



A REAL WORKHORSE

It's a tough, rugged workhorse that meets virtually any challenge thrown at it. Meet the Kubota RTV 900!

I was expecting something a bit different when I was told I would be test driving this little beast, and I was not disappointed. I was able to take it over uneven terrain in a field at Chale Green, just yards from the premises of Stubbings Bros, who kindly loaned it to me.

So what is the Kubota RTV 900 all about? Well, it's an off-road machine, but with much more. Indeed, the one I drove, the Recreational with camouflage colour, can even be driven on roads. But basically it is a good all round utility vehicle for anyone who has to go off road. It is ideal for farmers, anyone with a smallholding or who looks after livestock, and is even being used extensively at holiday parks. Perfect for carrying mowers,

tools and even changes of bedding.

The RTV 900 has power steering, and slips effortlessly from two-wheel to four-wheel drive to help negotiate more difficult conditions. But there are so many other extras. It's a bit like driving an automatic car, but take your foot off the accelerator pedal and it comes to a stop without engaging the foot or handbrake.

That makes it particularly safe if you are using it on a hillside where it might normally run away on its own. So there is no fear of jumping off his little beauty, kicking the handbrake off in error, and seeing it disappear down the hill. And when driving downhill over rough terrain you don't have to control it with accelerator or brake pedal – it simply does it itself.

Most vehicles of this type run on a pulley system with belts and pulleys, but this runs with a full hydrostatic

system, so whatever you do to it you can't wreck the transmission even if you overload it. It has a 640-kilos capacity at the rear, and the smart tipper system makes unloading even less time consuming.

Andy Stubbings of Stubbings Bros said: "We hire quite a lot of them out, and the reason we do so is because they are so reliable. There are plenty of options, like a fully enclosed cab, a heater or different tyres and lighting systems. Most of the ones we hire out are on a yearly contract, but we also do six-month contracts, as well as selling new ones, which start at around £8,500 net price to the customer."

They are extremely fuel efficient, and the fact they can be run on red diesel makes them even more economic. And apart from the fact they are such useful utility vehicles, they are also good fun to drive!

TEST DRIVEN ON
THE ISLAND
By Peter White

Stubbings Brothers

Chale Green TEL: 01983 551443

www.stubbings-bros.co.uk