

VARIED, UNIQUE OBSTACLES CHALLENGE WORLD'S PLAYERS

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In New Delhi they have barbed wire wrapped around the flag stick on hole No. 13. That is to keep the monkeys off. They live in the trees near the green and delight in swinging on the flag stick. Members said it was ruining the edges of the hole. Also their putting.

In Calcutta, the "new course" has that name because it is only 100 years old. The "old course" was opened in 1836.

In Hong Kong, you can almost slice the ball into Red China. It is out of bounds. If you hit a cow you get a free drop.

It's easy to skull a rice farmer off the tee in Korea.

Race horses are the hazards in Bangkok, and each golfer is equipped with a forecaddie in a bathing suit.

Golf is busting out all over the world (only the Soviet Union reportedly still holds out), and the courses range from the lovely manicured layouts of India—

where the game is 50 years older than it is in the United States—to one on Wake Island that is under water half the time.

Urchins and Kings

Prime Ministers play. So do street urchins. In Malaya it is not unusual to be playing behind the King. One foursome found itself with a king in the foursome in front and an ex-king (Leopold of the Belgians) in the group behind. Leopold is the better player (a three handicap).

Some layouts would shame the best in America. In Japan, Mount Fuji, seems to follow the golfer around the Kawana course. On the Oshima course you can throw an erring club off a half-mile high cliff into the Pacific Ocean. One golfer did.

Many courses in the parched Middle East have sand greens. One in Madras, India, does, too, for a somewhat similar



Oiled-soaked sand serves as greens in Saudi Arabia. Rock, coupled with more sand, combine for treacherous rough. This photo was taken several years ago of the Dhahran Rolling Hills Country Club.



With Red China not far away, caddy at Royal Hong Kong Golf Club ambles along carrying bags in a method older than the game.

reason. Prohibition in the city cut down the Country Club revenue so badly that the members couldn't afford to keep the grass growing.

Iwo Jima has a par three course, for the small U. S. Air Force detachment stationed there. Okinawa has a course. Also Guam.

There is one in Manila where you can bank an approach shot off a 400-year old Spanish wall. And another where Filipino guerrillas shot the Japanese puppet president in the leg while he was putting out on No. 7 during the war.

Hazards can be strange. The course in Formosa used to have a tank trap cut across the fairway, when invasion from China was feared. China, itself, had lovely courses before the Communists took over, but rice may be growing on them now.

Members insist that one patch of the rough in Calcutta is home for a clutch of cobras. At any rate, none of them venture into the area after a ball.

If you overshoot No. 16 in New Delhi you have to play out of a Mongul tomb built before the Taj Mahal.

Rice fields weave in and around the course in Korea. The one in Bangkok is built in the middle of a race track. Both sports operate simultaneously. In addition, there is a network of canals ("klongs"), some in the middle of fairways. The rule on these is a free lift.

HANDICAP DECISION

TEMPORARY TEES AND GREENS: HANDICAPPING PROCEDURE WHEN IN USE

USGA Handicap Decision 62-1

References: Men—Section 4-3b, 7-7b

Women—Section 15-3b, 18-7b

Q.1: For two months each fall at the beginning of our playing season, we are on temporary tees and greens. This makes the course 762 yards shorter than the yardage from where the course was rated. Should we seek a separate rating for the course in this temporary condition?

A.1: Yes. However, as Section 18-7b of The Conduct of Women's Golf provides: "If, during certain seasons, the spirit of the Rules of Golf cannot be lived up to, there should be 'inactive seasons' during which scores will not be accepted for handicap purposes."

Q.2: Some clubs are using scores when on temporary tees as "N. C." rounds (Section 15-3b of The Conduct of Women's Golf). Others are not using them at all on the basis that they are scores made on unrated courses.

A.2: Scores made in these circumstances should be used either (1) securing from the district golf association a temporary rating from the temporary tees, or (2) if this is not feasible, by computing a rating from the temporary tees based solely on yardage as per the directions in Revised Handicap Decision 61-3, Answer 1.

If neither of these procedures is feasible, scores made from temporary tees should not be accepted in any form for handicap purposes.

Q.3: How many "N. C." scores are players allowed in their last 25 rounds of golf?

A.3: Although there is no stated limit, posting of an excessive number of "N.C." rounds could materially affect a player's proper handicap. As an extreme example, if a player's last 25 rounds resulted in 8 scores and 17 "N.C.", his handicap would be abnormally low. The Committee should caution players that posting of this type of record does not reflect the true nature of the player's game, and that only a minor percentage of rounds recorded should be "N.C."

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