Unbeatable QUADRANT

Richard Hewer

By his own admission, Richard Hewer says he is a ‘little bit biased’ when it comes to QUADRANT balers. Having used many different makes over the years Richard firmly believes ‘there is nothing to beat the QUADRANT’.

Last year saw Richard at the helm of one of two new twin-axle QUADRANT 5300RF balers bought from MORRIS CORFIELD by Mike Swinnerton. These replaced a QUADRANT 3300 which Richard had operated and a 5200.

“The QUADRANT 3300, which was five years old and had done over 40,000 bales, was a great baler and it never missed a beat,” says Richard. “The 5200 was an animal – it would take in anything that we put in front of it. However the new 5300s are better still. There’s no comparison between them and my old QUADRANT 3300 which was no slouch, but when we had the 5300 on demo alongside it, it just walked away and is far smoother.”

I KEEP COMING BACK TO QUADRANTS

“I’ve used all makes of baler over the years, but I just keep coming back to the QUADRANT. They are so reliable and easy to use. There’s no messing, no rubbish – they just do what they say on the tin. CLAAS just keep upping their game with every new model. And they are also very good at doing updates, which has not always been the case with other balers I have used.

“Alongside that, the service and support we get from MORRIS CORFIELD is also excellent. They are a very good team and parts are never an issue. Whether they have the part you want in stock, need to get it from CLAAS overnight or rob something off a stock baler, they will always find a way to keep you going, which is essential.”

Baling mainly hay, silage and straw, Richard says that most years they would expect each baler to do around 10,000 bales. But the conditions last year meant numbers were well down and in one field he was only doing about one bale a hectare.

Both the balers, which produce a 120x90cm bale, were specified with a four-cell weigh scale in the roller chute, moisture sensors, twin axles and air brakes. The standard specification on the balers includes the unique Automatic Bale Pressure (APC) pressure control system. Having set the desired bale weight and the quality of the baler twine, sensors monitor the load on the frame and the knotters to ensure that the desired consistent bale weight is maintained. In conjunction with this, the Knotter Control System (KCS) on the balers also warns the operator of any broken strings or missed knot. And being ISOBUS compatible, Richard is able to monitor all this through his tractor’s control terminal, avoiding the need for an additional terminal in the cab.

THE PRESSURE SYSTEM LOOKS AFTER ITSELF

“Because we are selling bales, achieving a consistent, exact weight is important, but it’s also important to make a bale that’s usable, so I also drive to a wad size which works very well. The combination of the Automatic Pressure Control system and the weigher work very well together. The APC system is extremely good and I can just leave the pressure system to look after itself and then use the weigher to just double check the weights, but also have a record of exactly what has been baled. Having four weight cells means the weigher is very accurate; when bales are weighed going out later in the year they are always where they should be.

“The new knotter design is very reliable and I have not had to touch them. The latest TURBO FAN system is also a lot better and keeps the knotters really clean. In addition, the centralised greasing and electric auto-lube system means that general maintenance is very simple which enables me to get going as quickly as possible.”