By April 2020 the CONGU system of Golf handicaps as well as Standard Scratch Scores for Courses will disappear and will be replaced with a World Golf Handicapping System.The R & A and other World Golf regulators have come together and will take control of Golf Handicaps on a worldwide basis in order to create a 'Course Handicap' for a player which will vary depending on the course he is playing. A workshop for all local golf clubs was held by England Golf at the Royal Jersey Golf on Wednesday 20th June 2018 and was attended by Captain Ashley Reddyhoff and Tom Park and the below is a precis of changes being introduced.

There will be major changes to the way a golfers handicap is adjusted and it will obviously take time for this to balance out.In the meantime efforts should be made to encourage members to submit as many competition cards as possible in order that as much information as possible can be extracted regarding their current handicap.

In order to achieve the new system every golf course will have to be measured to achieve a 'Course Slope Rating' and it is anticipated that this will be achieved at Les Mielles during October 2018 ,any course that does not have a rating by the implementation date will receive a temporary rating.**A major change in the way a course is measured to achieve the rating is that it is no longer just based on a scratch golfer instead a Scratch rating will combine with a Bogey rating to achieve a Slope rating**. The rating team have to take account of a wealth of information in order to make their calculations and they will require close liaison with the Course.

It is important to note that the **Course rating has nothing to do with the current Standard Scratch Score** (SSS) and is done to achieve a rating number (between 55 and 155 ) which is then used to calculate a course handicap for any player playing that course when the new system is introduced..A players 'exact handicap' will become his Handicap Index.The Slope Rating of a Course will be applied and a simple look-up chart will be used by a player to find out his Course handicap ( therefore it is obvious that a player will have a different 'course handicap' for white and yellow tees at Les Mielles and a different one for La Moye, Royal Jersey etc)

**Under the new system Standard Scratch Score (SSS) will no longer exist and will be removed from scorecards and have no basis in calculating the adjustments of a players handicap.**.

CSS will also be removed with the introduction of Course Conditions Adjustment which operates in a similar way as CSS and identifies poor scoring due to weather etc..The removal of SSS and CSS is a major shift in the way a players handicap is adjusted ,in the present incremental system a player can only increase by 0.1 and can come down by multiples of 0.1,0.2,0.3 or 0.4 depending how far below CSS and which category of handicap the player is...**Instead a players handicap will now adjust based on an average of the best 8 from 20 of his previous scores.** Categories of handicap 1,2,3,4 etc will no longer exist as they will have no basis in making handicap adjustments (Divisions can still be created for competition purposes)

A new Central Database of Handicaps (CDH) will be created and will interface with all Handicap software providers e.g. Club Systems,Intelligent Golf etc and will update at midnight every day..When this CDH becomes operational there will be a facility for players to enter social rounds in a similar way to the current supplementary cards by pre registering before play..This is a way of achieving a players best average of best 8 scores from previous 20 and there will be inbuilt systems which will also take account of a player only playing 9 ,or 14 holes etc and the use of gimmee putts and will also be able to identify if a player is attempting to use system to manipulate his handicap.

As the new system is developed more information will be made available and Committee delegates will be required to attend further workshops.