

## WHS FOR DUMMIES

The beauty of lockdowns is that it gives one a chance to really study the imponderable, and come up with an answer.

How does this new system work? I hear you ask. Well, here goes with my take on it. Let us start with a breakdown of the terminology used.

**SLOPE RATING: (SR)** This is a figure applied to each golf club, dependent upon the difficulty of the venue. (I have used the term golf **club**, as each club has various courses. In our case, we have a white, yellow and red course. So, we now don't get confused with Course Rating and Slope Rating. Slope applies to the club). In our case at The Darent, this rating is **115**. The average of all clubs throughout the world is **113**. Remember this figure as it is of relevance.

**COURSE RATING: (CR)** As explained above, we have three courses here at the Darent, each has its own **CR**. The Yellow exists on paper, although the tee markers have been removed. The Ladies play the Red course. So that leaves just the White course for us to worry about. The CR of which is **70.6**. Again remember this figure as it is of relevance.

**HANDICAP INDEX: (HI)** This is a figure that you can find for yourself on your EnglandGolf WHS platform.

**COURSE HANDICAP: (CH)** This figure is arrived at by multiplying your **HI** by  $(SR \div 113)$  to arrive at your **CH**. So, taking myself as an example, my **HI** is 19.4, so 19.4 divided by 113, multiplied by 115 comes out to 19.743etc. Rounded to the nearest integer my **CH** is 20. I will use this handicap when playing with my chums, or with Jim, Trevor and Niall on a Saturday morning.

**PLAYING HANDICAP: (PH)** Will be used when playing in competitions, ie Monday Swindle, or Thursday's pukka Strokeplay/Stableford games. This will be arrived at as 95% of **CH**. ie in my case 95% of 20 = 19. Differing percentage deductions will be applied to different format fun games. (See chart on clubhouse noticeboard). Incidentally, the term Qualifier no longer applies to games qualifying for handicap alteration. When we, the Seniors, use the term it relates to games that qualify for Seniors' Championship, and the Eclectic.

**PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION: (PCC)** Think of this as a replacement for the old CSS. It is a value that is added to each course at the close of each day's play based on all scores submitted. It is meant to equate to the day's different playing conditions. This can be a positive or negative value, which varies between plus 3 and minus 1.

**SCORE DIFFERENTIAL:** This is the value that will be applied to your scoring record. After each qualifying round you play it will be applied thus: your number of strokes taken, minus **CR**, plus or minus **PCC**. Hence, I went out last week (during lockdown, so don't tell Boris) it was quite a nice day and the **PCC** was -1, and I shot a 95. Ergo  $95 - 70.6 - 1 = 23.4$ . So, 23.4 is the latest figure that will be added to my scoring record, to produce my **HI**.

So, how do we arrive at a **HI**? Looking at my personal playing record for the past twenty rounds including the fictitious 23.4, I recorded the following differentials: **23.4**, **19.4**, 28.9, **22.0**, 26.9, 29.9, **8.2**, 24.9, 25.9, 31.8, 23.9, **21.6**, 25.9, **20.4**, **16.1**, **22.9**, 24.9, 23.9. So, from the last 20 we select the best 8, as shown as in bold red. Ah, yes, I remember that 8.2 well. I digress. What happens now is:  $23.4 + 19.4 + 22.0 + 8.2 + 21.6 + 20.4 + 16.1 + 22.9 = 154.0 \div 8 = 19.25$  (rounded to one decimal place 19.3). Hence 19.3 will become my new **HI**. The next time that I record a Qualifying score, the oldest figure, 23.0 drops out of the equation, and the new score takes its place, and we start all over again.

The above examples pertain solely to playing The Darent. So, now when you play at another course you will take your **HI** with you, and apply it to the Slope values for that course to give you an equitable playing handicap.

Hope this has helped.

Dave