

# Test New Par Rating

New USGA ruling, toughening par on course where National Open is to be played, gets initial test at Philadelphia CC

CONSIDERABLE interest has been shown in the Philadelphia CC Spring Mill course since the USGA announced that par for the course during National Open play was 69. Golfers of all classes welcome the opportunity to see how the tougher par rating will stand up under the sharpshooting of the stars.

However, the par figures represent only a cold visualization of the Spring Mill course problems. The design represents an outstanding specimen of ingenious arrangements of tees to make the course try the abilities of various classes of golfers without unfairly penalizing the duffer.

Architecturally, the Spring Mill layout presents an opportunity for the hot shot to reward himself with his ability to "read the course" correctly with respect to his shotmaking ability.

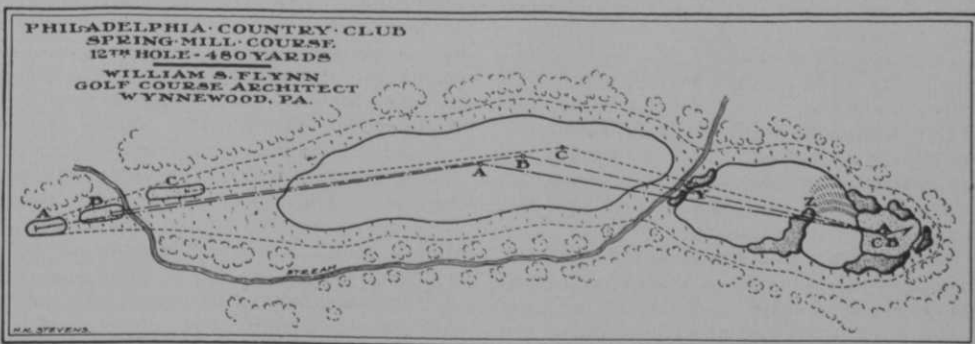
William S. Flynn of Toomey and Flynn, designers and builders of the course, comments on its general features and on its twelfth hole, in particular—*Editor*.

The accompanying diagram of the twelfth hole illustrates how the star and the novice alike may find interest and en-

In perspective the player first sees a broad meadow sloping gradually to the right with nothing more hazardous from the tee than an irregular line of trees that border the fairway on both sides. A small stream meanders across the line between shots, disappearing into the right background and emerging again at the tee end.

In the distance and slightly to the right, the green sets up at the top of a knoll about 30 feet above the drive area closely guarded by traps at right and left. In the foreground short of the green a large trap gouged out of the face of the hill indicates a compulsory carry for the second shot. It may readily be seen that a premium is definitely placed on the shot to the green following a normal drive. Any tendency to careless relaxation in the tee shot and this hole quickly becomes a three shotter with still further problems on shots two and three.

The absence of directional traps or bunkers from the tee, while not intended to deceive, puts the player strictly on his mettle in sizing up the problem as a whole, the result obtained being directly equal



joyment in deliberating and surmounting the problem devised in the plan and adjusted to the several classes of players through the medium of tees.

The card shows a championship distance of 480 yards which, under ruling applying for the National Open, the USGA classified as a par 4. The length may be scaled down to a minimum of 350 yards at the front tee.

with his ability to estimate the situation intelligently.

The water in the stream crossing the fairway is not visible although a depression in the contour may be seen and the traps at the far side flash a warning.

In a hole of this type a wide variety of play is provided without material deviation from a direct line which generally permits the possibility of low construction

Pennsylvania State College extension service is issuing a monthly mimeographed one-page bulletin giving timely advice on turf care. The bulletin is prepared by Charles Hallowell, Philadelphia extension representative, Fred Grau, extension agronomist, and J. O. Pepper, extension entomologist.

cost and economical maintenance.

From the specific standpoint of attack based on par golf, the normal expectancy of play of the groups labeled A-B-C is as follows:

A—A drive of 250 yards plus a 230 yard second, requiring a direct carry of 185 yards over trap "Z".

B—A drive of 230 yards plus a 200 yard second, requiring a direct carry of 16 yards over trap "Z".

The framework layout of the course is identical with the original plan of 1924. However, recent structural improvements have been made with the intention of more clearly indicating the strategic features of the various holes. This has been done through the introduction of directional traps and bunkers placed so as to permit the presentation of a test suiting the requirements of National championships without destroying the character of the course nor interfering with the pleasure in the game from the standpoint of the club membership.

The twisting terrain contains many interesting topographical features that have been worked into the general scheme of play. The undulating character of the land has made possible the development of objectives demanding shot placement which play an important part in obtaining proper visibility. Many varying examples of shot technique are to be found throughout the links without resort to trickiness but rather with the thought always in mind of offering an incentive and providing a reward for high class golf.

C—A drive of 210 yards plus a 180 yard second requiring a direct carry of 145 yards over trap "Z."

The alternative presented to a player of either group is, that he may elect not to risk the big carry on his second shot but may play short, then on in three with the hope he may get close enough to sink his putt for par. It quite frequently follows, however, that such a plan becomes a stepping stone to risking par eventually. Then too, because of a drive not being up to scratch, the player may be compelled to play short since the distance over trap "Z" is too great a carry, but

in either of the cases cited the chances for par are greatly reduced.

The generous area between points Y and Z is provided to accommodate these latter schemes of play, there being about 60 yards of fairway tolerance, but the third shot becomes more intricate because the green surface is concealed from there.

In addition to the above classes the tyro may still find something to hold his interest. Using either Tee B or C he plays short of the creek in two. From there he elects whether he shall have a go at the green or make it a four shotter by playing safely to Y-Z, getting on in four and winding up with a five or six.

In any event, regardless of class, the player will find interest and should feel a great satisfaction by accomplishing at the cup what he set out to do at the tee.

## Remodeling Job at Skokie Helps Club Many Ways

SKOKIE CC (Chicago district), scene of the 1922 National Open, is opening four new holes for play after completing a remodeling job involving numerous interesting aspects.

The course has suffered considerable time out of play as result of floods from a stream in the Skokie marsh, which is the western boundary of the club's property. Langford and Moreau, golf architects, adjusting the course architecture and drainage plan with the plans of the National Park engineers on the Skokie Lagoons project, gained 6 substantial objectives for the club, by the remodeling and construction job. The gains are:

1. Improvement of entire course's surface and sub-surface drainage.
2. Secure flood control, previous lack of which often has made course unplayable.
3. Provides water supply and storage, reducing club's annual irrigation bill between \$3,000 and \$4,000.
4. Improves beauty of course and provides two new water holes, one of which, the par 3 twelfth, is destined to be mentioned among the country's great holes.
5. Snapped up interest of course in skillful arrangement of hazards.
6. Provided about \$20,000 worth of dirt for relief of former flat terrain and building of dikes.

The reconstruction job is expected to pay for itself quickly in making possible greater volume of play and reducing operating and maintenance costs.