



Chris Hill

In April 2022, Chris Hill swapped out red for green when it came to the farm's telehandler and hasn't once doubted his decision...

"We'd never had a CLAAS telehandler before. Prior to buying the SCORPION 635, we'd had around 5 or 6 Manitou's over the years, but we were ready to change. The price of the machine was a big selling point, and it was very handy having our local depot just 20 minutes down the road."

So the decision was made to change to CLAAS - along with taking out a service contract for the new machine.

"The service contract was a no-brainer. We went for the 5 year service plan and when that runs out we'll likely extend it for another few years as well. Having a machine serviced isn't cheap, but at least this way we can just chip away at the cost each month. The team at HAMBLYS ring me when the machine is due in for it's service, and book it in to suit. I'd highly recommend it to anyone for peace of mind."

But apart from the overall cost, the performance of the CLAAS proved it was worth the change in brand.

"The visibility from the cab is fantastic, and stability is great - the wheel base is a bit wider than our previous Manitou which is good as we do farm on some sideling ground. The reach and lift capacity is the right amount for what we need. We appreciate the convenience of the joystick as well, the controls are right where you need them and it's very easy to handle."

"It would be an everyday machine for us, used just for an hour some days and then 7 to 8 hours other days. The SCORPION works up to 500 hours a year between yard work, feeding bales through the winter, loading bales through the summer, cleaning out sheds, dealing with grain, loading dung, putting in straw - it's a great all rounder."

"The reliability has stood to it - the only issue we've encountered happened when a stone got caught in under the accelerator pedal one Sunday morning, the machine stopped and it wouldn't start. HAMBLYS were out in no time to fix it. But if anything went majorly wrong, we'd still have another one tomorrow."

