SHORTER, MORE STRATEGIC COURSES ON HORIZON

In all current golf course design – for remodelling as well as for new courses – easy maintenance is a prime consideration. The golf course architect, while planning the most challenging course possible on the available land, also must think ahead and give the golf course superintendent a layout that can be maintained at peak condition with the modern equipment and supplies now available. ‘Monster’ holes that require a great deal of hand mowing, raking and watering, put too great a dent in the superintendent’s schedule and budget.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects is most interested in preserving the ‘green belts’ in our urban areas, many of which are golf courses, and many of the design techniques used on the shorter executive courses can be utilised in the remodelling of some of our older courses, giving them new dimensions for years to come. With the many executive-length courses now on the boards, it appears that golf soon will have a course for everyone – championship, standard, executive, and par-3. And if you don’t have every type in your area, remodelling tees and greens can give a standard course the versatility to stretch itself into championship length or shorten itself for ladies competition. With this planning, it seems certain that golf will continue to be the most popular sport with our leisure-conscious population.

With acknowledgements to the Golf Superintendent, January, 1972.

LONDON’S FIRST INDOOR GOLF RANGE

A new idea for leisure, especially when our summer weather is washed away, is the Golf Dome at Scrubbs Lane, London, W.12.

The largest ‘tent’ ever erected in this country is in position near the White City. Called the Golf Dome, it houses a double decker driving range with facilities for 31 players at any one time. It is 156 ft. wide by 252 ft. long by 63 ft. high, and is big enough for real golf indoors. In addition to the driving range, golfers can practise on putting courses, and try out their skills on the Vistagolf. The Golf Dome is open seven days a week from 12 noon to 11 p.m. Golf professionals are on hand for coaching and advice.

With acknowledgements to Sport & Recreation, January, 1972.

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