



RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB

Captain's Log

1 September 2005
Issue 7

Handicaps Part Two

I hope that, having read last month's 'Log', you all have a firm grasp in the concept of a course's Standard Scratch Score (SSS), and why it can be different to the Par total for the 18 holes. This month I want to take matters one step further and explain to the less well informed why an individual Qualifying Competition's Standard Scratch Score (commonly known as the Competition Standard Scratch (CSS)) can differ from the course SSS.

First you need to be aware that handicaps are allocated a Category; these are:

Category 1	Handicaps of 5 or less
Category 2	Handicaps of 6 to 12 inclusive
Category 3	Handicaps of 13 to 20 inclusive
Category 4	Handicaps of 20 to 28 inclusive
Category 5	Handicaps of 29 to 36 inclusive (ladies only)

To calculate the CSS the handicap secretary has to adopt the following routine:

1. Total the number of competitors in Categories 1, 2 and 3 (this includes 'No Returns').
2. Find the percentage of Category 1 players from the total arrived at in 1 above and round it to the nearest 10% .
3. Find the percentage of Category 2 players from the total arrived at in 1 above and round it to the nearest 10%.
4. Take 100 and subtract from it the answers you arrived at in 2 and 3 above.
5. Total the number of competitors in Categories 1,2 and 3 who have returned nett scores of two over the SSS or better (for Stableford competitions you use the converted equivalent).
6. Find the percentage of those in 4 above from the total arrived at in 1 above and round to the nearest whole number.
7. Finally, take the answers to 2, 3, 4 and 6 above to one of two tables (depending on whether there are more than 30 competitors) and see if the CSS needs to be different to the SSS.



September 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4 Platinum Jubilee
5	6	7	8	9	10 Autumn Mixed Foursomes	11 Monthly Medal
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 J Q Robertson
19	20	21	22	23 Ladies Week End	24 Away	25 Sweep
26	27	28	29	30		

AUTUMN MIXED FOURSOMES

As you will see from the monthly calendar above, the Autumn Mixed Foursomes event will take place on Saturday 10th September. Unlike the Spring Mixed Foursomes where partners are drawn on a 'lucky dip' basis, the Autumn version allows you to choose your own partner. The competition format is Stableford and there are prizes for the first and second couples under handicap assessment, and also a prize for the highest scratch score; these prizes are presented at the next Dinner & Dance. If you would like to play and can't find a partner, speak to either Sheena Harrington or me and we will do our best to 'fix you up'! The list for those who would like to play is already on the Club notice board. We have had some good turn-outs for the recent mixed events; let's try and keep the momentum going.



HANDICAPS PART THREE

So, we all now know how and why a course's SSS can be different from a course's Par score, and how and why a competition's CSS can, and often is, different from the SSS. All we need to do now is appreciate how all of this changes our handicaps (or not) week after week.

First you need to understand two simple terms: *Nett Differential* and *Buffer Zone*. An individual's *Nett Differential* is the difference (+ or -) between the nett score returned in a qualifying competition, and the CSS. A score is within a player's *Buffer Zone* when a *Nett Differential* is within the following bands for their Handicap Category (See page 1).

Category 1	0 to +1
Category 2	0 to +2
Category 3	0 to +3
Category 4	0 to +4
Category 5	0 to +5

To put it simply, the *buffer zone* is your safety net - if you shoot a score above the CSS that is within your *buffer zone* your exact handicap will remain unchanged.

Now, how does this work in practice? Let us assume that a player, who has an exact handicap of 27.6 (playing off 28), plays in a qualifying competition and shoots a nett score of 72. The CSS is assessed as 69. The player's category is 4. You can quickly calculate that the *nett differential* is (subtract the CSS 69 from the nett score of 72) which means that this person is +3. They are within their *buffer zone* so their exact score does not change.

However, if the player had scored a nett 75 then the *nett differential* would have been +6; outside their *buffer zone* so their exact handicap would have been increased by 0.1 to 27.7.

If, on the other hand they had scored a nett 62 then the *nett differential* would have been -7 (CSS of 69 less nett score of 62). In cases where the *nett differential* is below the *buffer zone* the exact handicap is decreased by the percentage equivalent to their Category. In this case the player's Category is 4, so their handicap will be reduced by $0.4 \times 7 = 2.8$. This results in a change from 27.6 to 24.8 (playing off 25).

Finally, let us assume that the player's handicap was 21.1 and the *nett differential* was -7. Reducing handicaps where, by doing so, a player moves from one Category (4) to another (3) must be done in stages. Starting with 21.1 we reduce the handicap by enough of the 7 shots at 0.4 until the handicap is in Category 3, then the remaining shots reduce the handicap further by 0.3. In this case we would use 2 of the 7 shots at 0.4 (0.8) to reduce the handicap to 20.3, then reduce that handicap by the remaining 5 shots at 0.3 (1.5) to end up with a handicap of 18.8 (playing off 19).

We are very lucky at Richmond Park to have two excellent handicap secretaries who know these issues inside-out; their unsung work towards making this club tick is greatly appreciated. Hopefully, having read this issue of my Log, together with last month's issue, you too will have a much better understanding of the handicapping system if you did not before.



COMPETITION RESULTS

I believe it is probably most appropriate to start with the Bontor Trophy. For the members who are unfamiliar with this little beauty the competition is the annual match between the Men and the Ladies of our Club. This year the event took place on a cracking day—not too hot and dry, and speed of games was pretty good for a Saturday afternoon. The upshot of it all was that the Men retained the Trophy by beating the Ladies 9 games to 6.

The following day was Monthly Medal day. Another new name found himself at the top of the rostrum - Lee Eden. Lee carded a solid nett 68, beating Paul Grand (nett 69) into second place, and has put himself in second spot in the Grand Medal Table, ten shots behind Julian Diamond. What was encouraging on the day was Tony Archdale's return to form, shooting a nett 70 to take third slot. The Ladies too played their monthly medal on the same day; Cheryl Woodhouse came top with a very respectable nett 68, beating Lorna White's nett 71 into second place.

The Ladies played the away leg against Mitcham the following Saturday. Whilst they lost this leg 1.5 to 2.5, they ran out winners overall 4.3 to 3.5 - well done!

On 14th August we competed in the Trevor Allen Open with the other affiliated clubs to Richmond Park (except Putney Park who had no committee member playing that day to shepherd them, and so just did their own thing). Our club members filled the first five places with John Bennett carding a suburb nett 63, one ahead of Jason Strong's excellent nett 64. Congratulations too must go to highest placed lady, Veronica Mitchell, taking third place, also with a nett 64.

Captain's Day appeared to be (thank god) quite successful. Peter Harrington, our unsung heroic Secretary, managed to squeeze out Michael Rossiter from first place with a better back nine; both had a round of nett 67, one ahead of Paul Appleton, who has strung together some consistently good rounds of late. Our President, Julie Smith, triumphed in the ladies version of this event, hitting a solid nett 69, with Veronica Mitchell's nett 71 taking the runner's up slot. There were various spot prizes awarded throughout the day including Bob Marshall accurately guessing the length of my drive from the first tee (a meagre 191 yards).

The Knockout competitions are coming to a conclusion. Jon Cooper plays Dave Williams in the final of the J H Taylor (senior division), while John Ahad and Geoff Foremen will battle it out for the Two Courses Cup (junior division). In the men's doubles Bruce Cuff and Kerry Sargeant will contest the final against Jon Cooper and John Bennett or Peter Harrington and Jack Koychev, whereas Paul Grand and Cheryl Woodhouse have already been crowned mixed doubles champions after beating Martin and Tracy Wright in a hotly contested final. Kate Friswell and Siobahn Clarke have battled their way through the preliminary rounds for the privilege of contesting the final of the Ladies Challenge Cup.

The second leg of the Rickmansworth friendly took place on Saturday 28th August. The Bank Holiday weekend did me no favours in trying to put a team together for this event; especially as we were already 4-2 down after the home leg. Anyway, the upshot of it all was that I could not get enough men so, with special dispensation from Rickmansworth, we fulfilled the fixture by fielding three ladies; Julie Smith, Sheena Harrington and Cheryl Woodhouse, who have me sincere thanks for digging us out of a hole. The result of the day was 5-1 to Rickmansworth, although I should point out that all five games that went against us were lost on the 18th green - so not quite the massacre it might appear to be.

Finally, congratulations to Michael Rossiter on his winning nett 63 to take the Silver Jubilee Trophy on 29th August; that performance has earned him a handicap reduction from 14 to 12 (some might say "too right!" given the number of times his named has cropped up just recently). Sheena Harrington pipped John Sowter from second slot with a better back nine, both shooting a nett 65. Michael now leads the Anniversary Cup table by four strokes from Sheena Harrington; Kerry Sargeant is a further nine shots away in third place.