

Kirsten & Tulleken 'digs' its SK300LC-10 Kobelco Excavator

As industry leaders in the supply of building materials to construction companies and farmers alike in the greater Southern Cape, Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer is known for the distinct red colour of their tipper truck bins.



And when recently, they needed a new loading tool for a quarry they own, they consulted with their yellow machine supplier of choice to supply them with a turquoise-coloured excavator.

Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer was founded in George in 1984. Since then, the company has built a solid reputation as a supplier of quality sand, stone aggregate, and ready-mix concrete. Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer has a fleet of 26 trucks in various tonnages that deliver material as far as Knysna to the north of George, Meiringspoort inland and Mossel Bay to the town's south.

"We've been fortunate to not be restricted to only building contractors in our client base but also serve the substantial farming community in our area," says Herman Lamprecht, Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer's Fleet Manager. "Our agricultural sector spans traditional beef and mutton farming but also hops, strawberries, fruit and vegetables and so many of these farms require decent building material when maintaining their infrastructure."

Adding to their value-chain, Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer in 2018 established a quarry for road construction gravel and fill material to the southwest of the town. "As we dug deeper down, we found the material getting harder and harder and while we're now going through the process of obtaining a blasting ticket to properly loosen the material, we decided in 2022 that

a larger excavator with greater breakout force was needed to both dig and load the gravel," Herman says. "We researched the wider excavator market where there really is a wide choice of machines on offer. In the end we chose a Kobelco SK300LC-10 machine supplied to us by Bell Equipment, through that company's knowledgeable Sales Representative, Fiona Johnson, who has been looking after so much of our yellow equipment needs for a long time."

Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer received its Kobelco SK300LC-10 Excavator in late 2022 and the machine has since clocked a little over 1 000 hours working daytime shifts only.

"The gravel we load is very abrasive and we've swapped out the Kobelco SK300LC-10's standard bucket of 1,7-cubic metre capacity for a rock bucket of around 1,4-cubic metres," Herman adds. "Our operators though, having cut their teeth on 20-ton excavators speak highly of the Kobelco's smooth controls and delivering much more power which in turn leads to lower levels of operator fatigue."

"We chose the Kobelco for several reasons. Price and availability were important but having the assurance of the proven Hino drivetrain delivering greater breakout force and knowing that we have Bell Equipment's technical support made the choice so much easier."



Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer's Fleet Manager, Herman Lamprecht, with Bell Equipment's Sales Representative, Fiona Johnson.



Herman reports average fuel consumption of 14 to 18 litres per hour depending on whether the Kobelco SK300LC-10 Excavator is loading the loose material or digging it with the latter demanding higher hydraulic flows from the engine.

Kirsten & Tulleken Vervoer has financed their Kobelco SK300LC-10 Excavator over 36 months and, while it has a 12-month/2 500-hour warranty, Bell Equipment will still undertake all servicing during the finance period.

"The reassurance that we get from Bell Equipment servicing the machine beyond its warranty period is good for us as all the equipment we've bought from Bell Equipment gets special care from the likes of Koos

Matthee and Teon Bosch working out of the Bell Equipment branch here in George," Herman says. "The same care is lavished on our older Bell and newer JCB machines and we're well pleased with Bell Equipment's response times and parts and service kits holdings."

"It's often said that the care that one machine gets leads to the sale of another and we can tell you that as the material in the bottom of our quarry becomes more challenging to extract, we'll be looking to buy an even heavier excavator for that purpose and turquoise seems to have become our favourite colour."