

Par for Chipping and Putting

By WILLIAM B. LANGFORD

MEMBER, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Any observing golfer knows that the number of strokes taken with a putter during a round is an inaccurate measure of putting ability. Paucity of putts may mean that the player has displayed marvelous precision with his approach shots, or has played them badly, leaving himself a multitude of chips which have been well executed. The player who consistently makes the green with his long shots will probably take several more putts than the fellow who just fails to get home.

In making par tables, an allowance of two putts per green has been standard procedure. In actual practice, this does not mean two strokes with a putter on each hole; in major competition no golfer who averages 36 putts per round can hope to finish in the money. To me, it means that two strokes, either chip or putts, are allowed with which to hole out after the ball has been played toward the green from any reachable distance exceeding 32½ yards—the point at which fractional par for chipping and putting is 2.5 in the tables I have compiled.

Some ten years ago I prepared a table showing par performance for chips and putts. Since then I have paid close attention to short-game detail in my daily contacts with golfers of widely varying abilities and at many competitions, especially those in which putting records were kept. My observations have induced me to readjust the allowance for short putts, where psychological tension plays havoc with mechanical performance to such an extent that any table for that range will probably undergo vehement criticism.

This is an empirical table for par, not

average performance, based on play over a level, true surface. Although of only academic interest, it should, if it is as accurate as I believe it to be, encourage the poor putters, for the goal set is within the reach of anyone who will work, and keep the better putters from continually blowing their tops because they don't hole all of them. I have had a lot of fun checking and working it out and now present the appended revision with the hope that it may be of some interest to golf analysts.

Golf's battlefront of nerves and finesse around the green is the happy hunting ground of the scrambler and of the chap who never says die. Here the David of the links who has courage and self-control can recover from his losses through the green and fight on even terms with his physical superiors.

Par	Distance	Par Performance in Holing 100 Balls		
		Total Strokes	Possible Distribution of score	
	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Aces</i>	<i>Duces</i>
1.00	14	100	100	0
1.05	19	105	95	5
1.10	25	110	90	10
1.15	31	115	85	15
1.20	38	120	80	20
1.25	45	125	75	25
1.30	54	130	70	30
1.35	63	135	65	35
1.40	72	140	60	40
1.45	81	145	55	45
	<i>Feet</i>			
1.50	7.5	150	50	50
1.55	8.5	155	45	55
1.60	9.5	160	40	60
1.65	10.5	165	35	65
1.70	11.5	170	30	70
1.75	12.5	175	25	75
1.80	14.5	180	20	80
1.85	16.5	185	15	85
1.90	18.5	190	10	90
1.95	20.5	195	5	95
	<i>Yards</i>		<i>Duces</i>	<i>Threes</i>
2.00	7.5	200	100	0
2.05	10.0	205	95	5
2.10	12.5	210	90	10
2.15	15.0	215	85	15
2.20	17.5	220	80	20
2.25	20.0	225	75	25
2.30	22.5	230	70	30
2.35	25.0	235	65	35
2.40	27.5	240	60	40
2.45	30.0	245	55	45
2.50	32.5	250	50	50