

550 kilograms of motorised vehicle compacting the turf everywhere you look.)

Unfortunately, despite all these benefits, despite the rise in popularity of golf meccas like Barnbougle Dunes or those bucket-list trips to Ireland and Scotland where walking is more or less mandatory, and even the recent surge in walking-related purchases like buggies and lightweight carry bags, there is no sense the walking game will fully return to golf. In the US, lawsuits demanding the use of carts in states that had banned them were threatened before state authorities eventually relented on their no-carts rules.

Furthermore, the cart is built into the economic model of how the golf-course business functions at some venues. As Weaver says about the business side of his course operation, a riding golfer in a typical outing might generate twice the revenue of a walking golfer, and that's not just in cart fees. "If you're in a golf cart, you're more likely to get a hot dog or a burger, a couple of snacks and a six-pack to go.

"If you're walking, you might only get a bottle of water."

Healthier, certainly, but walking seems simpler, cleaner. Probably what we need in times like these. Weaver has seen that change at his course. "There was a willpower to walk," he says. "I had people who had signed up thinking they were just going to play nine, but they'd come in after the turn and say, 'You know what, I'm going to walk the back nine, too.'"

Maybe this resurgence in walking is a good reminder that the game's basic appeal lies in a steady progression of steps that seem to refresh more than they fatigue. Steps forward that bring us all the way back to where we started. 🕒



MOTORISED BUGGIES

SWING STORE MC330RS REMOTE CONTROL BUGGY

► The MC330RS remote control buggy is the product of 20 years research and development, its latest incarnation features a 10AH Lithium battery weighing in slightly heavier than a kilo tub of butter and about the same size but still powerful enough to glide through 18 holes on even the hilliest of golf courses.

It is simple in its design yet robust in its construction. At 15.2 kilograms, including folding battery, it also folds down (in two simple steps) to a size that will fit into most car boots.

The widest track in its class adds stability when it's needed the most.

Unlike other buggies on the market the MC330RS comes with all accessories included, such as umbrella, drink and phone holders. It can be delivered free anywhere in Australia and has a two-year warranty on parts and labour.



CLUB CAR TEMPO WALK

► Designed mainly for golf-course rental, this autonomous machine follows your pace, and there's space for a cooler, plus connectivity features such as on-course GPS, a USB port and a charging pad for your phone. Sturdy on uneven terrain and coming to Australia very soon. If your club isn't already talking about getting a fleet of its own, it should be!

