



Mark Creeper

In 2009, Mark Creeper bought a second hand CLAAS ARES 657 and has stuck by the brand ever since....

"I've had 5 more CLAAS tractors since I started my contracting business with the ARES 657 - a nearly new ARION 650, a brand new ARION 640, a second hand ARION 640, a brand new ARION 650 and the ARION 660 I have today. I had priced up a brand new 660 but the ex-hire option was a lot more budget friendly and the gunmetal grey model came in at the right time."

Mark hadn't been sure about the next model up but a demo of the tractor worked in HAMBLYS favour.

"I'd tried the 660 out in the past and at the time I wasn't very impressed, however when it came out to me on a week long demo I was sold. The CMATIC was so easy to drive, and the fuel consumption was just as economic. The wide tyres were a strong point on the new tractor -710's instead of 650's - as they suit the umbilical work I carry out. I find the stretch brake fantastic, it automatically applies the trailer or tanker air brakes when your heading downhill. You can really tell the difference when you have a trailer without air brakes, it's worth it's weight in gold."

And that's not to say that Mark hasn't tried the competition!

"I don't think I'm missing anything. The comfort in other tractors doesn't compare, and the CLAAS is a very underrated tractor. I think if more people were to try it they'd be very surprised."

'HAMBLYS will do whatever they can to get a customer going again.'

"I can't fault the backup I get from HAMBLYS, the workshop team at the Launceston depot are brilliant. Last Royal Cornwall I was mowing on the Saturday, and the top hose blew on the tractor for some reason. I was mowing again that afternoon within an hour and a half. To be able to get going again that fast at peak season on a weekend speaks volumes. Don't get me wrong, all tractors can have issues, it's how quick the dealer can get it fixed for you."



“As well from back up side of things, HAMBLYS have looked after me very well. I’ve had a good few trips away - I’ve visited the CLAAS factory in Germany, which was a real eye opener. More recently I’ve also visited the customer experience center that CLAAS UK have in Saxham, and that was another great experience. It’s great to see the investment that’s being put in behind the scenes as well.”

Aside from the CLAAS machinery that Mark has, he also runs a HiSpec tanker that came from HAMBLYS.

“I bought my first 3000 gallon HiSpec tanker from HAMBLYS in 2014. I’d wanted one fairly quickly and they were able to source it for me, and I ended up running that tanker for 10 years. When it came to changing it this year, I got back nearly the same money that I’d paid for it a decade ago, so I was very happy with the residual value. I’d wanted to upgrade to a tandem axle and after looking around at other manufacturers I decided to go for another HiSpec.”

“Richard Mann from the Torrington depot sold me this HiSpec 3000 TS-R. I decided to go for an extra fill point rather than opting for a loading arm and just added a larger pump to cope with the required pressure. On a good day, the tanker will load in less than 4 minutes. I also prefer the black livery - I just personally think it’ll weather better than the red and it looks smart alongside the grey tractor.”

