



Captain's Update October 4th 2020

Dear Members,

I expect by now most of you will have heard about the introduction of the World Handicap System (WHS) which will come into effect from 2nd November this year.

The reason for introducing the WHS is that there are currently 6 Handicapping systems being used around the world and the intention is to create a means by which golfers of all categories can have comparative handicaps for any course throughout the world.

It is not required for members to know how these are calculated but some have shown an interest, so I thought it an opportune time to add this for those that are interested.

The whole transition process includes a provision to calculate the Handicap Index of players with less than 20 recorded scores/cards. To start this journey, you will still be required to input a minimum of 3 cards like the current CONGU stipulation. Looking at the information below, you will be given a Handicap Index which will be your lowest score minus 2. As you continue to complete supplementary cards or play in qualifying competitions this will alter depending on the number of cards completed (see table below)

3 scores: lowest score -2

4 scores: lowest score -1

5 scores: lowest score

6 scores: average of lowest 2 scores -1

7 to 8 scores: average of lowest 2 scores

9 to 11 scores: average of lowest 3 scores

12 to 14 scores: average of lowest 4 scores

15 to 16 scores: average of lowest 5 scores

17 to 18 scores: average of lowest 6 scores

19 scores: average of lowest 7 scores

20 scores: average of lowest 8 scores

Regarding the Slope rating and Course rating calculation for each course, a team of adjudicators were sent to each course to complete an assessment of each hole played from all available tees for both men and women.

The calculations for course rating purposes include such variables as:

Under the title of Length

Length of hole, roll, elevation, doglegs/forced lay ups, wind, altitude

Under the title of Obstacles/Difficulty Factors

Topography, fairway width, green target, rough length/density, bunkers, penalty areas (lateral and crossing), green surface, (Psychology)

Once all these factors are taken into consideration a Course Rating is assigned per tee for Men and Women.

St Mellons ratings are listed below:

Red	W	Front 35.3/111	Back 36.5/127	71.8/119	5496
White	M	Front 34.6/118	Back 36.2/121	70.8/120	6267
Yellow	M	Front 34.0/113	Back 35.6/118	69.6/116	6078

Men:

White Tees 70.8 Slope Rating 120
Yellow Tees 69.6 Slope Rating 116

Ladies:

Red Tees 71.8 Slope Rating 119

A slope rating calculation represents the relative difficulty of a course for a “bogey golfer” (20-24 handicap) when compared to a Scratch Golfer

A slope rating can be anywhere between 55 and 155.

Explanation

A Course Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions.

It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer.

A Slope Rating evaluates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

Course ratings are determined, by permission of the World Handicap System, in accordance with the Course Rating System™ for the purpose of providing a uniform basis of which to issue a Handicap Index. Course Rating, Slope Rating®, and Handicap Index® are marks owned by the World Handicap System and may only be used in connection with the World Handicap System™.

All of this indicates that some golfers will find that, with the WHS, their handicap may change, in most cases, this change will not be more than a 1 shot variation.

We are hoping to get the information boards printed and displayed at the club, by the end of this month, so that, members and visitors will be able to use the new system as soon as it is introduced.

I appreciate that there may be many questions arising from this update, if you follow the link below there are several downloads available which offer more information and guidance.

<https://www.walesgolf.org/world-handicap-system/>

Please stay safe.

Kind Regards

Steve Parry

Captain