



(Acts as an Intermediary Only and not as a Principal)

The Link



Show Edition

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As I said last year, the Lincolnshire Show is the trigger for me to start putting together the Ring Summer Newsletter and I see that I am off to a good start with 2 days in hand. Starting is different to finishing as job requests take precedence over everything else, but I will have failed if this is not printed and posted out prior to the Yorkshire Show.

For once the weather seems to be on the side of the righteous. The sunshine and increased moisture levels should have helped to boost the prospects of the cereal crop and also perhaps put a bit of length on the straw which will please our baler / straw merchant members, although finding a market might not be as easy as in previous years.

Talking to members I also detect what might be best described as cautious optimism in most sectors for the short term prospects and the hope of "£70 for grain" comes over almost as confidently as £110 did a few short years ago.

Medium to long term opinions differ sharply as the negotiation of the Mid Term Reform of the CAP continue. I also get the impression that members are resigned to the fact that whatever the outcome they do not expect to see a major upturn in their fortunes. The best some are hoping for is an end to the current uncertainty and therefore the ability to plan for the future.

In the interim old words and phrases take on new meanings. I was reminded of this recently by a so-called friend with too long a memory, who took great delight in re-telling the story of a spectacular example of "decoupling" which involved a Ford 3000, 4 tons of grain, a steep hill and a worn keep plate on the pickup hitch. (That was my story at the time and I'm sticking to it).

That nicely leads me onto SAFETY ISSUES

It may seem dull and boring but your life may depend on you or someone you work with having a sensible attitude and respect for safety. The Ring has always had a good relationship with the HSE particularly in promoting Child Safety on our show stand, our main link was

Mel Raine. Mel has now retired as Principle Inspector of Health and Safety and his successor, Peter Dodman called into the office recently to maintain the link. HSE choose different areas to highlight each year and currently they are highlighting Transport, Manual Handling and Falls from Heights.

It's not necessary to fall from a great height to cause injury, even a "minor" fall can cause ancillary problems. Cows still need milking despite the incapacity of the main milker, as one member found out recently which left her torn between the milking parlour and the A&E department at York Hospital. In this case the injury was not long term and neighbours and Ring members provided cover.

HSE has just published a free guidance leaflet aimed specifically at the farming community entitled "Why fall for it: Preventing Falls in Agriculture" (ref. no. INDG369). It covers work involving fragile roofs, falls from plant and machinery, ladder safety, safe working platforms and access methods, and highlights the need to select and use the right equipment.

In the last 10 years, falls from a height have resulted in 80 deaths in the agricultural sector. In the same period, 27 people have been killed when working with cows and bulls. HSE has now produced a video on safe cattle handling and also a free Information Sheet "Handling and Housing Cattle" (AIS35). With reduced staffing levels in agriculture, these give advice on the need for proper facilities, including pens, races and crushes.

The above publications, and many others relating to health and safety in agriculture, are available from HSE Books (tel. 01787 881 165) and the leaflets via the HSE web-site at www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture.

We are just coming up to a busy time when it is all too easy to let standards slip. I value both your friendship and membership so take that little bit of extra care so that both can continue.

All of us at RMR wish you a fruitful and easy harvest.



Supported Under the England Rural Development Programme by DEFRA and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund



NEW MEMBERS

Sorry, not available on online version

SALES & WANTS

contact the office for details

Summer grazing for cattle available near Grassington. - Youngstock or older, beef or dairy

Yard available for wintering cattle. Think ahead and get organised now

Weaned calves wanted to buy at sensible prices

Mule shearlings for sale

MAIZE 15acres of standing maize Boroughbridge / Ripon area.

MOBILE DRIER Choice of 2 - both vg condition 12 tonne gas fired, Opico type, hydraulic unloader. Change of policy by both owners is reason for sale

3m Rabe Power Harrow Drill combination

12 row Webb sugar beet drill GWO

John Deere 950 combine loft cut with cab

Edlington 6.2m hydraulic folding Cambridge rolls - as new

Small Square Baler model 128

NEW 1,400 or 2,000 litre bunded twin axle fuel bowsers, c/w 40ltr/min pump 12v pump, hoses hd 8ply tyres, lockable storage compartments, full EU lighting spec. Ready for the road, manufactured by a member.

Win a subscription free year at the click of your mouse

In every recent newsletter I have asked for email addresses, it is so much easier to fire off a non-urgent or perhaps slightly unusual request by Email. Providing that your mail is checked on a regular basis it is a really cost effective way of communicating with members.

We can only communicate with those of you who give us your address and notify the new one if you change ISP's. Things have improved and I now have 30% of members. I know there is more of you so even if you have sent it in before just send an Email to -

pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk

and I can ensure you are in the address book. Joe Barrowman will then select one address from an electronic hat and the winner will be given a year's free subscription at renewal time.

Its Show Time.....

We will be at **The Great Yorkshire, Driffield and Ryedale Shows** again this year. The marquee is being hired from member Martyn Sellers from Shipton. Come and see another service available from the Ring. They are ideal for any home use for garden parties, christenings and the like.

Look for the yellow RMR flag

At Harrogate (July 8th – 10th) we are on Stand 625, Avenue F just up from and on the right hand side from the NFU.

Driffield, "the best one day show in the country" is on **Wednesday 16th** and we are again on stand 74 in our usual place at the bottom of the avenue leading from the Secretaries office near the food / market area.

Ryedale is on the 29th July and we have been "promoted" to the end of B Avenue. Again look for the flag and the smart marquee.

Talent Will Out or How Not to Hide Your Light Under a Bushel

Ring Chairman Joe Barrowman and fellow Director Peter Pick were recently asked by the East of England Agricultural Society to judge the Farm of the Year Award. They were naturally a bit apprehensive about the job being just two practical farmers from Yorkshire. This grew when they began a gruelling escorted tour around the short listed farms representing the cream of the local farming community. Things got a bit better when they realised that the farmers were equally apprehensive about their farming practices being scrutinised by these very experienced Yorkshire judges specially selected for their hard headedness and other traditional traits credited to natives of the county.

At one farm the father of the contestant diffidently asked how they had been selected and what skills were needed for the job. Joe then moved into his most impressive mode and talked about needing a deep knowledge of farming, both arable and live-stock, comprehensive understanding of the current CAP and potential implications of the Mid Term Reforms, and the ability to react and change policy accordingly, awareness of world markets, possession of marketing skills linked with training in human behaviour in order to get the best out of staff, and so the list went on .

Suitably impressed, father was going to ask a further question when Peter made his contribution "unfortunately they couldn't find that bloke so they had to make do with us instead".

Such is the ability of your Board that they can turn their hand to anything!

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HAVE YOU REGISTERED ANY FREE TIME that you have (either just yourself or with a tractor) over the next 4 months? If not please get in contact with approximate dates. We still have members looking for extra staff over the harvest / autumn period.

THERE IS AN OPENING FOR A KEEN YOUNG PERSON, on a well organised and efficient 300 acre combinable crops arable farm with a 480 sow pig unit near Ripon, to work in both enterprises. Could suit a middle year placement or someone just wanting to gain experience.

Registered Dealers in Controlled Oils

Whats that got to do with me I hear you ask, perhaps not a lot, but it might, so read on. Customs & Excise (C & E) reckon that the illegal use of rebated oils (for example Gas Oil or Red Diesel) instead of DERV (white diesel) costs the country £600 million every year. To counter the fraud everybody who meets the criteria of a Dealer in Controlled Oils has to be registered with Customs and Excise and make returns to them of any qualifying sales. C & E officers made different interpretations of the requirements in different parts of the country so it was necessary for Rings to get a National ruling from the Compliance Office

Due to our comprehensive system of record keeping and controls C & E accepted our submission that the Ring need not be registered. All your purchases through the Ring will be included on the returns of our Fuel Suppliers members who have registered, thus saving us a lot of extra paperwork.

Unfortunately the legislation was drafted fairly widely and it has been interpreted that gas oil supplied in a machine hired out without an operator falls within the remit of the Act and that all persons hiring out a machine would have to be registered.

RAMSAK, the Kent Machinery Ring followed this point up with the C & E Compliance Unit and they replied as follows: "If your members main business activity is farming, but included within that activity is the hire of machinery to other members of the Machinery Ring or to farming neighbours, they need not be approved if: -

- The majority use of controlled oils is NOT for use within the hired machinery.
- They are NOT clearly running a machinery hire business
- Their main income is NOT from hiring out vehicles
- They do not actively strive to increase this side of their business activities i.e.. *by advertising outside of the Machinery Ring or current hirers.*
- Their hiring activities have no recognisable continuity. Basically if a member is known outside of the Ring or his current circle of hirers as someone who has plant for hire then he should be registered."

This is just an extract, I can let any member who want a copy of the full letter have one.

Unhappy with British Gas? Try the Ring for your Electricity

Several members who bought electricity from Enron and were then transferred to British Gas are unhappy with the pricing structure and service they are receiving.

If you are one of these, try the Ring. With EGNI, our supplier, you can talk to a real person with a name, not a faceless call centre, as well as getting competitive prices.



Field Manager
John Rooney

RMR in the News

Those of you who read 'Farming in Yorkshire' may already have noticed that the Ring and RMR Rural Services Ltd. feature on page 26 of the current addition. Mark Palmer, Chairman of the services company, has also arranged for an article on the Ring and it's activities to appear in the

Yorkshire Post show supplement, which is published as an insert to the main newspaper, and is also distributed at the Great Yorkshire Show.

The main purpose of the articles is to highlight the Rings activities, both to encourage new members to join, and also to find potential work for members through RMR Rural Services. One of the major aims of the service company is to find additional sources of income for Ring members, by giving you the opportunity to use your skills and equipment to undertake work for non-members, who may or may not be in-

involved in the agricultural sector. Examples of the type of work we are looking at are paddock maintenance, pond reclamation, hedge cutting, and fencing as well as tendering for work from the Local Authorities/ Utilities and Construction Companies where we consider that there are opportunities for our members to earn additional income. If there are other areas where you feel that we should be getting involved, please let Peter or myself know, and we will follow up.

We feel that there is some scope to undertake additional work in the Equestrian Sector and we have recently produced a flyer that is being distributed to Riding Clubs and Equestrian Centres throughout Yorkshire, and which outlines some of the services that are available from our members. If you are interested in undertaking Paddock Maintenance/Hedge Cutting/Fencing Work etc. then please let us know so that we can contact you if jobs become available in your area.

John Rooney