

# ATV

Singing in terrain... climb anything, go anywhere vehicles make their mark on the golf course



## All-Terrain Vehicles

**T**hey're glamorous wee beasts, conjuring in the mind a vision of Moto-Cross and airborne scramblers flying 50 feet into the air. It's true these versatile, go anywhere, do anything, little vehicles were spawned directly from the sport of motorcycling, but their rapid development has seen them used in situations as diverse as polishing the aisles in Marks & Spencer or rounding up stray animals at a safari park, together with increased use on golf courses, be they wet or dry, flat or hilly.

Prompted by the impropionate amount of interest shown in ATVs at the Landscape Industries Show, and the ear to ear grins on the faces of those who took demo rides, Greenkeeper International, in the cloak and dagger guise of your roving editor, quizzed greenkeepers at the show and quickly discovered that in most cases All Terrain is translated as Rough Terrain. So successful have the ad. campaigns been in promoting the vehicles' ability to climb mountains that the day-in-day-out workhorse character is often overlooked. Further, in later asking the question of several renowned head greenkeepers: "What do you look for in an ATV?", we were surprised by the wide variance of answers.

Steve Suttle, at North Foreland GC in Kent, felt that his course, on chalk downland with gentle sloping terrain, drained so well that he had no need for an ATV, although he resisted using tractors unless absolutely necessary and used three turf trucksters for maintenance work and as runabouts. Avoiding compaction is high on his priority list and if an ATV miraculously appeared, he would insist on low flotation tyres.



# Rough busters

**Pictured, clockwise from top, the Suzuki LT-F4WDX King Quad; the Kawasaki Mule 1000 with Logic rotary mower; the Polaris Big Boss 6x6 six wheel drive; the Kawasaki KLF 300B**



→ The research experience of David Berry, at Bury GC in Lancashire, prompted by the envious news that his Club secretary has earmarked such a purchase was, in his own words, 'an eye opener'. Admitting he didn't know much about them, his 'wants' list now includes: low centre of gravity; seating for two; load-carrying hydraulic dump box; anti-roll bar with optional cab; low-flo tyres; PTO and tow-bar; implement attachment; a steering wheel and regular layout pedals; four wheel drive and a diesel engine. The use of 4WD is, he insists, an essential in view of the steep slopes at Bury and he believes that both excess pressure and stress is put upon the suspension of his present runabout. Conscious of the large bag/electric trolley syndrome, he is aiming to set a good example by using a light, turf-friendly ATV whenever possible.

Stewart Melville already uses an ATV on his hillside course of Lothianburn, near Edinburgh, tackling hills that are near vertical. Sheep roam on the course and he finds them a troublesome intrusion on what he describes as a labour-intensive layout. 4WD he sees as an essential, as are very sound brakes. He is also cost conscious and thinks diesel is a must. Three questions to be answered, were he to replace his current model, would be: 1) Will it have the capacity to do what I want and will it cope with the hill-

side?; 2) What is the quality of service, in particular is the maintenance agreement a sound one?; 3) Is it cost effective? His critical buying decision would not rest on price alone however, for in his experience short time savings can result in long term costs in repairs and lost man-hours, an important point.

Finally we asked Ray



Yamaha Pro-Hauler with trailer

Day, of Saunton GC in Devon, for his views and once again the compaction problem loomed large. For him 4WD is a must, as are low-flo tyres and a diesel engine. He likes the idea of a pick-up type body with drop sides and a tailgate and would welcome a fixture to accommodate an irrigation hose reel, and a bolt-on bench vice. A wide wheel axis and a short wheel base, giving good stability on undulating ground, is equally important and extras such as PTO, three-point linkage and possibly a winch to haul hydro drive machines aboard would be highly desirable. He thinks that such a versatile machine would be expensive but would be a lot more vehicle than a mere run-around.

The world of LOGIC, who specialise in ATV accessories, solve most of these 'must-have' needs and manufacturers themselves are constantly looking at new ways to add to what is already accepted as a machine of unique versatility. Cost, in the writer's opinion, is not something that should prevent serious consideration when the need for a highly manoeuvrable work machine is next mooted.



Terratrac TT 80 by Inter-Drain

# King off the Road

Suzuki - the pioneers in Four Wheel Drive ATV's

	SUZUKI LT-F4WDX	HONDA TRX 300 FM	YAMAHA YFM 350 4WD	KAWASAKI KLF 4x4
4WD CAPABLE	✓	✓	✓	✓
2WD CAPABLE	✓	✗	✗	✗
15 SPEED TRANSMISSION	✓	✗	✗	✗
HIGH/MED/LOW REDUCTION BOX	✓	✗	✗	✗
INDEPENDENT FRONT SUSPENSION	✓	✓	✓	✓
INDEPENDENT REAR SUSPENSION	✓	✗	✗	✗
FRONT DIFF LOCK IN/OUT CAPABLE	✓	✗	✗	✗
HYDRAULIC BRAKES	✓	✓	✓	✓
SHAFT DRIVE	✓	✓	✓	✓
210mm MIN. GROUND CLEARANCE	✓	✗	✗	✓
SPEEDO STD EQUIPMENT	✓	✗	✗	✓

The new Suzuki LT-F4WDX is strictly in a class of its own. The proven Four Wheel Drive engine is now bigger, more powerful and offers improved low and mid range torque capabilities.

The four wheel drive system on the King Quad has three drive modes - 2WD, 4WD and 4WD with front differential lock, plus the added benefit of a handy reverse gear.

Three speed secondary transmission guarantees a gear for almost any use - high, low and super low - covering a range of fifteen speeds.

With the widest track width of any 4 wheel ATV available, oil damped shock absorbers (with pre-load adjustment), and the many other features of the

King Quad, you can be sure of being first in the field.

**King  
Quad**



First in the field

**SUZUKI**

Send to Heron Suzuki Plc, Enquiry Centre, Unit 16, Headlands Business Park, Salisbury Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3PB or call 0425 470354

Please send LT range brochure Applicant must be 18 years or over

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

A Heron International Company

GI.7.91

Safety First. Wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing, slow down on unfamiliar terrain or when visibility is reduced. Read owner's manual carefully.