

From tracks back to tyres



J Speirs & Son

Luton, AXION 950, 2x 850 & 830

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CLAAS AXION have been the mainstay of the tractor fleet run by J Speirs & Sons for the last 7 years, with a 410hp AXION 950 the latest addition which arrived in September to replace a tracked CLAAS Challenger 75E.

In addition to the latest AXION 950, the company also runs three 800 series models. Of these, the oldest is an AXION 850 which was one of the first to be bought back in 2010, plus there is another 2012 plate 850 and an 830 CMATIC bought last February.

WE KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE

“We have been running AXION for a long time now and are obviously happy with them because we keep coming back for more,” says Jim Speirs. “The AXION is a good, all-round tractor that everyone like driving. It’s driver friendly, good in the field and never underpowered, so

always pulls well. The cab suspension makes them very comfortable to operate and the drivers definitely appreciate that, you certainly notice the difference when you get onto something else.”

“Added to that there is the service and support that we receive from OLIVERS, backed up by the parts support that they get from CLAAS.”

FAR MORE FLEXIBILITY

The arrival of the new AXION 950 last autumn reflects a partial change from tracks back to tyres. “We still have a large tracked tractor for heavy cultivations, but replacing the Challenger with the similarly powered AXION 950 gives us far more flexibility and enables the AXION to carry out jobs that the Challenger couldn’t do, for instance baling or even grain carting if necessary,” explains Jim. “We have also used it to pull our 6.0m trailed drill, which normally goes behind one of the 850s, but it performed extremely well and ISOBUS made it very simple to bring up the controls.”

HIGH DENSITY BALING

This flexibility is reflected in the fact that as with the Challenger, its main job in the autumn is to work down seedbeds

using a 6.6m Cultipress, either on plough following 2nd wheats or after a Simba SLD, but it is also now used to drive the farm’s high density baler, baling both silage and straw. If necessary it will also be brought in to pull the farm’s 7-furrow on-land plough, which is usually used behind the younger AXION 850 but which the Challenger struggled with.

“While the AXION and the Challenger are similar power, the AXION has far more grip and there is no difference in compaction. Fuel consumption is better and because we can use the AXION for far more jobs during the year rather than being parked up, the running costs per hour will be far lower.”

CMATIC TRANSMISSION

“Personally I really like the CMATIC transmission on the AXION as it pulls away very smoothly. We do have a lot of steep hills, with some long pulls so the tractors are really tested, but the engines on the AXION hold on well.”

DEALER SUPPORT

“But also OLIVERS are so reliable and easy to deal with, which is very important to us.”

