

NEW AROCS FOR BURNS JUBILEE

M IDLOTHIAN based David W Burns Haulage Ltd is set to celebrate its golden jubilee next year and the last half century has seen the company build an enviable reputation for high operating standards and customer service levels.

Whenever possible it has invested in new equipment and has not been afraid to embrace emerging commercial vehicle technologies or adopt safety standards soon after their initial development.

Proof of this forward looking approach came when it won the *Transport News* 'Scottish Innovative Haulier of the Year Award 2010'.

Still very much a family firm, current MD David Burns took over running the business with his wife Margaret in 1987. Today David's son-in-law, another David, deals with the day to day running and logistics while his daughter, Sandra, looks after the administration side of the business. And at 69, David still drives one of the vehicles!

Partly to celebrate its golden anniversary in business next year, David Burns has taken

delivery of a new 420hp Mercedes Arocs chassis fitted with a PPG Fabrications Ltd (part of the Weightlifter Group) Smoothline insulated tipper body which David drives himself.

The special paint job, by Courtney McMillan Painters of Broxburn, marks 50 years trading and reflects the involvement of three generations of the family.

The newcomer replaces a similar chassis, also fitted with PPG bodywork, which returned faultless service levels during nearly ten years of operation. David Burns specified Edbro CX14 tipping gear for the latest vehicle, alongside a body camera, reversing camera and inclinometer which are all operated through the PM1300 weighing system.

It also features an air operated split tail door along with a Dawbarn Hydroclear SSI rollover sheet system.

Cycle protection side guards are fitted to both sides of the chassis with a yellow caution



'keep clear' sign on the passenger side and there are full chapter eight markings on the top tail door section.

David Burns told us: 'The PPG body is perfect in all ways. The construction is superb and the team at PPG provided excellent service and have in-depth specialised knowledge when putting this body together to a high

standard. This new Arocs truck replaced a nine year old Mercedes rigid truck with a PPG body which shows how robust the combination is, proving an excellent investment for longevity.

'The vehicle is much admired throughout the area in which it operates and it attracted a lot of attention when it was on display at Truckfest, Ingliston this year.

'I had no hesitation in ordering another tipper body from PPG after the superb performance and build quality of the last purchase,' says David Burns adding; 'It's a great product that can be completely relied upon and Weightlifter Scotland is on our doorstep in Edinburgh offering parts and service back-up, so I've no doubt we will get another ten years service out of this latest acquisition.'

Most of the company's work is within Central Scotland; however, it will deliver to wherever the work dictates from its base in Bonnyrigg which has quick and easy access to the major road networks. On average its vehicles cover around 90,000 to 100,000km per annum.

The company was formed on 4 October 1965 by David's father, the late John Burns who was working for John Alexander & Son, a haulier delivering materials from local quarries in the area.



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'One of the biggest jobs at that time was delivering materials to build the Forth Road Bridge and now nearly 50 years later we are doing the same for the new Queensferry Crossing, which is all nostalgic,' says David.

Throughout the last five decades the company has seen many changes and faced some difficult challenges, economic recessions, the three day working week, the closure of

large distribution and logistics companies, closure of pits and paper mills, to name but a few.

But despite all this it has firmly remained a family concern. 'The company has successfully weathered some turbulent times and a lot of the credit for this is due to our dedicated staff. We are proud of both our fleet and committed staff which together have contributed to the growth of the business over the years,' said David Burns.



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