

Thistle Cutter



hitch is a factory conversion is unclear. One thing is certain, Henderson was promoting the sale of tractors by 1919 and by 1920 offered "Tractors: Austin, International, Fordson and any other make supplied." (*Southern Reporter*, 4 November, 1920). By 1937, the same year as the 'Jubilee', he claimed to be "The Power Farming Specialist" (*Southern Reporter*, 18 March, 1937). It might be reasonable to conclude that the

Fig. 1. 'Jubilee' Thistle Cutter made by Henderson of Kelso.

Fig. 2. Symm's Thistle Cutter as advertised in the *North British Agriculturalist*, 1907.

Fig. 3. William Elder Thistle Cutter in *Standard Cyclopedia of Agriculture*, 1911.

Fig. 4. The Henderson 'Jubilee' Thistle Cutter name plate.

'Jubilee' was one of Henderson's products to suit both the horse and tractor market. Whatever, they were obviously a good machine as a 'Henderson Thistle Cutter' was reported in the *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser*, 29 May, 1951, to have made £31 at the Todrig, Greenslaw farm sale under horse implements.

And finally, were thistle cutters safe? The *Southern Reporter* (18 July, 1935) reports: "BOY INJURED BY THISTLE CUTTER. A schoolboy, Bruce Straiten, sustained a broken leg and several cuts in a field at Ninewell Mains, when a thistle cutter caught him. He was standing behind the machine when the horse ran back." It demonstrates the hazards horsemen and workers on the farm did, and still may, face.

Support for working horse loggers



Setting up a business as a horse logger can be daunting, but now the British Horse Loggers Charitable Trust (BHLCT) can offer some help.

The trust has earmarked some of its resources to support established or prospective horse loggers in developing their business. It has already funded five apprenticeships, and now wants to help people who would welcome targeted support in a particular area. Applications are now open to members for awards of up to £500 (inc VAT) as a contribution to the overall funding of a proposal.

Nick Burton explains that the trust would be interested in funding training; courses; advice from or a visit by or to an experienced horse logger or forestry professional, or another aspect – they are open to ideas. Equipment purchase cannot be supported, and applicants need to make their case for funding as strong as possible.

To apply go to www.britishhorseloggerscharitabletrust.org and to join British Horse Loggers, which the trust recommends, go to www.britishhorseloggers.org Meanwhile Forestry Commission

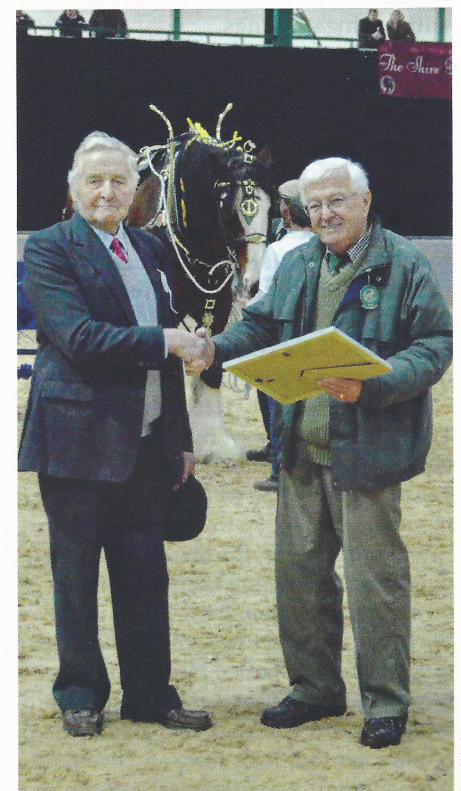
England is promoting new grants available to forestry businesses in England under the new Rural Development Programme which launched last year. Forestry contractors

can apply for grants of up to 40% of the total costs of projects under the Countryside Productivity Scheme. The grants are for woodland harvesting, extraction and small-scale processing as well as for covered areas and hard standings and are designed to bring more woodlands into active management. Further information: 0300 067 4000, enquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, website forestry.gov.uk/england or through regional Forestry Commission offices.

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Roy Fox Presentation

Photographer Roy Fox, who retired last year, was presented with an award by Bill Massey at the National Shire Horse Show on behalf of the North West & Wales Shire Horse Society.



Kevin Wright