

DESCRIPTION

TITLE OF INVENTION

GOLF CART

5

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001]

The present invention relates to golf carts, and more specifically to a golf cart including a bed on which a golf bag can be placed, and a step on which a person can stand.

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BACKGROUND ART

[0002]

Conventionally, there is proposed a golf cart including a bed for placement of luggage such as golf bags.

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[0003]

For example, Patent Literature 1 discloses a golf cart which includes a row of seats and a bag placement frame behind the seats. The bag placement frame extends obliquely rearward and upward from above rear wheels. According to this golf cart, it is possible to support golf bags with the bag placement frame, in a rearward tilting fashion. This allows golfers or caddies (hereinafter, will be referred to as golfers etc.) to take out golf clubs easily from the golf bags which are supported by the bag placement frame.

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[0004]

A small golf cart which has a single row of seats like the one disclosed in Patent Literature 1 has a small seating capacity (for two people, for example). To improve on this,

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such a small golf cart sometimes includes a step for a golfer etc. to stand on, at a rear portion of the golf cart. For example, if the step is to be provided in the golf cart in Patent Literature 1, the step would be provided behind
5 the rear wheels, below the bag placement frame.

CITATION LIST

PATENT LITERATURE

[0005]

10 Patent Literature 1: JP-B 3437562

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[0006]

15 The golf cart in Patent Literature 1 has the bag placement frame, as described above, to extend obliquely rearward and upward from above the rear wheels. Therefore, if the step is provided below the bag placement frame, the bag placement frame and the golf bags will be obstructive,
20 making it difficult for a golfer etc. to stand on the step. If the step is to provide an easy ride for golfers etc., the step must have a sufficiently increased dimension in a fore-aft direction. Specifically, the step must be extended rearward far enough beyond a rear end of the bag placement
25 frame. In this case, however, the golf cart must have an increased dimension in the fore-aft direction, so it becomes impossible to make the golf cart compact.

[0007]

In the above-described golf cart, it is possible to
30 decrease a situation that the bag placement frame and the

golf bag become obstructive to a golfer etc. when he/she is getting on the step, by making an angle of the bag placement frame close to 90 degrees with respect to the ground. In this case, however, the golf bags' upper end portions would
5 be at an elevated height, making it impossible for the golfers etc. to easily take out golf clubs from the golf bags.

[0008]

Therefore, a primary object of the present invention is
10 to provide a compact golf cart which includes a bed and a step and is easy to take out golf clubs from golf bags.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

[0009]

15 According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a golf cart which includes a frame portion; a seating portion supported by the frame portion; a pair of front wheels at a more forward position than the seating portion; a pair of front tires attached to the pair of front
20 wheels; a pair of rear wheels at a more rearward position than the seating portion; a pair of rear tires attached to the pair of rear wheels; a step supported by the frame portion and extending to a more rearward position than the pair of rear tires; and a bed capable of supporting a bottom
25 portion of a golf bag. At least part of the bed is at a more rearward position than the seating portion. In this golf cart, the bed is at a position which is lower than a tangential line of each rear tire drawn to pass above a rotational center of relevant rear wheel while passing a
30 rear end of the seating portion, and more forward than each

rotational center, in a side view.

[0010]

According to the present invention, the step extends to a more rearward position than the pair of rear tires, and
5 the bed is at a more forward position than the rotational centers of the pair of rear wheels. In other words, in a side view, the step and the bed are disposed to sandwich the rotational centers of the pair of rear wheels in between. By disposing the step and the bed as described, neither the
10 bed nor the golf bag becomes obstructive to a golfer etc. when he/she gets on the step. The arrangement makes it possible for a golfer etc. to easily get on the step without any need for increasing the dimension of the step in the fore-aft direction. Therefore, it is possible to make the
15 golf cart compact. Also, the bed is at a position which is lower than a tangential line of each rear tire drawn to pass above the rotational center of relevant rear wheel in the pair while passing a rear end of the seating portion, in a side view. In this case, it is possible to dispose the bed
20 at a sufficiently low position. The arrangement lowers the upper end portion of the golf bag without significantly tilting the golf bag rearward. As a result, golfers etc. can take golf clubs easily out of the golf bags.

[0011]

25 Preferably, the bed has a fore end at a more forward position than the rear end of the seating portion. In this case, it is possible to decrease a dimension of the golf cart in a fore-aft direction.

[0012]

30 Further preferably, in terms of a dimension in a width

direction of the golf cart, the step is smaller than a distance between outer ends of the pair of rear tires and greater than a distance between inner ends of the pair of rear tires. In this case, it is possible to provide the
5 step with a sufficient area in a plan view while not making the step too big. The arrangement allows a golfer etc. to easily get on the step even if the dimension of the step is not increased in the fore-aft direction, and prevents (or decreases) contact with people or objects passing by the
10 golf cart on the move.

[0013]

Further, preferably, the golf cart further includes a roof portion covering above the seating portion, and a support portion capable of supporting an upper region of
15 the golf bag at a position higher than the bed and lower than the roof portion. With the above, the support portion is at a position more rearward than the bed and more forward than rear ends of the pair of rear tires. In this case, the support portion which supports an upper portion of the
20 golf bag is at a higher and more rearward position than the bed which supports the bottom portion of the golf bag. Therefore, it is possible to tilt the golf bag rearward. As a result, golfers etc. can take golf clubs more easily out of the golf bags. Also, since the support portion is
25 at a more forward position than rear ends of the pair of rear tires, the arrangement prevents situations where the upper portion of the golf bag is at an excessively rear position. The arrangement sufficiently decreases situations where the golf bag becomes obstructive to a
30 golfer etc. when he/she takes a ride on the step.

[0014]

Preferably, the roof portion does not overlap a rear end of the support portion in a plan view. In this case, the arrangement makes it possible to expose the rear end of the support portion, which supports the upper region of the golf bag, out of the roof portion, in the plan view. Therefore, the roof portion is not obstructive when golfers etc. take out golf clubs from the golf bags.

[0015]

Further preferably, the bed faces obliquely rearward and upward. In this case, the bed which supports the bottom portion of the golf bag faces obliquely rearward and upward, so the golf bag can be easily tilted rearward.

[0016]

Further, preferably, the bed is disposed in front of each of the pair of rear tires. In this case, it is possible to dispose two golf bags separately from each other, so each golfer can easily take out golf clubs from his/her own golf bag.

[0017]

The above-described object and other objects, characteristics, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become clearer from the following detailed description of embodiments of the present invention to be made with reference to the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0018]

Fig. 1 is a side view (taken from a left side) of a golf cart according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view (taken from a right side) of the golf cart.

Fig. 3 is a rear perspective view of the golf cart.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the golf cart.

5 Fig. 5 is a rear view of the golf cart.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0019]

Hereinafter, a golf cart 10 according to an embodiment
10 of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings. It is noted that the terms front and rear, right and left, up and down used in the description hereinafter are determined from the golf cart driver's position on a seating portion 14 of the golf cart 10, with
15 the driver seated while facing toward a steering wheel 44. Also, in the description hereinafter, a term outer side means an outer side in terms of a width direction of the golf cart 10 when used simply, whereas a term inner side means an inner side in terms of the width direction of the
20 golf cart 10 when used simply. In the drawings, "Fr" indicates forward, "Rr" indicates rearward, "L" indicates leftward, and "R" indicates rightward.

[0020]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 5, the golf cart 10
25 includes a frame portion 12, a seating portion 14, a pair of front wheels 16a, 16b, a pair of front tires 18a, 18b, a pair of rear wheels 20a, 20b, a pair of rear tires 22a, 22b, a step 24, a pair of bed members 26a, 26b, a roof portion 28, and a pair of holding units 30a, 30b.

30 [0021]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, without going into detail, the pair of front wheels 16a, 16b are rotatably supported by a front portion of the frame portion 12, whereas the pair of rear wheels 20a, 20b are rotatably supported by a rear portion of the frame portion 12. The front tires 18a, 18b are attached to the front wheels 16a, 16b respectively, whereas the rear tires 22a, 22b are attached to the rear wheels 20a, 20b respectively.

[0022]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the frame portion 12 includes a pair of main frames 12a, 12b extending in a fore-aft direction, and a plurality (four, in the present embodiment) of support frames 12c extending in an up-down direction. It should be noted here that the support frames 12c are not illustrated in Fig. 4 to avoid complication in the drawing.

[0023]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, in the present embodiment, for example, one pair of the support frames 12c have their lower end portions connected to the main frame 12a, and likewise, the other pair of the support frames 12c have their lower end portions connected to the main frame 12b. The seating portion 14 extends in a width direction of the golf cart 10, at a position more rearward than the pair of front wheels 16a, 16b, and more forward than the pair of rear wheels 20a, 20b. The seating portion 14 is supported by the frame portion 12. In the present embodiment, the seating portion 14 is supported by the plurality of support frames 12c via a plurality of unillustrated connecting members, etc. Referring to Fig.

4, in a plan view, the seating portion 14 has a rear intermediate region (an intermediate region in terms of the width direction of the golf cart 10) bulging rearward.

[0024]

5 Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, a back rest 32 is provided at an obliquely rearward and upward location of the seating portion 14. Without going into detail, the back rest 32 is supported by a center cover portion 54 which will be described later, via a grab handle 34. Referring to Fig.
10 1 and Fig. 2, a basket 36 is provided behind the back rest 32 for storing luggage. The basket 36 is supported by rear pillars 40a, 40b which will be described later. The basket 36 is not illustrated in Fig. 3 through Fig. 5 to avoid complication in the drawings.

15 [0025]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 5, a pair of front pillars 38a, 38b are provided at a more forward position than the seating portion 14, whereas a pair of rear pillars 40a, 40b are provided at a more rearward position than the
20 seating portion 14. Without going into detail, lower end portions (not illustrated) of the front pillars 38a, 38b and lower end portions (not illustrated) of the rear pillars 40a, 40b are supported by the frame portion 12.

[0026]

25 Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the front pillars 38a, 38b extend from low to high while tilting rearward. The rear pillars 40a, 40b extend straightly from low to high, and then bend to tilt forward. The rear pillar 40a and the rear pillar 40b are connected to each other at their
30 upper regions by a grab bar 42. Referring to Fig. 1 through

Fig. 5, the roof portion 28 covers above the seating portion 14, being supported by the front pillars 38a, 38b and the rear pillars 40a, 40b. Fig. 4 shows the roof portion 28 in a simplified fashion to avoid complication in the drawing.

5 [0027]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the steering wheel 44 is provided ahead of the back rest 32. The steering wheel 44 is connected to the front wheels 16a, 16b via a steering shaft 46 and an unillustrated connection mechanism. 10 The steering wheel 44 is not illustrated in Fig. 4 to avoid complication in the drawing.

[0028]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, a body cover 48 is provided to cover the frame portion 12 from above. Without 15 going into detail, the body cover 48 is supported by the frame portion 12. The body cover 48 is made of a resin material, for example. Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the body cover 48 includes a bottom cover portion 50, a front cover portion 52, a center cover portion 54, and a 20 rear cover portion 56.

[0029]

The bottom cover portion 50 extends horizontally at a lower region of the golf cart 10 so that the driver and the passenger sitting on the seating portion 14 will be able to 25 place their feet. In other words, the bottom cover portion 50 is a constituent member of a bottom portion in a cabin space of the golf cart 10. The bottom cover portion 50 has its both side regions bent downward to cover sides of intermediate regions of the main frames 12a, 12b. The 30 bottom cover portion 50 may have the same configuration as

of a bottom cover portion in conventional golf carts, so no detailed description will be made for the bottom cover portion 50.

[0030]

5 The front cover portion 52 is connected to a front region of the bottom cover portion 50, covering above the front tires 18a, 18b. The front cover portion 52 may have the same configuration as of a front cover portion in conventional golf carts, so no detailed description will be
10 made for the front cover portion 52.

[0031]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the center cover portion 54 is behind the front cover portion 52. The center cover portion 54 includes a front panel section 58, an upper
15 panel section 60, an upper panel section 62, a pair of side panel sections 64a, 64b, a pair of side panel sections 66a, 66b, a pair of side panel sections 68a, 68b, and a pair of support panel sections 70a, 70b.

[0032]

20 The front panel section 58 extends upward from the bottom cover portion 50 in the width direction of the golf cart 10. The upper panel section 60 extends rearward from an upper end region of the front panel section 58, below the seating portion 14. Like the seating portion 14 (see
25 Fig. 4), the upper panel section 60 has a rear intermediate region (an intermediate region in the width direction of the golf cart 10) bulging rearward. Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the plurality of support frames 12c have their upper end portions protruding upward from the upper panel
30 section 60, to support the seating portion 14.

[0033]

The upper panel section 62 extends rearward from the upper panel section 60 while bulging upward. Below the upper panel section 62, there is provided an unillustrated
5 drive source (such as an engine) for driving the rear wheels 20a, 20b and/or the front wheels 16a, 16b.

[0034]

The side panel section 64a extends rearward from a left end region of the front panel section 58, whereas the side
10 panel section 64b extends rearward from a right end region of the front panel section 58. The side panel sections 64a, 64b have their upper end regions connected to the upper panel section 60.

[0035]

15 The side panel section 66a extends downward from a left end region of the upper panel section 62, whereas the side panel section 66b extends downward from a right end region of the upper panel section 62. Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, the side panel section 68a extends downward from a rear
20 region of the upper panel section 60, between the side panel section 64a and the side panel section 66a. The side panel section 68a has a right end region connected to the side panel section 66a. The side panel section 68a (more specifically, an outer surface of the side panel section
25 68a) faces obliquely outward and rearward of the golf cart 10. The side panel section 68a is generally triangular when viewed from an obliquely rear and outer side position of the golf cart 10.

[0036]

30 Referring to Fig. 2, the side panel section 68b is left-

right symmetrical with the side panel section 68a. The side panel section 68b extends downward from a rear region of the upper panel section 60, between the side panel section 64b and the side panel section 66b. The side panel section
 5 68b has a left end region connected to the side panel section 66b.

[0037]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, the support panel section 70a extends obliquely rearward and downward from a
 10 lower end region of the side panel section 68a. The support panel section 70a has a left end region connected to the side panel section 64a. The support panel section 70a has a right end region connected to the side panel section 66a. The support panel section 70a (more specifically, an upper
 15 surface of the support panel section 70a) faces obliquely rearward and upward. The support panel section 70a is in front of the rear tire 22a. The bed member 26a is on the support panel section 70a.

[0038]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the bed member
 20 26a includes a flat platy bed 72a, a stopper section 74a extending upward from a left edge of the bed 72a, and a stopper section 75a extending obliquely rearward and upward from a rear edge of the bed 72a. The bed 72a (more
 25 specifically, an upper surface of the bed 72a) is in front of the rear tire 22a and faces obliquely rearward and upward.

[0039]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, the bed 72a is fixed to the support panel section 70a with unillustrated fasteners
 30 for example. Thus, the bed 72a is supported by the frame

portion 12 via the body cover 48.

[0040]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 4, at least part of the bed 72a is at a more rearward position than the seating
5 portion 14. Referring to Fig. 1, in a side view, the bed 72a is at a position lower than a tangential line L1 of the rear tire 22a and more forward than a rotational center R1 of the rear wheel 20a. The tangential line L1 is a tangential line of the rear tire 22a which is drawn to pass
10 above the rotational center R1 while passing a rear end of the seating portion 14 in a side view. In the present embodiment, the rear end of the seating portion 14 means a rear end of an upper surface 14a in the seating portion 14. The upper surface 14a is part which is visible in a plan
15 view of the seating portion 14 within an outer surface of the seating portion 14, i.e., a region higher than alternate long and two short dashes lines in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. The bed 72a has a front end at a more forward position than the rear end of the seating portion 14.

20 [0041]

Referring to Fig. 2, the support panel section 70b is left-right symmetrical with the support panel section 70a (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). The support panel section 70b extends obliquely rearward and downward from a lower end
25 region of the side panel section 68b. The support panel section 70b has a right end region connected to the side panel section 64b. The support panel section 70b has a left end region connected to the side panel section 66b. The support panel section 70b (more specifically, an upper
30 surface of the support panel section 70b) faces obliquely

rearward and upward. The support panel section 70b is in front of the rear tire 22b. The bed member 26b is on the support panel section 70b.

[0042]

5 Referring to Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the bed member 26b is left-right symmetrical with the bed member 26a, and includes a bed 72b, a stopper section 74b and a stopper section 75b. The bed 72b (more specifically, an upper surface of the bed 72b) is in front of the rear tire 22b and faces obliquely rearward and upward.

[0043]

Referring to Fig. 2, the bed 72b is fixed to the support panel section 70b with unillustrated fasteners for example. Thus, the bed 72b is supported by the frame portion 12 via the body cover 48.

[0044]

Referring to Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, at least part of the bed 72b is at a more rearward position than the seating portion 14. Referring to Fig. 2, in a side view, the bed 72b is at a position lower than a tangential line L2 of the rear tire 22b and more forward than a rotational center R2 of the rear wheel 20b. The tangential line L2 is a tangential line of the rear tire 22b which is drawn to pass above the rotational center R2 while passing a rear end of the seating portion 14 (the upper surface 14a) in a side view. The bed 72b has a front end at a more forward position than the rear end of the seating portion 14.

[0045]

Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, in the present embodiment, in a side view, the bed 72a and the bed 72b

overlap each other, the rotational center R1 and the rotational center R2 overlap each other, and the tangential line L1 and the tangential line L2 overlap each other. Therefore, the bed 72a is at a position which is lower than the tangential line L2 and more forward than the rotational center R2 in a side view. Also, the bed 72b is at a position which is lower than the tangential line L1 and more forward than the rotational center R1 in a side view.

[0046]

Referring to Fig. 5, in a rear view, the bed members 26a, 26b (the beds 72a, 72b: see Fig. 4) are on a more outer side than the rear pillars 40a, 40b. In the present embodiment, the entire bed member 26a (the bed 72a) is on a more outer side than the rear pillar 40a, whereas the entire bed member 26b (the bed 72b) is on a more outer side than the rear pillar 40b. The bed members 26a, 26b are made of a resin material for example.

[0047]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the rear cover portion 56 is connected to a rear end region of the center cover portion 54, and covers above the rear tires 22a, 22b. In the present embodiment, the rear cover portion 56 has a front edge having two end portions connected to the bottom cover portion 50. Referring to Fig. 3 through Fig. 5, the rear cover portion 56 has a recess 56a. The recess 56a is formed at an intermediate location in a rear region of the rear cover portion 56, and recesses forward. A golfer etc. standing on the step 24 can place his/her feet or luggage on the recess 56a, for example. The rear cover portion 56 may have the same configuration as of a conventional rear

cover portion, so no detailed description will be given for the rear cover portion 56.

[0048]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 5, the step 24 is at a rear of the rear cover portion 56, and extends to a more rearward position than the rear tires 22a, 22b. In the present embodiment, the entire step 24 is at a more rearward position than rear ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b. The step 24 is made of a resin material, for example.

10 [0049]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the step 24 is hollow and opens downward. Specifically, referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 5, the step 24 includes a ceiling portion 24a, a pair of side wall portions 24b, 24c, a front wall portion 24d, and a rear wall portion 24e. The ceiling portion 24a is substantially rectangular in a plan view, extending in the width direction of the golf cart 10. The side wall portion 24b extends downward from a left end region of the ceiling portion 24a, whereas the side wall portion 24c extends downward from a right end region of the ceiling portion 24a. The front wall portion 24d extends downward from a front end region of the ceiling portion 24a, whereas the rear wall portion 24e extends downward from a rear end region of the ceiling portion 24a. Referring to Fig. 4, in a plan view, the side wall portions 24b, 24c extend from front to rear, leaning slightly inward of the golf cart 10. In a plan view, the front wall portion 24d and the rear wall portion 24e curve gently toward rear.

[0050]

30 Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, a support member

76 is provided on an inner side of the step 24. The support member 76 is tubular, having a rectangular section, and extends in the width direction of the golf cart 10. On the inner side of the step 24, a plurality (three, in the present embodiment) of support members 78 which are substantially rectangular in a side view extend rearward from the support member 76. The ceiling portion 24a of the step 24 is supported by the support member 76 and the plurality of support members 78 from below. The ceiling portion 24a is fixed to the support member 76 with a plurality of unillustrated fasteners for example. Though not illustrated, there may be provided a mat which includes an elastic material, on the ceiling portion 24a. In this case, it becomes possible to absorb vibration with the mat, so a golfer etc. on the step 24 can have a comfortable ride.

[0051]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, the support member 76 is connected to the main frames 12a, 12b via connecting members 80a, 80b. Referring to Fig. 1, the connecting member 80a extends downward from a rear end region of the main frame 12a, then extends rearward and is connected to a lower surface of the support member 76. Referring to Fig. 2, the connecting member 80b extends downward from a rear end region of the main frame 12b, then extends rearward and is connected to the lower surface of the support member 76. With the arrangement described above, the step 24 is supported by the frame portion 12 via the support member 76 and the connecting members 80a, 80b. The connecting members 80a, 80b are welded for example, to the main frames 12a, 12b and the support member 76.

[0052]

Referring to Fig. 5, the step 24 has a dimension D in the width direction of the golf cart 10, which is smaller than a distance d1 between outer ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b, and is greater than a distance d2 between inner ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b.

[0053]

Referring to Fig. 3 through Fig. 5, the holding unit 30a includes a support portion 82a, a belt 84a and a buckle 86a, whereas the holding unit 30b includes a support portion 82b, a belt 84b and a buckle 86b. Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show the buckles 86a, 86b in a simplified fashion to avoid complication in the drawings.

[0054]

Referring to Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, the support portion 82a is shaped in an inverted letter of L in a rear view, extends obliquely rearward and downward from a side of the rear pillar 40a, and then extends outward of the golf cart 10. The support portion 82a has an end region (a front end region in the present embodiment), to which an end region of the belt 84a is fixed, whereas the support portion 82a has another end region (a left end portion in the present embodiment), to which the buckle 86a is fixed. The belt 84a is inserted through the buckle 86a. The buckle 86a may be provided by any one of conventional buckles as far as it is capable of fixing the belt 84a, so no detailed description will be made for the buckle 86a. The holding unit 30b is left-right symmetrical with respect to the holding unit 30a, so no detailed description will be made for constituent members of the holding unit 30b.

[0055]

Referring to Fig. 5, the support portion 82a has a front region connected to the rear pillar 40a via a connecting member 88a, whereas the support portion 82b has a front
5 region connected to the rear pillar 40b via a connecting member 88b. Thus, the holding units 30a, 30b are supported by the rear pillars 40a, 40b.

[0056]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, the support
10 portions 82a, 82b are at a height higher than the beds 72a, 72b and lower than the roof portion 28. Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 4, the support portions 82a, 82b are at a position which is more rearward than the beds 72a, 72b and more forward than rear ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b. In
15 the present embodiment, the entire support portions 82a, 82b are at a more rearward position than the rear ends of the beds 72a, 72b. Also, in the present embodiment, the entire support portions 82a, 82b are at a more forward position than the rear ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b.
20 Referring to Fig. 4, in a plan view, neither a rear end of the support portion 82a nor a rear end of the support portion 82b overlaps the roof portion 28. In other words, in a plan view, the rear end of the support portion 82a and the rear end of the support portion 82b are exposed from the roof
25 portion 28.

[0057]

Referring to Fig. 1 through Fig. 5, grab handles 90a, 90b which are generally C-shaped in a side view (from a right side) are provided at a rear region of the golf cart
30 10. The grab handles 90a, 90b have end regions (upper end

regions) fixed to the support portions 82a, 82b. The grab handles 90a, 90b have other end regions (lower end regions) fixed to the support member 76 (see Fig. 4) on an inner side of the step 24 for example. The grab handles 90a, 90b and the earlier-described grab bar 42 are for a golfer etc. on the step 24 to grab.

[0058]

Referring to Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 5, according to the golf cart 10, it is possible to carry two golf bags 92a, 92b, for example. There are a plurality of golf clubs in the golf bags 92a, 92b, but the golf clubs are not illustrated to avoid complication in the drawings. In addition, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 do not show the golf bags 92a, 92b to avoid complication in the drawings.

15 [0059]

Referring to Fig. 1, the golf bag 92a has its bottom portion supported by the bed 72a. Referring to Fig. 2, the golf bag 92b has its bottom portion supported by the bed 72b. Referring to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the stopper sections 74a, 74b restrict the bottom portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b from moving outward of the golf cart 10. The stopper sections 75a, 75b prevent the bottom portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b from making contact with the rear cover portion 56.

25 [0060]

Referring to Fig. 5, the golf bag 92a has its upper portion supported by the support portion 82a, whereas the golf bag 92b has its upper portion supported by the support portion 82b. The upper portion of the golf bag 92a is tied with the belt 84a thereby being held by the holding unit

30a, whereas the upper portion of the golf bag 92b is tied with the belt 84b thereby being held by the holding unit 30b.

[0061]

5 Hereinafter, functions and advantages of the golf cart 10 will be described.

According to the golf cart 10, the step 24 extends to a more rearward position than the rear tires 22a, 22b, whereas the beds 72a, 72b are at a more forward position than the rotational centers R1, R2 of the rear wheels 20a, 20b. In other words, in a side view, the step 24 and the beds 72a, 72b are disposed to sandwich the rotational centers R1, R2 in between. By disposing the step 24 and the beds 72a, 72b as described, neither the beds 72a, 72b nor the golf bags 15 92a, 92b become obstructive to a golfer etc. when he/she gets on the step 24. The arrangement makes it possible for a golfer etc. to easily get on the step 24 without any need for increasing the dimension of the step 24 in the fore-aft direction. Therefore, it is possible to make the golf cart 20 10 compact. Also, the beds 72a, 72b are at a height lower than the tangential lines L1, L2 of the rear tires 22a, 22b which are drawn to pass above the rotational centers R1, R2 and pass the rear end of the seating portion 14, in a side view. In this case, it is possible to dispose the beds 72a, 25 72b at a sufficiently low position. The arrangement lowers the upper end portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b without significantly tilting the golf bags 92a, 92b rearward. As a result, golfers etc. can take golf clubs easily out of the golf bags 92a, 92b.

30 [0062]

According to the golf cart 10, the beds 72a, 72b have their front ends at a more forward position than the rear end of the seating portion 14. By disposing the beds 72a, 72b as described, it becomes possible to decrease a dimension of the golf cart 10 in the fore-aft direction.

[0063]

According to the golf cart 10, the dimension D in the width direction of the step 24 is smaller than the distance d1 between outer ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b, and is greater than the distance d2 between inner ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b. By setting the dimension D of the step 24 as described, it becomes possible to provide the step 24 with a sufficient area in a plan view while not making the step 24 too big. The arrangement allows a golfer etc. to easily take a ride on the step 24 even if the dimension of the step 24 is not increased in the fore-aft direction, and prevents (or decreases) contact with people or objects passing by the golf cart 10 on the move.

[0064]

According to the golf cart 10, the support portions 82a, 82b which support upper portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b are at a higher and more rearward position than the beds 72a, 72b which support the bottom portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b. Therefore, it is possible to tilt the golf bags 92a, 92b rearward. The arrangement allows golfers etc. to take golf clubs more easily out of the golf bags 92a, 92b. Also, the support portions 82a, 82b are at a more forward position than rear ends of the pair of rear tires 22a, 22b. This prevents situations where the upper portions of the golf bags 92a, 92b are at an excessively rear position. The

arrangement sufficiently decreases situations where the golf bags 92a, 92b become obstructive to a golfer etc. when he/she is getting on the step 24.

[0065]

5 According to the golf cart 10, neither the rear end of the support portion 82a nor the rear end of the support portion 82b overlaps the roof portion 28 in a plan view. In this case, the arrangement makes it possible to expose the rear ends of the support portions 82a, 82b out of the
10 roof portion 28, in a plan view. Therefore, the roof portion 28 is not obstructive when golfers etc. take out golf clubs from the golf bags 92a, 92b.

[0066]

 According to the golf cart 10, the beds 72a, 72b face
15 obliquely rearward and upward, so the golf bags 92a, 92b can be easily tilted rearward.

[0067]

 According to the golf cart 10, the beds 72a, 72b are in front of the respective rear tires 22a, 22b. In this case,
20 two golf bags 92a, 92b are disposed separately from each other, so each golfer can easily take out golf clubs from his/her own golf bag 92a (or golf bag 92b).

[0068]

 In the embodiment described above, description was made
25 for a case where the entire step 24 is at a more rearward position than rear ends of the rear tires 22a, 22b. However, the position of the step is not limited by the embodiment described above. The step must extend to a more rearward position than the pair of rear tires but part of the step
30 may be at a more forward position than the pair of rear

tires.

[0069]

The golf cart 10 described above does not necessarily have the bed members 26a, 26b. In this case, the support
5 panel sections 70a, 70b function as the beds.

[0070]

In the embodiment described above, description was made for a case where the grab bar 42 and the grab handles 90a, 90b are provided at a rear region of the golf cart 10.
10 However, the grab bar 42 or the grab handles 90a, 90b are not necessarily be provided if an alternative member which can be grabbed by a golfer etc. is provided. For example, instead of the rear pillars 40a, 40b described earlier, a pair of rear pillars which are curved rearward so that a
15 golfer etc. can grab may be provided in the golf cart. In this case, the grab bar 42 or the grab handles 90a, 90b do not need to be provided.

[0071]

In the embodiment described above, description was made
20 for a case where the bed members 26a, 26b (the beds 72a, 72b) are on a more outer side than the rear pillars 40a, 40b in a rear view. However, the pair of bed members (the pair of beds) and the pair of rear pillars may be disposed so that the pair of bed members (the pair of beds) are on a
25 more inner side than the pair of rear pillars.

[0072]

The present invention being thus far described in terms of preferred embodiments, it is obvious that these may be varied in many ways within the scope and the spirit of the
30 present invention. The scope of the present invention is

only limited by the accompanied claims.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

[0073]

5	10	Golf cart
	12	Frame portion
	14	Seating portion
	16a, 16b	Front wheels
	18a, 18b	Front tires
10	20a, 20b	Rear wheels
	22a, 22b	Rear tires
	24	Step
	26a, 26b	Bed members
	28	Roof portion
15	72a, 72b	Bed
	82a, 82b	Support portion
	92a, 92b	Golf bags
	D	Dimension of step
	d1	Distance between outer ends of rear tires
20	d2	Distance between inner ends of rear tires
	L1, L2	Tangential line
	R1, R2	Rotational center

CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A golf cart comprising:

- 5 a frame portion;
a seating portion supported by the frame portion;
a pair of front wheels at a more forward position than
the seating portion;
a pair of front tires attached to the pair of front
10 wheels;
a pair of rear wheels at a more rearward position than
the seating portion;
a pair of rear tires attached to the pair of rear wheels;
a step supported by the frame portion and extending to
15 a more rearward position than the pair of rear tires;
a bed capable of supporting a bottom portion of a golf
bag, at least part of the bed being at a more rearward
position than the seating portion; and
a support portion capable of supporting an upper region
20 of the golf bag at a position higher than the bed; wherein
the bed is at a position which is lower than a tangential
line of each rear tire drawn to pass above a rotational
center of relevant rear wheel while passing a rear end of
the seating portion, and more forward than each rotational
25 center, in a side view; and
the entire support portion is at a position more
rearward than a rear end of the bed and more forward than
rear ends of the pair of rear tires.

[Claim 2]

The golf cart according to Claim 1, wherein the bed has a fore end at a more forward position than the rear end of the seating portion.

5

[Claim 3]

The golf cart according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the step is smaller in terms of a dimension in a width direction of the golf cart than a distance between outer ends of the pair of rear tires, and greater than a distance between
10 inner ends of the pair of rear tires.

[Claim 4]

The golf cart according to one of Claims 1 through 3,
15 further comprising

a roof portion covering above the seating portion,
a pillar supported by the frame portion and supporting the roof portion, and
a grab handle connected to the pillar via the support
20 portion.

[Claim 5]

The golf cart according to Claim 4, wherein the roof portion does not overlap a rear end of the support portion
25 in a plan view.

[Claim 6]

The golf cart according to one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the bed faces obliquely rearward and upward.

30

[Claim 7]

The golf cart according to one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the bed is disposed in front of each of the pair of rear tires.