

Dear Member

## New World Handicap System

Hopefully you are aware that the new World Handicap System (WHS) comes into operation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Over the last few weeks, we have been displaying information on the Club Website, noticeboards and on the screen in the bar. As the implementation date approaches, we thought an update would be useful.

### Handicap Index

All golfers will all be issued with a new 'Handicap Index' which they use to calculate a specific 'Course Handicap' for any course in the world. We are advised by England Golf that people should be able to access their predicted Handicap Index by mid-October. This will probably be similar to your current handicap although higher current handicaps may show greater variations.

The Handicap Index calculation is significantly different to the current system, in simple terms it is based on the **average of the best 8 scores of the player's last 20 qualifying rounds**. So, every time you record a new round this replaces the oldest round in your 20. If either the oldest or the newest are part of your best 8, a new average is calculated and a new Handicap Index issued. The calculation, which also incorporates a Course Conditions Assessment, (similar to the Competition Standard Scratch calculation we are familiar with), is done overnight so scores entered one day cause the Handicap Index to be update by the next day.

We are told that everybody will be able to see full details of their handicap records on-line, via a new England Golf App or through the PSI screens at the club. We have not yet seen examples of this in action but again, should be available mid-October.

If players don't have 20 qualifying rounds recorded since January 2018 then the calculation is based on the following table:

No. of Scores	Calculation	No. of Scores	Calculation
1	Lowest score less 2 shots	12	Average of best 4 scores
2			
3			
4	Lowest score less 1 shot	15	Average of best 5 scores
5	Lowest score	16	
6	Average best 2 scores less 1 shot	17	Average of best 6 scores
7	Average of best 2 scores	18	
8		19	Average of best 7 scores
9	Average of best 3 scores	20	Average of best 8 scores
10			
11			

Players without any qualifying rounds since January 2018 will be given their current CONGU inactive handicap, reduced by 2 shots. This is unlikely to be reflective of current playing ability so these players are encouraged to put in supplementary scores to obtain an accurate Handicap Index.

## Slope Ratings and Course Handicaps

Every course in the world has been given a 'Slope Rating' which reflects the difficulty of that course. Players will then apply their Handicap Index to the Slope Rating to determine their Course Handicap when playing that course.

Clearly, we are most concerned about playing at Bungay. The Slope Ratings for the different tees at Bungay are as follows:

Men off white tees	Men off yellow tees	Men off red tees	Ladies off yellow tees	Ladies off red tees
124	120	114	142	133

Calculating your Course Handicap for whichever tee you are playing from is straightforward. There will be a look-up table near the first tee where you cross reference your Handicap Index with the relevant Slope Rating to give you your Course Handicap. The look-up table has been obtained and will be on display at the club very soon and there should also be an App available.

It is possible that you could have a different Course Handicap at Bungay for different tees as shown in the following examples:

### Example 1

A man with a Handicap Index of 19.1 will have a Course Handicap of 21 off the white tees but will have a Course Handicap of 20 when playing off the yellow tees.

### Example 2

A lady with a Handicap Index of 22.7 will have a Course Handicap of 27 off the red tees but will have a Course Handicap of 29 off the yellow tees.

## Handicap Allowances

In casual play, players will use their course handicaps as described above. However, a Handicap Allowance will be applied for different competition formats i.e. singles, fourballs, greensomes etc. Many of these allowances are the same as existing BUT all individual strokeplay medal and stablefords will have a 95% allowance applied. So looking at our examples from earlier for singles competitions we have:

### Example 1

Male player who has a course handicap of 21 will have a "Playing Handicap" of 20, ( $21 \times 95\% = 19.95$  rounded to 20).

### Example 2

The lady with a course handicap of 27 will have a playing handicap of 26, ( $27 \times 95\% = 25.65$  rounded to 26).

Players will not have to worry about doing this calculation as the computer software will apply the allowance on competition entry.

## Computer System

We have invested in a further ClubV1 screen which will be placed in the Pro Shop. This new screen, as well as the existing one in the clubhouse foyer, will be used to sign into competitions and for pre-registering supplementary rounds as well as recording your scores at the end of your rounds. We also expect to have the ability to do this via a mobile phone App. Both the PSI screens will have contactless club card readers so the competition entry fees can be automatically deducted from your club card. We intend to phase out the handling of small amounts of cash for competition entries. You will need to 'top up' the competition section of your club card as it is separate from your bar account. You will be able to do this by either paying cash, (min £20 a time), in the Pro Shop or via credit/debit card in the bar. More details of exactly how this will work will be communicated nearer the time and when we have received final details of the upgrade to the Club V1 system. Note that ClubV1 also provided the HowDidiDo App that many people already use.

With the new WHS you can also register social golf games for handicap purposes. They will now be referred to as General Play rounds rather than Supplementary Scores and are subject to certain conditions. Full details of these conditions will be published in due course but essentially the player must pre-register their intent to submit an acceptable score in General Play for handicap purposes. This must be done before you start your round via the system mentioned above. Just having a tee booking is not sufficient to assume sign in for a General Play round. The round must be played in the company of at least one other person who should also act as a Marker. The round must be in strokeplay format and be played to the rules of golf. i.e. No Gimmes! The score should also be recorded on the system the same day as it is completed, enabling any change to your Handicap Index to be made overnight.

We are yet to receive from England Golf and Club V1 Systems the details of exactly how all the processes will operate but we are advised it should be available mid-October.

We will keep you up to date as soon as we have more details. Further information such as explanatory posters and videos are available on the Club Website, also including a Privacy Notice from England Golf as your email address and date of birth details are used by them from our system. Please contact the club if you think either of these details are not held by us currently, as they are a requirement for issuing of a Handicap Index.

Hopefully this is a useful explanation to what is a major change to the golf handicapping system. If you have any questions please address them to one of the Handicap Committee members and we will do our best to answer them

Many thanks.

The Handicap Committee  
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