

CRANBERRY VALLEY GOLF COURSE

HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Tee Evaluation Report

On June 6th I had the pleasure of visiting Cranberry Valley Golf Course at the request of Director of Golf Roman Greer to conduct a teeing ground evaluation. The course currently has five sets of tee markers – Gold for the longest course (6,761 yards), then Blue (6,482 yards), White (6,142 yards), Silver (5,708 yards) and Red (5,568 yards). There are also plaques set in the fairway of many holes for use primarily by younger children that are not noted on the scorecard. The course has recently added several forward tee markers, and the primary objective of my visit was to provide recommendation on additional forward tees to shorten the Red course and to provide more alternate teeing grounds for the Silver tee user. My first impression of the overall tee lengths was that the Red marker distance is much too long (I generally recommend a length of about 5,000 yards), the Silver and Red markers are too close in distance, and the White course length is good and that there should be a shorter set of tees than the Reds for beginners and children. In our efforts to attract new players to the game, we should make the course more fun by shortening holes for less skilled and less powerful players.

The following are my recommended tee changes:

HOLE #1:

- The White teeing ground is too small and should be enlarged. I would estimate that the majority of Cranberry Valley players use the White tee markers. The size of each teeing ground should be representative of the number of users. Less than 5% of players use the rear tees on a 6,800 yard course, therefore the teeing area at the back can be much smaller than at the White tee distance. I have suggested moving the terrace between the rear and middle tees back to allow for expansion of the White teeing area.
- Consider removing some trees to the left (the eastern side) of the teeing ground to get more morning sunlight on the tee. Morning sun is the most beneficial to establish healthy turf. With more sun, the frost will melt faster in and turf will recover quicker.
- Expand existing forward tee to the front. I think this tee is good as the combination Silver/Red teeing ground, but would like to see more space available to move and separate the tee markers.
- Add a new forward tee in front of the current forward tee that shortens the hole to about 264 yards.

- The carry from the White tee to the start of the fairway is only about 45 yards. The start of the fairway could be shifted forward about 30 yards if desired. Rough is less expensive to maintain than fairway.



Left photo shows view from Hole #1 Blue tee. Removing some trees to left of the tee would reduce morning shade and assist in faster turf recovery. Right photo shows the proposed combination Red/Green tee at Hole 2. The yellow circle indicates the position of a forward most marker in the fairway.

HOLE #2:

- The second hole currently has a single, long tee that is utilized for all the markers. A new forward tee was recently built to the front right at a distance of about 385 yards. Although I love that this tee is hidden and provides a great angle to the fairway, I have some concern that it may be too close to the 8th fairway in an area that may not be visible to players hitting their second shots on Hole 8.
- I have recommended a new tee just behind this new one (at 400-410 yards) but not as close to Hole 8.
- I also suggest a beginner's tee be established on the right side within the slightly expanded fairway at about 345 yards. A tee on the right takes left fairway bunker out of play. Tees in fairway should be so designated by a plaque rather than markers that have to be picked up and moved for mowing. In most instances, I have identified mostly level areas where no work is required, though in some areas, lifting of the existing turf, raising and leveling, and re-installation of the turf may be required.

HOLE #3:

- The third hole has three evenly spaced teeing grounds between 410 and 345 yards. Tee shots are played downhill with bunkers guarding the inside of the

sharp dogleg right. Proper tee location is critical to make sure shorter hitters can reach the angle point, and not have the bunkers be too much in play.

- The current Red marker length of 355 yards makes reaching the green in two shots achievable by only the best women players. A drive of 150 yards will reach the fairway bunkers, but a drive of over 180 yards is required to carry them. Better players can reach the fairway bunkers, but most players are short of them.
- I recommend adding a new tee at the beginning of the existing fairway which shortens the hole to about 295 yards from the Red Marker and changes the length of the bunker carry required to about 120 yards. The existing Silver markers should be moved forward to the current Red tee at 355 yards.



Left photo shows the approximate positions of the proposed forward tees. It is critical that the "Red" tee not be built up or it will block visibility from the rear tees. Right photo shows the great view from the proposed "Yellow" tee.

- As the fairway is too tilted to accept a tee, further recommend the construction of a new forward most tee on the left side that plays to a distance of about 240 yards. The tee should be cut into the existing sloped ground, which may require a low retaining wall at the back of the tee.

HOLE #4:

- The first par-3 on the course historically played from 212 to 153 yards before the recent addition of a forward tee at about 130 yards. This new tee will host the Red markers.
- The sixty foot (60') long middle tee allows play from 173 to 154 yards. It is used by the White and Silver markers. At a little less than 2,000 square feet in area, the tee is too small for the amount of players who use it. Par 3 tees damage more easily because irons take more divots than do woods. The tee

is also aimed to the right of the green. For these reasons, I recommend expanding and re-aligning this teeing ground.

- Add another forward tee in the fairway at about 102 yards from the green.



On left is view from Hole 4 tee. Note the amount of wear showing at White markers and how the tee aims players to the right of the green. On right is Hole 5 with proposed new tee outlined in Red and the newly built tee circled in yellow.

HOLE #5:

- The fifth hole is a long par-4 with a maximum length of 453 yards and a short distance of about 350 yards. Another small tee was recently added at a length of about 285 yards.
- The White scorecard distance of 405 yards does not appear to fall on a tee surface. I recommend increasing the length to 411 yards so that the markers are on the back of the rear tee. The Silver marker distance should be shortened to about 378 yards.
- The current Red marker length of 387 yards is much too long, resulting in slowed play. I feel the newly built tee is too short, so therefore recommend adding a new tee forward and right of the current main tee at a length of about 330 yards. The new tee on the right can be used for the forward most markers.

HOLE #6:

- On Hole 6, all five current tee markers share the same, long teeing ground, but there is only 37 yards difference between the Gold and Red tee user, which hardly seems fair. I feel the Red markers should be further ahead without putting the fairway bunkers too much in play for the majority of those users, so have proposed a new tee at 280 yards from the green. This puts the right fairway bunker 150 yards and the left bunker 165 yards from the new

tee. From the landing area, a shot of 130 yards is required to the center of the green.

- A 250-yard forward tee should be established within the fairway. The fairway should be raised about one-foot at the tee to improve visibility of the fairway and bunkers.



Hole 6 view from tee on left with proposed new tees outlined in red and yellow. Consider raising the fairway at new Yellow tee to improve view of the fairway bunkers.

HOLE #7:

- The 7th hole currently has two tees that allow play between 184 and 139 yards with a gap between 151 and 160. The Red markers are located on the forward tee at 139 yards, making it a longish hole for women.



Left photo gives view from current Hole 7 forward tee with proposed new forward tee indicated by red rectangle. Fairway reduction is noted by the lime green line. The photo at right shows the view from the proposed tee. By placing the tee on the left side of the corridor, the forward tee player is not forced to carry the right front bunker.

- I feel a course is most fun to play when there is good variation in the length of holes, especially on the par threes and strive to always have a short hole (under 100 yards from the Red markers), two medium length holes (100-125 yards), and a long one (over 130 yards). Currently the four par-3's are 163, 139, 131 and 175 yards from the Red markers, so there is decent variation but they are all so long that most players likely use drivers off each tee.
- For Hole 7 I recommend adding a new combination Red/Yellow tee at the start of the existing fairway about 95 yards from the green, qualifying this as the short par-3.
- Shifting the Red markers off the existing tee allows the Silver markers to be shifted forward from 146 to 135 yards, and the Whites from 161 to 145.

HOLE #8:

- The second par-5 on the course currently plays from 518 to 477 yards. For par-5's, depending on the terrain, I consider a hole over about 450 yard to be too long for those using the Red markers. The 41 yard difference in length gives the Gold tee user too great an advantage over the Red tee user.
- I recommend adding a new tee for the Red markers at the start of the existing fairway, a little right of the center line, about 423 yards from the green. In doing so, the start of the fairway should be shifted away from the tee.
- I feel it would be beneficial to add a rear tee on this hole, increasing the maximum length to over 535 yards.



Left photo shows the position of proposed Red marker tee at the start of existing fairway. The yellow circle indicates the position of the recently built tee (in right photo), which I feel creates too challenging a shot past the fairway bunker.

- A forward tee was recently added. The tee is located in the left rough, hidden from the rear tees by some trees about 370 yards from the green. I did not like the position of this tee for the Red markers due to its 75 yard distance from the left fairway bunker and the slope of the fairway running away from the shot. Players who use this tee will have a difficult challenge not hitting their drive into the bunker or the right rough.

HOLE #9:

- There are currently two teeing grounds on the 9th hole with the forward tee closely shared by the Silver and Red Markers.
- Due to its design, this is a challenging hole to determine the best position for the Red markers. The left to right sloping green is tightly guarded to the front left by deep bunkers, making long approach shots very difficult. Yet shortening the hole to a manageable length for the approach shot likely puts the left fairway bunker in the primary landing zone. I feel the best position for Red marker placement is at a distance of about 315 yards from the center of the green on the right side of the corridor. From the proposed tee, the fairway bunker is 135-150 yards out, where better drives can reach but the average player will be short of. From the landing zone, I anticipate most players will hit a 120 yard shot that leaves them just short of the greenside bunkers where they can chip onto the green. Longer hitters can challenge the left fairway bunker, with the reward being the ability to reach the green with two bold shots.
- Remove about eight (8) pine trees to the right of the new forward tee (the eastern side) to reduce the amount of morning shade on the new tee and to improve access to the tee.



View from current forward tee of Hole 9. Proposed new "Red" tee is shown as red rectangle. New "Yellow" tee position in fairway indicated by yellow circle.

- Expand the fairway to the right opposite the fairway bunker to provide a wider area to play around this hazard.
- Add a new forward most tee on the right side of the fairway at about 245 yards from the green.

HOLE #10:

- The 10th is a very challenging driving hole primarily due to the narrowness of the corridor. To avoid wetlands on the right, many tee shots are hit into the trees on the left. Part of the reason this occurs is that the tees aim players well left of the fairway. Consideration should be given to rebuilding the main tee to improve its alignment.
- I recommend adding a new forward tee next to the cart path at about 285 yards from the green. From this location the pond is 180 yards away, so most Red Marker users are driving short of the pond to the widest part of the fairway.



Photo at right shows how the 10th tee is pointed way to the left of the landing zone. Consideration should be given to rebuilding this tee with improved alignment. At right is the view from the “alternate” tee with proposed new forward tee indicated by Red rectangle and the tree removal/fairway expansion shown on left side of the hole.

- Develop another forward tee within the fairway at a distance of about 250 yards from the green.
- Remove 12-15 pines along left edge of fairway between 220 and 150 yards from green and expand fairway to the right to improve playability and speed of play.

HOLE #11:

- The 11th hole currently has two teeing grounds widely separated by a ravine with pond at the bottom. The Gold, Blue and White markers are placed on the rear tee and the Silver and Red markers are placed on the 1,600 SF forward tee of this short par-4.
- I recommend expanding the current forward tee to create more separation and the ability to better spread turf wear. The tee should also be better aligned to the land zone as the current tee aims players to the left.
- Expand and level the start of the fairway to the left and add a new forward most tee at about 195 yards from the green.



On left is view from rear tee on Hole 11. The existing forward tee should be expanded, lowered and re-aligned. On right is view from rear tee on Hole 12 showing the proposed intermediate tee addition of the right.

HOLE #12:

- The twelfth is a par-4 with two widely separated teeing grounds. Tee shots are played uphill from the rear tee to an unseen landing zone. From the forward tee, drives are played downhill to the sloping fairway. Playing from the forward tee is huge benefit for Silver tee users competing against those using the rear tee.
- I recommend creating a new intermediate tee for the Silver (or Green) markers that increases the length from 290 to about 305 yards. The tee would be placed on the ridge adjacent to the path on the right side of the hole.
- With only ten yards separating them, consider combining the Blue and Gold tee markers at 380 yards.

- Develop a new forward tee within the fairway at 235 yards from the green for beginners and juniors.

HOLE #13:

- The 13th hole is currently measured at 131 yards from the Red markers and 137 from the Silver. The front of the existing tee is 119 yards from the green, which allows the Red marker distance to be shortened on occasion. A 120-131 yard hole is a good moderate length for this marker.
- Consideration should be given to developing a new “alternate” tee to the front right of the current one at about 105 yards. With two bunkers guarding the left side of the putting surface, the new tee provides an easier angle.
- Add a forward most tee within the fairway at a distance of about 80 yards and shift the start of the fairway forward.



Proposed alternate Red marker tee shown as red rectangle.

HOLE #14:

- The 14th hole is currently played as a par-5 from the Gold, Blue, White & Silver markers and a par-4 from the Red markers. The Red marker distance (343 yards) is only ten yards less than the Silver markers. This seems very unfair; especially when one considers that the putting surface is fronted by a bunker that nearly eliminates running a ball onto the green.
- The current Blue and White marker distances are 445 and 402 yards respectively, hardly modern par-5 distance.
- I favor the hole being the same par for all players. In the case of Hole 14, I feel it should be a par five from all tees. I recommend shifting the Blue

markers back to the rear tee at 483 yards, the White markers back to 445 yards, the Silver/Green markers back to 404 yards and the Red markers back to 382 yards (with change to par-5). The Yellow marker would be placed on the front of the forward most tee at about 330 yards.

- Shifting the White markers back will require enlargement of the second tee from the back to a size suitable to withstand the additional use it will receive.

HOLE #15:

- The one teeing ground on Hole 15 is shared by all the tee markers with only a seven yard separation between the Gold and Red markers, giving rear tee users a huge advantage over less skilled players and shorter hitters.
- I recommend the addition of two tees for use by the Red and Silver/Green user. The Green tee is moved forward to about 280 yards and the Red markers to about 255 yards. I feel that both tees should be placed on the left side of the hole to get the best view of the hole and so that players are hitting into the right to left sideslope rather than with it.
- Add a forward tee within fairway at about 220 yards for beginners and juniors.



Left photo shows the proposed new tees at Hole #15. The right photo shows the recently built forward tee at Hole 16. Some trees in front of the tee should be removed or pruned to improve playability and use of the right side of this new Red marker tee.

HOLE #16:

- The 16th is played as a long par-4 (457-418 yards) from the Gold, Blue, White and Silver tee markers and as a 408-yard par-5 from the Red markers.

- A new tee was recently added on the right side of the hole about 318 yards from the green. I recommend this tee be used for the Red markers with a reduction in par from 5 to 4.
- Shift Silver/Green tee markers forward to 405 yard distance.
- Establish a forward most tee within the left/middle portion of the fairway at about 290 yards from the green.

HOLE #17:

- The 17th hole is a long par-3 for all levels of player. The shortest tee on the hole is still a 170 yard shot. This is truly a short par-4 for most women.
- A new tee of about 500 square feet in area was recently added which permits shortening of the hole to about 115 yards. I recommend that the Red and new Yellow markers be shifted to this tee, but I feel the tee should be enlarged to provide more ability to shift the markers and spread wear. A 500 square foot tee is big enough for a par-4 or par-5 holes where all players are hitting woods, but on a par-3 it will become worn and crowned. Consider extending the tee back about thirty feet (30') at the same elevation.
- Shift the Silver/Green marker forward onto the former forward tee, shortening the distance from 185 to 175 yards.



On left is Hole 17 teeing area and on right is the view from the Silver/Red tee on Hole 18.

HOLE #18:

- The last hole at Cranberry Valley is a par-5 with a big separation between the four teeing grounds. From the rear tee the hole is 575 yards. A new tee was added that is only 320 yards from the green.

- I feel that the existing tees are suitable without the need for construction of additional teeing area, only some adjustments to the location of the distance plates for each marker.
- For the White tee marker, shift plate back from 501 to 507 yards.
- The Silver/Green tee markers should be adjusted to 410 yards, and the Red markers changed from 410 to 400.
- The new forward tee should be host to the new "Yellow" marker.

In summary, I feel that at 5,568 yards, the Red marker course at Cranberry Valley is much too long for most of your clientele and should be shortened to about 5,000 yards. There should also be another set of shorter markers established with a course length of about 4,300 yards. I recommend that most of the tees on the shortest course be established in the fairways to reduce the cost of maintenance and so they are best positioned to help the beginner user. The current card for the course indicates that the Gold, Blue White and Silver markers are "Men's" tees, with only the Red noted as the "Ladies'" tee. I suggest the current Silver tee be changed to Green and that tee also be rated for women's play so they have more teeing options similar to men.

I have included with this report two pamphlets dealing with teeing grounds. One was prepared by the PGA of America titled "Setting Up Golf Courses for Success - A critical factor in attracting more women to golf", and the other provides information about "The Longleaf Tee System" proposed by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Each is useful in determining appropriate tee locations and playing distances.

Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have on this report. I look forward to further assisting Cranberry Valley on this or other projects.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNGEAM CORNISH GOLF DESIGN, Inc.



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