Smailes Goldie Group
CREATING ADVANTAGE

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, TAX AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

RURAL ADVANTAGE

SUMMER 2023

Here comes the sun

Contents

Welcome

It's that time of year when we all hope to see long sunny days and after the hottest June on record and the rain that eventually arrived for some, that's still probably very true for our farming clients as harvest approaches. Spring crops appear to have been badly affected by the very dry spring for many so whether or not those rains have been sufficient, we shall have to wait and see. No doubt we shall hear all about the 2023 harvest prospects when we see you at either the Driffield or Ryedale Shows which we will be attending in July as a firm. We shall look forward to welcoming you, where we hope to see you at our stand.

In the Summer 22 edition of Rural Advantage, Stephen Headley gave us a fantastic insight into his own solar project and at that time solar farm proposals were 'everywhere' with options being issued to many and signed up by most. In this edition Stephen gives us an update on his scheme which reveals that planning has been granted but that there appears be some way to go for him to feel the benefit of the sun.

In our staff member interview our own little ray of sunshine, Sarah explains how the firm has changed over the years and how she enjoys her role within our growing landed estate and agriculture team. She obviously thinks it's a great place to work as her son, Charlie, has just joined us as an audit trainee.

In terms of capital taxes, the Office of Tax Simplification is no more and Vicky Shannon explains that the Government has begun to provide some clarity on how the new environmental schemes will impact on the capital taxes positions for our clients. The Spring Budget announcements are being followed by HMRC consultations which do include some suggestions of less promising tweaks to Agricultural Property Relief for let land but the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV) are strongly opposing these suggestions.

One of our short articles highlights an apparent increased interest HMRC are showing in the use of trusts. Our private client experience and the bespoke nature of the work we do alongside specialist solicitors means we take a commercially sensible and tax-compliant approach.

This avoids the sort of problems that some packaged schemes fall foul of, such as those mentioned in recent press articles about the alleged issues arising from products introduced to customers by the Leeds Building Society.

At the time of writing, the Ukraine grain deal has only been extended up to 17 July and despite the lack of clarity going forward, prices have dropped considerably from those being achieved in 2022. That, together with the more obvious reductions in BPS is likely to increase pressure on cash flow through the summer so it will be important to be on good terms with your bank manager and have a clear picture of your business's requirements in good time. They will not like surprise requests!

Martin Overfield
Partner - Head of Agriculture
& Landed Estates

One year on...an update on the Boom

As a landowner involved in a proposed solar farm, Stephen Headley, a consultant at Smailes Goldie wrote about his experience and some of the tax considerations, in last Summer's Rural Advantage. A year on, Stephen provides an update on the development:

When I wrote last year's article, our developer, Boom Power Limited, had secured a grid connection offer through our local District Network Operator (DNO) - Northern Power Grid (NPG) - and awaited a decision on their planning application. As a grid connection and planning are the two critical factors in any solar development, we were pleased to hit a major milestone in the project when planning approval was granted in July 2022.

The project then rather unexpectedly hit the buffers. Boom applied for a connection date from NPG, who in turn needed to get confirmation from National Grid (NG). And NG unfortunately gave a date many years in the future.

The Grid was historically designed for a small number of large electricity generators (coal-fired power stations and later nuclear) to input power to the system. The advent of various renewable technologies is now creating a much greater number of relatively smaller generators, all looking to connect. Demand is also changing considerably with the shift to battery cars. To achieve this will require significant investment in the Grid infrastructure, time and funding.

An additional problem – which doesn't just impact our development - is that 'Grid offers' historically operated on a 'first come, first served basis'. So connection capacity is taken by schemes that have yet to be developed or receive planning permission and/or will just not go ahead. These so-called 'zombie projects' compound the problem by blocking secured capacity which will not be used.

I think most of us will recognise that, if the UK is to meet its net zero target, a way must be found for schemes like ours that are 'oven ready' to connect within a much shorter time period. And it is reassuring to hear that proposals are in place to move to a 'first ready, first served basis' within the constraints of the existing infrastructure.

What's also needed is further investment in the Grid which will allow projects that are at an earlier stage to progress and ensure investors can have some confidence in proposed schemes before they commit significant additional funding. It's obvious that these schemes are essential if we are to decarbonise the UK.

Rob Smith at Boom Power Limited comments: 'As an active developer progressing with multiple projects spanning the whole of the UK, this is currently a very frustrating and indeed an industry wide issue. With there being no incentives from the government for solar or battery storage projects which the UK desperately needs, the scale of projects has thus become larger over the last couple of years to generate the required returns for private investors.

The UK Grid has suffered significant under-investment in past years, coupled with the explosion of multiple generators now in the hundreds of thousands, from a domestic rooftop generating a couple of Kilowatts (even the latest battery cars now can back feed/sell electricity back into the grid) to the full commercial solar farms in the hundreds of Megawatts and off-shore wind farms in the Gigawatts. The Grid was not built to cope with the power flows that generation and demand is now placing upon it. NG have the overriding say in connecting all projects on larger schemes, such as has happened in this instance with Stephen's project and the date being pushed out to 2032.

The National Grid is currently undergoing massive change. They are being pushed by government and Ofgem to improve the situation and there is much happening behind the scenes. NG have over the last couple of months, asked projects awaiting to connect to register with themselves so they can take stock and compile a list which they hope to be able to connect in the region of >70 per cent of projects which they have effectively put on hold. Unfortunately, this leaves landowners, developers and investors all on pause until NG authorise the connection. We all await, hoping for a positive outcome for all in the very near future.'

Stephen Headley
Consultant

Meet our clients...The Turnbull Family

Over the past year, we have been enjoying getting to know and working with our clients in North Yorkshire, including the Turnbull family. Here we meet the family and find out how their business has grown and evolved over the years…

The Turnbull Family have been dairy farmers in Sinnington, near Kirkbymoorside for over 60 years. Brothers, Richard and Peter, along with their sons, Adam and George now manage and operate a dairy herd of 600 cows, 300 beef cattle and farm approx. 1700 acres.

Peter and George reside at Grange Farm, Sinnington, with Richard and his wife Alison living at the neighbouring farm, Low Risebrough, which they purchased in 2020. Adam (Richard's son) and his wife Claire and their 3 children live at Ripley Farm near Scarborough. They took over the tenancy of Ripley Farm which is part of the Duchy of Lancaster's Cloughton Estate back in 2018 and last month enjoyed a very special visit from King Charles.

We recently visited the family at their dairy farm to find out how they had grown their business, worked through the challenges that dairy farmers have and continue to go through and how advice from their accountants has been a pivotal part of their success story. Richard and Peter's great grandfather originally had 35 cattle on the farm, their grandfather increased this to 70, so the brothers do wonder what they would think now that they are milking 600 cows with plans to increase this to 650/700 in the future!

Richard Turnbull was first introduced to Stephen Watson's firm in 1995 when Richard attended a seminar in Pickering about inheritance tax. Richard was impressed with the knowledge and advice that was given and he also knew some friends who used the firm and highly recommended them. As their current accountant was giving them no business advice or guidance around tax savings at all, they decided to switch, and they have never looked back.

Now operating via a limited company, this has allowed them to invest more into their business which has grown significantly in the past six years. The investments made have included the purchase of Low Risebrough Farm in 2020 (this came with 220 acres), Adam and his family taking over the tenancy of Ripley Farm in 2018, and the purchase of a brand new rotating milking parlour in 2019 – which is very impressive!

Prior to having their new milking parlour, milking could take four to five hours every morning (starting at 6am) and every afternoon (starting at 5pm) making it a full day's work. This has now reduced to 2 hours every morning and afternoon, so half the time. It has made a huge difference and although it was a big investment, it was necessary to allow them to increase their herd and be more productive. On average they produce 3.8/4 million litres of milk a year.

Due to their size, they have been able to survive the fluctuating milk prices, but not all dairy farmers have, and they see and hear about many farmers leaving the dairy industry daily. The family continues to adapt and change and invest in their business, which means they are best placed to combat any challenges in the future.

Another change for the family was when they were introduced to Smailes Goldie Group following the merge with Stephen Watson's practice back in April 2022, however, the Turnbull's have seen only positive things and certainly no major changes. They have met their new Partner, Peter Dearing, who has a wealth of knowledge in the agricultural sector and is keen to continue to support and help the Turnbull's progress in the future. They now receive regular newsletters and articles on current and topical subjects, and they have continued their trusted relationship with Alison Dodgson who works as a Manager in our Kirkbymoorside office.

They really like that there is a local office nearby to their farm, and that Alison has an abundance of knowledge, not only around accountancy, but local and farming knowledge too. Many of our agricultural team are from farming/rural backgrounds so have a real understanding of the challenges that farmers can face.

Smailes Goldie Group also look after their farm's payroll, which they say saves them so much time.

The Turnbull's feel that the knowledge and more importantly the good advice is what makes Smailes Goldie stand out from other accountancy firms. They really get to know you and your business, and it feels like Smailes Goldie are part of your team.

Looking to the future, the Turnbull family are always open and looking to new opportunities, they may purchase more land and possibly another farm and they do see their dairy herd increasing.

Peter Dearing, Partner at Smailes Goldie Group says 'It has been great to work with the Turnbull family in the last year' and he 'looks forward to being able to support and advise them over the coming years'.

George, Richard, Peter and Adam Turnbull

Natural Capital

The government is encouraging farmers and landowners to adopt environmental schemes which may have the benefit of helping to replace lost Basic Payment Scheme income as it phases out to 2027, as well as offering an attractive and potentially lucrative source of diversified income. Such schemes include relatively new markets which aim to enable farmers and landowners to be paid for increasing the provision of ecosystems in the form of carbon sequestration and biodiversity, both of which present possible commercial and taxation risks.

A recent call for evidence (CFE) by the Treasury considered the tax treatment of environmental land management and ecosystem service markets. Part 1 of the CFE focused on how the production and sale of ecosystem services should be taxed. Part 2 considered the scope of Agricultural Property Relief (APR) for Inheritance Tax (IHT) and how this might extend to environmental schemes, which is a main area of concern to many farmers and landowners. The outcome of the CFE will hopefully result in much needed clarity. Although, given that parliamentary summer recess is soon due to start, it is not expected that there will be any policy decisions announced before the Autumn.

Some of the longer term and more intensive schemes are:

Carbon sequestration

As governments move toward net zero targets and more institutions are required to demonstrate their 'green' objectives to stakeholders, the market for carbon credits continues to develop. The basic principle is that the landowner calculates how much CO2 they sequester by, for example, growing trees or undertaking other environmental practices, then either sell the carbon units to the government or on the open market. As well as encouraging new tree planting, it may be possible to dovetail with planting of wildlife habitats which may provide income from another of the environmental schemes.

Landscape Recovery Scheme

The Environmental Land Management's (ELMs) Landscape Recovery Scheme offers bespoke funding for larger farms, or as a collaboration with other landowners, committing 500 to 5,000 hectares of land for a minimum 20-year period.

Biodiversity Net Gain

From November this year, new mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements will be imposed on developers seeking planning permission. Developers will need to present a biodiversity gain plan demonstrating how the development plans to deliver at least a 10% uplift in biodiversity which has been lost as a result of the development, with the habitat to be maintained for a minimum period of 30 years. This may be achieved either by creating new habitat on the development site or by buying biodiversity units off-site, or a combination of both.

Further guidance is needed about how the emerging BNG market will operate, at present there is no market norm for how these deals are being constructed, with terms typically ranging from the minimum 30 years upward to 100 years, and landowners committing to managing and maintaining the habitat on their land throughout. There are differing potential payment profiles with some deals including payment for units as up-front lump sums and others as annual payments for the duration of the agreement. The landowner must understand their obligations and liabilities under the contracts and take steps to protect themselves from factors outside of their control, such as the developer going bust and the impact of climate change which could destroy or damage habitats. Given the long-term nature of these deals, the consequences could be inter-generational and of course, it is only natural that there appears to be a great deal of hesitancy in terms of committing to this scheme.

The BNG market is moving at a pace and does offer opportunities for landowners but the legislation is lagging behind. On the face of it, the level of income being offered in some of these deals is extremely attractive but there are complex commercial and taxation risks associated with this. The current advice to clients appears to be to sit tight until there is more certainty and regulation in the BNG market. Although there is certainly merit in beginning to take steps to understand the BNG potential of your land and its value to developers. There is a general view that at some point in the future, landowners and farmers will be required to demonstrate BNG in their own businesses, in which case there is a risk that units sold now may leave some with a future shortfall, and in which case may result in buying units back from the market at a higher price!

If you are minded to enter this market, any deals first need to be carefully scrutinised by your agent, solicitor and tax accountant and likewise, the bank who will be interested in how an agreement may impact upon land values and debt serviceability, and should a repossession occur, what the banks legal and environmental obligations will be.

Is the land still agricultural?

There is no legislated definition of agricultural land, however, Non-Domestic Rates (NDRs) have a specific definition which is applied for the purpose of agricultural exemption (Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988). In this definition, the Sustainable Farming Incentive, most of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and woodland creation schemes would be treated as agricultural but it is less clear how 'agricultural land' would be interpreted for more long-term, intensively managed environmental schemes within ELMs or ecosystem markets which may result in change of use of large areas of land. If land in these schemes is not deemed to be agricultural the current exemption under NDR will not apply.

Taxation

Income and Corporation Tax

The payment profile in these agreements will determine the nature of the income received and when and how it is accounted for. The accounting treatment ultimately determines the tax treatment.

There is a question as to whether a capital disposal arises or whether payments are revenue, or possibly a combination. If a lump sum payment is received at the start of a decades-long deal, how is it treated in the accounts and for tax purposes? The farmer or landowner will have costs associated with maintaining the land for the duration of the agreement so how will these costs be treated and deducted for tax purposes?

Income Tax on commercially managed woodland is outside the scope of tax (ITTOIA 2005, S768) so there is an argument that income from carbon credits and possibly other schemes could be exempt from Income Tax and Corporation Tax and the capital value of the trees free of Capital Gains Tax – again government guidance needs to be forthcoming.

VAT

HMRC have historically taken the view that there is no VAT supply when carbon credits are purchased in the unregulated market. An update on this was expected from HMRC in May/June of this year but at the time of writing, no announcement has been made.

Urgent guidance is needed to clarify the VAT treatment of these schemes. Farmers and landowners need to understand whether VAT on costs they are committing to as part of an agreement are recoverable. Likewise, agreements need to be clear as to whether payments received under the schemes are VAT exclusive to prevent situations where the VAT has to be funded out of the payments received.

IHT

Under current legislation, property will qualify for APR where it has been owned and occupied for agricultural purposes for two years, or seven years if occupied by someone else, such as on tenanted land. It is unclear as to whether entering land into an environmental agreement, often for a very long term, takes land out of agriculture and thus a protected IHT regime. The consultation is clear that land in the Sustainable Farming Incentive remains agricultural so is still eligible for APR.

A proposal to restrict APR on tenanted land to a period of 8 years has been 'strongly opposed' by the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV) in their response to the Consultation*. There are concerns that such a move will damage the let sector, with no new land attracted to letting and a loss of some 500,000 acres of let land from the sector in England alone.

HMRC have now accepted that land used under the woodland and peatland carbon codes is relevant business property (IHTM 25253). However, changes to BPR do not seem to be on the government's agenda, although the relief is bound to be impacted by these schemes. For those businesses which are structured to be on the predominately trading side of Balfour for IHT planning there is a risk that entering into a scheme could be viewed by HMRC as an investment activity, potentially forfeiting the availability of BPR on the whole business. All of the Balfour hallmarks will need to be re-calculated before entering into any agreement and, of course, there is the ongoing concern that the predominately 51% threshold being aimed for in many structures could be increased above that level too.

In summary, these markets are in their infancy but developing at pace and the government needs to catch up. Clarification of the taxation aspects of all environmental schemes are essential if this is not to be a barrier to entry for farmers and landowners. When this clarification is forthcoming, there are likely to be opportunities for many of our clients, and together with your other advisors, we will be on hand to help you structure your affairs accordingly to maximise your benefits from these deals.

**The CAAV's full response to the Consultation can be found in the Free Publication section of their website www.caav.org.uk*

Victoria Shannon
Partner

HMRC Interest in Trusts

At the beginning of June HMRC issued a warning through its 'Spotlight' communications about a dividend diversion tactic it views as aggressive, to fund payments such as school fees which indicates that they are taking a closer interest in the use of trusts. Our Summer 22 guest article outlined the legitimate opportunities to remove value from an estate and to direct income to grand-children and these still exist but it is important to get the establishment of trusts and related share structures correct. The increased HMRC interest indicates existing structures should be reviewed.

In recent years, the tightening of regulations and attempts to look through trust arrangements through measures such as Companies House's Register of Persons with Significant Control and HMRC's own Trust Registration Service has caused the banks to make it complicated to use trust shareholdings too.

The key issue in the Spotlight 62 notice is where the shares used do not have full market value. The actual wording of the notice is as follows:

'HMRC is aware of a tax avoidance scheme being marketed as a tax planning option available to help fund the cost of education fees. The arrangements are targeted at individuals who are the directors and main shareholders of a company (an owner managed company).

HMRC's view is that this scheme does not work

How the arrangements are claimed to work

The arrangements seek to avoid tax by allowing the directors, who are also the main shareholders (the owners) of a company, to divert dividend income to their minor children. The arrangements work as follows:

1. A company issues a new class of shares which usually entitles the owner of the shares to certain dividend and voting rights.
2. Person A, usually a grandparent or sibling of the company owner, purchases the new shares for an amount significantly below market value.
3. Person A usually gifts the shares to a trust or declares a trust over the shares for the benefit of the company owner's children.
4. Person A or the company owners vote for substantial dividend payments in respect of the new class of share.
5. This dividend payment is paid to the trustees of the trust.
6. As the beneficiaries of the trust, the company owner's children are entitled to the dividend

The company owner's children pay tax on the dividend received. However, they pay much less tax than if the owners received the dividend due to their children's:

- £12,570 tax-free personal allowance.
- £1,000 dividend allowances.
- Eligibility to the dividend basic tax rate.

HMRC's view is that this scheme does not work as the arrangements are caught by specific anti-avoidance legislation contained in Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005, from S619 onwards that prevents this type of arrangement providing the tax advantage that is sought. 'Arrangements which operate in a similar way may also be caught by this legislation.'

The increased HMRC interest indicates existing structures should be reviewed to ensure that shares gifted or subscribed for on formation of a new company have full capital rights.

Martin Overfield
Partner

Careers at Smailes Goldie Group

We offer a range of paths for local people looking to embark on a professional career, with significant career benefits available to match. These include flexible working, study support for professional exams, opportunities for departmental secondments, social events, a staff commission structure, involvement in project teams, and significant opportunities for career progression.

The firm also provides a modern working environment and centrally located offices with car parking. We are committed to training future accountants and tax advisors and we have a highly regarded trainee program. For trainees, we fund tuition, exams, and study leave, and offer guidance throughout their professional training. Many of our partners and managers have been promoted internally, demonstrating our commitment to career progression.

Find out more at: https://www.smailesgoldie.co.uk/about-us/careers/

Meet the team...Sarah Stipetic

We sat down with Sarah Stipetic, Assistant Manager within our Agricultural and Landed Estates department at our Hull office, to have a chat about her career at Smailes Goldie and being with us for 25 years.

Tell us a bit about your career path?

I joined Smailes Goldie in 1998, straight after completing my A-Levels. On joining the firm, I began my AAT qualification, and started doing audits and accounts work. I was qualified AAT in 2000.

I began to specialise in charity audits, alongside sole traders, small companies, and partnership accounts. Back then I was working in the old St. Stephens building, and it's fair to say that the technology we now use, has changed completely! We used to share one computer between 15 of us which is hard to believe, alongside doing most of the work on paper.

I continued with the audit work but then a position in the Agricultural team came up in 2001. I jumped at the opportunity to try something new.

After we moved into our current building at Regent's Court, I began starting my family, by having my three children. Smailes Goldie as a firm were great with me, and allowed me to continue progressing with my career, alongside having my small children. I came back after maternity leave on a part-time basis of two days a week. As the kids have got older, I have gradually increased my days, and now work four days a week.

Over the years the agricultural team has expanded massively, from being made up of, as few as three people, back in 2001 to acquiring other businesses and offices, in Barton, and North Yorkshire, increasing our portfolio, aswell as our expertise.

You're now an Assistant Manager, how did you progress to this position?

I started off as a Trainee and after qualifying I moved up into a Senior role. From there, I was made a Supervisor, and then moved up to Assistant Manager, working alongside Managers and Partners, as well as training junior members of staff. I love the responsibility that being an Assistant Manager gives, especially the client-facing aspects.

What attracted you to a career in accountancy?

I did business studies and maths at college as the numbers and analytical side appealed to me. I also enjoyed the idea of handling lots of responsibility and dealing with various clients on a daily basis, which I knew a career in accountancy would give me.

Why were Smailes Goldie a good fit for you and why did you want to work for them?

Smailes Goldie had advertised that they provided a supportive training scheme, and when I joined, I found that to be the case. The level of training was excellent, provided by an external training provider as well as on-the-job training from fellow colleagues within my team who were highly experienced.

Your son Charlie (pictured above with Sarah) has recently joined the firm, do you think your career here encouraged him to go down the same path?

Absolutely. He had a promising rugby career, but he's grown up always hearing me talk about Smailes Goldie, how great a place it is to work for and how they have the best training programme in the area. He has also watched me progress up the career ladder, and he saw how many different opportunities are available within the firm. He also saw how Smailes Goldie supported employees through Covid, allowing remote working and it really persuaded him that it was the best career move.

You've clearly progressed well at Smailes Goldie, do you think it is a good place to advance in your career?

Definitely. Progression is clearly something that Smailes Goldie values. If you put the effort in, and have the right skill set, you can quickly move up the ranks and become a Manager, even a Partner. There are so many different options available to you, whether that be within the Agricultural, Accounts, Audit, Tax, Payroll or Corporate Finance team.

We now have around 21 employees in the Agricultural team, which is still growing, and I love watching juniors come into the team and helping them to progress throughout their career and know that I have played a part in their career progression.

Smailes Goldie is a great firm to train with. They have provided me, and all other staff with all the facilities needed to excel in a career within Accountancy.

Everyone is supportive, and it's a real team spirit. It is no wonder I have stayed for so long!

In Short

Temporary 0% VAT on Energy Saving Materials

The purchase of Energy Saving Materials (ESM), including solar PV and ground source heat pumps etc is zero-rated until 31 March 2027 but only where the cost of ESM includes the installation. If the purchase is materials only, the standard 20 per cent rate of VAT will still apply. Landlords with a residential portfolio and pressure to meet EPC requirements may wish to take advantage of this temporary reprieve but care must be taken where the installation of ESM is part of a larger project with the same supplier and the ESM is ancillary to this as it is not possible to simply apportion the VAT. The best way to ensure the zero-rating applies is to use a separate contractor for the ESM.

Estates with their own workforce will need to consider whether it is more cost-effective to save the VAT by paying a contractor to carry out the installation or use their own workforce and suffer the 20 per cent VAT, which of course will generally not be recoverable on residential lets (subject to partial exemption de minimis rules applying).

Post 31 March 2027 the rate will be five per cent with the same recoverability position applying.

Making Tax Digital for Income Tax

HMRC have delayed the MTD reporting for sole traders to be mandatory from 6 April 2026, which will initially apply to sole traders with turnover above £50,000. This will be extended to sole traders with turnover above £30,000 from 6 April 2027. MTD will require individuals to digitally report their taxable profits to HMRC on a quarterly basis, then submit an ‘End of period statement’ to finalise the adjusted taxable profit position for the tax year. As yet there is no definitive date for when MTD will apply to partnerships.

Basis Period Reform

In the Summer 2022 edition we advised of the government’s changes to basis periods, which were legislated in the Finance Act 2022. This reform will affect unincorporated businesses that do not have an accounting period which aligns with the tax year end of 5 April. Where this is the case the tax adjusted accounting profits will be time apportioned to the tax year end – the ‘tax year basis’. For example, if a sole trader has a 31 December accounting year end, their 2024/25 taxable profit would be based on two years accounting periods, 270/366’ths of the accounting year to 31 December 2024 and 95/365’ths of the accounting year to 31 December 2025. In practice this will not be straightforward, not least because the figures for December 2025 are unlikely to be available in time for completing and filing the 2024 tax return. The tax year basis will apply from 2024/25 with transitional rules taking effect in 2023/24, whereby any unrelieved overlap profits will be deducted.

We will be communicating directly with our unincorporated clients who do not have a 5 April year end over the coming weeks to consider how these changes will impact you and whether it would be worthwhile to change your accounting year end to a 5 April year end.

Events and Social News

This year we are proud sponsors of the Heavy Horse Section at both the Driffield and Ryedale Show.

Driffield Show

Wednesday 19 July

Come and see us on stand E93, where we will be ready to welcome all our fantastic clients and contacts. As well as chatting to our lovely team, you'll be able to enjoy a delicious hog roast and a range of beverages. For the children we have a Smailes Goldie colouring competition with a prize being awarded for best entry.

Ryedale Show

Tuesday 25 July

Come and see us on stand F33. Our team will look forward to welcoming you to the stand and enjoying some light refreshments with you. The show is held at Welburn Park, Kirkbymoorside.

Yorkshire Post Country Week Conference and Rural Awards 2023

Thursday 28 September

We are once again proudly sponsoring the 'Rural Business of the Year' at the Yorkshire Post Rural Awards being held at The Pavilions, Harrogate.

This follows the Yorkshire Post Country Week Conference which is held on the same date which some of our team members will also be attending.

Sponsorship

We have continued our sponsorships of Derwent, Holderness and Brocklesby Point to Points as well as Driffield RUFC, Etton and South Dalton Churches Clay Pigeon Shooting (at Bygot Wood) and the 5th Wykeham Charity Clay Shoot.

For the first time this year, we have sponsored the catering marquee at the Yorkshire Agricultural Machinery Show at York Auction Centre and we look forward to continuing our support in 2024.

We are also sponsoring Class 7 at the Northern Heavy Horse Society Summer Show, taking place Sunday 30 July 2023.

General Service Wagon Restoration

Earlier this year Smailes Goldie Group contributed to the restoration of a General Service Wagon, the restoration is now complete, and the Wagon is in full working order.

The Wagon is kept at the Museum of the Wagoners Special Reserve, based at Sledmere House.

The General Service Wagon will be appearing at the Driffield Show and Ryedale Show, so keep your eyes peeled for it.

Contact us

Our specialist Agriculture and Landed Estates team have a breadth of sector experience in providing the diverse range of services that farmers, landowners and agri-businesses require. We are committed to understanding the complexities of your business to ensure that we provide a valued service and ongoing support. If you wish to discuss any of the topics covered in our newsletter please contact any of our specialist senior team.

Martin Overfield
Partner

Nicki Shipley
Partner

Ian Lamb
Partner

Peter Dearing
Partner

Victoria Shannon
Partner

Ben Thiim
Partner

Stephen Watson
Director

Stephen Headley
Consultant

Rebecca Smith
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