

# High capacity loading



Reliability and dealer service are the key reasons why grain co-operative Trinity Grain has relied on SCORPION telescopic handlers for the past 15 years.

Based at Micheldever Station in Hampshire, with two further stores at Membury on the Berkshire Downs and Shrewton near Salisbury, the Micheldever complex comprises of two on-floor stores holding 12,000 tonnes and 44 bins, giving them a total nominal wheat capacity of 63,000 tonnes. Serving 100 members, typically wheat accounts for about half of the total stored each year, followed by malting barley, oats then beans.

## THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE

A '70-plate SCORPION 746 VARIPOWER is the latest in a long line of SCORPION handlers to be operated by the company, sourced through local dealer OLIVERS just a few miles down the road near Winchester. Powered by a 143hp Deutz engine with DYNAMIC POWER and 240 bar load sensing hydraulic system, the SCORPION has a maximum load capacity of 4.6 tonnes and can lift to 7.03m.

"We tend to change the SCORPION handlers about every four to five years, by which time they will have only done about 2,500 hours, and with each machine we have seen an improvement.



We certainly don't test the machine to its limits. It doesn't do any pulling or digging, just loading grain, so they make a good buy for someone and our last SCORPION is now on a local dairy farm," says Store Manager Bill Fife.

"During harvest when grain is coming in, even though the store is very busy, the SCORPION is fairly quiet and mainly used to just move around a large vacuum or IBCs, or to just finish filling the stores. However, once we start emptying the flat stores, that's when we need the SCORPION to perform reliably and to be there when we need it."

**ALWAYS PLENTY OF HYDRAULIC POWER**

Bill adds that the load-sensing hydraulics ensure that there is always plenty of hydraulic power available and makes operating the SCORPION very smooth. This, combined with the SMART LOADING function which allows the operator to pre-set loading height, makes loading and manoeuvring in and out of the stores straightforward and has enabled him to load up to 20 lorries in a morning when necessary.

"The SCORPION gives us the capability to shift a lot of grain off the floors very quickly and to load lorries in no time. This is important because at times we could have a boat load of 2-3,000 tonnes going out of Southampton, which means that we will need to load 70 to 80 lorries in a couple of days. Also, if the market comes right or, if like last year, we start running short of space, we may suddenly have perhaps 8,000 tonnes that needs to be loaded out.



Store Manager Bill Fife



**“ SCORPION machines are very capable and the cab and operator environment is superb. ”**

Bill Fife

**RELIABILITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOOD**

"Compared to the original handlers of 10 to 15 years ago the new Liebherr built SCORPION machines are very capable and the cab and operator environment is superb. There are three drivers who mainly load the lorries, plus a couple of extras, so having the colour coding in the cab makes the controls very self-explanatory and easy to operate. Even though it was never a problem with our older machines, it's noticeable that the new 746 feels far more stable. Also the grill has been redesigned so that the upward visibility is far better, plus the air conditioning unit is very efficient. Apart from one machine that had overheating problems due to the dust, which was quickly sorted out, reliability has always been good and OLIVERS are always quick to sort out anything we need."