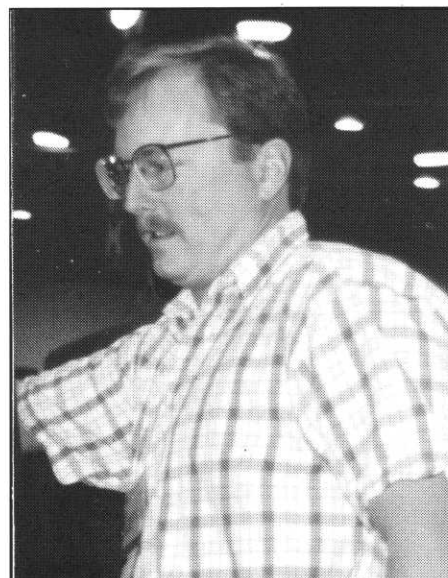


Here's A Simple Tee And Pin Placement Program That Works

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Have you ever spent several productive hours planning a tee and pin placement program? And, once implemented, have you ever had your carefully devised itinerary modified by a greenstaff member who either lost the plan, was baffled by complicated instructions or perhaps even simply forgot what he/she was doing?

This scenario is familiar to many courses, including North Oaks Golf Club before we devised a schedule which does away with charts. Best of all it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out.

Several years ago we went to the "circus plan" of using three different-colored flags to denote different depths of the green. At first we thought this plan would be confusing for our two cup cutters. However, by using three of each of the different-colored flags on each nine, and instructing the cup cutters to rotate the flags beginning from the ninth hole to the first hole, and 18th hole to the 10th hole respectively, we overcame this challenge.

As an example, let's send Joe, our ace cup cutter, out to change the pin locations on the front nine. He starts by going to the ninth hole and pulls both the pin, which is red, indicating a front position and the cup. By rotating the cup at the same time as the pin, leg work is reduced on the green.

Joe then drives to the first tee to change tee markers on that tee. (Tee location management will be discussed later in this article.) Continuing, Joe progresses to the first green and cuts a cup in the front of the green. He removes the old pin, which has a blue flag, in-

dicating a back position, and replaces the plug. His next stop is the second tee and green respectively.

On the second green Joe sets the new pin placement in the back of the green, removes the old pin and flag which is yellow, indicating a middle placement, and continues to the third hole and so one through the ninth.

This worked well for depth locations, but we needed to create an easy program for lateral movement.

To overcome this challenge, we marked the base of each of the three different-colored pins, on each nine, with a permanent letter. "R" for right, "M" for middle, "L" for left. Thus we divided our greens into nine different sections.

Now, when Joe starts changing cups, he notices the red pin from the ninth hole, which is going to the first green, has an "R" at its base. He now knows that this pin is to be placed in the front right section of the green. He continues on to the second hole with the blue pin, which has an "M" at its base. Again, with very little application of his mental capabilities, Joe knows the new pin placement goes in the back, middle quadrant of the green.

Sound simple? It is incredibly simple. Granted, we have to modify our plan on certain holes due to slopes or "hog's backs," but for the most part it works well.

Now let's look at our tee market locations. According to the USGA Rules Of Golf, a golf course should play the distance marked on the scorecard. An easy way to insure the tee markers are posi-

tioned with accurate distance in mind is to allow the color of the flag to dictate the tee position.

Joe, when approaching the first tee, would notice the flag for the first green is red. This tells him to place the tee markers behind the MGA distance markers. Lateral location is dependent upon tee conditions. The placement of the second tee would be forward of the MGA markers, using the blue flag as a guide.

Does this simple system work? Yes. Without the help of charts and paperwork we can achieve a diversified tee and pin placement program. Traffic is dispersed throughout the green and the different sections are given nine days to recuperate before the next pin is placed in that location. The course plays to its actual yardage. And, last but not least, anyone can rotate the cupping locations without any difficulty, including me.

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