

# ARION gets on course



The D'Arcy team at DAR Golf

DAR golf is Ireland's largest golf course, football pitch and racecourse maintenance and construction company. Based in Wicklow in the east of Ireland, the company is family run and was started by James D'Arcy in 1979, when the main stay of the business was land reclamation for farmers.

Over the years the business has grown to where it is now. Today DAR golf is run by James's four children, Brian, Colin, Graham and Niamh. They currently employ 20 staff and run a very impressive fleet of machinery including excavators and a fleet of tractors. Central to this fleet of tractors are three CLAAS ARION 630s. The first of these tractors was purchased in 2019 from local CLAAS dealer KELLYS of Borris, and after a successful year with this tractor, two identical ARION were bought in 2020.

The specification of these tractors is very impressive with CMATIC CVT gearboxes and very wide turf tires. According to Brian D'Arcy,

the CVT allows for infinite speed control from less than 1km/h to over 50km/h. This range is required due to the different jobs that Brian says the tractors need to be able undertake from very slow trencher work to travelling long journeys during the busy golf course "sanding" season.

"It's this ability to be the 'master of all trades' that make the CMATIC ARION perfect for our business. We have noticed that the ability of the CMATIC CVT to give variable speeds at very low speeds allows the trenchers to get through more work than conventional creeper boxed tractors in the day.

"The tractors have different jobs all year round. Over the winter the ARION tractors are fitted with loaders and are used for loading sod both in the yard or on site. In the Spring they are on the road, covering up to 200 of Ireland's golf clubs with sand."

### ARION WORK HORSES

For this job they are the real work horses, often spending full weeks on the road away from the company's base, towing a low loader with a teleporter and spreader on board, making them a totally self-sufficient outfit. "This is when the tractors really come into their own" states Brian, "with the ability to move the gear and get the work done."



During this busy season the tractors have to work every day as DAR run to a very tight timetable, where missed days are not an option. Brian also highly rates the service he receives from KELLYS of Borris "it couldn't be better" and is "top class" he states. He said that nothing has ever been an issue for them including the fitting of the turf tyres and custom black paint job that was specified by DAR Golf when the tractors were purchased.

### THE SERVICE IS TOP NOTCH

Over the Summer months the CLAAS ARIONs are involved in cultivation work on football pitches in every corner of Ireland. Brian says that the tractors cover at least 1000 hours per year with the 2019 machine having clocked a trouble free 2500 hours. Brian says that whenever new tractors are required in the business it will be a CLAAS as they have proved to be well liked by his operators, reliable and the service from KELLYS of Borris has been top notch.

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**Brian D'Arcy**