

# CHICAGO DGA REVISES PAR

*Many factors beside distance enter computation of course difficulties*

**D**ISTRICT golf associations have confirmed the opinion of William B. Langford, as set forth in April GOLFDOM, that a revision of the general system of par computation is needed in golf. The Massachusetts GA had had in effect for 11 years a golf course rating system that does not rate course difficulty on the par system's platform of distance, with comparatively minor allowances for scoring conditions.

The MGA rating took into account, among other things, playing distance of hole (not the yardage on the score card); topography; average condition of green; any decided slope to green as a whole; relative width of the fairway; direction and strength and prevailing wind; and character, quantity and location of traps, bunkers and natural hazards.

After long experience, MGA finds its system stands up well and provides a sound playing rating of courses, as well as a just handicapping platform.

A working outline of the Massachusetts plan is given in an extremely interesting and valuable booklet issued by the MGA at 101 Milk st., Boston. Copies of this booklet may be obtained by district golf association officials if they'll write John Corcoran, assistant secretary of the organization.

## 20 Scores Are Handicap Basis

The Chicago District GA has put into effect recently a new method of handicap determination that in many respects is similar to the MGA system. The CDGA system bases its new official system on 20 scores, instead of the usual 5, but allowances are made when fewer than 20 scores are submitted.

Details of the new CDGA system are given in a bulletin from the association's handicapping committee, from which the following quotations are taken:

The present system of handicap determination is unscientific, inaccurate and obsolete. It has therefore been discarded for the following reasons.

First, the present par system of handicap determination, which provides that 80% of the difference between the average

of five lowest scores and par of the course creates the handicap, does not properly reflect one's ability.

Second, the par system of rating courses on length alone without any equalizing factor to correct par inequalities is an unsound basis of handicap determination.

Third, the par system provides no method of correcting unwarranted handicap discrepancies between players of the various Chicago District clubs. To illustrate this last point, attention is called to the fact that a course of approximately 4,500 yards and another of approximately 8,000 may both have a par of 72.

## Long Layout, Short One May Have Same Par

A very long and difficult course may have a par of 69, and a short, easy course a par of 74. It is obvious therefore that handicap determinations should be unrelated to par. Under the old system a competitor is frequently obliged to give strokes when he should be receiving them.

It is estimated that approximately 1,000,000 rounds of golf are played annually in the Chicago District. Some 200,000 rounds are played as guests off of the home course, and no records have been made of these rounds for handicap purposes. Considering the great importance growing out of the fact that keen competition, handicaps, cash consideration and prizes are involved in all of the aforementioned 1,000,000 rounds, it becomes imperative to evolve an efficient means of handicap determination, to stimulate competitive spirit, avoid controversy and equalize opportunity.

The Chicago District's new handicapping system starts with rating courses in the district according to their difficulty. These ratings vary from 70 for the least difficult to 75 for the most difficult.

The individual's handicap is determined by 80% of the difference between the av-

erage of the last 20 scores and the course rating.

When less than 20 scores are listed the following rules will apply.

From the result of { 5 scores—deduct 3  
80% of the differ- { 10 scores—deduct 2  
ence between rating { 15 scores—deduct 1  
and average of { 20 scores—deduct 0

To begin the season start with handicap as previously assigned and raise according to the usual custom. These handicaps are the result of 5 low scores modified by the increase of two, three or four strokes (according to classes) which apply at the beginning of the season.

When 5 additional scores are listed there will be a record of 10 scores. Use them in computing new handicaps as suggested above, namely, deducting 2 from the net result.

When 10 additional scores are listed there will be a record of 15. Compute handicap as suggested above and deduct 1 from net result.

In other districts where the rating system is in effect, caddies are required to keep all scores for handicap purposes. Results of this plan have been so gratifying that the CDGA recommends its adoption by all member clubs.

Players with handicaps of less than 20 will be permitted a score not to exceed 2 more than par on any hole for handicap purposes. Players with handicaps of 20 or more will be permitted a score not to exceed 3 more than par on any hole for handicap purposes.

#### Caddies to Aid

Caddies will be obliged to present handicap scores to the caddie-master before obtaining their remuneration. The caddie-master in most cases is required to keep an accurate record of all scores and to compute and post handicaps in a conspicuous place in accordance with the usual custom. This responsibility, however, may be delegated to another employee or to a member; but it is important that some individual be charged with the responsibility of keeping records up to date at all times.

In order to keep all Chicago District handicaps up to date, and to assist the CDGA in supplying all golfers of member clubs with up to date handicap cards, we earnestly solicit full cooperation on the part of all clubs by reporting all handicap changes the first of each month on a form,

which will be provided for that purpose.

These District cards will serve as Membership, Identification and Handicap Cards. They should be displayed at all Chicago District and other tournaments, and will serve the further purpose of identifying the bearer as a member of a private Chicago District club, and verification of his handicap at any trade, profession or other tournament in the United States or Canada.

It is necessary to make a charge of \$1.00 a year for the maintenance of a force to keep all handicap records and the supplying of all subsequent cards required as changes in handicaps are reported.



### IT'S ON THE HOUSE

By TOM REAM,

Manager

Westmoreland CC

There is economy in buying foods of best quality. Like delicate china, they are more carefully handled, and there is practically no waste.

*Pay a little more for safety.*

The club backdoor needs watching as much as the frontdoor.

*The less brainstorming in the kitchen the better for the service.*

Saving is important. But you can save yourself into the discard. Only profits count, and you can't make profits entirely by saving. You must earn your way out of any slump.

*Check back and you'll find that the manager who is managing that big club cracked some tough club problems before he got to his present position.*

A new coat of paint will go a long way toward restoring a cheerful atmosphere to an old club.

*A "must" sign to post in the kitchen: "NO SMOKING."*

Only people of clean habits and good health should be employed in the preparation of food.

*Shoddy furnishings advertise a club—but in the wrong way.*