**What Happens on the Course.**

Having hopefully managed to read, consider and understand how your new ‘Handicap Index’ will be calculated, it may now be beneficial for me to explain how this ‘Handicap Index’ converts to a recognisable handicap for you to use on the golf course. Not surprisingly this is called your ‘Course Handicap’.

Your ‘Course Handicap’ is a whole number, and, for quickness you can look it up on a conversion chart, which will be available at the course you are playing, and on the internet. Just look up your ‘Handicap Index’ on the chart and your ‘Course Handicap’ will be revealed. A partial look up chart (because that’s all I can fit in!) for the Hoebridge Course is shown below.

However, the process of conversion is fairly straight forward, and you can do this yourself. You will recall that your ‘Handicap Index’ is calculated for a ‘Standard Rated Course’, that is one with a Slope Rating of 113. Given the fact that Slope Ratings can vary between 55 and 155, and that 113 is somewhere in the middle, I hope that by now you can appreciate that if the course you are playing has a slope rating of more than 113 you will likely receive more shots than your handicap index. Conversely, if it has a slope rating of less than 113 you will likely receive less shots than your handicap index.

Whatever the case, the calculation is achieved as follows:

* Divide your ‘Handicap Index’ by 113.
* Then multiply that number by the ‘Slope Rating’ of the Course you are about to play.
* The result to the nearest whole number is your ‘Course Handicap’.

You may recall that my ‘Handicap Index’ was calculated at 12.2. If I divide that by 113 the result is 0.1079646. Let’s say I am about to play the Hoebridge Course from the White tees. The Slope Rating for this Course (still unconfirmed) is 129. We therefore simply multiple 0.1079646 by 129, which equals 13.927433, which rounds up to 14. My ‘Course Handicap’ for that Course is therefore 14.

If I were intending to play the Yellow Course, which is rated at 126 (also still unconfirmed) my Course Handicap would be….. well you do the maths. Your answer should be 13.603539, so I would still give me a Course Handicap of 14. Simple? Well, yes that bit is. However, prepare yourself for another factor.

Handicap Allowances in the various forms of the game have always varied. Currently Individual Stroke Play, Medal and Stableford, allow you 100% of your playing handicap. For Singles Matchplay it is 100% of the difference between handicaps. Pairs Matchplay it’s 90% of the difference. However, the World Golf Authorities have decided that Handicap Allowances under the new system will change.

Thankfully, both Singles Matchplay and Pairs Matchplay remain unchanged. However, the allowance for all Individual Stroke Play competitions will now be 95% of your ‘Course Handicap’, and will be called your ‘Playing Handicap’.

So, for example. My ‘Course Handicap’ on both the White and Yellow Courses at Hoebridge, given my current ‘Handicap Index’, is 14. My ‘Playing Handicap’ in a Medal or Stableford Competition will only be 95% of that, which works out at 13.3 and will be rounded down to 13.

I can see you all now scrabbling for your calculators just prior to teeing off to work out your ‘Playing Handicap’. Don’t worry. I’m sure somebody will come up with a chart – hopefully!!

A full list of the various Handicap Allowances will be published in the World Handicap System Rules. I have not published it here because some of the formats I have never heard of let alone played. I think what I have given you is most relevant to our competitions at Hoebridge and is quite enough to be going on with at this stage.

I’m sure you will have a myriad of questions. If so, feel free to e mail me. It would have been so much easier to see you all and to address those questions face to face for everyone’s benefit, but alas I can’t see that happening in the near future.

Andy Richardson

Handicap Secretary

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White tees - Men | |  | Yellow tees - Men | |  | Red tees - Ladies | |
| Course Rating 71.7  Slope 129 Par 72 | |  | Course Rating 70.7  Slope 126 Par 72 | |  | Course Rating 74.1  Slope 126 Par 73 | |
| Handicap Index | Playing Handicap |  | Handicap Index | Playing Handicap |  | Handicap Index | Playing Handicap |
| 0-0.4 | 0 |  | 0 - 0.4 | 0 |  | 0 - 0.4 | 0 |
| 0.5 - 1.3 | 1 |  | 0.5 -1.3 | 1 |  | 0.5 -1.3 | 1 |
| 1.4-2.1 | 2 |  | 1.4 -2.2 | 2 |  | 1.4 -2.2 | 2 |
| 2.2- 3 | 3 |  | 2.3 -3.1 | 3 |  | 2.3 -3.1 | 3 |
| 3.1-3.9 | 4 |  | 3.2 -4 | 4 |  | 3.2 -4 | 4 |
| 4.-4.8 | 5 |  | 4.1 -4.9 | 5 |  | 4.1 -4.9 | 5 |
| 4.9 -5.6 | 6 |  | 5 -5.8 | 6 |  | 5 -5.8 | 6 |
| 5.7 -6.5 | 7 |  | 5.9 -6.7 | 7 |  | 5.9 -6.7 | 7 |
| 6.6 -7.4 | 8 |  | 6.8 -7.5 | 8 |  | 6.8 -7.5 | 8 |
| 7.5 - 8.3 | 9 |  | 7.7 -8.5 | 9 |  | 7.7 -8.5 | 9 |
| 8.4 -9.1 | 10 |  | 8.6 -9.4 | 10 |  | 8.6 -9.4 | 10 |
| 9.2 -10.0 | 11 |  | 9.5 -10.3 | 11 |  | 9.5 -10.3 | 11 |
| 10.1 - 10.9 | 12 |  | 10.4 -11.2 | 12 |  | 10.4 -11.2 | 12 |
| 11 -11.8 | 13 |  | 11.3 -12.1 | 13 |  | 11.3 -12.1 | 13 |
| 11.9 - 12.7 | 14 |  | 12.2 -13 | 14 |  | 12.2 -13 | 14 |
| 12.8 - 13.5 | 15 |  | 13.1 -13.9 | 15 |  | 13.1 -13.9 | 15 |
| 13.6 -14.4 | 16 |  | 14 -14.7 | 16 |  | 14 -14.7 | 16 |
| 14.5 -15.3 | 17 |  | 14.8 -15.6 | 17 |  | 14.8 -15.6 | 17 |
| 15.4 -16.2 | 18 |  | 15.7 -16.5 | 18 |  | 15.7 -16.5 | 18 |
| 16.3 -17 | 19 |  | 16.6 -17.4 | 19 |  | 16.6 -17.4 | 19 |
| 17.1 -17.9 | 20 |  | 17.5 -18.3 | 20 |  | 17.5 -18.3 | 20 |
| 18 -18.8 | 21 |  | 18.4 -19.2 | 21 |  | 18.4 -19.2 | 21 |
| 18.9 -19.7 | 22 |  | 19.3 -20.1 | 22 |  | 19.3 -20.1 | 22 |
| 19.8 -20.5 | 23 |  | 20.2 -21 | 23 |  | 20.2 -21 | 23 |
| 20.6 -21.4 | 24 |  | 21.1 -21.9 | 24 |  | 21.1 -21.9 | 24 |
| 21.5 -22.3 | 25 |  | 22 -22.8 | 25 |  | 22 -22.8 | 25 |
| 22.4 -23.2 | 26 |  | 22.9 -23.7 | 26 |  | 22.9 -23.7 | 26 |
| 23.3 -24 | 27 |  | 23.8 -24.6 | 27 |  | 23.8 -24.6 | 27 |
| 24.1 -24.9 | 28 |  | 24.7 -25.5 | 28 |  | 24.7 -25.5 | 28 |
| 25 -25.8 | 29 |  | 25.6 - 26.4 | 29 |  | 25.6 - 26.4 | 29 |
| 25.9 -26.7 | 30 |  | 26.5 -27.3 | 30 |  | 26.5 -27.3 | 30 |
| 26.8 -27.5 | 31 |  | 27.4 -28.2 | 31 |  | 27.4 -28.2 | 31 |
| 27.6 -28.4 | 32 |  | 28.3 -29.1 | 32 |  | 28.3 -29.1 | 32 |
| 28.5 -29.3 | 33 |  | 29.1 - 30 | 33 |  | 29.1 - 30 | 33 |
| 29.4 -30.2 | 34 |  | 30.1 -30.9 | 34 |  | 30.1 -30.9 | 34 |
| 30.3 -31 | 35 |  | 31 -31.8 | 35 |  | 31 -31.8 | 35 |
| 31.1 -31.9 | 36 |  | 31.9 -32.7 | 36 |  | 31.9 -32.7 | 36 |
| 32 -32.8 | 37 |  | 32.8 - 33.6 | 37 |  | 32.8 - 33.6 | 37 |
| 32.9 -33.7 | 38 |  | 33.7 -34.5 | 38 |  | 33.7 -34.5 | 38 |
| 33.8 -34.6 | 39 |  | 34.6 -35.4 | 39 |  | 34.6 -35.4 | 39 |
| 34.7 -35.4 | 40 |  | 35.5 -36.3 | 40 |  | 35.5 -36.3 | 40 |
| 35.5 -36.3 | 41 |  | 36.4 -37.2 | 41 |  | 36.4 -37.2 | 41 |
| 36.4 -37.2 | 42 |  | 37.3 -38.1 | 42 |  | 37.3 -38.1 | 42 |
| 37.3 -38.1 | 43 |  | 38.2 -39 | 43 |  | 38.2 -39 | 43 |
| 38.2- 38.9 | 44 |  | 39.1 -39.9 | 44 |  | 39.1 -39.9 | 44 |
| 39 -39.8 | 45 |  | 40 -40.8 | 45 |  | 40 -40.8 | 45 |
| 39.9 - 40.7 | 46 |  | 40.9 -41.7 | 46 |  | 40.9 -41.7 | 46 |
| 40.8 -41.6 | 47 |  | 41.8 -42.5 | 47 |  | 41.8 -42.5 | 47 |
| 41.7 -42.4 | 48 |  | 42.6 -43.4 | 48 |  | 42.6 -43.4 | 48 |
| 42.5 -43.3 | 49 |  | 43.5 -44.3 | 49 |  | 43.5 -44.3 | 49 |