

# Hardworking handler



“Our policy is to own all our equipment and we make all our own silage, with CLAAS equipment from HAMBLYS,” says Jim. “We recently invested in a new CLAAS 850 JAGUAR forage harvester as well as a set of triple mowers – a DISCO 8500 for the rear and DISCO 3200 FC on the front. We also use a LINER, 4-rotor rake. The SCORPION was purchased on three year’s finance with a 3-year/3,000hr MAXI CARE extended warranty. “I did think about extending that after we hit the limit, but because its well looked after and has been so little trouble, I thought it probably didn’t need extending.

“Also HAMBLYS is down the road and always lend us a replacement when our one is being serviced – I have a great relationship with Richard Mann and he does look after us well,” adds Jim.

The SCORPION is seldom stood still, with its main role involving loading the ingredients for six different mixes for the 600 dairy cows, 300 followers and 100 beef cattle into the farm’s SiloKing Trailed Line Duo 20 feeder wagon.

Main operator, Mike Wright, spends ‘most of his waking hours’ on the machine. At 6ft 6in tall, cab headroom and easy access were, unsurprisingly, his main concerns when looking at telehandlers. So how does it fare?

## EXCELLENT HEADROOM

“Put it this way I’ve never hit my head! I can’t count how many times I get on and off during the day, but again it’s really, really easy. I particularly like the foot pedal for the steering column – I get up in the cab, sit down and my foot goes straight to the pedal in one movement. I know others like a lever under the steering wheel – but I prefer the pedal,” he says.

The cab is relatively compact and workmanlike with few frills. The single joystick gets praise from Mike, and the view to the back-right, over the boom, he adds, is excellent.

“Overall the visibility is great. The tractor wasn’t bad, but this is so much better. Also, small things like being able to telescope the boom slightly when switching implements makes the job much easier. I try to park it inside overnight, but the heater and demister work quickly – and the air-con is quite nice, too.

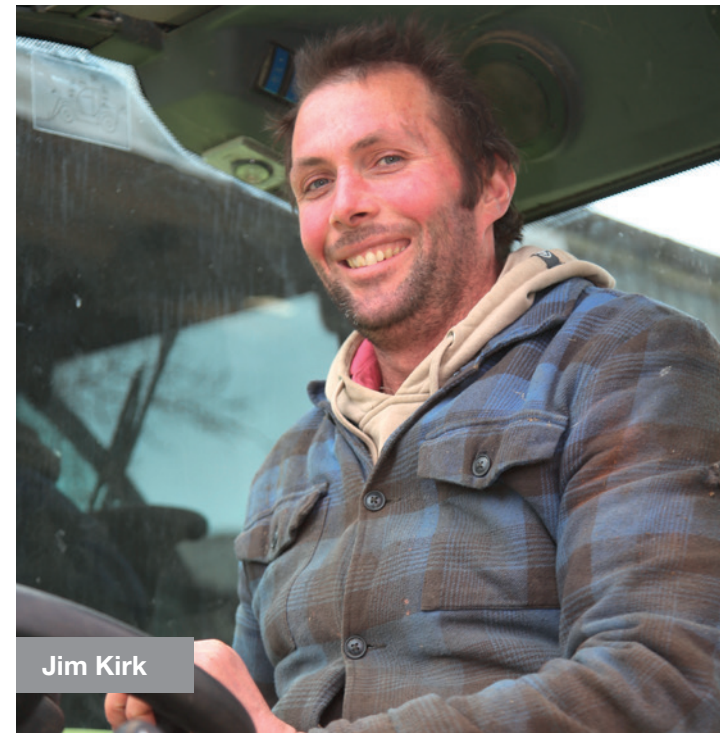


With 1,000 hungry mouths to feed it’s unsurprising a CLAAS 736 SCORPION has clocked up 4,000hrs in two years fulfilling its duties at Heanton Barton, Petrockstowe, Devon, which is a AHDB Strategic dairy farm.

All telehandlers work hard, especially on dairy farms. But 4,000hr in two years is an impressive tally in anybody’s book. Jim Kirk, who runs the family farm with his father and brother-in-law, says second to the rotary parlour it’s the most important machine on the farm.

“Until we bought the CLAAS SCORPION, we were relying on two tractors and loaders,” says Jim. “While that had the benefit of the loaders being able to work in two different places, eventually we got to the stage that, without a telescopic, we kept having to compromise.”

After looking at all the options they narrowed it down to two machines. They decided on the SCORPION for a number of reasons, including the convenience of the local dealer, HAMBLYS, being just two miles down the road.



Jim Kirk

**“It’s fast, manoeuvrable and has good visibility as well as being completely reliable.”**

Jim Kirk

“It makes loading the wagon so much faster and easier and it has a great turning circle. I can’t fault its operation at all,” he adds. With its lift capacity of 3.6t and 7.0m lift height, the SCORPION also brought a new dimension to other handling tasks around the farm. When it’s not on feed wagon filling duties, it can be found loading and unloading lorries, mucking out sheds, fetching bales... “It never stops,” adds Mike.

## A BIG ASSET

Operator Mike and owner Jim agree that in its two years on the farm the CLAAS 736 SCORPION has proved to be a big asset. “It’s fast, manoeuvrable and has good visibility as well as being completely reliable,” says Jim. “What more do you want? It’s on the go all day. Everyone is shouting for it – so probably our next move will be to get another one.”



Mike Wright

