equipment rental): 2013-now
- Non Executive Chairman, Horizon Platforms (aerial equipment rental): 2014-now
- Founding Director, European Rental Association: 2006-2012
- Contributor International Rental News: 2012-now



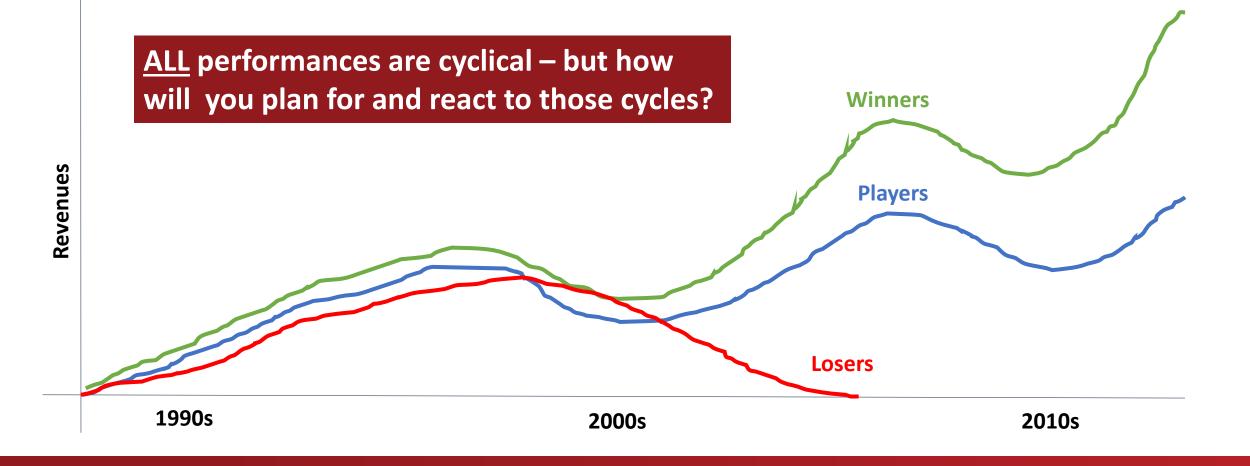


## What we won't talk about (explicitly)

- Basic financial disciplines
- Operational performance measurement
- People selection and development
- Business attitude and culture

#### The European rental market – outcomes





#### Key determinants of success





#### Market focus – who rents what and why?

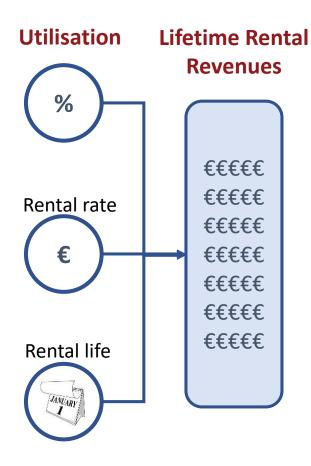


#### ACTIVITY **CUSTOMER TYPES** Shop fitting National/major players ۲ **Regional operators** Warehouse fit-out • Infrastructure Government • Power generation projects Local/small businesses Permanent buildings - schools, hospitals, hotels **Commercial construction Residential construction**

- ????rehouse
  - Fit-Outs

#### Capital allocation – what fleet do you want?





Lifetime Net Costs of Transport, Repair & Maintenance







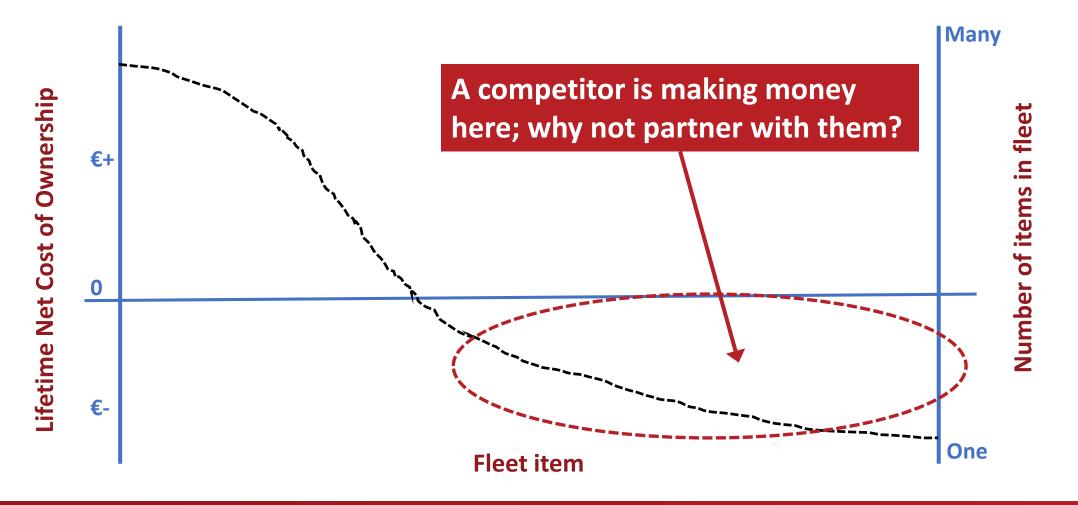
**Rental** TURKEY

**Disposal** 



#### Capital allocation - beware the tail of waste!





#### Financing strategy – don't get caught



- Typically 15% to 45% of rental companies' costs are made up of (non-cash) depreciation
- Additionally (some) manufacturers use extended credit to drive sales
- Rental businesses can absorb 15%-30% revenue declines and still service debt if they are sensible
- Key messages
  - Set a self-discipline on debt: EBITDA ratio (<4: 1)
  - Be rigorous in reducing investment in tough times
  - Ensure debt covenants are not linked to profit and, ideally, use covenant-free debt



### Operating model – freedom in a framework

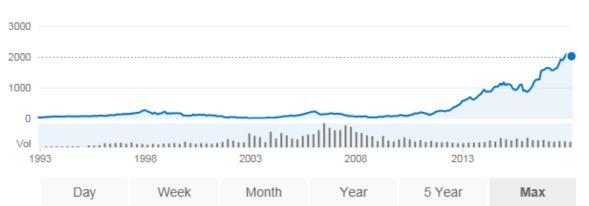
- Control the critical
  - Pricing frameworks
  - Clear visibility of individual fleet item usage
  - Depot roles and responsibilities template
  - Performance standards profit, service, safety
- Allow freedom in:
  - Specific pricing decisions
  - Development of local customers

#### Commitment – a good example

- Ashtead share price has increased 300x since its low point in 2003
- At that stage the investment market had "given up" on the company
- It has stuck to its plan and developed around the key success factors
- Many investors struggle to understand the rental business and become risk averse

Ashtead Group PLC London: AHT · 6 March, 07:52 BST

#### 2,029.00 🔺 30.50 (1.53%)





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#### Key determinants of success - reminder









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## **Thank you** Questions?

