

Authorities Tell Right Way to Measure Hole Length

By V. C. DOERSCHUK

DURING CONSTRUCTION of a golf course, built largely with home talent, the question arose as to measurement of length of the holes. These resolved themselves into the starting and stopping points of the measurements, how the tape should be held during measurements, and how to measure the length of a "dog leg" hole. Upon consulting several whose word was considered authoritative, disagreement was found. Correspondence was then had regarding these questions with five golf course architects, two professionals, three golf equipment manufacturers, and with the U. S. G. A. and with the Royal Canadian Golf Assn.

In answer to the first point, the starting and stopping place of measurement, eight replied "from center of tee to center of green," one each from "middle of tee to the green," "back of tee to center of green," "from tee to green," "back limit of tee markers to back limit of cup." Both golf associations' replies specified "from the center of tee to center of green."

The next question: On what line in the vertical plans from center of tee to center of green, should the tape be held in measuring, resolves itself into whether to hold the tape approximately to the contour of the ground, or to hold it always horizontal as in surveying measure, or to hold it as if measuring on a straight line drawn from center of tee to center of green. The straight line method of course would be impossible or impractical to carry out with a tape in certain instances, but such a straight line distance could be gotten by triangulation or other methods.

In answer to this question three replied to follow the contour of the ground; five said to keep the tape horizontal or in other words, follow surveyor's measure; two said to use the straight line method. In addition to these answers, the Canadian association advised to use the direct distance through the air and mentioned triangulation as the proper method to use in getting this distance; presumably this also is the

straight line method referred to. The U. S. G. A. states that distances are calculated on the basis of the air line as nearly as possible; presumably this also is the straight line method. However, the U. S. G. A. in discussing this method said that when a hill intervened between tee and green, to consider the hole as a vertical "dog leg" hole, and advised measuring from tee in an air line to the top of the hill, thence on an air line to the green. It may also be assumed that when a valley instead of a hill intervened, similar methods should be followed.

How to Measure "Dog Legs"

The third question was how to measure the length of a "dog leg" hole. Six advised to measure from tee along the center of the fairway to about where the angle turns, thence to green. The other replies were the same except that in defining the angle of turn two said to assume the turning point 200 yards from the green, one 220 yards, one 225 yards, one 240 yards. The two associations practically agreed to measure from the tee to a point midway in the fairway about where the angle turns, thence to the green.

In discussion of these three questions it is well to keep in mind the result to be accomplished, and is this not to know the distance that the ball has to travel in good play, not the length of the ball's trajectory, but the distance it covers by air line as far as practical.

The answer to the first question naturally should be from the center of the tee (on the average the place where the ball starts) to the center of the green (on the average the place where the ball stops). No other points would be practical considering the long tees and various shaped greens in use, nor would other points satisfy the object desired.

The answer to the next question, "on what line to hold the tape" should no doubt be to use the air line or straight line method, with reservations as to special condi-

tions. This would be measuring closely the distance the ball needs to travel.

Some of these special conditions are discussed briefly below:

On a flat (not necessarily horizontal) hole the air line, tee to green, is the logical measurement. Surveyor's measure, if the flat surface is not horizontal, would give a lower value than the air line method, yet the ball travels a distance measured by air line. On such a flat surface following the contour of the ground gives the same result as the straight line method. When the hole is longer than a "one shot" hole and with a valley or hill between tee and green, consider this a vertical "dog leg" hole and measure accordingly.

On a "one shot" hole with a valley or hill between the tee and green, here the air line or straight line is the same as the line of the ball, surveyor's measure would give the same distance if tee and green were at the same elevation, but a shorter distance than the air line if tee and green were not at the same elevation. The measurement following the contour of the ground would obviously give too large a result.

Concerning measurements of a "dog leg" hole it seems best to follow the scheme of the associations: Measure from the tee along the center of the fairway to the point of the average angle of flight, thence to the green. On a long hole with more than one turn, follow the average course of the ball, that is, measure along the center of the fairway from one average point of the angle of flight to the next average point of the angle of flight. It seems unwise to specify certain distances from the green to the angle of flight because all "dog leg" holes are not built alike, and ground conditions are so varying.

There will be special cases not covered by the above descriptions, but it is believed that in general the above rules can be followed, particularly if one keeps in mind that the object is to measure the length of the distance the ball travels, but not the length of the ball's trajectory.

Chicago Plans Bureau for World's Fair Golfers

CHICAGO plans to take care of at least 400,000 visiting golfers this summer in connection with its A Century of Progress exposition. Chicago District Golf association, as host, has organized

private clubs and fee courses to assure golfing visitors the right kind of golf while they are in the city.

Of more than 200 courses in the immediate Chicago territory, including public park, forest preserve, daily-fee and private clubs, approximately one-half are available. Some of them, notably the public park and forest preserve courses, are normally crowded with local play and so cannot be considered available to outsiders.

Complete information about all courses, including description, location, how to get there, prices and limitations for guest play will be printed in a book, "Where to Play Golf in Chicago in 1933," which will be available throughout the season.

Golf headquarters will be established in a convenient downtown location where green-fee tickets for both private clubs and daily-fee courses will be sold. A service charge of twenty-five cents will be added to green-fee tickets to meet expenses of the headquarters which will be open until late at night throughout the season.

Operating for the Chicago District Golf association and in cooperation with the Chicago Chamber of Commerce, the Western Golf association, the daily fee courses and the Century of Progress organization, this headquarters will direct visitors to the courses they want to play. There will be a wide range in type of courses and in prices, so that golfers can get the kind of golf they want at the price they want to pay.

Club Magazine of Value in Holding Member Harmony

EVERY club should issue some sort of monthly bulletin containing not only the latest news of the work being performed by the various committees, but also a generous section devoted to gossip and news of the members. Such a bulletin is most valuable in promoting club harmony and in preventing criticism of official acts which are often misinterpreted by the membership as a whole because the full facts are not known.

Whether to mimeograph, planograph or print this bulletin is a matter for the individual club to decide; some printer-member (there's one in nearly every club) can give expert advice.