

# Power in a compact frame



Josh Phillips

GB Phillips & Son had a good look at other options on the market, before Replacing their 7,000 hour ARION 640 with a ARION 660 CMATIC.

“Out of the tractors we looked at and had on demo, one was ruled out very quickly as we just didn’t like it, so it just came down to the ARION and one other,” explains Josh Phillips. “What finally swung it in the ARION’s favour is the fact that it has plenty of power, but in a compact frame, so it’s very manoeuvrable. It’s also very comfortable to operate, the cab specification is right, the suspension’s very good and visibility excellent. It’s got it all and is very good on the road, and the back-up and support from RIVERLEA is brilliant. It’s done all we want of it and is well on top of the job.”

With its 185hp engine, which has a power boost to 205hp for PTO and transport work, the new ARION 660 has the latest CMATIC CVT transmission, the new PROACTIV front axle suspension. The Phillips’ also opted for the CEBIS specification level with the new 12inch colour touch screen terminal.

Based near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire the ARION 660, which has clocked up over 2,700 hours already in its first year, is used for a wide range of jobs, from mowing, tanker work and fertiliser spreading, through to more specialist work such as bedforming for potatoes and harvesting daffodils.

“Once you find out what the CMATIC transmission can do, it’s really good and great that it just keeps pulling through without needing to stop and change ranges,” says Josh. “Most of the time in the field I will use it in the ‘stick’ mode and only leave it in automatic when on

the road. Having the cruise control is great, just to set the speed and leave the tractor to look after itself.

## ALL THE FUNCTIONS IN THE RIGHT PLACES

“I really like the CMOTION control and how everything you need is right there at your fingertips. All the functions are in just the right place and it makes it easy to set up the tractor how you want. Everything I need – mowers, trailing shoe, even trailer tipping are all set-up on ‘F’ keys.

“The new touch screen for CEBIS also makes life so quick and easy. At the touch of the screen everything you need can be set from there, making operating the tractor relaxing and allows you to just get on with the job.”

On the advice of RIVERLEA the new ARION was supplied with the latest S10 ISOBUS terminal, giving them full RTK accuracy.

“For jobs such as bedforming you have to be spot-on and it allows us to also match up exactly with the customer’s settings. By setting up a field to avoid short work, for instance when mowing, it means that we can make full use of the tractor and implement. With the trailing shoe we can also leave an exact gap with no overlaps, leaving a professional finish to the job. Also being an ISOBUS terminal both the main tractors are ready to go to that next stage, as our baler and spreader are next up for changing.”