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TKMR AGM 2018 – Thank you

Thank you to those who attended the AGM last week. There were no items raised by those in attendance and we would like to let you know the proposal to increase the subscriptions by £5.00 to £135.00 per year was agreed and will come into fruition on 1st June 2018. Within this Newsletter are both reports given by the Chairman and the Ring Managers.

SAVE THE DATE

TKMR Farming Conference

Monday 26th November 2018

@ Deanwood Park Golf Club, Newbury

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please see prices below Members and None Members welcomed:

Member Rate

- One banner displayed on the day
- Leaflets/sundries within the delegate bags
- Coverage within our Newsletters and on our Website & Facebook
- Logo's on all the invitations sent to Members
- 2 x Free Tickets to attend the Conference

Cost for the Member rate is £175.00 plus VAT

Non-Member Rate

- One banner displayed on the day
- Leaflet/sundries within the delegate bags
- Coverage within the Newsletters and on our Website & Facebook
- Logo's on all the invitations sent to Members
- 2 x Free ticket to attend the Conference

Cost for Non-Member rate is £250.00 plus VAT

If you would like to Sponsor the TKMR Conference please do contact Sandi or Camilla @ office@tkmr.co.uk

Bank Holiday Fuel Reminder

Please remember to check your fuel tanks before the end of May Bank holiday and order your kerosene, gas oil & derv in plenty of time. The fuel companies will be closed on the Bank Holiday Monday.

GDPR Regulations – May 2018

We hope you have all received an email from TKMR to update your settings to conform to the new GDPR Regulations & allow us to send your marketing & other material via email. Please do update your settings if you haven't already as after the 25th May, you will not be able to receive any email communications from us, including this monthly Bulletin/Newsletter.

Dates for the Diary

May

26th Oxfordshire YFC County Show & Rally,
Ducklington
Showground
27th Berkshire YFC Country Fayre
Englefield Estate

June

30th May – 2nd Royal Bath & West of England
Show
7th – 9th South of England Show
13th & 14th Cereals, Duxford,
Cambridgeshire



Please do use the Facebook page **Thames & Kennet Machinery Ring** – we intend to start posting special offers and adverts on our page a lot more in order to help advertise the Ring to those not involved as the newsletter only goes to members via email at the moment.

More interaction with the facebook page helps inform people what the Ring does and how we can help therefore will help generate work for our suppliers.

Just tag the Machinery Ring in any posts where you are working with us it all helps with the promotion.

<https://www.facebook.com/tkmachineryring/>

Chairman's Report from TKMR Annual General Meeting 2018

As I travel around farms talking to farmers, it has become apparent as an industry we are in limbo, with BREXIT on the horizon fuelling huge uncertainty. Steve and I attended the European Machinery Ring Conference in York back in October and one of the speakers was Minette Batters. As you will all know now President of the NFU, her command of the facts and her brief were very impressive. One of the biggest factors will be the effect of the value of the pound as this obviously affects agricultural prices.

This is where our Machinery Ring can significantly help your business by being the stable and predictable business that members can rely on. Over the next few years the Ring will be able to offer flexibility and opportunity to farmers and suppliers. We now have the added advantage of our deal with AF, which means we can help members not only with their fixed costs but also their variable costs and I encourage members to take full advantage of this arrangement.

It was very pleasing to see the Ring returned a reasonable surplus last year, even though profit isn't the sole purpose of the Ring, like other businesses it has to operate in an efficient manner. We are pleased the Ring seems to be building a strong relationship with members and that the variety of calls to the office increases month on month. Please do put a call in to ask even if it's not something we advertise, the team enjoy the challenge and it helps ensure the Co-operative remains there for all of us ready for these uncertain years ahead.

I would like to convey my thanks to Rachel Archer and Guy Hildred both of whom left the Board of Directors during 2017. Rachel has moved away to Suffolk and we wish her all the very best. Guy made the hard decision to leave last year following many years on the board due to changes in his businesses and increasing commitments. Both Rachel and Guy served 12 years on the Board of Directors. Thus I am delighted to welcome Derek Cheriton and Kevin Smith to the Board. Derek comes from 3 generations of farmers near Henley. Many of you will know Derek through his Spraying and Gritting businesses. Derek has been a member of the Ring for 22 years. Kevin, based in Oxfordshire owns and manages his own company "Pasture Care" which is involved in whole farm contracts and general contracting services. Kevin has been a ring member for 16 years. They bring a wealth of experience to Board and I look forward to working with them.

As always thank you to Sandi and Steve, their commitment, dedication, vision and hard work is now paying dividends. They give members a fantastic service and under them membership remains constant, we lose members naturally through business changes, but we continually welcome new ones, indeed at today's board meeting we co-opted another 5 members. I also thank Camilla, in particular for her hard work and fantastic administration and IT skills. I congratulate Camilla on her new Assistant Manager role within the Ring.

I would like everyone to be aware Michael, whilst not actively promoted as part of the front of house team is still with us, albeit in the background to work alongside Camilla during manager's holidays and if Steve and Sandi ever need anything. We are very fortunate to have such a strong team with such varied skills to offer us all. The Ring is operating efficiently and seamlessly and on behalf of the Board and the Membership I would like to thank the whole team for getting us to this successful position. My thanks extends as always to my fellow Directors who give their time freely throughout the year and who constantly strive to act in the member's best interests. I look forward to seeing many of you at our farming conference in November and I finish by wishing you all a very successful 2018.

Tom Martin
Chairman TKMR



West Berkshire Office to Rent

430sq ft

Office 7 is situated in a beautifully converted barn with views over open countryside, with good communication links to the M4 & A34.

- Separate kitchen and WC
- Electric heating & Broadband connection
- Ample Parking, Security alarm & CCTV

Swindon 18 miles, Newbury 13 miles
M4 (Junct 14) 4 miles
(All distances are approximate)

Contact

Westfield Farm, East Garston, RG17 7HD
07836236063 alice@westfieldfarm.net



Harvest and Insurance reminder for TKMR Members

With the busy time of year upon us and thoughts are going towards the hiring in of extra staff, equipment, vehicles, plant etc, it is important to ensure that you have the correct insurance cover in place.

If you are considering taking on extra staff for the coming months, you may well have to advise your insurance company so that you can be sure that, where necessary, the staff are covered by your insurance. PAYE staff are relatively straightforward as you would need to advise insurers of the likely extra wages you would be paying for the period so that they can be added to the Employers' Liability insurance. Self-employed staff can be covered two ways. If they are Labour Only Sub Contractors, they can be added as casual labour and covered under the Public Liability insurance; if they are Bone-Fide Sub Contractors, they must have their own Employers' / Public Liability insurance covers and you should ask for their proof of cover.

If you are hiring in extra equipment, vehicles, plant etc, they can be covered on a temporary basis. Road registered vehicles should be added to your existing Vehicles insurance declaring they have been hired in and what they will be used for. Cover will be in place until you advise your insurer that they are to be taken off again after the hire is complete. Agricultural implements and trailers either attached or unattached to a tractor or similar will automatically be covered under the agricultural vehicles insurance, although it is worth checking if the piece of kit is bespoke or unusual or of high value in case it needs to be covered separately. Road trailers are covered under your Vehicles insurance policy but it is wise to check the cover in case a trailer needs to be declared to your insurer. Plant hire can be tricky – in most cases if a piece of plant is being hired in, it can be added to your Combined or Contractors All Risks policy. If plant hire is a regular occurrence, it could be cheaper to have a 'hired in plant' extension to the existing Farm Combined or C.A.R. insurance policy. However, this is not universally available so it would be wise to check beforehand if it is possible to add the facility. Where plant is road registered, it must be added to your Vehicles insurance policy.

If in any doubt as to whether you have the correct covers in place, it is important that you contact your Insurance Broker / Agent. Be pro-active in this now and save any possible pain later. It is wrong to assume that the cover you have already in place is the same it has been for years as all insurance policies continually evolve and covers / restrictions can change year on year.

Article supplied by Angus Campbell
Insurance Manager
Copperwheat Barlow

Do you need your grain store cleaned/fumigated?



Time is moving on and harvest will soon be here.....

Please do call in plenty of time to get booked in to have your grain store cleaned/fumigated before harvest.

We have a couple of members able to supply this service so please contact us as soon as possible to arrange a quote or to book a date in.

Ring Managers Report from Annual General Meeting 2018

Welcome to the 27th Annual General Meeting. You will have noted a good year for the Ring financially but equally pleasing for us the figures show that members are embracing many of the diverse opportunities we can now offer, as along with the fuel and machinery jobs that remain constant, the beast from the East provided income for many members & the take up on AF Services and supplies has proved an additional bonus for many members.

We have arranged numerous services and goods over the past year from AF. They range from an aga, vacuum cleaners, TVs, gun slugs, pheasant food through to cattle feeders and feed, silage wrap, string, phones and electric. The fact that we get the quotes, order the items, arrange delivery and raise the invoices saves members a lot of time on the internet searching and setting up accounts with other suppliers aside from the fact we can secure some good prices. The ring benefits in return by a rebate from AF once a year. We have also traded with AF Biomass for a couple of members.

This diversity has also helped spread the workload here in office and we have all found our niche job roles which aids the smooth running of the Ring and harmony amongst us!! We are all learning fast about these processes and encourage anyone who hasn't taken up any offers yet to call us next time you have a utility contract expiring or need to place an order for just about anything.

Our summer event was a great success last year with the trip to the Ramsbury Estate being completely booked up, just over 50 members joined us for the evening. Our thanks again to Alastair and all at the Estate who helped make the evening a success. This year will be holding the Conference once again in November at Deanwood Park Golf Course, Newbury as it was so well attended last year. We have already confirmed the Chief Policy Advisor from the CLA joining us and are in the process of talking to various organisations and companies to secure some other speakers. We do hope you will be able to join us.

As always a huge thank you to all our loyal members who use the ring regularly, put their repeat jobs through the books and generally can be relied on to complete jobs to the highest level of satisfaction and always get great feedback. Although as always just as importantly to us we thank those who pay their membership year on year without needing to use us regularly we appreciate your support and hope the newsletter keeps you all up to date on what we can offer, we aim to introduce something of interest to you all at some point. We welcome all the new members that have joined in the last year and hope you feel you have had value for money.

To touch on the year end Accounts for 2017 which you should have all received with your invitation this evening, I will happily take questions on these, we did show a profit of £9000 which was better than we could have hoped for. The irony here is that the ring does better when it's not such a good year for you, our members which is a shame but reiterates the need for the Ring to continue in order it can be here for you during difficult times.

As always thank you to our Board of Directors and in particularly Tom Martin our Chairman. Tom is frequent visitor to the office and is always on hand for clarification and advice when required. All our Directors help as and when required and give their time freely for board meetings and events throughout the year. We too, welcome Kevin and Derek and are looking forward to working with you.

Thanks also to our fantastic Assistant Manager, Camilla who provides excellent support and is prepared to have a go at anything we ask. And even though we don't speak to Michael as often as we used to we thank him for being there in the background to support Camilla in our absence.

Steve & Sandi Ackrill
Ring Managers

Fuel Card Prices




125.80p

As with all prices AF prices do vary weekly so please do remember to check the pump price before filling up.

For more information on taking out a fuel card with AF please call the Office.

Livestock News from AF

Lamb vaccination reminder

Lambs will have lost the maternal protection gained from colostrum to Pasturella at the age of 3-4 weeks so should be vaccinated at this age. They will require a booster vaccine four weeks later. Ovivac P Plus can be used for fattening lambs, but it is suggested that if they are to enter the breeding flock then Heptavac P Plus is used.

Fly Control

We have access to pour on fly control products that can give up to 10 weeks cover for cattle and 19 weeks for sheep.

String & Bale Wrap

Now is the time to order any string and bale wrap you will need for the summer season. We can get prices through AF from their various suppliers. Some prices have extended credit terms available.

For quotes on string and bale wrap please contact Steve in the Ring Office.



Seed News from AF

Autumn Seed

We have already started taking orders for the following autumn varieties; Gleam (Group 4 Hard) Limited production- seed likely to be short.

RGT Gravity (Group 4 Hard)

KWS Jackel (Group 4 Soft)

Skyscraper (Candidate variety-Soft feed wheat) Limited availability

If you would like to place a firm or provisional order, please contact the Ring office.

Neonicotinoid seed treatments

On the 27th April, EU member States voted positively for the ban of neonicotinoid active substances for use in outdoor crops, resulting in the loss of both sugar beet and cereal seed treatments containing these actives. We therefore recommend placing any autumn seed requirements, which are to be dressed with Redigo Deter as soon as possible.

Grass/ Greening Crops/ Environmental & Game Cover

Requirements should now be planned and ordered. We have suppliers offering a range of off the shelf mixtures as well as bespoke mixes to suit specific schemes and requirements. AF have very competitive prices and deliveries can be made nationwide. Speak to the AF seed team for advice and for best terms.

Stock fencing 1000m pack price

- 10 x HT8-80-15 HINGE JOINT Galv Stockfence (100m)
- 10 x 2mm wooden reel High tensile barbed wire (200m)
- 1 x 20kg tub 40mm galv staples
- 333 x class 4 1.8m 75-100mm pointed redwood stakes
- 10 x class 4 2.4m 150-175mm pointed redwood strainers
- 20 x class 4 2.4m 75-100mm redwood struts

£2,071.75 plus VAT & AF Levy
(equates to £2.07 per metre).

Subject to availability. Prices valid until 31st May 2018.

Pack prices on galvanised field gates

- 10 x 3660mm 7 rail Ashbourne Gate S/Bolt galv
- 10 x galv hanging posts
- 10 x galv closing posts

£1,260.00 plus VAT & AF Levy

- 10 x 3660mm 7 rail Ashbourne Gate S/Bolt galv
- 10 x hooks to bolt
- 10 x hooks to drive.

£633.00 plus VAT & AF Levy

Subject to availability. Prices valid until 31st May 2018.

Out with the Old and in with the new.....

First LPG Tank Installations and Contract for TKMR Member!



Over 6p litre cheaper than the member was quoted from Existing Supplier and shiny new tanks thrown in.

- All paperwork sorted by our **JGAS Account Manager**
 - Existing gas transferred to new tanks
 - Fixed price for the season
- One standing charge per year per site £75.00 no levy on this
 - Tanks Cleaned every year
- Gas ordered through us as you do your fuel

For more information about changing gas suppliers please do contact Sandi in the Ring Office.

Wanted / For Sale

- A member has the following items for sale:
 - Opico 12 ton mobile gas dryer, good condition. £5,750.00 plus VAT, Ono.
 - MF 40 combine 16ft cut. Chopper, Air con - £8,500.00 plus VAT, Ono
 - Matbro ts270 Teleporter in good order. Price on Application.

Please contact the Ring Office for more details.

- Any size Square BALE STRAW is required
- 30 bales 80 x 70 barley – tough straw but ideal for someone with straw chopper or required for clamp building etc - Reading Area
- **Temporary Help Required**
Fencing Contractor based in the Newbury area looking for temporary help starting immediately. Quality fencing ability required. Please contact us if you can help.

Training Courses

West Berks and Oxon Training

June

- 4th Chair Caning (day 1)
- 6th Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide
- 11th Chair Caning (Day 2)
- 13th PA2 – Boom Sprayer Training Day
- 13th One Day Emergency First Aid

July

- 2nd Rodent Control (rat & mouse)
- 23rd & 24th Lantra 2 day Chainsaw

Kennet and Thames Training

We are looking to run the following courses:

- Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines
- Game Heat Handling
- Telehandler Courses – both 2 day and 1 day refreshers
- 360 Digger
- ATV & RTV
- Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cut
- PA2 and PA4S (slug pellets)

We are aiming to run them from April to July but need more trainers on each course to enable them to be run. If any members would be interested in any of above courses please do contact Sandi or Camilla.

Job Vacancies



General Farm Worker/student

Required for a 1250 acre organic dairy, sheep and arable farm in South Oxfordshire require a keen, committed placement student/apprentice or similarly experienced worker wishing to gain more experience to join our hardworking, friendly workforce. Starting in June/July 2018 for a minimum 3 months but ideally 12. Some previous practical machinery/livestock experience needed. They will have the opportunity to assist with sheep and cattle tasks, calf rearing, and stock feeding. Tractor and loader driving, machinery maintenance and fencing. Weekend work is required as part of a rota and at busy times. Remuneration is in relation to experience. Accommodation available locally.

Please contact the Ring office and we can put you in touch.

Pang Valley Sporting LTD sporting clay shoot

Pang Valley Sporting is running a sporting clay pigeon shoot in conjunction with the Yattendon fete on Monday 28th May (Bank Holiday).

It will be a 50 bird open with pool shoot. You can have as many goes as you like. There is also a number of exploding clays on the shoot for prizes.

Entries start at 9.30 till 3pm. There is cash for class winners. Bacon sandwiches and tea will be available.

For more information please call Robin on 07770363882.