

Course Set-Up

The game has changed significantly in the past decades. There are moves to limit the ball for elite players, but that will simply slow what is happening now. Tuition has changed, matching shafts and heads to players swings and physiques and fitness has improved for the elite players, allowing them to hit the ball further and further. At the same time, people are living longer and, more importantly, are playing for much longer. As players age, their swing speed decreases and the distance that they hit the ball decreases markedly. The game is effectively being stretched at both ends and it has to adapt to reflect this.

The proposed layout extends the course to 7,048 yards, and a par of 71. This length allows for the measuring points to be 4 yards forwards. That is still not long by modern standards, but it is a big increase from the 6,686 yards currently offered by the Micklem Course.

Turning to the forward tee offering, this is where attention is needed. As male players grow older, they start to play shorter courses because they are there to be used. The only offering for females is the red course at 5,513 yards which, in male terms, is a little longer than the Yellow Course, with options to play longer courses. There is a strong case to add a set of forward tees that is about 212 yards shorter than that to cater for those with the slowest swing speeds.

The table at the bottom of the proposed scorecard shows that reasonable parity is achieved when a male plays from the Black Course and a female plays Orange Course, with the same between the Blue and Green and the Orange and Purple.

PROPOSED CARD OF THE COURSE						
Hole	Black	Blue	Orange	Green	Purple	Par
1	573	519	471	437	418	5
2	409	386	339	329	302	4
3	173	167	156	136	128	3
4	461	421	372	357	326	4
5	169	166	151	140	140	3
6	355	351	339	344	299	4
7	591	537	491	467	432	5
8	157	151	131	122	113	3
9	388	383	357	339	299	4
OUT	3276	3081	2807	2671	2456	35
10	449	447	391	367	354	4
11	484	488	463	429	399	5
12	409	387	364	345	302	4
13	467	462	442	394	357	4
14	444	441	387	376	338	4
15	207	199	162	146	140	3
16	452	427	411	374	355	4
17	425	388	355	331	315	4
18	435	386	368	335	286	4
HOME	3772	3625	3343	3097	2845	36
OUT	3276	3081	2807	2671	2456	35
TOTAL	7048	6706	6150	5768	5301	71
Existing Micklem Course	Blue 6686	White 6594	Yellow 6290	Red 5513		

The table below uses the accepted assumption that the 18 handicap male golfer hits the ball, on average, 15% further than the 18 handicap female golfer. The yardages are based on increasing the orange, green and purple courses by 15% to show the equivalent distance for male golfers that those courses will play for female golfers.

Male Equivalent of Female Playing From Orange Tees	7072 Yards	<i>Almost the same as the Black Course</i>
Male Equivalent of Female Playing From Green Tees	6633 Yards	<i>Almost the same as the Blue Course</i>
Male Equivalent of Female Playing From Purple Tees	6096 Yards	<i>Deliberately at little shorter than the Orange Course</i>