



RIDINGS MACHINERY RING Ltd

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

# The Link



Show Edition

July 2005



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## DIRECTORS

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Since the last newsletter we have had the AGM and are now halfway through the current year. The retiring Directors were elected unopposed with no new nominations coming forward. Thanks to those members who attended on such a pleasant evening, although, as always, it would have been nice to have seen more of you present.

As you will have seen in the report, last years turnover was nicely up over previous years and we were able to record a modest but satisfying profit.

So far this year we are holding our own or slightly ahead on all fronts with the exception of straw sales. Traditionally we have been exporters of straw to other Rings, but sales ex 2004 harvest year have been much reduced due to shortages and sometimes poorer quality compared to the rest of the country. This, coupled with higher haulage costs to get it to where it was needed have all contributed to the reduction.

We had debated holding a Spring Conference to follow on from the successful one organised last year, but decided against it on the grounds that if we were suffering from "meeting overload" you would be too. We hope to have something different to SFP, ELS and Cross Compliance later on in the year.

Over the next few weeks some fundamental issues on future farming policy that were postponed last autumn due to lack of knowledge will have to be addressed by members and decisions taken. As far as I can ascertain from reading the press and talking to members there is no

universal "one cap fits all" answer. (Sorry about that bad pun) and every business will have to make decisions based on its individual circumstances.

Without doubt there will be changes and the strength of the Ring is in the ability of its members to assist in the implementation of those changes. For those who decide to draw back there will be others who wish to expand, the classic machinery ring win – win scenario. In these changing times the opportunities for more members to benefit from working together must increase.

The potential of the Ring and all the knowledge contained in its database is there to be used on your behalf. The simple worksheet and invoicing system is an added bonus to both parties.

## A Farmers Prayer

(A rough translation of a wish from a Bavarian farmer prior to me starting cereal harvest there in the late 1980's )

*"I hope you have a trouble free harvest with plenty of sunshine and blue skies, with rain showers only coming at night time or if in the day, on our neighbours fields only".*



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



## Welcome to New Members...

Sorry, not available on online version

## Waste Plastic

By now most of you will have heard about the “Agricultural Waste Regulations” which seek to address the disposal of agricultural waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

Consultations with the industry have been ongoing and I understand that an announcement will be made shortly regarding the implementation of the regulations. It could be that types of products will be treated differently. I believe that with affect from September this year the ban on the burial or burning of silage wrap and fertilizer bags will apply.

A transitional period may apply for the disposal of products such as triple washed spray containers with perhaps some sort of licensing system for on farm disposal of these containers being introduced as a short term measure.

Whatever the outcome of the consultations it is self evident that disposal practices with have to change and that this will become a specialist services area with licensed operators who will be able to issue the correct paperwork to satisfy environmental agencies and the various assurance schemes.

One of the key areas for the safe disposal of product is to keep it clean and dry. Don't just bundle it up in a corner and hope it will be all right on the night!

Several members have joined up with ring member David Brown of Agrisplas Ltd who is currently running such a service. Interestingly it is the larger farmers who have joined him, this partly down to the volume of material that they will have available and partly down to the logical argument that it is a specialist job that requires specialist knowledge and that their time is better spent elsewhere.

If any member wants to talk to David give me a call and I can arrange it.

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## Trailer Hire

The number of members hiring in trailers has increased in recent years as the advantages of high capacity, well maintained “street legal” trailers become more apparent. Supplies are now becoming limited so if you have a need contact the office now. The reputation of our member is spreading and he currently has a unit on hire through CKL, the newly formed Machinery Ring in Cornwall.

## THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

We are again at the Yorkshire Show this year – the usual spot, stand 262 Avenue F (Up a bit and first right from the NFU stand!) Please come and see us

### Meeting Cross Compliance Conditions

In spite of my earlier comments about meeting fatigue, farmers claiming the Single Farm Payment and other direct payments are responsible for understanding and meeting cross compliance requirements.

You need to be aware of the areas of Cross Compliance that are relevant to your business, since failure to comply may put your Single Payment at risk.

Defra are funding a series of local cross compliance farm walks to help you understand how to meet the requirements. All of the GAEC's and SMR's that make up Cross Compliance will be discussed, paying particular attention to those you may so easily fail to consider e.g. protection zones around hedges and ditches; hedge cutting restrictions; disposal of sprayer washings; NVZ regulations; rights of way; and soil management.

The next walk is at The Moors Centre, Danby, Whitby, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July starting at 10.00am or 2.00pm and it will last approx. 2 hours To book your place call the Cross Compliance help line on 0845 345 1302

**If you are interested in hosting a walk yourself please contact the Ring office and we will put you in contact with the organisers**

### National Sprayer Testing Scheme

The NSTS have just announced that Assured Combinable Crops have confirmed that all sprayers on farms with more than 50ha of combinable or sugar beet crops will have to have their sprayers tested by NSTS prior to harvest 2006 and thereafter annually. Farms with less than 50ha of combinable or sugar beet crops will have their sprayers tested by NSTS prior to harvest 2007 and thereafter every two years.

Members Brian Robinson from East Cowton are approved testers and are willing to travel to farms to do the tests. I am wondering if we can generate sufficient interest to get members to bring machines to a spot central to them to the mutual benefit of all. I suspect that after autumn drilling would be the preferred timing choice.

If you are interested but without making a commitment let me know and I will look into it further.

### Labour Needs

Members are now reasonably well fitted up with seasonal harvest labour but 3 recent and as yet unfulfilled enquiries to the office include: -

Thirsk Area

Tractor driver starting around the second week of August for corn carting with potatoes to follow

Malton Area

Man (or perhaps man and tractor)

For 300 hours work commencing mid August for potato work.

Darlington Area

Loader Tractor Driver end of July to end of September long hours available.

We also do get short - term demands for labour outside of peak periods and it is always useful to know supplier members plans to save us pestering people unnecessarily!

### Email addresses are always welcome

- if you have not had one of our e updates recently it is either because you have never given us your address, you have changed your ISP or, I suspect, in the odd case you have forgotten your password and not downloaded your messages and your email post box is full.

To get your address added to our list just send an email to [pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk](mailto:pday@ridingsmachineryring.co.uk)



## Do you need a new computer?

AMD Sempron 2800+ System + 15in TFT Monitor now  
£395 + vat

RMR Rural Services can now supply new Acer Desktop Computers from £395+vat. Free Delivery and Set Up. If you don't understand any of the following and need a PC talk to John and he will give you a honest assessment of what is needed to meet your requirements.

### Features-

- Processor: AMD Sempron 2800+
- Memory: 256MB DDR
- Hard Disk: 80GB
- DVD Writer/Rewriter
- Modem/LAN 10/100
- VGA Graphics on board
- Audio on board
- 6 in 1 memory card reader
- 6x USB2 Ports (2 front)
- Parallel Port
- Serial Port
- External bays: 2 x 3.5, 2 x 5.25
- Expansion slots: 3xPCI, 1xAGP
- 15in TFT Flat Monitor
- Windows keyboard, Mouse and Speakers
- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition

**Other specifications are available on request, and remember that we can also supply new Laptops at competitive prices, and undertake computer upgrades and repairs.**

Contact John on 01609 775917 or 07736 544426.

## Up to 75% Grant for CPCS Training

Are you an experienced machine plant operator who works at least 50% or more of your time in Agriculture and would like to, or already do sub contracting for specialist machine plant operations to the construction industry?

If so, you probably need the new **Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)** operator card and may be eligible for up to 75% grant to meet the costs involved

The funding is available through a consortium of Machinery Rings and we are looking for candidates for a pilot run. We would expect candidates to take two modules, one being a tractor and the other one out of 360°, 180° diggers or a telescopic fork lift.

Unsubsidised cost would be in the region of £2,000 and approximately £500 after grant. This would gain you the "Red Card" which is valid for 3 years. To obtain the blue card you would be expected to complete 300 hours over 3 years and maintain work records etc

For more information contact John Rooney 01609 773879

Further details are in the CPCS Scheme Booklet obtainable from [www.citb.co.uk/training\\_course/record\\_schemes/cpcs/default.htm](http://www.citb.co.uk/training_course/record_schemes/cpcs/default.htm)

## Tractor Hire

Like trailers, tractors are getting booked up fast, try us first for any requirements.

## For Sale

10 stud 28 inch tractor front wheel rims to fit 14.9 – 28 tyres (not included)

Kverneland 4 furrow reversible plough

6 tonne twin low loader trailer

## Straw in Swath Wanted

We have members actively looking to purchase straw in the swath in most areas.

We have a specific need for a large quantity of wheat straw within a 20 mile radius of York. This with the promise that fields will be cleared quickly.