



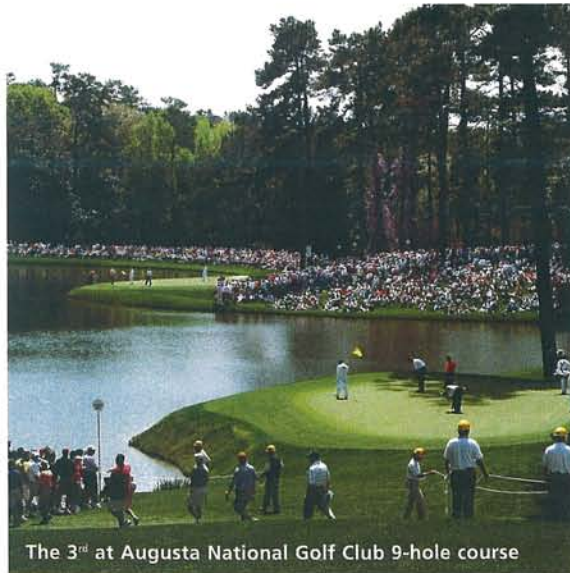
from the designer's desk

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# shorter, smaller golf course

**O**ur golf publication like others naturally focus most of its attention on beautiful tourist destinations or challenging championship venues. But for the beginning and serious amateur alike, there is another type of course that can sharpen a golfer's skills quickly: the short course. Sometimes called an "executive course", it is comprised mostly of par 3 holes and short par 4's or an occasional par 5 of only 500 yards.

A century ago, many simple short courses were built in the United Kingdom or its colonies. For example, inside the equestrian ovals of India, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Africa. Now some well-known clubs have a short course as a second course. This twin course concept was first pioneered by my father at Coral Ridge Country Club which he founded in Fort Lauderdale (Florida) in 1954. In order to obtain permission for the implementation of the private club, he was required to build a second course available to the public, known as the American Golfers course. This short course, practice range and pitch and putt is a community asset, played on for over fifty years where beginners take lessons and practice freely without feeling intimidated by the pressure from more experienced golfers.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> at Augusta National Golf Club 9-hole course

Augusta National has a nine-hole course for its members. Olympic Golf Club has recently added a short course and Pine Valley Golf Club has its own one. Pine Valley has a unique 10-hole course which partially replicates some of its great holes but only on the approach shot played from an uneven "fairway" which would have been the landing zone for drives from the authentic holes nearby.

Short courses can be played after work and before dinner in the summer or used to introduce children to the game before they grow up and hit tee shots awesome distances. They sharpen the iron play of good golfers and create a real situation to practice bunker and chip shots. By putting on the smaller greens, the rules and purpose of the game of golf is fulfilled. That is to hole out on each hole. They require less land, usually 60% of a full length course, and in urban settings are open space parks with public benefits for non-golfers at no cost to the community.

Next time you have an hour or two, try a short course, public or private, and you and your golfing skills will be rewarded. ■

## plus petit, plus court

Un parcours de neuf trous, fait de pars 3, de courts pars 4, voire d'un par de 450 mètres, est une aubaine pour travailler la technique quand on est débutant ou même bon amateur. Au début du siècle dernier, on en construisait encore beaucoup. Aujourd'hui bien moins. Certains clubs les proposent à côté d'un 18 trous selon un concept inventé par mon père à Coral Ridge (Floride) en 1954. L'American Golfers Course devait être alors ouvert au public, un passage obligé pour autoriser un club privé à cet endroit.

Augusta National, l'Olympic Club (San Francisco) ont un neuf trous où les joueurs travaillent sans pression. A Pine Valley (New Jersey), il y a même dix trous reproduisant la seconde partie de dix trous du grand parcours depuis la zone de tombée des drives.

Un «Executive» est idéal. Moins de terrain. On y apprend à jouer. On approche de petits greens. On s'habitue aux règles. On y fait un saut après le boulot. C'est réjouissant. La prochaine fois que vous avez une heure à boucher, passez-y. La qualité de votre jeu vous en remerciera.