



LOTHIAN MACHINERY RING

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018

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CHANGES TO THE STATUS OF QUEENSFERRY CROSSING



Lothian Machinery Ring - Overgoar House, Gogoarbank, Edinburgh EH12 9DD

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WELCOME

Dear member,

Welcome to our March 2018 newsletter.

I would firstly like to thank David for gathering information, putting his photography skills to good use and collating the information to produce this newsletter.

We held our twenty sixth AGM at Swanston Brasserie on 13-February-2018. Our accounts were presented by Lea Brash from Johnston Smillie and showed our Group (consisting of Lothian Machinery Ring Ltd, L.M.R. Training Services Ltd and Skills (Scotland) Testing Services Ltd.) achieved a surplus over the financial year. I would like to add my personal thanks to Jenny & David for their hard work in helping us achieve this. Following an interesting and informative presentation by Neil Redpath we were treated to an excellent supper by Swanston Brasserie which was well received by all present.

The Case rebate scheme is ongoing and offers genuine rebates on new Case tractors, combines and balers and we also have agreements with Ford and Toyota for discounts on new selected vehicles. If you are in the market for any of the above please contact us for more details.

Please note that any business advertising



in our newsletter is a Ring member and their services or products are available through your membership of the Ring negating the need to have a separate account with them. For example, if you require building supply products from Beatsons you could simply order materials at the depot, let them know that you are a Ring member and they will phone us to confirm, at which time we will allocate an order number. We also have the same arrangement with other builder supply companies, plant hire companies and tyre supplier.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those that have agreed to take advertising space in this Newsletter and if you would like to take advertising space in our next one, which will be around June time, please contact us as soon as possible.



Training and assessments are being organised all year round through our subsidiary companies and are available to all, whether you are a Ring member or not. Please contact us for further information on any land -based training that you may require.

Finally, our thanks to John Lessels for allowing David to 'grill' him in producing an interesting article for the newsletter and watch out, he's looking for his next 'victim'!

Frank Maxwell.



CHANGES TO THE STATUS OF QUEENSFERRY CROSSING

Currently the Queensferry Crossing has motorway status and as such is no longer available to agricultural vehicles. NFU worked to get an agreement in place and allow vehicles to use the Forth Road Bridge.

Vehicles up to **2.9m** can use the Forth Road Bridge without notification.

Agricultural vehicles over 2.9m wide but below 3.5m wide must contact the FRB Control Room on **0131 319 3083/4** or via OCCR.FBScotland@amey.co.uk in advance of movement to gain permission to cross. This ensures safe passage for all users and

prevents any vehicles arriving and finding a restriction in place that may delay or prevent passage over FRB.

Agricultural vehicles over 3.5m wide must contact the FRB Control Room on 0131 319 3083/4 or via OCCR.FBScotland@amey.co.uk 24hrs in advance of movement and call again when arriving on site to gain permission to cross.

The Forth Road Bridge may be closed during periods of high winds, contact the FRB Control Room on the same number as above.

Thanks to Jamie Smart for the update.



THE ART OF CO-OPERATION

As a ring member you are part of a co-operative effort to buy services, fuel and materials. Interestingly, this has now been happening for just over 30 years, something the early pioneers of this system might not have imagined.

Lothian Machinery Ring officially started to operate in May 1991 through the efforts of the original steering committee after interest meetings were held throughout the Lothians. Lothian Machinery Ring became one of the nice rings currently operating in Scotland with a combined total of well over 7,000 members.

The official definition of a machinery ring is that it "matches a shortage of machinery and/or labour capacity on one farm with a surplus on another". Focused on reducing the fixed cost of large and small machinery by leveraging more from a farmer's investment in the specialist

equipment now required for modern farming. As farming has become more diverse and farms now spread over ever larger geographical areas the neighbourliness that characterised the farming community required formalisation. Prices for most jobs are at guide rates and billing is now handled by the Ring with a seamless system of debits and credits.

Farmers are and will always be part of a community with a neighbourliness that is unmatched, however as independent and strong-willed entrepreneurs the idea of co-operation is somewhat less natural. With the opportunities that emerge from ring services, the idea of co-operation makes good business sense.

Lothian Machinery Ring is here for those times when that co-operation does make sense and we look forward to your call.

YOUR FUEL ORDERS

Many of you are ordering your fuel from the Ring safe in the knowledge that this is the most efficient way of comparing the day's prices. Every morning we receive fuel price updates from:



Fuel service

The four companies we currently use have proved to be the most reliable and consistent in regards of price, delivery and service.

All the companies

offer standard 2-day delivery;

however,

experience has

shown us that

weather, seasonal

demand and tanker breakdowns

can change the delivery times

dramatically. When you call the

office, we are able to offer the best

price and will advise you on that

day's delivery estimates.

***Order your fuel in plenty
of time and take
advantage of the best
price regardless of
delivery time.***

Other fuel services

Through our main suppliers we can also order many of your other oil, lubricant and fuel additive requirements.

Engine oil

Hydraulic fluid

Transmission oil

Gear oil

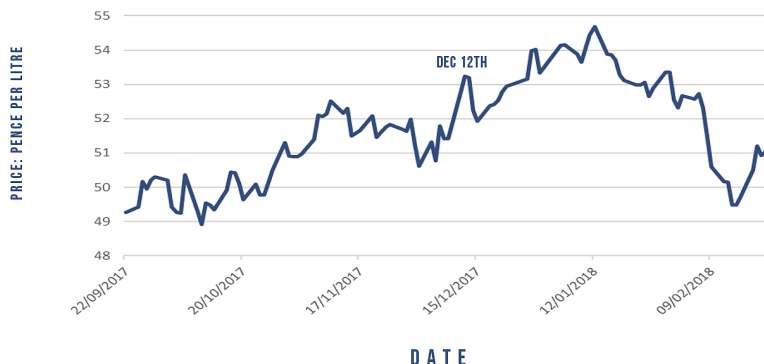
Grease

Adblue

These products can be ordered in amounts to suit your needs from boxed cartridges of grease, barrels of oil to a 1000ltr IBC for Adblue.

FUEL PRICES

AVERAGE GAS OIL PRICE SEPT 17 - FEB 18



The chart above shows average fuel price for gas oil from September to the end of February. Fuel prices are affected by the cost of crude oil, however our retail fuel price is affected by local supply and demand. This may come in the form of seasonal variation or as was reported 11th December 2017 that the Forties pipeline was to be closed due to a hairline crack found on the pipe just outside of Aberdeen. A classic price spike due to concerns over supply.



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MEMBER PROFILE - JOHN LESSELS

John Lessels – From Livestock to Landscaper

We had a great chat with John last week, over a cup of tea around the kitchen table.

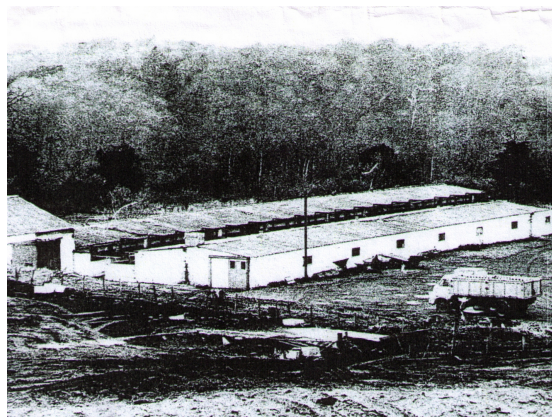
We asked him to talk about the change from livestock farming to landscaper and began by talking about his father working in The Court of Session and keeping pigs. Collecting food waste to feed his animals was the norm and an early form of recycling.

John decided to follow an academic path and entered Edinburgh College to study agriculture. He moved to Reading University and worked in a research assistant. It was there after a motorcycle accident that he met his future wife, the nurse that helped him get back to full fitness.

On returning to Scotland John started at a pig farm and worked for two years before finally investing in a share of an

established pig business, eventually buying the whole business on the farm where he still lives.

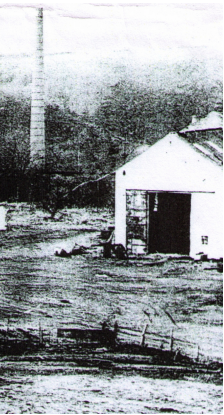
Initially the business bred sows to sell weaners but John changed to fattening for the bacon market, peaking at 2000 pigs. In 1974 weaners infected with Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD) arrived from market and when symptoms started



to show John informed the authorities. Every animal on the farm had to be destroyed and the farm was quarantined for six months. Re-stocking began with just 50 pigs watched closely for

SVD. Pig prices were high at that time and it was going to take time to get back to the number required to make the business viable.

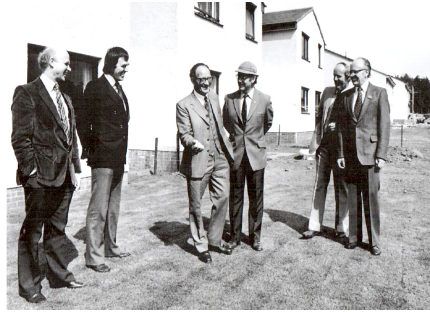
During the time the farm was in quarantine John continued as a representative for a company supplying milling and grain mixing systems for cattle feed, however this was seasonal work and wasn't enough to build up the business. John also had time to enjoy not having the smell of pigs and experienced a 9-5 routine allowing more time to spend with his family.



With pig prices still high John decided he needed an income so at the beginning of the 1980's set out in a van with a grasscutter following from adverts placed locally for landscaping work. It was a fortunate time for a newcomer, there were very few

landscaping businesses and John made contacts initially with house builders. Successful contracts with house builders also meant working alongside one celebrity of the day, Jim McColl of Beechgrove Garden

fame being the most noticeable.



At the beginning it was John and one other worker, however times were good and the business steadily grew until Black Monday in 1987 signalled the start of the recession. Landscape contractors suffered as the demand for new houses slumped. John realised he had relied too heavily on one sector of landscape industry.

The business retracted but John bounced back again this time with a mixture of maintenance, hard / soft landscaping and commercial contracts. Today the business has developed into an experienced contractor throughout Edinburgh and the Lothian's.

With his son Steven now making this a truly family run business we can expect the same quality and attention to detail to continue.

DO YOU SUPPLY SERVICES TO THE RING

Keep your services up to date

We are constantly updating member services so we can find the most suitable member when a request arrives across our desk. If you have made changes to any of the services you offer then call the office and have your record updates.



SCOTTISH MACHINERY RINGS

RETROSPECTIVE CASE IH REBATES

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CASE IH DEALERS AND THE SMRA SAVES MEMBERS UP TO £1 T/HP ON ALL CASE IH PRODUCTS.

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE. VISIT YOUR CASE IH DEALERSHIP TO SELECT YOUR NEW CASE IH TRACTOR, COMBINE OR BALER AND COMPLETE THE DEAL. THEN ASK YOUR LOCAL MACHINERY RING FOR CLAIM DETAILS OR VISIT WWW.SCOTTISHMACHINERYRINGS.CO.UK

TO ORGANISE A DEMONSTRATION, SPEAK TO IAN ROSE, WM ROSE & SONS LTD, WEST LINTON 01968 660777

