

Backing for New Initiative



The PGA and BIGGA are backing an American initiative aimed at making golf more enjoyable.

Golfers in USA are taking part in the Tee it Forward scheme which encourages clubs to set tee boxes forward to match the ability of amateurs.

PGA Chief Executive, Sandy Jones, has welcomed the idea, which is being piloted by the PGA of America and the USGA.

He sees it as a means of improving the game, speeding up pace of play and

attracting new enthusiasts to the sport.

BIGGA Chief Executive, Jim Croxton, also backs the initiative.

“BIGGA is fundamentally in favour of any initiative which serves to make the game of golf more accessible and enjoyable for all. The Tee it Forward programme will serve to fulfil those ambitions particularly on courses that currently have the flexibility to vary course length. Enjoyment of a golf course is also intrinsically linked to the condition in which it is presented and that

includes ensuring that teeing grounds are suitable for purpose,” said Jim.

“We applaud the PGA of America and the USGA for their initiative and would welcome the opportunity to work with the governing bodies of golf in the UK to form and manage similarly innovative initiatives to help grow the game,” he added.

Sandy Jones also sees wider benefits of the Tee it Forward programme

“It will not just boost many golfers’ enjoyment of the game but also addresses two of the bugbears frequently cited as problems in the game - time taken to play a round of golf and the pace of play.

“I think realistically, the average club player should be thinking about playing courses in the region of 6,000-6,200 yards. It doesn’t make sense to have higher handicap players tackling 450-yard par fours when they’ve got no chance of reaching them in two.”

The move would see courses set up in line with the average driving distance for amateurs, meaning they would be 6,000-6,200 yards long.

Courses in the region of 6,700-yards would be proportionate to Tour players playing 8,100-yard courses, at least 700-yards longer than those Tour players play on. This stems from a report that found the average drive for a mid to high handicapper male is 192 yards while the distance for women, is 145 yards.

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