

BUYERS' GUIDE

A day at the races for Polaris



The climax of the Jump racing season is the Cheltenham Gold Cup in mid-March and for many it is seen as the best day's racing of the year. Over two hundred thousand racegoers flocked to the Cotswold venue this year to enjoy the four terrific days of action. The concentration of such a crowd in one place over those days is a logistics challenge to the people responsible for ensuring the fastest response to emergencies, on and around the course.

Cheltenham has four Polaris ATVs/UTVs to provide the swiftest reaction to any emergency. A Sportsman 400 is used as a general purpose vehicle by grounds care staff and as a back-up vehicle. Tony Twiggs is the Race Course Medical Co-ordinator and he predominantly uses a Sportsman 550, as well as the 400.

"The Sportsman is such a versatile tool, very manoeuvrable and ideal when you're dealing with crowds," says Tony. "It's also small and compact to move around freely in all conditions. While the acceleration is quick, it's easy to drive slowly as well and comfortable for working the hours we do."

Race Horse Ambulance Ltd. is one of the organisations working with Cheltenham and director Sebastian Garner uses the course's Ranger 400 as a rapid response vehicle to treat horses on the course. "We have horse ambulances parked up in readiness but initially we use the Polaris as the fastest means of reaching a horse that may be injured or in distress."

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