Putting Cup Placement Calls for More Study

American greenkeepers will be especially interested in the recent expressions concerning placement of putting cups and tee markers as the matter is an important one that has been left far too much to chance. A few years ago some of the visiting Scotch and English professionals put part of the blame for their poor putting on the cup placement with which they were compelled to contend abroad. Greenkeepers, they maintained, put cups in such difficult positions for tournaments that the players were afraid to putt for the cup. There is plenty of evidence that the same mistake is being made in the United States due to the greenkeepers' and chairmen's desire to make tournament scoring high on their courses.

George C. Thomas, Jr., in a recent issue of The Country Club Magazine, makes the following comment on cup placement:

"For general play the cups should be in easier positions than for tournament competition and the type and character of the players must be taken into account for all occasions.

"The arrangement of the markers on the tees affects the situation of the pins on the greens, and wind direction and force are fundamentals which help to determine both locations.

"Everyone agrees that the marker should be well back with a following wind, forward with a headwind and the pins should conform to the same rule. Side winds determine which part of the tee should be used and the carrying of a hazard on the drive usually means that the flag is more open to a second shot from that section of the fairway.

"Speed of fairway and of green are vitally important to both markers and cups. A fast course controls driving distance. A fast green requiring a pitch is more difficult to hold than a slow surface, but should the greens be open for a running shot, such an effort is easier on fast ground.

"Watering of fairways and greens control this speed situation to a great extent and should be done in conjunction with placements on tees and greens. Traps guarding greens regulate the play and therefore help to specify the position of cups and markers.

"Long shots to a green must not be
Penalized by a pin too near a trap while on short seconds after good drives the flag may wave closer to hazards. "Pin position must be judged by the putting surface as exemplified by grass perfection and by slopes or rolls near the cup, and by both such considerations as affecting approach shots to the flag. This includes any irregularities or change of grass growth or texture, as well as old cup holes with replaced earth and grass, the latter sometimes having edges which do not give a smooth joint and which therefore interfere with the ball's roll as it approaches the hole. Cups should never be on ridges or inclines, but if possible situated in low ground rather than on hog backs.

"In medal tournaments or qualifying rounds there is a general feeling among players that the placements of cups should be in the center or easy parts of each green, although long distances from back tees are not objected to. "In match play rounds of tournaments the pins may be in more difficult positions, although it is the custom to increase the severity of the placement each day until in the final the greatest skill is required in holding the ball near the pin in a shot.

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To the Presidents, Directors and Managers of Golf Clubs:

This year it is not only fashionable but good management to be thrifty. If your Club has started the wasteful practice of supplying tees free to your members, there never was a better time to stop doing so than this season.

When tees are handed out gratis, the Players do not consider them of any value and consequently do not pick them up properly. You will have cleaner driving tees if you let the Player pay for his own tees.

This year there is a distinct demand for tees in various longer lengths. You cannot hope to buy tees in lengths that will please all your players, so why not let them choose their own?

It is estimated that it costs the average player for tees for a season less than it costs him for one good golf ball. When he buys his own tees he gets the length, size, shape and color he likes best. This adds to his enjoyment of the game.

Why not save for your club the money now being spent on tees? Your Pro will provide an ample assortment of sizes and kinds from which each player can choose a type to his liking. Many well-known clubs are, this year, going back to this convenient arrangement.

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