

The Incredible Golf Machine

As the rain lashes across the golf course turning the bunkers into ponds, the biting east wind howls in the eaves of the clubhouse roof, what would be your reaction if your partner said "How would you fancy a round at Pebble Beach or Spyglass Hill today rather than fight our way round this lot", Indicating with a pointed finger to the inhospitable cold, wet, fairways, outside the warmth of the lounge bar.

Probably you would think he had an option on two free seats for Concorde or senile dementure was contributing to flights of fancy.

But, incredibly, a new to Britain, golf simulator, Par - T - Golf can provide a round of golf at either one of these famous courses. Using advanced microcomputer technology and a superior optical projection system, each hole of your chosen course is projected in colour onto the giant screen, approximately 20 feet away from the tee position.

A ROUND AT PEBBLE BEACH without leaving the Club-house!

A diagram of the first hole is projected on to the 12 foot by 8 foot screen. After studying the diagram, the first player (whose name will appear in the display panel) chooses whether he or she will tee off from the ladies' mens' or pro's tee. This information is fed into the micro-computer which directs the projector to advance to the appropriate tee. Instantly a full colour picture of the view that would be seen from that tee is projected on to the huge screen. The distance to the flag is shown on the display panel along with the player's name.

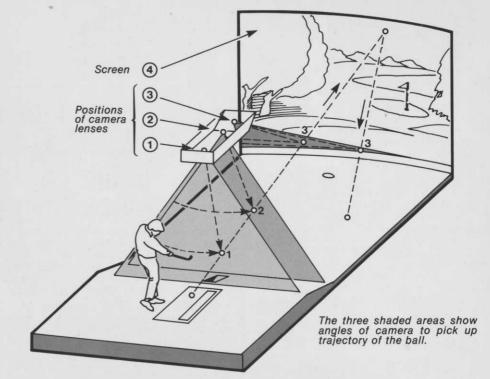
Using normal golf balls and clubs the player drives into the high-impact, heat-sealed screen. The distance the ball was hit, to the right or left and the amount of hook or slice is immediately shown on the display panel. Should the ball be lost, or go out of bounds or into the water it will be reported as such. The computer knows the precise location of every hazard.

After each player has played from the tee, PAR-T-GOLF'S computer determines which player's ball is "away". The projector is then advanced to the appropriate full-colour view of the hole and the players are informed, by name, of both the distance remaining to the flagstick as well as the type of area in which their ball lies (i.e. fairway, rough, sand, water, etc.) Should the ball land in the sand the player would play out of the simulated sand trap. If the ball should go into an unplayable area, water, hazard or lost the display panel will inform the Golfer of the lie, the appropriate picture will be projected on to the screen and the computer will add the correct number of strokes. Even penalty strokes are

calculated. The computer also observes golf etiquette, the player who wins the hole will "tee up" first on the next hole. The simulated turf Putting Area provides a fast, undulating surface and the cup is connected to the computer so that a Hole-In-One score can be achieved.

A Micro Computer

Perhaps the most incredible feature of PAR-T-GOLF is its new micro-computer. PAR-T-GOLF'S three



miniature single-scan television cameras read the speed of the ball, the angle of the trajectory and the hook or slice, sending this information to the micro-computer which enables it to calculate the ball's position to the nearest yard.

When all players have reached the green, the micro-computer turns off the projector. Putting may be made from as far as 6 metres away on 21 different positions. The display panel will instruct the player "by name" of the appropriate spot to putt from. He then putts out and the display panel will ask for the "number of putts" the player will then enter the number of putts he has taken and his score will be displayed on the panel. The display panel will then instruct the next player.

The Par-T-Golf simulator will fit easily into the space occupied by a squash court.

It has the advantage of being set up within the premises of the golf club. adjacent to the bar and usual comforts. A round of nine holes with four players takes about 75 minutes, which would compare favourably with three frames of snooker.

Two complete systems have already been sold privately to individuals who will no doubt be providing golfing parties for their friends, within the confines of their mansions.

Two more systems have been installed in Leisure Centres. The first at the John Murray Sports Centre in Glasgow, the second will open during the first week in March, at the Harrow Leisure Centre.

The complete cost of the system is around £30,000, but leasing arrangements are also possible.

It does not take too much of a mathematical brain to calculate what the income for a busy club or leisure centre would be at an hourly charge of £10.00. Or what the cost is to a four-ball. Certainly a mere fraction of travelling to California for the real thing.

Further details can be provided by contacting the Editor of,

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