


CUP POSITIONING

One of the most important aspects of cup cutting is where it's cut. The position of the cup is probably the single, most important factor in determining the difficulty of a golf course. If this seems hard to believe, stop and consider that par on a golf hole is based on the premise that two shots will be required on every green. Thus, on a nine-hole course with a par of 36, the difficulty of half the shots is directly affected by pin placement. Add to that the nine approach shots required and the total goes to 27 strokes. You could even count the drives on the five par four holes because their final position has such a great effect on the approach shot. That's a total of 32 of 36 shots that are directly and indirectly related to pin position.

If you are preparing your course for a professional tournament, the pin placements will be severe. However, there is no reason to punish the duffer with uncommonly difficult pin positions. Consider the following general, day-to-day guidelines:

- . Every cup position should allow the golfer to make putts in a rather aggressive manner. This especially applies when the golfer is above the hole - he shouldn't have to putt defensively.
- . Always remember that the difficulty of a pin placement is determined by how the green putts and how it takes approach shots. This takes such things as contour, holding quality, prevailing wind conditions and length of the hole into account.
- . The general difficulty of the pin position can be governed by the length of the approach shot. Naturally, long shots require easier placements than short shots.

continued on Page 12



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- . Use all the "puttable" surfaces available on a putting green. Don't continually keep the pin in just two or three positions. Also, "balance" should be maintained throughout the course - all pins should not be placed in similar relative positions.
- . The area around the cup should be of relatively uniform grade - not necessarily level, but uniform - and in good condition to provide a fair location for holing out.
- . Cups should usually be placed at least five paces from the edge of the green. If the normal approach is across a hazard or if the green slopes toward a hazard, the distance should be greater.

These suggestions are consistent with U.S.G.A. policy on pin placement. For further details, see U.S.G.A. Decision 72-23.

Reprint "PRO TURF"

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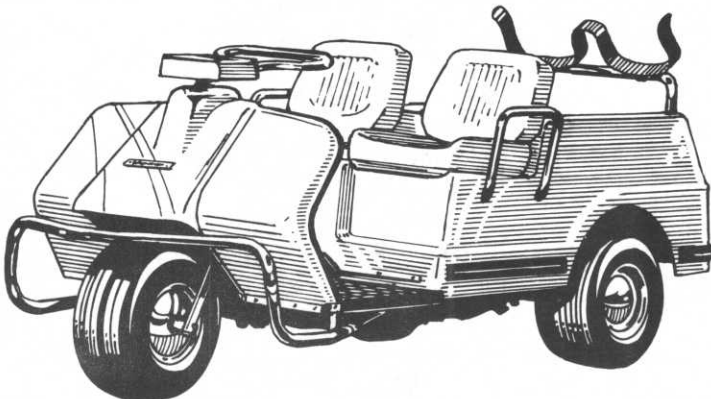
Plans are well underway for 1981 Conference and Show which will be held in Anaheim, California, January 24 - February 30. This week of activities begins with educational seminars on Saturday and Sunday followed by the Opening Session on Monday and general sessions throughout the week.

The ribbon cutting ceremony kicks off the opening of the Exposition Show on Tuesday. The U.S.G.A. will co-host our educational session on Thursday.

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