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 Warwick Bros, The Dean, Alresford, Hants.
 Wessex Farm Machinery, Oakhanger Rd, Bordon, Hants.

'A go anywhere ability'

7 needed around a factory site, nor for moving from green to green – and many only have a single seat,



John Deere AMT 626

perhaps valid reasons for not buying. A bench seat to take two or three people is a significant advantage in many situations, room to carry tools, topdressing or other repair kit making them useful workhorses. Of course there is no point in buying a speed machine for the sake of it, especially if it is likely to be abused. A growing number are available with diesel engine and cab options which make them more economical and suitable for all weather use.

Prime reason for the ATV is usually the light tread, go-almost-anywhere ability and the reasonable travel speed which enables the greenkeeper to be at the ninth green while his mate on a tractor is picking his way around tracks on the rough. ATVs have succeeded in breaking away from the 'fun' image in the UK, perhaps because British weather does not promote joy riding on an open machine. Effective as they are for personal transport they generally lack load carrying capacity – nevertheless they are reasonably effective as a tug and a wide range of attachments like sprayers, mowers and trailers are available for them – they are also effective ball pickers on the practice range. The ease of operation and driving of all the above types of machine varies greatly, but most are exceptionally simple, often devoid of clutch, but frequently with electric and manual starters, thus avoiding several problems which can result in an ignominious walk back to the hut. Reliability may be as important as price, as 'workhorses' maintenance seldom has high priority so long as they do the job.

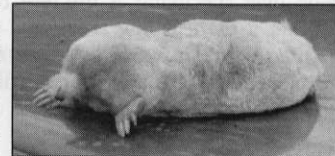
Flying Divots

■ **Allan Lofthouse**, course manager at Saffron Walden, has had a singular honour bestowed upon him and his staff from none other than the Red Arrows stunt flying team, stationed at nearby Stanstead. A number of the golf crazy pilots played Allan's course and were highly impressed with its condition. 'Watch out tomorrow morning', Allan was told as the Red Arrows departed, and sure enough, as the maintenance crew were taking a five minute 'breather' around mid-morning, overhead came the full Red Arrow formation, flying lower than ever before and with a full close formation circle of the course they appropriately dipped wings in acknowledgement of another man's job well done!

■ **A story** circulating in Dublin tells of a head greenkeeper confronted by a newly elected captain, demanding that predominantly *Poa annua* greens be cut at 3/16th or even lower and prepared to a 'glass fast' standard for a so-called 'important' Club event. 'Can't do it', sir, came the reply, 'we are in a stress situation already following minimal winter growth and current low rainfall'.

'Rubbish' came the retort, 'I am the captain and you must do as I command or take a month's suspension' – which, of course, duly followed. The greens were shaved by A.N. Other and are now in horrible shape, though thankfully our wise head man has moved to a Club where common sense prevails. The moral? Stick to your guns when you know you're right!

■ **Albinism**, a strange quirk of nature caused by the congenital absence of pigmentation to hair, eyes or skin, is rare indeed in the wild animal kingdom, though the breeding of albino rabbits still continues to amuse those who delight in exhibiting such animals. An exceedingly rare albino mole recently surfaced at Lingfield Park Golf Club, where Jim Russell is course manager. The creature shown in our picture, we are reliably informed, is one in several million!



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