



Golf Cars

Do you have a plan?

Unfortunately, you can't maintain your golf car fleets with a bucket of car wash and a few extra tires. More and more, they are an important part of the golfing experience at each club and the golf car fleet can't be forgotten. Not to mention, as with all rental equipment, safety is always a large concern. A few questions to ponder as you think about your golf car fleet:

- How do you monitor golf car usage and service?
- What kind of personnel do you have working on cars?
- Are you solely responsible for the golf cars?
- Is there staff to keep the cars clean? Daily?
- How is it communicated when there is a problem with a golf car; Are you contacted by phone, e-mail, messenger?
- How are cars taken out of use when there is a problem with them?
- How accessible are the cars to service?
- Is there ample parking and maneuverable space in their storage area?
- Are the cars rotated to keep the life span at optimal lengths?

We have electric cars at Wilmette Golf Club and I have found that an electric fleet is far more time consuming through the season than gas-powered carts. For me, the brake adjustments, compounded by the battery and tire maintenance take the most toll on my time.

In the shoulder months, it is easier to keep track of the car rotation, but once the first weekend of great weather arrives, the formalities of a true cart rotation can fall by the wayside. With 400 to 500 rounds of golf on Saturday and Sunday many golf cars will be driven three rounds in a single day. By the time the last cart gets cleaned and plugged into charger it could be as late as 9:30 pm. How important is it that these last ones in are not the first ones out at 5:30 a.m.? 15 hours to fully charge

a cart is a long time when the car is only plugged in for 8 hours each night. The first step in solving the daylight dilemma is setting up a successful cart rotation.

It can be done, but takes organization. It takes a simple plan that is easy to follow. It takes training the staff to do it properly and it takes documentation. Those that have successful cart rotation plans have fewer problems with their golf car

fleets, often a cleaner fleet (some type of detailing program is built into the rotation), better records of problems, easier repairs, and ultimately a better golfing experience for the customer.

I am developing a cart rotation plan, but it is hard work and takes some dedication. I have found a trusted part-time co-worker that wants to start this project. As a check to our plan, we have started to utilize the built in system found on our Club Car Electric DS I/Q fleet. A quick overview of this program enables us to keep track of the actual rounds

each car does every month. By plugging in a simple monitor to each car, I can transfer usage information to my computer. I have created a program using a simple spreadsheet to color code the cars that have been overused (red) to the ones that have been underused (green) when compared to the fleet as a whole. See chart.

Sometimes you find some interesting anomalies, like car 3 and car 4. They are parked right next to each other and car 3 is used six to seven times as much! Upon inspection, I found car 4



is parked next to a wall and harder to pull out of the storage area than car 3. – It makes sense; car 3 offers the least amount of resistance when a human is given the choice of selecting a golf car for the next round. This is all the more reason for a rotation plan that can taught to staff and followed each day.

I'm still working out the detailing part of the golf car program and any ideas would be appreciated. If you have any please pass them along and that reminds me, please contribute that tip or idea to *On Course*. Our Technician Section in the magazine is a great place to share. For now, I'll take the next rainy day and get those cars cleaned up with members of the maintenance staff. I hope it just doesn't rain at night.

-OC





DUNTEMAN
TURF FARMS

Growers of Quality Sod

SERVICE!
LOCAL GROWING FOR
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

QUALITY!
FEATURING
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,
BENTGRASS SOD, AND
TURF-TYPE FESCUE

NEW PRODUCT

- LOWER MAINTENANCE
- MORE DROUGHT & SHADE TOLERANT
- BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE




PRICE!
CALL FOR A QUOTE

630-557-2900

MAIN STREET
11 MILES WEST
OF BATAVIA, IL

RTV900

The utility vehicle that's built as tough as a tractor.



Hard working, dependable and tough: the Kubota RTV900.


- 21.6 HP diesel engine - Designed by Kubota engineers
- Hydrostatic power steering - Handle tight turns with ease
- Variable Hydrostatic Transmission (VHT) - No belts. No maintenance. No loss of torque.
- Hydraulic wet disc brakes - Smooth braking, even in mud and water
- 4-wheel drive - Power through the roughest terrain
- Ground-hugging suspension - Fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension
- 4 different models - General, worksite, turf and recreational

Tractor tough. Kubota smart.
Martin Implement, Inc.
16400 104th. Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 349-8430

Kubota

EVERYTHING YOU VALUE

www.kubota.com



COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR
CONTRACTING, SALES, SERVICE, PARTS

Trust Your Turf to Us!

- Terra Spike® Deep-tine Aeration
- Overseeding & Slit Seeding
- Core Collecting
- Greens, Tees, Fairways, Sports Fields
- Complete Turf Renovation










1-800-748-7497 • Bryan Wood, owner
Serving the Industry for over 25 years
Check out our demo and trade-in equipment for sale
www.commercialturfandtractor.com

PROFESSIONAL TURF & ORNAMENTAL PRODUCTS

Douglas Suttor
Midwest Area Manager
Dougs@quali-pro.com

616.748.1977 Direct Line
616.403.3983 Cell
616.748.1988 Fax
800.979.8994 Corporate

2740 Sandpiper Lane, Holland, MI 49424



quali-pro.com

Makhteshim Agan
of North America, Inc.

