In *WHS: Know the Score* article #5 we learnt how to use the **Slope Rating** to calculate Course Handicap; the number of strokes that you receive on the golf course. Slope Rating is also used to calculate **Score Differentials**, which in turn are used in the calculation of Handicap Index.

There is quite a lot of maths coming up now, but rest assured that you won't need to do these calculations yourself. All the number crunching will be done by the system. All that you will need to do when you play is to check your Course Handicap using the look-up tables at the golf club or on your App.

Handicap Index represents what your playing handicap would be on a course of Standard Difficulty (Slope Rating of 113) and is based on the average of the best 8 of your last 20 scores - or to be precise, your last 20 **Score Differentials**.

Gross Scores are converted into Score Differentials as follows:

1. Any big scores on a hole are adjusted down to net double bogey to give an **Adjusted Gross Score**, just like the *"Stableford Adjustment"* in the current system.
2. The Couse Rating is subtracted from the Adjusted Gross Score to give a **Gross Differential**, the same as in the current system.
3. The Gross Differential is adjusted back to an equivalent value on the course of Standard difficulty by multiplying by the Standard Slope of 113 and dividing by the Slope of the course played.

Score Differential Calculation

(Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating) **X** (113 ÷ Slope Rating) **=** Score Differential

A player's adjusted gross score is 95 from the yellow tees with Course Rating of 69.7 and Slope Rating of 127
The player's score differential is:

(95 – 69.7) = 25.3 **X** (113 ÷ 127) = 0.890 **=** Score Differential = 22.5

A player's adjusted gross score is 95 from the white tees with Course Rating of 71.4 and Slope Rating of 134
The player's score differential is:

(95 – 71.4) = 23.6 **X** (113 ÷ 134) = 0.843 **=** Score Differential = 19.9

Summary

Hopefully you are now getting an understanding that Slope Rating is a key feature in the WHS that enables handicaps, strokes received and score differentials on any course to be converted to the equivalent values on the Standard Course or vice versa.

Looking at it another way - for most of the tees at Sidcup the Slope Ratings are between 123 and 129, about 10% greater than the Standard Course. So, when you play at Sidcup your Course Handicap will be about 10% greater than your Handicap Index and the scores that you post will be reduced by about 10% before the best 8 from 20 calculation is performed.

For example:

- If you have a Handicap Index of **20.0** your Course Handicap will be about: (20 + 2 = **22**), and
- If your gross score is (say) **18** over the Course Rating, your gross differential will be about (18 - 1.8 = 16.2) and **16.2** will be the value that is used in the best 8 from 20 calculation to determine your updated Handicap Index.

Coming Next:

The next *WHS: Know the Score* article will explain more about how your Handicap Index is calculated.