An Indoor Running Track

Track times are measured in milliseconds, so track distances must be precise. Tudor Jones, of Ottawa City Surveys Div., reports on one assignment.

The sketch is of a 12 foot wide, semi-portable, indoor running track. It is constructed of 120, ¾inch plywood panels, 4 feet wide on their outside edges, which rest on an angle-iron framework. The plywood has an overlay of Euroflex rubber manufactured by Adidas for ease of running, and tapes glued thereon to mark out 4 running lanes of equal width.

The radii shown are for the outside edge of the track. Throughout the portion having a 37 foot radius, the outside edge of the track is super-elevated 4 feet. As the 12 foot width around this curve is a "slope distance", it will be seen that the actual radius of the inner lane is greater than 25 feet. This super-elevation decreases from the P.C.C.'s through the portions having a 78 foot radius, until it reaches zero, 8 feet beyond the ends of the curves into the straightaways, thus providing a form of transition curve, reasonably equivalent to a spiral, just like the railways!

This fiendish design was conceived by Mr. Charles Sim, a canny ex-Scottish engineer now Gen. Manager Lansdowne Park Administration, here in Ottawa. He requested that we prepare and sign a certificate as to the length of each lane, measured along a line 8 inches out from the inner edge of each lane and to mark out the start lines of various race lengths from a given finish line.

It was a rush job, of course. The track was assembled on a Wednesday, we were to do our work on a Thursday morning, and the meet was on the Friday. Incidentally, the track was disassembled during the Friday night/Saturday morning, so that the arena could be used for a rock concert Saturday night.

It soon became apparent that to calculate the length of each lane would be a little bit tricky, to say the least. Also, a certain amount of "play" between each panel would be bound to introduce some difference between any calculated lengths and the actual lengths. So we decided to try to measure the lanes directly. We first tried to tape some