



Martin Lewis (centre) with sons Matthew and Thomas.

“The TORION is in a different league.”

Taking loan of a TORION 1511 proved a revelation to Martin Lewis.

“We have dealt with RIVERLEA for about 30 years, so when we had a puncture on our loader during early second cut, knowing that RIVERLEA had a demo TORION, I gave Paul (Rogers) a call to see if I could borrow it for the weekend, says Martin.

“When it arrived in June the TORION had just 180 hours on the clock, but in three months we are already now up to 560 hours.”

The TORION 1511 is the largest of the mid-range models. Powered by a 4-cylinder 167hp DPS engine, driving through a VARIPOWER transmission, the low mounting position of the engine gives the 1511 a fully articulated tipping load of 9.75 tonnes, without needing additional ballast. In the cab, a 7” touch screen serves as a central information hub, and the TORION also features SMART LOADING, including programmable bucket height return and lift/lower limits.

Based near Carmarthen in South Wales, Martin Lewis and his seven strong team, including sons Thomas, Matthew and Jack, harvest around 1400ha of grass silage and 100ha of whole crop, taking up to four cuts on some farms. Previously to keep on top of the clamp work, in addition to a wheeled loader, this often had to be supported by a tractor and buckrake, this year using their 14-month old ARION 650.

“In good going we can be clearing 10ha an hour, which made Philip sweat a bit and need help as he’d no time to roll and we have also looked at using compacting rollers. But that’s totally changed now with the TORION. It’s a hell of a machine and saves the cost of an extra tractor and man on the job,” states Martin. “It’s pushing power

is phenomenal and will clear a trailer load in two and a bit goes, so he has plenty of time for compacting. On one farm we were working alongside the customer’s own forager, with seven trailers on the go and the TORION was still on top of the job.

MORE FUEL EFFICIENT

“The TORION is 4.5 tonnes heavier than our old machine and on wider tyres, so for consolidation it’s ideal. But despite the extra weight and the fact that it’s a 4-cylinder compared to a 6-cylinder in our previous machine, it’s far more fuel efficient. Our old machine had to be refilled about every eight hours, but we have had the TORION running up to 21 hours and still had fuel left in the tank.

“Philip loves it. He’s far more relaxed and we would certainly never go back to what we had before. It’s built like a tank. The build quality and even the paint finish is so much better. You see Liebherr’s in quarries with 40,000 hours on them, and that’s certainly reflected in the TORION. The lift capacity and manoeuvrability are brilliant; for muck handling it will be excellent.

“Driver comfort is very important and the cab is very comfortable. The air con is brilliant and everything’s to hand. The touchscreen and functions such as the bucket return function or automatic fan reverse to clear the air vents make it very easy to use.

“What we do in four to five hours affects the farmer for four months, so it’s important we do a good job and compact the clamp properly. A lot of it is down to having a good driver, but also giving him the right machine for the job. It may have been a bit of a surprise to Philip when it first arrived, but he now says it’s the best machine he has ever driven.”