

Ward Plant Limited

Unlike today, Martyn Ward had to wait 16 weeks after ordering his first machine before he could start up in business for himself. That was back in 1973 when he purchased a Caterpillar 941B from Bowmaker Plant, a company which was subsequently taken over by Finning Limited.

In those early days Martyn hired himself and machine out for the princely sum of £3.75 per hour. However, a year later things started to pick up when a contract with Sir Alfred McAlpine was secured for work between Wolverhampton and Ellesmere Port. Thereafter, further work was secured for the next 15 months on a Gas Pipeline in Scotland.

As work continued to flow in, mainly on Gas Pipeline Contracts, Martyn's fleet began to grow as demand for his services increased. First additions were Excavators and Dozers then still working on pipeline contracts Low Ground Pressure Excavators and more Dozers were added.

As Owner and Director Martyn says on the growth of the Company, "By 1980 we had 14 machines 12 of which were LGP... six dozers and six excavators... which accorded the Company the unique distinction of having the largest fleet of LGP machines in the area at that time." Martyn went on, "Also in that year we became a limited company."

Since those early days the Company has provided contract plant hire for the construction and road building industries on a highly successful basis. And although it has experienced the ups and downs of that market sector especially in the late eighties and early nineties when the industry was more or less static, Ward Plant is once again witnessing steady growth.



As Mr Ward says, "Over the years the contracting side developed from those early sub-contracting jobs... such as Seaford Sewage Work which was undertaken for M J Gleeson where we hired in Rigid Belaz Dump Trucks... to where all plant is supplied in-house by us ourselves."

Originally a farmer's son Martyn Ward always hoped to return to that way of life and in 1983 purchased a 350 acre farm which became the base for the Plant Hire business. This was followed in 1990 by a further purchase of a neighbouring 350 acre farm and now including rented ground is currently farming in excess of 1,100 acres.

Today, Ward Plant's core business is contract plant hire thus providing earthmoving, transportation and machinery necessary to shift earth and other materials.

The current fleet consists of over 40 vehicles and consists of: 2

- D9 dozers; 10 - Rigid 35 tonne dump trucks; 14 - 25T articulated dump trucks; 4 - 35T backhoes; 2 - 30T backhoes; 1 - D7; 2 - D6; 1 - D4; 1 - D3; 1 - O&K RH4; 1 - 941 (The original machine kept for sentimental reasons); and 2 - Rollers. Machines currently operated are: Caterpillar, Volvo, Terex, Komatsu, Samsung, and Orenstein & Koppel.

Having available such a comprehensive and flexible fleet for hire, the Company carry out a considerable amount of business with the construction and building industries as is illustrated by Martyn when he says, "We are currently honouring a 27 month contract at Ravenscraig Steel Works in Motherwell." Martyn went on, "The contract started in September 1996 for main contractor Edmund Nuttall and is our largest contract to date and includes moving 2,500,000 cubic metres of material." Martyn added, "These materials range from contaminated earth to sludges and clays as well as

40,000 cubic metres of reinforced concrete."

Other contracts completed over the last few years have included:

- Barrow in Furness Morecambe Bay Gas Terminal. Excavation and filling of 750,000 m³ of pulverised fuel ash material.
- A9 Greenloaning to Blackford Improvement. 6.5 Km upgrading from single to dual carriageway.
- A921 Hillend By-Pass in Fife.
- Earthworks for shinty pitch and site preparation works for new Industrial Estate at Glenshellach, Oban.

With the safety aspect foremost, Ward Plant operates a strict in-house programme in which all vehicles and equipment are serviced at regular intervals under monitored conditions by qualified mechanics. This is backed up by full field service support which the Company considers of the utmost

importance in order that all items remain fully operational at all times in order to minimise costly delays which are detrimental to the customer.

In order to remain as competitive as possible, Ward Plant have a policy of continuous investment in plant and personnel wherein plant is renewed each year in order to update the fleet. Notwithstanding, several new machines were purchased for the Ravenscraig contract at extra cost.

In line with this on-going investment, all operatives undergo in-house as well as on-site training programmes to ensure they are kept abreast of the latest rules and regulations applying to the industry.

Commenting on the foregoing Martyn said, "Good operators are the mainstay of the business as they always have been. A fact which is probably more relevant today when it is realised that businesses are all about people."

Ward Plant offer clients advice and help in solving problems by



Several new machines were purchased for the Ravenscraig contract

using expertise acquired over a quarter century of selecting the best methods and means in reaching a satisfactory conclusion to the most complex of problems encountered.

Ward Plant is based at West Mains Farm, Newbigging, Carnwath, Lanark ML11 8NB. (Tel 01555 840497. Fax 01555 840916). There... under the supervision of the Management

Board which consists of Martyn Ward, Owner and Director; James McMillan, Site Foreman in charge of Ravenscraig contract; Gerry Wood, Foreman Fitter in charge of maintenance and machine repairs; Joanne Ward, office administration and Agnes Muncie accounts... the Company know the problems faced by its customers as well as by itself and to this end endeavour to complete all contracts as smoothly and as

safely as possible within time and on budget.

On the future of Ward Plant Mr Ward said, "Our hopes and aims for the future are as they always have been and that is to carry out contracts as efficiently and as effectively as possible while keeping our fleet size no greater than at present but, maintaining it to such standards that ensure greater reliability."

CUTHBERT, SERVICE & JACKSON LTD

MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT BROKERS ASSOCIATION

'ARE PLEASED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH **WARD PLANT** AND WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE'

19 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DG

Telephone: 0141 566 9651

Fax: 0141 221 7322

IMACO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT LTD

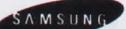
'We are pleased to be associated with Ward Plant and wish them continued success in the future'

M8 INTERLINK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, KIRKSHAW ROAD, COATBRIDGE, LANARKSHIRE ML5 4RP

TELEPHONE: 01236 422477

 TEREX

FAX: 01236 422501

 SAMSUNG

WARD PLANT LTD.

PLANT HIRERS &
EARTHMOVING CONTRACTORS

West Mains Farm, Newbigging, Carnwath, Lanark ML11 8NB

Tel: 01555 840497/840916 Fax: 01555 840916

