

Lamborghini 250 Runner – at Coombe Wood, Kingston-on-Thames

Compact manoeuvrable versatility sums up David Holloway's requirements, however more specifically he needed a machine which could carry a sprayer, could operate on banks and has good dealer support. The Lamborghini meets his requirements well with its 25hp power output, 4WD and full power steering. But the more salient features are that it has good ground clearance and a short wheelbase which allows it to go over the banks which surround many of the tees and greens and then turn round within the limited space available. Iseki and Kubota had also been considered.

David is a staunch advocate of compact tractors finding that turf maintenance vehicles such as the Cushman have their limitations on the course because of their lack of clearance and linkage lift height. In comparison he also considered that the compact tractor is simpler, more sturdy and likely to have a longer trouble free life with a better resale value at the end.

One of the more important implements for the Lamborghini is the 300 litre Hardi sprayer, and David saw particular advantage to the fact that the operator could

lift and lower it on the arms when necessary to clear banks and slopes. Nor had it escaped his notice that three point linkage equipment is cheaper to buy and more readily available than that made for TMVs.

A manual transmission tractor was deliberately chosen because it does not suffer loss of speed when climbing a hill in the way that hydrostatic transmission does, this is considered as being of particular importance when using a sprayer. The 250 Runner has a twelve ratio box with full synchromesh and 'shuttle'. The speed range of from 0.4 to 15 mph gives a very low speed for Verti-draining and similar tasks,

although this is not a current requirement.

Double acting spool valves and a full set of six front weights were also specified, the former placed conveniently ahead of the operator instead of in the usual place – around the driver's bottom. Although not equipped with a loader, David was well aware that one is available and easy to fit. The two criticisms he made were that the hydraulic oil filter looked vulnerable and there was little room on the platform for anyone with large boots, particularly on the right hand side where there are two brake pedals, a diff. lock and accelerator pedals all vying for limited space – perhaps

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a penalty for the short wheelbase of the tractor.

As to service, David has found suppliers Risboro' Turf extremely 'willing and able', but after the first year with a maintenance contract linked to the warranty Coombe Wood will use their own mechanic for most of the work on the tractor.

Price had been a consideration, but not an over-riding one, however it was 'right' and it represented good value. In summary, David's comments were "it is a sturdy little tractor, very stable and to date I'm very pleased with it".



David Holloway is pictured with his Lamborghini 250 Runner

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Antonio Carraro Tigretrac 5500 on Mendip Springs Golf Club

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Mendip Springs has 27 holes plus a driving range, with eleven of the holes running onto the North Somerset Levels – in other

words low lying, flat and liable to becoming very wet. Thus a high powered low ground pressure vehicle is essential if late autumn and early spring work is to be carried out with minimum damage to turf and soil. The main tasks for the Tigretrac are spraying, fertilising, gang mowing and trailer work, however it is flexible enough to be used for a wide variety of tasks including aerating and soil working. The manual transmission with twelve ratios provides ample scope for suiting speed with the requirements of the job and is amply slow enough at the bottom end for drainage and aeration work.

One feature which has yet to be tested is the ability to swing the entire seat and driving console so that the tractor can be operated in reverse. Ian suggested that this would be ideal for operating with a rotary mower in front.



The main criticism of the tractor is the cab and ergonomic layout inside it, this Ian suggested was not particularly well thought out, with the cab cladding seeming to be an afterthought. In-cab noise was not a problem as operators use head phones for a radio or ear protectors. BS Mowers of Bristol who supplied the machine, Ian said, have been fantastic, nothing has been too much trouble, they have moved switches, added lights and adapted the cab to our requirements without any extra charge. Neither servicing nor spares seem to be any problem.

Ian is very conscious of safety

particularly with young inexperienced operators, here the stability of the Tigretrac is 'brilliant' with the wide tyres and a low centre of gravity it is very sure footed on banks – which may be as well when the result of getting too close to the edge and losing control would be an involuntary bath.

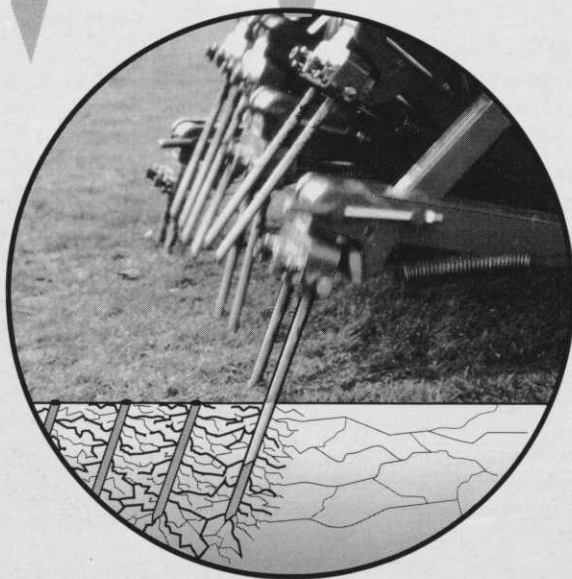
Overall Ian has no hesitation in recommending the machine, for him the price was right, it is a high powered compact golf tractor which does not suffer from being a compromised agricultural tractor, and he does not understand why there are not more of them on golf courses.

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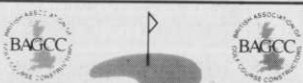
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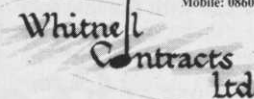


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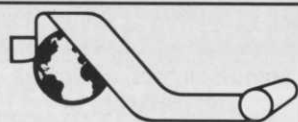
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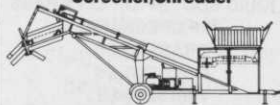
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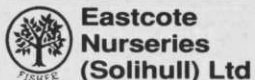
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