

FOR FUN, FORGET PAR: COX

WIFFY COX, pro at Hempstead (L. I.) GC, and as many know, one of the smartest pros in the game, has an idea that golfers would get considerably more fun out of their games if they established pars based on their normal score expectancy.

Cox has been thinking this idea over for years, while he was pro at Dyker Beach, Brooklyn, and later at the Congressional CC, Washington, D. C. He's sold many golfers on the idea and has found that its application makes it possible for players to get fuller enjoyment out of the game instead of having their pleasure marred by comparing their scores with rigid, cold par. Even the handicap allowance fails to give the less proficient player the encouragement that he should have when he is playing simply for relaxation, free air, exercise and an escape that will enable him to renew his zip for tackling his wartime job.

Although a veteran and successful tournament pro, Wiffy also is gifted with the genius of understanding the less competent players' temperaments. So in endeavoring to fit golf more pleasantly into the scheme of things for those to whom par generally is an infrequent accident, Cox devised a system of pars for various classes of players.

Cox, in explaining his idea, said in a newspaper interview:

"Forget the scorecard's perfect figures and set your own par."

"Too many players tear their hair, ruin

their disposition and lose all the joy of playing because they worry too much about making pars," says Cox. "Those par figures on the card are set for the stand-out players and 95 per cent of our golfers can't be standouts because they lack ability, and don't have the time to improve whatever ability they do have.

"Every golfer should establish a par of his own to conform with the limits of his own game. He will find that he will have lots more fun and, actually, his game will improve when he stops pressing in his efforts to get a scorecard par."

Cox suggests golfers should place themselves in one of these four classes:

Group A—70 to 80 shooters, handicaps 1 to 10. Their par should be 76.

Group B—80 to 90 shooters, handicaps 11 to 15. Par 85.

Group C—90 to 100 shooters, handicaps 16 to 20. Par 94.

Group D—100 plus shooters, handicaps 21 to 30. Par 103.

Wiffy says golfers can work out their own pars for each hole to fit their own game, considering the length of the hole, the hazards, topography and wind conditions. Just as an example, Cox took the card of his Hempstead Golf club and worked out the par figures he believed best suited to the golfers in the four different groups. Here it is and it will give you an idea how to make up your own:

HOLES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
YARDAGE	325	443	500	404	382	477	382	177	305	3395	122	200	415	310	524	381	527	324	354	3157	6552
PAR	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	3	4	37	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	36	73
70 TO 80	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	39	3	3	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	37	76
80 TO 90	4	5	6	5	5	6	5	3	4	43	3	4	5	4	6	5	6	4	5	42	85
90 TO 100	5	6	6	6	5	6	5	4	5	48	3	4	6	5	6	5	7	5	5	46	94
100 PLUS	5	7	7	7	5	7	6	4	5	53	4	4	7	5	7	6	7	5	5	50	103

Here is Wiffy Cox's diagram of normal score expectancy for all classes of golfers, proposed to boost the pleasure of the average golfers' round.