



West Midlands Golf Club

Newsletter



Captain's Address

Wow, what a Summer! We were definitely spoilt over the past 6 months with some fantastic sunny, dry weather albeit one of the majors was almost a washout! It was good to see so many new names on the winners boards and encouraging to see entries in to competitions at record levels.

Looking back on Team Competitions, we managed to retain the Ryder Cup in a hard fought battle with Widney in September and I would like to congratulate the Coventry Team on their narrow win over Birmingham, in the inaugural West Midlands Masters Trophy.

The latter Competition was an idea put forward from one of our members and if you have any ideas for different 'comps' then please see any member of the committee. Indeed, if you have any suggestions or anything else you would like to raise then remember we have the Annual General Meeting on 25th November, 2pm start.



You will also have the opportunity to put yourself forward to nominate another member, to sit on the committee. I am looking to stay on the committee for next year with my tenure as captain finishing at the AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have supported me over the past 3 years, including all the committee members, the owners and most of all you, the members.

All the best

Kevin.

Golf Directors Report

Hello!

HANDICAPS – THE BASICS

Golf, due to its handicapping system is one of the only sports that you can compete with another player of very different ability, and this is due to one thing, the handicap. What other sport could a 20 year old with 5 years experience and good natural ability play against a 65 year old who has never played any sport and has only just taken up the game?

The handicap system has developed over many years into what it is now, a basic system with some complexities that many golfers don't understand, but it does work, and your handicap is recognised at any club in the country, the theory is that even if you was a member at two very different courses (e.g. West Mids & Widney) you only have one handicap.

The system is going to change a lot in 2020, when we will be switching over the WHS, the World Handicapping System, where all the current handicap systems (CONGU which is ours, Europe, US, Australia, Argentina and South Africa) will all be changed to one handicap system meaning that your handicap will be administered exactly the same, anywhere in the world.

For now, I will set out a few basics, of our current system, that most regular experienced players, will probably be aware of, but for those who have little understanding and don't really want to ask, here is a few pointers. Please bear in mind that the CONGU manual is at least 100 pages long and I am trying to keep this to less than 2, so it is readable in 5 minutes.

Your handicap is calculated from an initial 3 cards, the best card is taken (not an average), and any holes with more than two over par (3 for ladies) shall be reduced to that number. The total then has the SSS (Standard Scratch Score) for the course played deducted, and the nett figure is the starting handicap and can be anything up to a maximum of 54.

Once you have your handicap you are required to play in at least 3 competitions a year, to keep it as a competition handicap, otherwise it becomes non competition, and it may not be acceptable in some competitions, ie Majors or Opens etc.

The standard scratch score (SSS) is the rating for the course and the basis for your handicap to be related to (not the Par of the course), each set of tees has its own rating. Think of the difference between playing off the Blue tees at West Mids (total yardage 6819 yards) and the yellows at Widney (5190 yards). The two courses vary by 1629 yards, but the SSS is 6 shots higher at West Mids. This means that to play to your handicap, you have 6 extra shots at West Mids. Therefore a score to play exactly to your handicap is nett 73, or in a Stableford event, 37 points off the Blues (the SSS is 73, one shot lower than Par of 74), whereas to play to your handicap at Widney off the yellows, you would need to score a nett of 66, or 41 Stableford points (due to the Par being 71). Therefore, take the situation to the extreme and imagine a scratch player, he is expected to play to 0, no handicap shots. He would be expected to shoot a gross 73 (37 points) at West Mids, or a gross 66 (41 points) at Widney from the yellows. This is why it is not unusual to see a score of 46 points at Widney, it is only 5 below handicap, yet at West Mids this rarely happens.

So now we know the expectation of every golfer, so what happens when we don't play to our handicap. First of all we need to explain categories and buffer zones.

Category 1: 0 (or better) to 5

Category 2: 6 to 12

Category 3: 13 to 20

Category 4: 21 to 28

Category 5: 29 to 36

After this we have club & disability handicaps which go up to 54.

When we have a competition, the tees of the day tell us the starting point for the handicap calculation, the SSS. This is then adjusted based on the scores returned for the day and can go up or down, normally only by 1 shot but possibly 2, this is then called the Competition scratch score (CSS). If your score is below the CSS, then you will but cut by a tenth of your category, so a player issued an initial handicap of 25 is category 4, so would be reduced 0.4 for each shot below the CSS.

Golf Directors Report....cont'd

So a quick example, the player plays in his first competition, a medal at West Mids off the whites, the course is playing average and the CSS stays at 72. The player returns a gross 94, less 25 = nett 69. This is 3 below CSS so he gets reduced by (3×0.4) 1.2. His exact handicap is now 23.8, a handicap of 0.5 gets rounded up to the next number, 0.4 rounded down, so he now plays off 24. You always refer to your handicap as a whole number, never the exact, this is only for us to calculate any changes. You also always play off your whole handicap (playing handicap).

If you are over your handicap, you will go up by 0.1 every time you play over your handicap, regardless of category. However, you do get a bit of leeway, this is your buffer zone and again relates to your category. If you are category 3 then you have 3 shots to play with before you get increased, so the player off 25 in the above example could shoot a 100 and not get an increase. $100 - 25 = 75$ which is 3 over the CSS, but in buffer. However if he had scored a 101, he would have gone up 0.1.

The stroke index of the course is used in alternatives methods of scoring to Strokeplay. Forms such as Stableford, bogey or Matchplay issue your handicap shots, not as a whole number at the end of the game but at each hole throughout the game. This is done via the Stroke Index (SI), and the common misconception is that the SI is a rating of difficulty of each hole from 1-18, it isn't, it is a fixed means of issuing shots throughout the round. We do try to take the difficulty into account when arranging the SI, but it is more important that the shots are allocated in a uniform manner with shots not being used up too early in the round, or leaving them too late, or putting them all together. Often people say to me that the 8th shouldn't be index 1, it really doesn't matter, the only person it would matter to is someone playing off 1, because that is the only hole that he would get a shot on, or a match where only one shot is being given.

That is the handicap system in a nutshell, there are variations and exceptions to the system such as SPA (Stableford Points Adjustment), ESR (Exceptional Score Reductions), Reductions only comps, Annual Review, Non Qualifiers, CSS in more detail than explained, handicaps better than scratch (plus) where the player has to add on handicap shots, (imagine that!), as well as all of the various scoring methods that we will save for another day.

I hope this helps, if you have any questions please send me an email to mark@wmgc.co.uk

Mark Harry
Manager

2019 New Rules

From 1st January 2019 there are some new rules to be implemented into the game of golf. Some are summarised below but please familiarise yourself with all new rules / rule amendments—please ask a member of the Committee if you require clarification.

GOLF'S NEW RULES: KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA have released golf's new Rules, which will take effect on January 1, 2019. Here are five of the most significant changes.

How to Drop a Ball

You will drop your ball from knee height into the relief area.



Time for Ball Search



Three minutes will be the maximum allotted time to search for a ball, rather than the current five minutes.

Repairing Spike Marks



You will be allowed to repair spike marks and any other damage on the putting green caused by a person, an animal or maintenance practices.

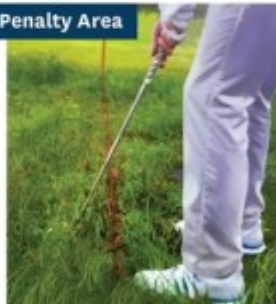
Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You will be allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards that does not include bunkers).



For more information on golf's new Rules, please visit usga.org or randa.org.

The new Rules will go into effect on January 1, 2019.



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Pace of Play

To help with keeping the modern game of golf moving, from 1st January 2019, there are several new rule / rule amendments shown below. Please also remember to keep up with the group in front and be aware of the group behind - letting your fellow golfers play through, if necessary, is good etiquette.

MODERNIZING GOLF'S RULES: PACE OF PLAY IMPROVEMENTS

Implementing Rules changes that have a positive impact on pace of play is an important part of modernizing golf's Rules.

40 seconds



A recommendation in the Rules that you make each stroke in 40 seconds or less.



"Ready Golf"



Playing out of turn in stroke play to save time, also known as ready golf, is encouraged.



Max Score



A new stroke-play format allowing the Committee to set a maximum score for a hole.



Flagstick



If your putt hits an unattended flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Tell us what you think about the proposed Rules changes.

We welcome feedback at usga.org and randa.org through August 31, 2019. The new Rules will go into effect on January 1, 2019.



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Ladies Section

Although the ladies section remains to be small, we are a very pro-active dedicated group of ladies who have continually supported the section.

We have enjoyed a very busy season and, due to the good weather, have played all competitions, had a lovely away day at Henley GC, played the new mid-week Ryder cup, and have also joined the senior gentleman to play their monthly Texas scramble.

We all dressed in pink for our fun day and raised £160 for the lady captains charity Breast Cancer Care.

Having had no new members join this year please encourage any lady golfer you may know to come and meet us, a very warm welcome awaits

All the best

Jill

Seniors Section

It has been a successful yet challenging season. There have been a variety of competitions through the year but new members are greatly needed and would be very much welcomed to the section.

We're a friendly, well organised group who meet and play regularly in various competitions including at other courses against other clubs.

If you're interested in joining please contact me or another member of the Committee.

Cheers

Jeff

Men's Competitions

In this issue:

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- Summer Doubles
- Stroke Play Supremo
- Order of Merits
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Founder Members Cup

Congratulations to **Gordon Henderson** for winning the Founder Members Cup major held on May 12th. For those new to the club, the Majors are played off the back (blue) tees and only used in a handful of competitions throughout the year.

Gordon shot 40 points beating Mike Ravenscroft and Kevin O'donnell by 1 point. There were 49 entrants making this the most signed up major in the last 2 years.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Gordon Henderson	40	20 (C)
2	Mike Ravenscroft	39	20 (C)
3	Kevin O'donnell	39	12 (C)
4	Bret Farrington	36	14 (C)
5	Christopher O'Beirne	35	27 (C)

Presidents Cup

The Presidents Cup was held on June 20th and is the only Midweek major. It was won by **Richard O'Brien** scoring 38 points, 2 points ahead of Mark Frost, Kevin O'Donnell and Richard Wallace.

It's a major that's open all day for members so convenient to all to enter early in the morning or late evening after work.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Richard O'Brien	38	12 (C)
2	Mark Frost	36	14 (C)
3	Kevin O'donnell	36	10 (C)
4	Richard Wallace	36	14 (C)
5	Giles Fellingham	35	5 (C)

Members Invitational

Held on July 1st this is the only major that non-members can enter. Members can enter just themselves or bring along a colleague from another club to join in. This year the major was won by **Mandeep Lall** shooting a net 68 (6 under par) in the first Stroke Play major of the year, 4 shots ahead of second place Andrew Lye and Peter Hawkins.

Pos	Name	Nett	Hcap
1	Mandeep Lall	68	20 (C)
2	Andrew Lye	72	16 (C)
3	Peter Hawkins	72	12 (C)
4	Eugene Williams	74	20 (C)
5	Lak Kallar	74	12 (C)

Club Championship

The Club Championship is played over 2 days with 18 holes each day. It's the second of the Stroke Play majors but the only one that's off scratch. Only those finishing in the top 12 after the first round progress to the next day.

It was held over the weekend of July 21st & 22nd with the winner this year being **Giles Fellingham** shooting 5 over par on day one and then 6 over on day two, beating Lak Kallar and Neil Priestley into 2nd and 3rd.

Name	Round 1	Round 2	Total
G.Fellingham	79	80	159
L.Kallar	80	82	162
N.Priestley	85	78	163
S.Hawkins	83	86	169
L.Nixon	87	83	170

Captains Day

Held on July 29th this competition had 5 players on the winning score of 34 points. After a countback (triple checked) and the cards checked one was dis-qualified for a rule infringement and another had to have his handicap adjusted from a previous competition. This left 3 players on the winning score with **Les Griffiths** taking the title.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Les Griffiths	34	9 (C)
2	Lee Allen	34	11 (C)
3	Anthony Murray	34	12 (C)
4	James Minards	33	12 (C)
5	Bret Farrington	33	12 (C)

Committee Shield

The Committee Shield had been re-arranged from May after it was postponed due to bad weather. It was finally played on August 12th and won with a fantastic score of 41 points by **Darren Jacques** beating Shaun Martin by 2 points.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Darren Jacques	41	20 (C)
2	Shaun Martin	39	17 (C)
3	Victor Szulz	37	19 (C)
4	Les Griffiths	37	10 (C)
5	David Jilks	37	19 (C)

Summer Salver

Held on August 25th it was our 3rd and last Stroke Play major. **Inderjit Singh Girm** won it convincingly on a net score of 65 (9 under par), quite an achievement. Lak Kallar was 2nd and Kevin O'donnell was 3rd.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Inderjit Singh Girm	65	27 (C)
2	Lak Kallar	69	10 (C)
3	Kevin O'donnell	71	11 (C)
4	Giles Fellingham	71	6 (C)
5	Mark Frost	72	14 (C)

Rosebowl

The last of the majors for the year, the Rosebowl was held on September 16th and won by **Allan Mitchell** on 39 points beating Chris O'Beirne on countback and Gordon Henderson by 1 point.

Pos	Name	Points	Hcap
1	Allan Mitchell	39	15 (C)
2	Christopher O'Beirne	39	27 (C)
3	Gordon Henderson	38	18 (C)
4	Eugene Williams	38	21 (C)
5	Mark Morton	38	23 (C)

Summer Singles

6 knock-out rounds over 6 months with 41 entrants the winner of the Summer Singles competition was **Ciaran McGeever** beating Andrew Buchanan on the 19th hole.

Summer Doubles

5 knock-out rounds over 5 months with 54 players involved, the winning pair beating Richard Beresford & Giles Fellingham on the 19th hole was **Clyde Carey & Trevor Riches**.

Stroke Play Supremo Final

After 6 rounds throughout the Summer, the top 2 players from each round and the next best 4 all played in the Stroke Play Supremo Final held on September 30th.

The winner was **David Baker** shooting a net 67 (7 under par) beating Mike Ravenscroft and Andrew Buchanan.

Pos	Name	Nett	Hcap
1	David Baker	67	19 (C)
2	Mike Ravenscroft	70	17 (C)
3	Andrew Buchanan	71	9 (C)
4	Lee Nixon	73	11 (C)
5	Eugene Williams	74	20 (C)

Order of Merit - Summer

Congratulations to **Richard O'Brien** for winning the Summer OOM with a massive 199 points averaging 39.8 points across his best 5 scores. 2nd place was Robin Loxton and 3rd was Les Griffiths.

Pos	Player	Sum of Best 5	Avg of Best 5
1	Richard O'Brien	199	39.80
2	Robin Loxton	191	38.20
3	Les Griffiths	189	37.80
4	Giles Fellingham	185	37.00
5	Gordon Henderson	181	36.20
6	Laddy Dhanjal	180	36.00
7	Allan Mitchell	179	35.80
7	Andrew Buchanan	179	35.80
9	Mike Ravenscroft	175	35.00
10	Steven Partridge	174	34.80

Order of Merit - Summer Mid-Week

Both Mark Frost and Bret Farrington nearly caught the eventual winner **Lakhveer Kallar** but fell 1 point short.

Congratulations to Lak for winning the Mid-Week Order of Merit.

Pos	Player	Sum of Best 5	Avg of Best 5
1	Lakhveer Kallar	195	39.00
2	Bret Farrington	194	38.80
2	Mark Frost	194	38.80
4	Andrew Buchanan	190	38.00
4	Richard Wallace	190	38.00
4	Sunny Kanwal	190	38.00
7	Laddy Dhanjal	188	37.60
8	Martin Hutchins	187	37.40
9	James Minards	185	37.00
10	Mike Ravenscroft	183	36.60

Coming next

Notable competitions coming up

- Winter Order of Merit (10 rounds)
- 6 rounds of the Eclectic competition
- Turkey Trot (everyone gets a prize) - 9th December
- Winter Singles and Doubles comps

The West Midlands Masters

On 11th November the inaugural West Midlands Masters was played between the teams of Coventry and Birmingham.

4 doubles matches and 8 singles matches were played in fierce but fair competition.

Ultimately Coventry won the day with a score of 7 points to 5 with both team Captains, Giles Fellingham for Coventry and Mark Frost for Birmingham, commenting on how enjoyable the event was.



the *Lake*
at barston
bar and restaurant
presents

CAPTAIN'S NIGHT

Saturday 17th November 2018

**MEMBERS & GUESTS FROM WEST MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB
& WIDNEY MANOR GOLF CLUB WELCOME**



**DINNER DANCE
LIVE BAND
PRIZE PRESENTATION
3 COURSE DINNER**

**STAND UP BINGO
RAFFLE
TICKETS £20
KIDS 10-14 £10**

BOOK IN VIA THE SHOP AT WEST MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB

West Midlands AGM

On 25th November at 2pm the West Midlands Golf Club AGM takes place.

This is an open meeting to all members to ask questions to the Committee, make suggestions for improvements to the course or competitions, enquire as to how the Club Membership funds are administered plus run for a position on the Committee if proposed.

This is your one official opportunity through the year to “have your say” with any suggestions, comments or recommendations minuted to be discussed and acted upon by the Committee.

We encourage you to come along, have a drink with us, and participate in how your club is run.