

# CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth

# C

LAAS machinery has formed the backbone of the fleet at LJ Plant and Sons for decades. Today white-and-green equipment dominates the yard with tractors, combines, balers and grass kit all supplied by Staffordshire dealer MORRIS CORFIELD.

Having run tractors of all colours over the years, the business took delivery of its first CLAAS – an AXION 810 – back in 2006. Since then the numbers have grown steadily to the point that there are now six on the fleet, the latest arrivals being an ARION 660 and an AXION 850.

What sets these new tractors apart is a shift to stepless CMATIC CVT transmissions, everything previously having been equipped with CLAAS' time-proven HEXASHIFT powershift gearboxes.

“The CLAAS CMATIC transmission was so much smoother than the competition, particularly on the road.”



## Farm Facts

LJ Plant and Son near Eccleshall, Staffordshire

### Farmed area

162 ha grass, winter barley and maize;  
300 sheep

### Work undertaken

Silage, baling, all arable operations and  
groundwork

### Machinery

ARION 630, 640, 650 and 660  
AXION 810 and 850  
CLAAS JAGUAR 950  
CLAAS TUCANO 580  
TUCANO 440 x 2

### Staff

Richard Plant, Jane, Jamie, Sally and Mark  
Downing Booth plus 5-6 others at peak times.





# Jamie Downing Booth

ARION 660 & AXION 850 CMATIC

Near Eccleshall, Staffordshire, May 2022

## Why CLAAS tractors?

“Over the years we’ve moved towards more and more CLAAS tractors because we like their rugged simplicity. They’re well-built, straightforward machines that anyone can jump on and drive, not decorated with unnecessary gadgets that you really don’t need,” explains Jamie Downing Booth.

“That said, technically they’ve come on a long way in the last ten years and can match most of the competition when it comes to sophistication. Compared to other colour tractors we’ve got, they’re a good deal smoother and more comfortable too. Most importantly, the back-up we get from MORRIS CORFIELD far exceeds anything else on offer.”

## Why CMATIC gearboxes?

“Over the years we’ve had 15 or 16 CLAAS tractors with HEXASHIFT gearboxes which have been pretty much bomb-proof. But recently we’ve been looking at ways of improving efficiency and have trialled various different makes with CVT boxes.

“In those demos we found the CLAAS CMATIC transmission was so much smoother than the competition, particularly on the road. So when it came to ordering my next tractor – a 185 hp ARION 660 – we went with the CVT box.

“It’s proved to be brilliant. The tractor itself feels to have more go in it, presumably because its effectively always in the right gear and is never struggling.

“It’s really improved my work when mowing – It can just tweak speeds 1 km/hour at a time rather than the 4-5 km/hour jumps it got previously. Consequently I’m getting more out of the tractor.

“And on the QUADRANT baler it’s a breeze. I’m not having to constantly think about approaching banks or heavier swaths – the tractor just sorts it out for itself, always working to maintain the same pto speed.

“Whenever I can, I use the pre-set cruise speeds – on

the road or in the field. It’s more relaxing for me and the tractor seems to run better. I will use the different gearbox modes for different jobs and will tweak settings as needed, but the beauty of the system is that you don’t have to.

“Less technically-minded drivers can just get on the tractor and still get the most out of it, because it just sorts things out for itself, always working to get the right balance between work-rates and fuel use.”

“Interestingly we always thought our ARION 650 HEXASHIFT was pretty good on fuel, going two days between fill-ups. The 660 CMATIC will easily do that with plenty in reserve.

“On the back of that we’ve just taken delivery of another CMATIC tractor – an AXION 850 in gunmetal grey which looks smart and, critically, will further improve the efficiency of what we do, covering more ground with less fuel.”

## How do you get on with your dealer?

“The amount of CLAAS kit we run on the fleet has steadily grown over the last 20 years purely on the back of the service we get from our dealer MORRIS CORFIELD. It’s now got to the point where virtually everything comes from them – tractors, combines, balers, foragers and all our other grass equipment.

“Our salesman Norman Duppa has become a close family friend and we feel like we’re a part of the CLAAS family too.

“The back-up is simply amazing. Modern machinery has become so complex that you inevitably get break-downs whatever the colour. The difference with CORFIELDS is that you know they’re working as hard as they can to get you back up and running whether it’s a weekend or evening.

“Their service guys are just brilliant and generally they’ll have any parts we need on the shelf. If a machine is

out of action for a few days we know there’s always a standby in their yard we can borrow – no one else can match them for that.

“As a contractor it’s fantastic to have that peace of mind – CORFIELDS understand the importance of keeping us going, so we can keep our customers happy.”



Dealership  
MORRIS  
CORFIELD

“I will use the different gearbox modes for different jobs and tweak settings, but the beauty is that you don’t have to.”

Jamie Downing Booth, May 2022

**CLAAS**

“The tractor itself feels to have more go in it, presumably because it’s always in the right gear and is never struggling.”

Jamie Downing Booth, May 2022

