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USPULUN NU-GREEN

Suggests "Sales Analyses" for Golf Courses

“WHAT factors determine the character of a golf course best fitting to its particular field?” This question is put up for consideration by a country club official whose prominence in the golf activities of his section have placed him in an advisory capacity in the operation and extension of municipal golf in his own city. This golfer expresses amazement at an apparent lack of preliminary study of fundamentals in constructing some municipal courses and suggests that something on the order of the usual preliminary sales analysis be undertaken prior to the location and designing of any course.

For example, he suggests the following major considerations to be kept in mind when a public course is being laid out:

“1. How hard should it be? (This depends on your analysis of your prospective players.)

“2. Will it fit the players for whom it is to be built? (Are there other courses available? What are they like? How can this course be made different and better?)

“3. How should the holes be laid out to care for the greatest possible number of players?

“4. Can bushes, shrubs, severe rough and other places that slow up play and hide balls, be eliminated without damage to interest and beauty of course?

“5. What transportation is available?”

There are many other points he believes should be put into the analysis he suggests as a preliminary operation of great importance to both private and public courses.

A competent golf course architect can very readily give an array of these leading questions and answer them. The rapid development of public golf courses has put some problems calling for close study of the local situations.

The first of them concerns the determination of how difficult the public course should be made. This correspondent who suggests the analysis cites a case of a public golf course of a private course character that soon discouraged its players with its difficulty and its many possibilities for lost balls. There is a happy medium for the public courses of the average cities, although public golf in some of the metropolitan centers has advanced to the point

where the Chicago district this spring will have one public golf enterprise of two 18-hole courses, both of which have what is termed "championship" design.

Some Main Points

Tom Bendelow of the American Park Builders gives his idea of the leading points to be considered in the preliminary planning of a public course. He says:

"On the one hand the private club course is used by comparatively few players and probably only about 60 per cent of its players ever using it at one time. The full membership would only be 250 to 400, so that it easily can be seen that at the most not more than 250 people would be using the course at any one time. This would only mean about five hours' play on a public course, which is enough in itself to make the inquirer realize that there should be a vast difference in how the course is laid out.

"On a public course, where the desiderata is the greatest good for the greatest number, the obvious causes of congestion should be eliminated if possible. Water hazards should be dispensed with, unless they consist of a running creek or small lagoon, where the green can be easily made a two-shot hole, but never on a one-shotter, as the time taken even in holing out is calculated to 'gum up' the course and result in congestion at the tee to the detriment of movement along the entire course. Unless you are starting twelve foursomes every hour at least, your capacity for handling the crowd is impaired, and on looking over the causes the above mentioned water hole is a prolific one.

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Short holes are another source of trouble. Long grass between fairways where balls are not easily found is another cause. Bunkers another, and one could go on ad infinitum, but I fancy I hear someone say, 'What would this man give us anyway?' The answer is: on a public course plenty of room, large greens, few, if any, hazards, intelligent maintenance, and a desire on the part of those in charge to see that the rules of the game are strictly adhered to.

"Post-Mortems" Slow Play

"One of the greatest banes of a public course is the practice of fancied golfers, who, disappointed in failing to make their putt, try it over again. The example is followed by some of the others and time is thus frittered away, the players behind kept back, and tempers and games ruined for the day. An appeal to those in charge meets with little response, as some of the offenders probably had a game on and were playing for 50 cents a hole, but that was quite enough in the eyes of the custodian to set completely aside consideration for others who were as much entitled to consideration as those who offended.

"This plan for the public course can be followed without detracting from the land-

scape surroundings in the least, as the framework of the scheme can be made just as complete as the architect desires, but if efficiency is desired, everything that tends to add congestion to play should be eliminated. When public park golfers commence to cavil at the lack of those impedimenta which make for what is termed 'sportiness' on a public course, they should be invited to join a private club. They have graduated from the public course.

"On a club course where the members are paying large dues they have a perfect right to have their golf surroundings made as beautiful from a landscape point of view as possible, and any club official who is opposed to this plan of action certainly stands in his own and the club's light.

"The greatest good for the greatest number should be his slogan. In the matter of course construction care should be taken to see that the course is laid out in such a way as not to make a toll of what should be a pleasure, providing an easy way to negotiate the hole, free from traps if the shots are played fairly decently.

"In my opinion, the good player is the one to be penalized; he knows the game and his less favored brother doesn't.

"As to distinctive characteristics about



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courses, this is mainly determined by the topography and then by the course architect's ability to make use of what nature has given him, together, very often, with the idiosyncrasies of his own game—the latter a thing that should at all times be forgotten if he desires to produce the most satisfactory layout.

"In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a topographical survey is a necessity if you wish to be sure of your drainage and irrigation schemes being successful. Upon the irrigation of a golf course depends very largely the character of maintenance in later years. It is not enough to merely lay out a few lines of pipe and attach a pump, but friction loss, head, static pressure at the nozzle, adequate water supply with a pumping unit of just the right character must be provided, and these must be figured and not guessed at."

What Makes Best Cup for Sand Greens?

THERE have been many complaints about the unsuitability of the usual style of cup for sand greens. Some experiments have been made with leather cups, with interesting results.

Many of GOLFDOM's readers would like to know the details of any cup that might serve sand green courses satisfactorily. We will be glad to receive such information for publication.

DO YOU WANT SOME MORE GOOD HELP?

GOLFDOM is in touch with several managers, professionals and greenkeepers, who are well qualified, have good references, and are anxious to get located with good clubs.

We will be glad to refer these men to your club if you are interested in their services.

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