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requiring extensive and expensive renovations to retrofit existing facilities. New courses will need to accommodate these advancements by being lengthened, and that will certainly increase expenses. Making the game easier doesn’t necessarily equate to more people playing, either. Keeping golf affordable is more of an enticement.

Another important aspect that will be affected is the heritage of the game. Innocently enough, Bobby Jones spoke no truer words when he said of Jack Nicklaus, ‘You play a game with which I’m unfamiliar.’ How much did that have to do with technological advances? I just hate to see tradition and history take a back seat to technology when we’re dealing with any of our favorite pastimes.”

— G. Steven Hupe, general manager and director of golf operations, Marriott Golf, Stone Mountain Golf Club, Stone Mountain, Ga.

• There is no doubt improvements in club and ball technology will result in longer courses, and longer courses will require more land and cost more. It may be that the game should be played on two levels, a super-championship course circuit where courses are 9,000 yards and players can use whatever technology has to offer; the other level being the championship circuit as played today, where club and ball technology is controlled. Think of it as the NASCAR approach.”

— Garrett Gill, president, Gill Miller Inc., Golf Course Architects, River Falls, Wis.