

A Hole in One is Fun

Golf is a great game. It is governed by the Rules of Golf with a specific scoring system. The rules are too many to address and almost impossible for the average golfer to understand. The scoring system is simple. On holes of shorter distance where you can reach the green with one shot, that is a par 3. You are expected to get the ball in the hole with two putts on every green according to the rules and the scoring system. On a par 4 you should be able to reach the green with two hits and then have two putts to get the ball in the hole. On a par 5 you should be able to "reach the green with three hits and then have two putts to get the ball in the hole. Do this and you will be playing "par golf".

Now there are other factors. A hole in one is really an eagle on a par 3. A two on a par 4 is also an eagle, and a three on a par 5 is an eagle. The odds of this happening under current standards are astronomical. A birdie occurs when the golfer scores one stroke under par on a hole. This is also exciting and fun. It happens more frequently than an eagle, but it usually comes as a surprise to most golfers.

Par is more possible for good golfers but seldom happens on every hole. A bogie is more common among the vast majority of people playing golf. That is to score one stroke above par on a hole. To score a bogie on every hole of a par 72 course would give you a score of 90. A double bogie occurs

when the golfer scores two strokes above par, and this happens frequently with the average golfer. That person usually does not score below 100. There are also triple bogies, which happen more often than you would want to believe.

Professional golfers play from the longest tees on a course 7,000 yards or longer. They expect to hit a very long drive off the tee, then a good sized hit onto the green. Depending on a number of factors, they would like to make their first putt for a birdie. If they miss the hole on their first putt, they are usually close enough to tap their next putt in for a par. Very rarely, but on occasion, they have been known to miss their second putt and they get very upset. Most of them play par golf or better and they practice every day.

Most golf courses usually have a set of tees about 6,000 yards long. The good golfers play from these tees and only the very good ones ever come close to playing par. Most of them are very happy to score in the low 80's and occasionally they break 80. That makes them very happy, but you seldom see them practice.

The rest of the golfers play from a series of shorter tees and very few of them ever reach the green in regulation. They have also been known to miss two, three and even four putts. Their chance of ever playing "par golf" is more than astronomical. They spend a lot of time thinking about the game but

seldom if ever practice.

If GOLF is really a game with rules and a scoring system, why can't the vast majority of players ever dream of playing "par golf"? There are a number of reasons, starting with the challenge each different course presents, the difficulty of different contours and the speed of the greens. It is virtually impossible when the player is totally incapable of reaching the green in regulation. It is highly improbable when you consider the amount of time a player is willing to put into practice.

Is there a solution? Only when the tee boxes are determined by the capability of the golfers. Each player should play from a distance where it is conceivably possible they could reach the green in regulation. This requires a number of different tee boxes on every hole

Anyway, a hole in one is fun and entirely luck!

Submitted by Frank Wallace, who shot his first and, so far only, hole in one on May 11 this year at Bogue Banks Country Club. Frank shouldn't have been playing at all, having undergone prostate surgery just a month before. But play he did and knocked his first shot of the day into the hole for his ace. Luckily he was in the hole in one pool, and the \$68 he collected just about covered the traditional beers he bought for his fellow players. How lucky can a guy be!

Birds

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A Baltimore oriole can consume 17 hairy caterpillars in a minute.

A house wren feeds 500 insects to its young every summer afternoon.

A pair of flickers considers 5,000 ants a mere snack.

A swallow can devour 1,000 insects every 12 hours.

A brown thrasher has been known to eat 6,180 insects in one day.

A pair of scarlet tanagers has been seen eating 630 newly hatched caterpillars of the gypsy moth in 18 minutes.

Source: Courtesy of The Garden Club of America

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