

HAVING FUN – TEE IT FORWARD

In case you have missed the buzz, there is a movement afoot to try to get people to play golf from distances that will make it more enjoyable. And from where they can hit shots with clubs in the same manner the tour players do. In other words, playing the golf course as it was designed. When a regular male golfer tees it up from the back tees, there is a good chance he would be hitting long irons, hybrids, or fairway woods into some of the par 4 holes on most golf courses. In a tour event, the pros are hitting 7- and 8- irons into greens on holes of similar distances. Interestingly enough, these greens are usually designed for shots hit with 7- and 8- irons, not the longer clubs that average golfers hit. So who has the easier game? It's the Tour Pros, even though they are playing longer distances.

I was at a meeting in Atlanta just before the PGA Championship last week. The presenter said that the majority of the players would be hitting 8-irons into the par 4's in the coming week. Then he asked what we would be hitting into those greens if we played the same tees on Monday? I mentioned I might be hitting my 8-iron several times – for my 3rd shot! Atlanta Athletic Club was playing 7,467 yards to a par of 70. So if you haven't gotten the message yet, let me say it again. The Tee It Forward initiative is a great idea and one we should all be promoting. Following is an article and a chart I found on page 30 in the August 2011 issue of Golf Magazine. Use it!

~Jim Hofmeister, H-G Master Golf Clubfitter

"The USGA and PGA are teaming up to change to way you play the game.

In an effort to speed up play and make the game more enjoyable for everyday golfers faced with increasingly long and punishing golf courses, the USGA and PGA of America are rolling out the "Tee It Forward" campaign....the campaign encourages golfers to swallow their pride and play at a length that more closely matches their actual abilities. Which tees are appropriate for you? Use this handy chart, which recommends an ideal course length for your average driving distance."

DRIVER DISTANCE	RECOMMENDED YARDAGES
Tour Pro	7,600-7,900
300 yards	7,150-7,400
275 yards	6,700-6,900
250 yards	6,200-6,400
225 yards	5,800-6,000
200 yards	5,200-5,400
175 yards	4,400-4,600
150 yards	3,500-3,700
125 yards	2,800-3,000
100 yards	2,100-2,300

*And here is a statistic from the Pelz Golf Institute: The average driving distance of a 10-handicap golfer is **213 YARDS!!***