

COBRAM LOGS IN

A Ferrari tractor is helping a Kent Country Club achieve its aim of self-sufficiency.



The decision to be self-sufficient and environmentally friendly in heating, plus the theft of its 30-year old Ford tractor, prompted the St Julians Club to buy a new tractor and attachments specifically for forestry work. Their choice was the latest Ferrari Cobram 65RS, bought with the help of a government grant from Ferrari's UK distributor, Lamberhurst Engineering. St Julians installed a woodchip boiler earlier this year and the tractor and its attachments will be used year round to build up stocks of woodchip by general tree care work, notably coppicing and logging on the 100-acre site.

The 56hp Cobram 65RS is customised, with a factory fitted Bonatti front-loader and a Maxwald cable winch for a PTO attachment supplied by Lamberhurst. The tractor is particularly suitable for forestry

work because of its reversible-drive facility, which enables the driver to keep a close watch on winch work.

Tom Morgan, managing director of Rumshott Estates, which runs the St Julians Club near Seven Oaks, commented: "A lot of time was taken choosing the right tractor for the work. Much of the site and especially the woodland are situated on steep terrain so power and a low centre of gravity were essential. Being small yet powerful, the Cobram fitted the bill and is already performing admirably, helping to swell St Julians' woodchip stock. With the tractor, woodland work can now be an on-going part of the estate's management programme."

St Julians financial support for its

forestry enterprise and heating aims is through a Kent Leader Grant. This source of funding is available to rural businesses trying to establish sustainability under the government's Rural Development Programme, and specifically to help small wood lot owners manage woodland, as is the case at St Julians.

The Country Club has a lot of 'right of way' tracks and walkways, many of them through dense wooded areas, which will now become more accessible and contribute substantially to the estate's sustainability programme. Removing sizeable tree debris is a task that the 65RS and its attachments have already begun, and coppicing a hitherto inaccessible hectare of woodland will shortly be underway. ●