



# The Link



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

**Show Edition**

**June 2004**



Peter Day  
CONTACTS

## Ring Manager PETER DAY

**Tel: 01845 523496**  
**Fax: 01845 525728**  
**Mob: 07808 687757**

**e-mail**  
pday@

[ridingsmachineryring.co.uk](mailto:pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk)

## Field Manager JOHN ROONEY

**Tel: 01609 775917**  
**Fax: 01609 773879**  
**Mob: 07736 544426**

**e-mail**  
jrooney@

[ridingsmachineryring.co.uk](mailto:jrooney@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk)

## DIRECTORS

### Chairman

**Joe Barrowman** 01132 866060

### Vice Chairman

**Mark Palmer** 01845 578965

**Mike Blacker** 01347 848305

**Alastair Dinsdale** 01969 663513

**Colin Johnson** 01325 378684

**Mike Newland** 01347 838562

**Peter Pick** 01423 358347

**John Rooney** 01609 775917

**David Wass** 01751 431345

Registered Office  
66 Long Street, Thirsk  
YO7 1AU

[www.ridingsmachineryring.co.uk](http://www.ridingsmachineryring.co.uk)

It's June, the dry spell that was so welcome to those still brave enough to grow potatoes has broken, much to the relief of those self same growers who were looking for some steady showers, but not to those who thought it would continue and got caught with hay or haylage out in the field.

Predictably I was also told this week that the nights were starting to pull in and that it would soon be winter! That's one of the pleasures of working with farmers, they are always the optimist!

Interpreting the Mid Term Review has certainly been taxing the minds of many of you and from the comments made to me I think the membership is split roughly evenly between those seeing it as a challenge to think the unthinkable and radically overhaul the status quo, those who will continue along more or less the same lines because they have a belief in producing crops, and those who have either not made up their minds or have been unable to get their head round the implications for their particular business.

The decisions made by farmers at the sharp end will have a knock on effect on the whole of the allied industries who will also be affected, and the Board RMR aim to respond to the changes to ensure that the Ring can continue to play its part in the efficient running of your business. For those of you who do not use the Ring on a regular basis, refresh you memory on what we have to offer by looking at the handbook, or better still come and visit us at Stand 600 on Avenue F at the Great Yorkshire Show on 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

July. To find us we are "up a bit" and round the corner of the first avenue to the right from the NFU stand. Refreshments available at all times!

On a national front the Ring movement is also undergoing change. Our neighbours to the South, EMTAK, which served Nottingham, Northants and part of Lincs have ceased trading and amalgamated with the Lincolnshire Ring, the Cumbrian Ring formed about two years ago is making steady progress, and last month C K L, the new Ring for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, appointed its first manager and started trading. Running a Ring in the broad acres of Yorkshire is quite a challenge, running a Ring in the South West will certainly be an interesting job and we wish them every success.

Joe Barrowman and John Rooney represented RMR at a meeting of the Machinery Ring Association with the newly formed English Food and Farming Partnership (EFFP) to see what they could contribute to furthering the aims of RMR and the Ring Movement in general. The EFFP was set up as a result of the Curry Commission to strengthen the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of the English farming, food and related farm – based industries. We await their conclusions with interest.

## E Mail

We are still trying to build up our list of e mail addresses

To get your address added to our list just send an email to

[pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk](mailto:pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk)



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

## Guest writer Mike Keeble promotes the red meat industry forum

It's all change in 2005 when we enter a new era in farming, but now is the time to take action. As we move to a market of unsubsidised production my concern is to overcome the apparent dismal future facing beef production which it is anticipated will lose around 40% of its gross output, and at the same time stop sheep production from becoming overheated. Most of Europe's beef is dairy based and intensively grown and their sheep flocks are expanding. We have the advantage that our pastoral systems turn out red meat with health giving properties only just being recognised, and our grass growing cannot be bettered in the rest of the E.U.

Sir Donald Curry realised that in beef and sheep particularly our position was precarious, as unlike our arable or dairy colleagues, we didn't have a clue about production cost. Without these it will be impossible to negotiate markets in the future. He therefore set in motion the **Red Meat Industry Forum**, initially with £3 million from the .NFU, DEFRA, Eblex and the I.G.D. (supermarkets) Its aim is to identify the real cost of producing a kilo of beef lamb or pig meat across widely differing systems.

To achieve this, groups of producers will enter their costs into a national computerised database on a totally confidential basis. Group member comparative tables are produced with no one individual knowing whose figures are whose. Groups can also compare their group average with others across this country and in our competitors' areas overseas.

In the Northern Counties we have a vast resource of quality livestock being bred in the centre, the west and on the moors. Couple this to the potential feed producing capacity of the Vale and its associated cropped areas and we have something to work on. In simple terms allow stock breeders to retain ownership of their genetic investment and move the stock to the food. Once there the sheep and cattle convert the arable feeds to meat and muck, a mirror image of the ranching feedlot links in the USA but without the scale and the hazards. It is possible to utilise redundant buildings "surplus" labour and machinery in winter, and it is also has strong environmental benefits

The R.M.I.F. has a team of people, of which I am a member, who will help initiate and co-ordinate the groups. They will pay the costs of early meetings and consultancy costs identified by the group that require additional input. The key factors to the success of the project are the central database together with the input from the range of professionals already committed plus the involvement of breeders and producers. The immediate aim is to get as many figures for analysis onto the system prior to winter so that by next spring a programme can be developed for 2005/6. Some groups have already been set up in our area and in the west.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something right, but the money is only available for a couple of years. The question is do you as a member of RMR and committed to collaboration see a place for this and want to be involved as part of a group? If so ask Peter to pass your name on and I will organise a meeting in the near future.

## "A FIRST CLASS MEETING"



Mike Blacker, Lord Haskins, Joe Barrowman,  
Sir Ben Gill , Andrew Black

Although some e-mail updates have been sent out, this is the first paper copy since the conference. As those who attended will testify those of you who were unable to get to Helperby missed a first class meeting – “one of the best I have been to in years” was the quote from one member afterwards.

Andrew Black gave an insight into the recent land market comparing this to the scene ten years ago where roughly twice as much land was sold nationally, touching on the Mid Term Review, details of which were just emerging. He stressed the need for sound professional advice before making any policy decisions on the way forward for a particular business.

In a hard hitting presentation that covered a multitude of topics, the message I got from Lord Haskins was that production on marginal land with marginal yields would be a non starter and that the best would get bigger (and better?) and the worst producers would disappear. His comments on the increasing burden of red tape certainly struck a cord with everyone.

Sir Ben Gill picked up on this theme of regulatory mania and was in “excellent form” as he covered a wide range of topics picking on and picking up on members of the audience to reinforce the point he was making at the time.

The only thing that would stop us making this an annual event would be the difficulty of attracting speakers of a similar calibre to maintain the standard set by these three this year.

## THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

As well as stimulating thought through the messages delivered by the various speakers, the idea of having a conference was to encourage more members to meet together in an informal manner. In order to fund the conference something had to give and so the decision was taken to pull out of the Driffield and Ryedale Shows for this year.

Both of these in their own way are more like the traditional agricultural shows and we have enjoyed going to them, but if we are to attend any Show at all it was thought that it had to be the Great Yorkshire at Harrogate on the 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July. A separate invitation is included with the newsletter and we hope to see you there. Directors will be there some of the time. We will be providing light refreshments and drinks. Do come along and see us, if nothing else we can offer a chair to sit down in and if we are unlucky shelter from the rain!

**STAFF SHORTAGES** We continue to address the ongoing shortage of skilled labour particularly for the harvest and autumn peak. The results to ascertain availability of members from the flyer sent out with the AGM notification were disappointing. We would much prefer to be able to meet your needs from the membership drawn from the local area but realistically this is not going to happen. As an alternative solution the internet site [www.ukfarmwork.com](http://www.ukfarmwork.com) written and managed by John Rooney and RMR RS is now up and running and is starting to attract hits but we need to get it further up the results list of the search engines to realise its full potential. One of the drawbacks of this type of labour is that they need accommodation and it is more difficult to evaluate if they possess the necessary skills to do the job. Once we get more involved it will lead to more networking with this years workers telling their mates back home what a good place to work Yorkshire is.

Meanwhile, if you or any of your contacts are looking for work please get in touch with John or myself.

### Proposed Safety Awareness Event in conjunction with HSE

Some of you may wonder what happened to this idea promoted in the last Newsletter. Other Rings had successfully organised similar events for their members and we thought that it would be a good idea to give RMR members the same chance. The lack of response indicated that there was no demand and the idea has been shelved.

### SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US DO?

We may have got it wrong this time but if you have any ideas for events or you have identified an area which the Ring could be involved in to the benefit of all, please let us know what it is and it will be given serious consideration by the Board.

## Annual General Meeting

May saw the annual general meeting. In contrast to the conference the turnout was the lowest that we have ever had. (Or so I was told, as even I missed it due to being in hospital)

I am not sure if this is a reflection of your confidence in the Board and you believe that they are doing a first class job or if it is a gut reaction to the words AGM, and the thought "better not go along to that in case I get roped in".

All the retiring Directors were re elected. Believe it or not I think the directors actually enjoy, if that is the right word, the meetings, most of the time, and I know that they all get something out of the interaction that occurs both during and after the meetings. If any of you have any thoughts about the future direction of the Ring, even if you don't want to help in implementing them, have a word with me or any of the Directors who would be pleased to talk to you. Better still come and talk to us at the Yorkshire Show.

As mentioned in the Chairman's report one of the agenda items was to approve the proposal to increase the levy on core business (but not commodities) by 1% to 3%. This is a very small increase on each job but it will make a difference to our budget and was thought to be more acceptable to members than increasing the subscription. No objections or adverse comments were made by the members present and so it was approved to take effect from jobs invoiced after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## SALES .....

**Skidsteer for sale**, Belle 7250, 36" wide, Perkins diesel, comes with fork & grab, 36" bucket & 48" bucket. - Contact Peter

**ad lib pig feeder hoppers** 2 x 6 tonnes and 2 x 0.5tonnes - Contact John

**24 wire bird transfer cages** 2 x 6 tonnes and 2 x 0.5 tonnes - Contact John

### COMPUTER SERVICES from RMR Rural Services

For upgrades or new bespoke systems built to you own requirements contact John Rooney at Rural Services to discuss your needs. Why buy the package when you can get a system tailor made to suit your needs

## ..... Wants

**DAIRY HEIFERS** weaned to 12 months - Contact Peter

### COMPUTER SERVICES from RMR Rural Services

**Do you want** someone to sort out your bugs or give you honest practical advise on an upgrade or to purchase a new system. - Contact John

## RODENT CONTROL

Annual contract basis

12 x monthly visits,  
All equipment & bait  
supplied

10% Discount on  
contracts started before  
end August 04

**DON'T LET RATS SPOIL  
YOUR HARVEST**

Contact

NJ & DM Fletcher  
PEST CONTROL  
01845 577102

Nick  
07973 404369