

## **Tee it forward!**

These are words you have probably heard lately and something I've been trying to get some of our members to try over the last couple of years. Most golfers today play a golf course that is too long for them. Golf should be more fun and there's nothing more fun than having the chance to have more putts for birdies and pars. The golf culture forever has made it almost taboo to move forward and play a shorter course that is better suited to an individual's game.

For the month of August we're adding a set of yellow tees that will play between the white and red tees and I'm asking all of you to try playing from a shorter set of tees than you normally do to see if you have more fun. If you answer yes to one of the following questions than you're playing from a set of tees that are probably too long for you and should move up:

- 1) Are there any holes that I have no chance of reaching in regulation?
- 2) Am I hitting fairways woods into most of the holes in regulation?

There is no reason you shouldn't be able to play the golf course similar to the way I do. This means that you should be able to hit short irons (sw-8 iron) into a third of the holes, mid irons (7-5 iron) into a third of the holes and hybrids and fairway woods into another third of the holes. For example, in playing the first hole you should be able to have two options. One is hit your 3-wood off the tee which brings the sand trap on the left into play but takes the far right sand trap out of play leaving you a 8, 7, 6 iron or equivalent hybrid into the green. The second option is to hit your driver which might bring the far right bunker into play which adds more risk but if executed leaves you a pw – 8 iron. The first hole is designed to receive a golf shot with a mid to short iron, not a fairway wood. The shot is difficult enough and almost impossible if hitting a fairway wood.

I'm looking for your input on this to see if the game is more fun if played from a shorter length (I think it is). Please play one or two rounds from a shorter set of tees than you normally play from and let me know what you think. If this is something that most of you like, then we will add to our current scorecard another set of tees with a proper rating and slope and look to play more tournaments from a shorter set of tees.

Two golf committee members, John Gunderman and Hap Murano were my guinea pigs the other day as they played from the yellow tees. At the conclusion of the round we went over the scorecard to see which clubs they were hitting into the greens and it was revealing to see that the course was not too short for them. They hit short irons, mid irons, hybrids & fairway woods throughout their play which made for a well balanced round. During our conversation they used the word **FUN** several times. John and Hap play most of their rounds from the blue tees and said they would definitely mix in more rounds from the white and yellow tees. By the way the course record from the yellow tees is 77 shot by Hap Murano.

Here is a chart to help you choose the appropriate set of tees to try based on the average length of your driver

200 – 220 yds. white tees  
170 – 200 yds. yellow tees  
130 – 170 yds. red tees

**Tee it forward and have more FUN!**