# MAHLERS NEWS #2 2019



# Mählers' high-throw side plough

keeps snow bank height down



**Powerful sweeper** for trucks & wheel loaders

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# AN EXCITING, STIMULATING INDUSTRY

Being part of developments in an otherwise pretty traditional industry is the most exciting, stimulating thing I've done in my life. During my six years at Mählers, things have moved at a furious pace. To improve safety for our customers and other road users, we've installed spring-loaded blade holders as standard on all of our front ploughs.

We've adapted our latest MC3 control system to operate both the truck's tipper bed and all of the plough and grader equipment with a single lever. This reduces the number of controls and makes working life considerably easier for the driver. And the ability to adjust the control system and get support via a smartphone is the cherry on the cake.

Our latest innovation, the rotating brush developed for use both on trucks, tractors and wheel loaders, is another exciting product we have a lot of faith in. You can read more about the rotating brush in this magazine, otherwise you can find all of our news and products on our website.



So why not visit www.mahlers.se, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me or any of my very capable colleagues.

Roar Wehn Head of Sales at Mählers

# **Powerful swee**

SOP-LB2800 is a hydraulic rotating sweeper, intended for use on trucks & wheel loaders. The sweeper features an "active" float mode that gives balanced pressure on the ground and follows contours. A unique feature that gives the right brush pressure evenly across its full width, regardless of its position relative to the host vehicle. This also contributes to increased bristle lifetime.

- "Our tests show that the active float mode provides significant savings for brushes and increased efficiency," says Oscar Nyberg, designer at Mählers who helped develop the new sweeper.

Andreas Ottosson, Ottossons Åkeri AB, is one of the contractors who have been involved in testing the LB2800 at the company's Ljungby L13 facility, and he confirms that life expectancy is unusually long for this type of sweeper.

- "Yes, we found that the new sweeper lasts considerably longer compared to other brands, which, when combined with high capacity, bodes well for Mählers," says Ottosson.

The LB2800 sweeper can swivel through  $\pm$  35°, can be equipped with lateral displacement and irrigation with separate water tank. The sweeper is designed for easy maintenance, and the brushrings can be quickly replaced by hand.

- "Bristle lifetime and fast maintenance mean that we can make maximum use of the short street-sweeping season," states Ottosson.

## **EDITORIAL STAFF**

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## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

| Туре                                  | SOP-LB2800 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Intended for trucks and wheel loaders |            |
| Brush width (mm, straight):           | 2 800      |
| Minimum brushing width (mm):          | 2 350      |
| Minimum transport width (mm):         | 3 025      |
| Maximum angle (°):                    | ±35        |
| Circumference of brush rings (mm):    | Ø915       |
| Hydraulic flow (I/min):               | 40-80      |
| Net weight (kg):                      | 850        |
| Ground clearance at max. lift (mm):   | 200        |



# Mählers measures up

Mählers is a real favourite with Stein Joar Lindsethmo from Skage outside Namsos.

"Once you've tried them, you won't want to use anything else. The products are a joy to use," he says.









2009. This was the year and new standard was set in Namdalen, the district that comprises 12 municipalities way up north in Trøndelag. It was the year the head of Lindsethmo Transport AS, Stein Joar Lindsethmo, purchased a Mählers product for the very first time.

"Since then, I've not bought any winter equipment from anyone other than Mählers. I have two DPD-3700 diagonal ploughs, and they're a real joy to use. There flexible and easy to use, and if I run into something on the road surface, the plough steel is spring-loaded," says Lindsethmo.

### With Rasco in the crew

Lindsethmo ploughs and grits county and municipal roads for Veidrift AS and Overhalla Municipality, along three routes totalling 63 kilometres. The roads are narrow, winding and above all steep. "That's why the DPD ploughs are perfect. They're extremely flexible and suit my needs really well, as I have to turn the plough and throw the snow toward the opposite side," says Lindsethmo. A Rasco sand spreader, supplied by Mählers, and a grader blade from Mählers, are also hitched to one of the trucks, a Volvo FH16. "I chose the biggest container, 12 cubic metres, to the spreader to avoid having to fill sand so often. The container has vibrators on the box and the funnel, and works extremely well. It's easy to use and always grits properly," says Lindsethmo. And the grader blade has its own history in Namdalen.

## Lacks nothing

1992. The year began with the worst storm ever on the Norwegian mainland, the New Year hurricane. The year when Denmark won the European soccer championship and Iron Maiden released Fear of the Dark was when a new standard was set in Namdalen. It was the year when Lindsethmo Transport first saw the light of day, and the first time a centre-mounted grader blade carefully caressed the asphalt in Namdalen.

"My dad started the company with a tipper truck equipped with the district's first centre-mounted grader blade. He cleared snow in the winter and drove blacktop in the summer. We still do. I use Mählers grader blades on all my trucks," says Lindsethmo.

The blade he's talking about is a type HB3N and it's been hitched to a Volvo FH16 from 2013 ever since it was purchased, brandnew. This was also the truck to which he hitched his first Mählers plough, and ever since he's never left anything behind other than a whirlwind of spindrift and an immaculate road surface.

"The products meet my every need, and I have nothing but praise for the simple maintenance and availability of spare parts. Mählers has robust, durable products; they are competitively priced and enjoy fantastic follow-up," concludes Lindsethmo.







# "Planning production for a seasonal industry is an interesting challenge"

JOAKIM SJÖDIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER, MÄHLERS



It's the end of June and Mählers factory in Rossön in Jämtland County has its hands full producing winter equipment. Their products are made based on forecasts and kept in stock, and now the company is waiting for firm orders to complete its production plants for the rest of the year.

"Planning production for seasonal products and not knowing precisely how many orders will come in, presents an interesting challenge," says Joakim Sjödin, new production manager at Mählers.

Joakim knows what he's talking about, as he's worked as a purchaser for Mählers for four years. The question this time of year is always how much material to purchase and what installation resources they will need. This is important information both internally and for all the suppliers who must in turn have time to deliver.

"We have to begin the summer by making products based on forecasts derived from previous sales in order deliver in time once winter product sales pick up speed in the autumn. Customers always want their products 'right now' and not 'later on'," continues Joakim.

This means they produce a certain basic stock using the regular year-round workforce of seven fitters and two storemen. As the season's orders flow in, Joakim enters them in his production planning. Once everything is in

place, he can see if he will need further resources to manage deliveries.

"We've already received a number of orders from our biggest customers, but I must have the complete picture before I can decide if I need to take on extra personnel," says Joakim.

In addition to Mählers' complete equipment program including snowploughs, grader blades, gravel spreaders, hitches etc., they also make rotating brushes for engcon & Drivex at the factory in Rossön. However, these products are not as seasonal and their production is order dependent.

We finish off our visit to production with a guided tour around the factory, and there's no doubt that Mählers is getting ready for a really snowy winter. A number of completed ploughs stand in neat rows interspersed with the "bodies" of what will become finished products. Perhaps one of them will already have arrived at your company by the time you read this?

# Mählers' smart & safe control system controls everything on the truck

After a few years of development and hard field testing Mählers new proportional control system MC3 is now ready to roll out for sale. The system has been developed for softer and safer control as well as better fingertip sensitivity when ploughing, grading, sanding or tipping.

The MC3 is built for remote support where it is possible to connect the control system via the mobile network and receive technical support, regardless of where the customer is located. The MC3 also meets the latest & leading machine safety standard EN ISO 13849 which makes it one of the market's safest control systems for road maintenance products.

"The mission was to develop a modular control system with focus on the right feeling, ergonomics and highest safety level. This is what both we and our customers think we have succeeded in", says Ingemar Nyberg, CEO Mählers and Project Manager for MC3.

The MC3 is a proportional control system which means that all ploughing equipment can be operated steplessly. In addition, the software in the MC3 is adapted to support the control of other types of functions such as tipping, spreader hatches, etc.

"That's exactly what we mean by modularity and our ambition is that the MC3 will manage to control all the extra equipment on the truck", Ingemar continues.

The control of the plough and other equipment is achieved via MIG2, an ergonomic and multifunctional joystick that was originally developed to con-

trol engcon's tiltrotators for excavators.

"Yes, we already had a great joystick within the 'family' so it wasn't a quantum leap to also use it for Mählers needs", says Ingemar.

Support and update of the software on the MC3 is possible to provide via the "Mählers Control System 3" app which can be downloaded to an Android device via Google Play Shop. Thereafter the customer calls the support service that can connect to the MC3 regardless of where the truck is.

"The workshop will in this way be able to read fault codes, make adjustments to the system, send software updates, etc. regardless of where the truck stands. This will save many unnecessary trips to the workshop", says Ingemar.





VEING



## PROPERTIES Mählers MC3 control system & MIG2 joystick

## **USER-FRIENDLINESS**

- + Proportional control for smooth operation
- + Ergonomic lever with a multifunctional control palette mounted on a comfortable armrest to give a pleasant control
- + Simultaneous control of functions streamlines operation
- + Double potentiometers to facilitate regulation of constant pressure functions.
- Android application for remote support and update of the control system via a mobile network simplifies support

## **FULL FUNCTIONALITY**

- + Tipping bed control, possibility to adapt to different attachments
- + Modular, easy to expand with extra modules
- Salt/Sand spreader activation and the opportunity to connect the MIO for control
- + Advanced internal fault-detection, operational information and status indication

## SAFETY

- + Complies with EN ISO 13849, third-party certified
- + All controls meet the PLD Safety Directive
- + CANopen Safety compatible for safer control
- Monitoring of overflow functions with sleeve monitoring of hydraulics
- + Safety valves in all hydraulic blocks



Winter 2018/2019 was not as tough in the western parts of Jämtland as the winter before. In general, there was a great deal more snow inland. This was clearly seen when Mählers News drove up to Handöl, about 30 km from the Norwegian border, to meet Reidar Hammarfjäll. He drives a Volvo FH13 8x4 with Mählers' new high-throw side plough for Wallins Åkeri, and our assignment for the day was to photograph it in action.

"We usually plough the E14 between Staa and Storlien, but there's so much traffic right now, its best we make a trip up to Storulvån," says Bertil before we begin slogging up the mountain that surrounds the road.

There are dramatic views, but unfortunately most of the mountaintops are hidden by low cloud and the snow flurries that pass us from time to time. I drive ahead, looking for suitable stretches with higher snowbanks so that our pictures can show how well the new SPH side plough throws snow. But the higher we get the lower the snowbanks except for a few short stretches where I take the opportunity to photograph.

Reidar is forced to drive with the front plough – a Mählers DPD – raised to avoid burying the side plough in a cloud of snow. The SPH side plough throws the snow easily, and on certain stretches where there is a little more snow we see how well the plough throws the snow high above and far beyond the road.

"This side plough beats everything I've tried before," says Reidar the next time we stop, and with seven years snow clearance experience in a mountain environment, there's no doubt he knows what he's talking about.

According to Reidar, the SPH side plough was ideal right from the very first trips during the season as it doesn't build up snowbanks as quickly.

"We're clearly able to make several trips with the plough before the snow banks begin to get high," he says.

We stop to take a few pictures with a couple of mountaintops glimpsed through the sun haze between the clouds, and Reidar explains why there's so little snow up in the western mountain chain.

"It's because the wind is mainly from the east in the winter, so we get less snow up here. Also, if it's windy when its snowing, the snow simply blows off the roads on certain stretches," informs Reidar.

When we've taken the pictures, we head back home again and we passed a Volvo L180 wheel loader that's busy clearing a large car park in the middle of the mountains. In other words, it's time to make room for all the tourists that come to the mountains during Jämtland's fifth annual season – spring winter.



# Lill-Pärs' wheel loader runs with Mählers' ploughs in the winter



Hooking up snow clearance equipment that is really designed for trucks required a lot of special solutions. The modifications were made by Lill-Pärs Schakt themselves, in collaboration with Hitachi's general agent Delvator AB in Eslöv and Furuhill Maskin AB's workshop in Falun.

Lill-Pärs Schakt is owned and run by Pär Höglund from Leksand. Since last season, they have finished equipping a second wheel loader in the same way. Once again, it's a 15.5 tonne Hitachi ZW180PL. It has the same equipment with a front plough, wing plough and rear-mounted grader that are normally hitched to trucks during snow clearance. This setup was used for the sixth time in the winter of 2018/2019.

There are many advantages in using a wheel loader for snow clearance on minor roads, according to Pär Höglund: "A wheel loader is more flexible than a truck as it has a shorter wheelbase and articulated steering. Thus it can handle bends and snow clearance in intersections faster and more effectively," he says.

The previous truly snowy season (2017-2018) exposed the equipment to severe tests. For almost a whole week, the machine was operated round-the-clock. The company has a plough route totalling 120 km of county roads, including spur roads.

"For us, snow clearance in the winter is a means to extend the working year for our machines and personnel. Otherwise we work mostly with excavators and civil engineering jobs. But with this equipment, our wheel loaders can work all year round," explains Pär Höglund. The specially built snow clearance equipment set-up consists of the following:

- Front plough: Mählers Rossö 2010 installed on the main boom and supports the plough in float mode. The plough's own weight creates the necessary pressure against the road.
- Side wing: Mählers' wing plough hitch is installed on the wheel loader's counterweight, which supports the wing and its hydraulic extender.
- Rear-mounted grader from Bakbettet in Färila. ("But I would prefer a rear-mounted greater with a Mählers' extender to extend/retract together with the wing.") A rear-mounted VGB hitch supports the rear-mounted ice-scraping grader.
- All of the plough hitches are from Mählers.
- The machine has snow tyres, but no studs or chains as these are not necessary. The pressure of the wing against the snow banks causes no sideways movement the machine's own weight provides the necessary stability. With equipment, the whole rig weighs close on 20 tonnes.
- To make sure everything works, the Hitachi's hydraulics have been supplemented with an extra valve package that provides three additional double-acting hydraulic functions. For example, the wing's extender is operated by an extra joystick.

"When we equipped the new machine we drew benefit from all of our experiences from earlier seasons. Things get better every season!

And when spring arrives, it's just a matter of unhitching the equipment and using the machine the way we always do with the rest of the company's machines," says a satisfied Pär Höglund.



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When we equipped the new machine we drew benefit from all of our experiences from earlier seasons.

# Things get better every season!

PÄR HÖGLUND, LILL-PÄRS SCHAKT



Pär "Lill' Pär" Höglund shows the easily accessible extra valve package.



## Increase your capacity 365 days a year

Make greater use of your truck. Clear snow and maintain gravel roads with equipment from Mählers. Our tools are built to last season after season and raise your capacity summer and winter alike. Flexible hitches facilitate mounting and plough changes. The System Mählers parallelogram allows ploughs for wheel loaders to be used with trucks. The product range includes grader blades for trucks and side ploughs, snow guards, trenching blades and gravel spreaders for road graders.

Want to know more or do you need support? Do not hesitate to get in touch with us!

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