American Society of Golf Course Architects Says It’s Time to Move Forward!

Yesterday — 320 yd. hole

120 yds., 40 yds. roll 120 yds., 40 yds. roll

Formerly an average woman player could reach a 320 yd. hole in regulation with the additional roll when fairways were more firm.

Today — 320 yd. hole

120 yds., 10 yds. roll 120 yds., 10 yds. roll 260 yds.

Today the average woman player will need three shots to reach a 320 yd. hole with today’s lush fairways

Women are making their presence felt in golf, and now golf courses must be adapted to their game, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

With one in our golfers a woman, and 41% of all new golfers women, the Society’s members are designing forward tees on most of their new and remodeled courses.

Alice Dye, the only woman member of the Society, points out that research shows the average woman golfer drives the ball about 130 yards. She says the low handicap woman golfer is most comfortable playing a course that is approximately 5,440 yards long, while the average woman golfer would find a 4,800 yard course most enjoyable.

The ASGCA architects note that today’s lush, watered courses have reduced the roll of the ball. On firm fairways, 33% roll previously was expected and designed into the hole. The two illustrations above show that the average woman golfer could reach a 320-yard hole in regulation with 40 yards of roll, but cannot when the roll is reduced to 10 yards.

Those interested in how forward tees can enhance the playability of a golf course may obtain further information and illustrations by sending a $5 check to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.