

# New concave for Irish combines

**Jim Breen**

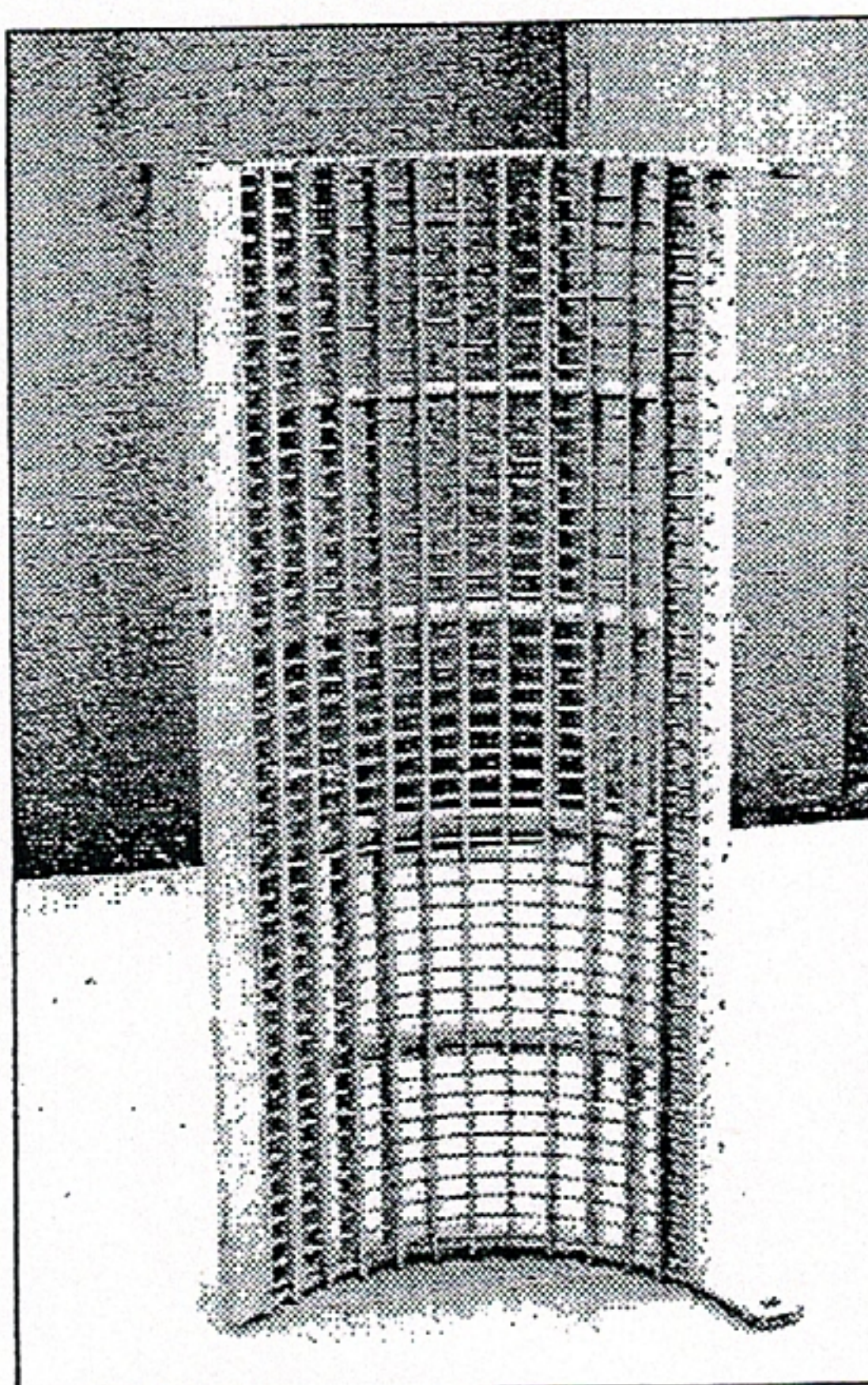
Ken Graham Engineering of Stradbally, Co. Laois has developed a new concave which is claimed to improve combine harvester performance in Irish conditions. A limited number of these were tested last season, in service with farmers and contractors in the midlands.

The firm says that the design of its concave differs substantially from that of other manufacturers, and that its version is tailor-made for use in Irish and UK conditions. The know-how to achieve this, says the firm, comes from 25 years of experience manufacturing and re-conditioning concaves.

## Existing design

The problem with existing designs, says Ken Graham, is that advancements in husbandry techniques (with increased use of sprays) have meant that combines have to separate greatly increased volumes of straw and grain.

In some cases, he says, farmers



▲ The new Graham Concave, which is designed for UK and Irish conditions.

aim for crops that see the heads ripening while the straw is still strong (and possibly still green!) to prevent lodging. According to Ken, most current concaves are designed

to meet the needs of a wide variety of international farming markets and their performance is, as a result, compromised in the aforementioned conditions. With this in mind, the firm set about designing a concave that would cope with the demands of Irish farming in today's climes.

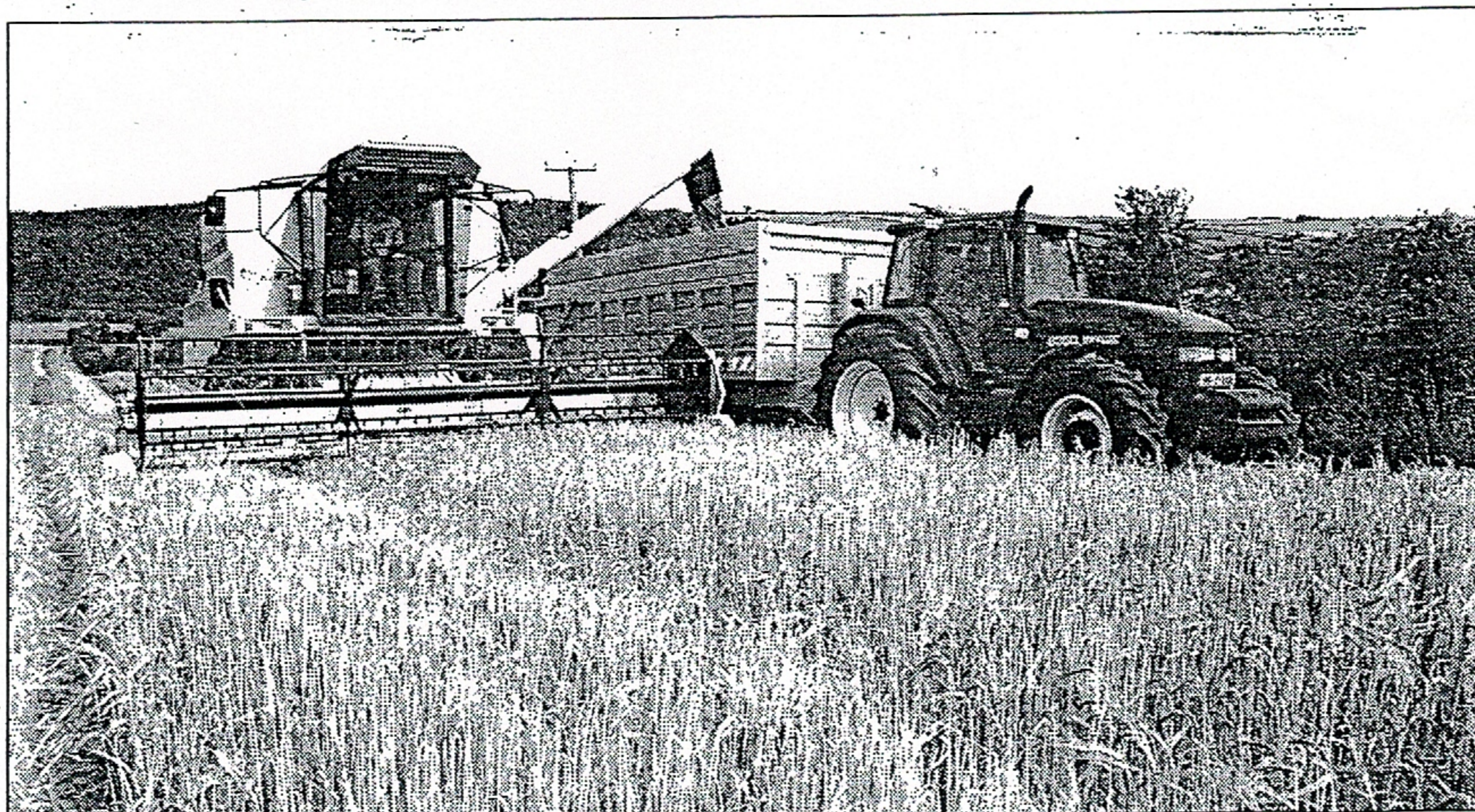
## Greater throughput

Called simply the "Graham High Output Concave", this unit is constructed from fine grain steel. Its relatively wide pitch is said to allow a greater throughput of grain. The company also claims that the unit's strength prevents any flex under load, reportedly a problem with some lighter designs.

For optimum performance, Graham-built concaves should be serviced every 700 to 1,000 acres of standing crop (350 to 500 in lodged crops).

Claimed advantages of this design include increased output, increased straw and grain quality coupled with reduced crop losses and fuel consumption (per tonne threshed).

Further information from Ken Graham Engineering at 0502 25154.



The new concave design is claimed to improve combine harvester output.