

A change to CLAAS for the better



Andrew Wilson

Over the course of the last four years, W&A Wilson have not only changed all their tractors to a CLAAS shade of green, but also their combine.

Faced with the closure of their long term tractor dealership, and the prospect of service support moving further afield, W & A Wilson were prompted to speak to GORDONS, who they had already used for incidental machinery. As a result six of their tractors have been replaced with CLAAS tractors, culminating with a three tractor deal last summer. They have also replaced their combine.

SERVICE YOU WON'T FORGET

"We have always got on very well with GORDONS," says Andrew Wilson. "They are very easy to speak to and if you have a problem, you know they will sort you out, even on occasions when it has been for a machine that they didn't supply. You don't forget that type of service."

"My brother Stephen was the first to buy a CLAAS tractor quite a few years ago and he got on well with that. So when we were looking to replace a loader tractor, we spoke to Steven Cook at the Highland Show and ended up doing a deal on an ATOS 340 and loader."

However, the main change started in 2018 when Andrew replaced one of his key arable tractors with a 165hp ARION 630CIS. This particular machine was recommended by Findlay Tulloch who then arranged for Andrew to have one on demo. Pleased with its performance and versatility, last Spring Andrew contacted Findlay again, this time to replace their main 200hp tractor with another ARION 630. "The 200hp tractor needed various things doing to it, so it made sense to look at the option of replacing it. Findlay had a 630CIS+ in stock, came up with a good price and the deal was done. "Even though it's less power, the ARION is as good if not better than the 200hp it replaced. It does everything that tractor did, from pulling a five furrow reversible plough, to combination drilling, spraying and powering our trailed forager.

"The big thing is the performance from the engine and the amount of pulling power the ARION has, even on standard tyres. The 200hp tractor was on larger tyres, but the grip was not nearly as good as the traction we get with the ARION."

Last summer, Andrew was again on the 'phone to Findlay, this time to replace his final three tractors, which resulted in the arrival of another ARION 630 CIS+, an ATOS 330 with loader and a used ARION 440. They also replaced the original ATOS 340 which had clocked up 10,000 hours with an ATOS 350. To complete the CLAAS green set, he also changed their combine for a TUCANO 560 MONTANA.

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Andrew Wilson



THE RIGHT TRACTORS FOR THE JOBS

“Everything is now CLAAS from GORDONS and we have the right tractors for what we need them to do,” says Andrew, who with his father and brothers Stephen and Angus, farms at Bishopbriggs near Glasgow. Between them they manage and harvest 400ha of cereals and 280ha of grazing and silage for a 150 cow dairy herd.

“The little ATOS tractors with their loaders are ideal for yard work and feeding the cows, but it is the three ARION 630s I am really pleased with. The cab comfort is fantastic and front axle suspension very good – I would certainly not want to go back to our old tractors.

“What I really like is that they have a big diesel tank, so unlike our old tractors that would only last until about 5 o’clock when foraging, the ARION can work all day without refuelling. The transmissions are good, they are easy to operate and the CIS and CIS+ specification is fine for what we want, but the pulling power is fantastic. For ploughing, generally the ARION will quite happily work at 1400rpm in C1 or C2, dropping to B5 or 6 in heavier soils.

“The decision to change to CLAAS tractors has certainly been for the good and means we are now well set-up for the next few years and any changes that happen.”