

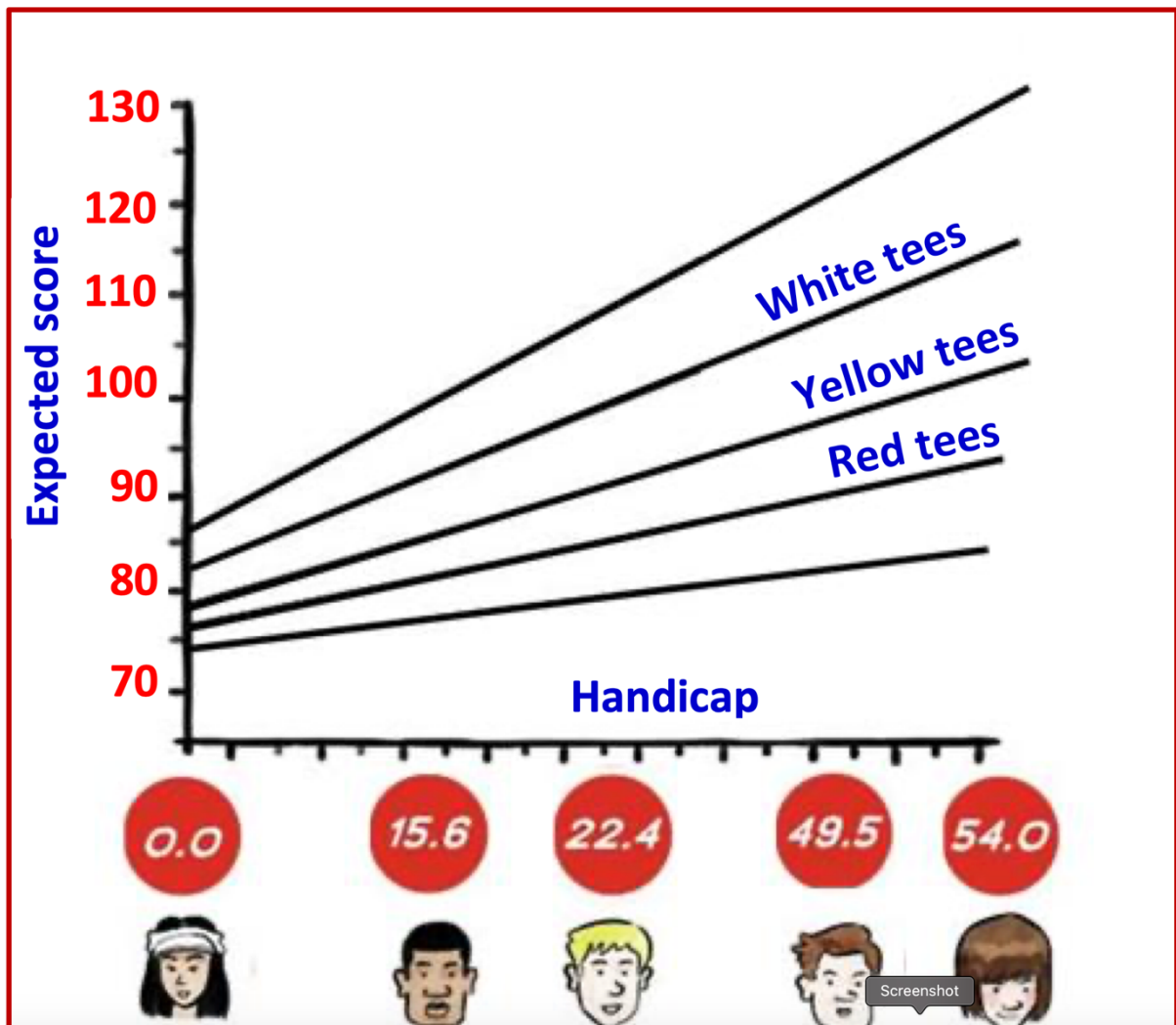


4: Slope Rating

If you have played golf in Europe or the USA you will probably have seen references to Slope Rating on the scorecard and wondered what does this mean?

Slope Rating is a number that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees. It has nothing to do with the number of hills on the course - if that was the case, Sidcup would have a very low Slope Rating!

In the previous article we learnt about **Course Rating**, the expected score on a course for a Scratch player (0 handicap) and **Bogey Rating**, the expected score on a course for a Bogey player (20 handicap). Knowing the Course Rating and Bogey Rating for any set of tees allows a straight line to be drawn between the two. The line can be used to determine the expected score for a player of any handicap.



The bigger the difference between Course Rating and Bogey Rating, the steeper the gradient of the line, hence the term **Slope Rating**.

Slope Rating values range from 55 to 155, with 113 being the value indicating a course of 'standard' relative difficulty.

How does Slope Rating affect your handicap?

The Slope Rating is a key component in the calculation of the number of strokes each player receives when playing a particular golf course. The higher the Slope Rating, the more strokes will be received.

The Course Ratings and Slope Ratings for Sidcup are shown in the extract from our Course Rating Certificate below:

Sidcup Golf Club	Sidcup Golf Club
<small>AFFILIATED CLUB</small>	<small>COURSE NAME</small>
Sidcup Golf Club	22/08/2017
<small>FACILITY NAME</small>	<small>EFFECTIVE DATE</small>

TEE NAME	LENGTH	GENDER	COURSE RATING / SLOPE RATING	FRONT NINE	BACK NINE
White	5571	Men	67.4/123	33.5/122	33.9/124
Yellow	5365	Men	66.4/122	33.1/121	33.3/122
Red	5158	Women	69.9/129	34.7/127	35.2/130

You will see that there are also ratings for the front 9 and back 9 which will allow 9 hole scores for handicap purposes to be submitted from either nine.

Coming Next:

The next article will explain how Slope Rating is used to determine your **Course Handicap**, the number of handicap strokes you will receive on any given course.