

## Annual Review

### **This is the main vehicle for adjusting handicaps.**

- It should be carried out in accordance with the CONGU book – before the start of the new playing year
- We must be aware, that even if we play more than 10 QC's in a year that handicaps do not change very rapidly, particularly UPWARDS
- If members have inappropriate handicaps, then this can affect everyone, as it affects the CSS calculation.
- Software provides guidance... However

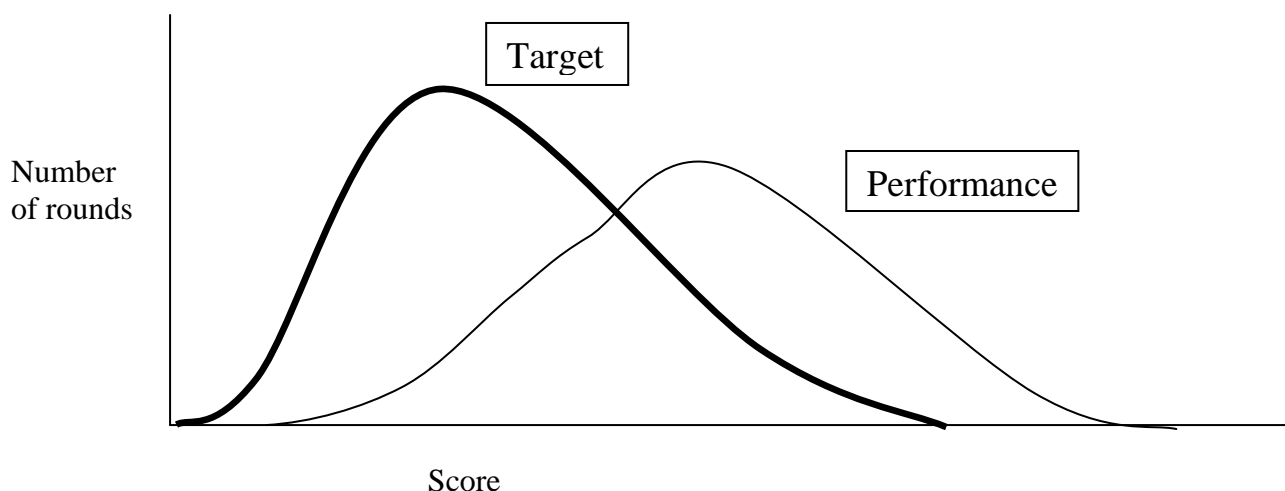
The Report produced by the computer software is not very well explained or understood.

The recommendations for changes are based on the concept of 'Performance against target'.

This means that the software has an idea of how a golfer in a particular handicap category should perform over a year's golf. This is the 'target'. This target is based on cards entered in competitions by both men and women. As there are far more men playing golf, this means that the 'target' is mostly based on how a man is expected to play. In my opinion this means that it might not be 'right' for the majority of women golfers.

The target is different for each category – a low handicap player is expected to return scores that are closer to her handicap more of the time than a higher handicap player.

A player's scoring record during the year is compared to the 'target'



In this case the software would recommend a handicap decrease, as the player's score is generally higher than the target.

The software recommendations are particularly useful if you have a large section and do not know many of the players. I don't think that this applies to many Ladies Sections and so, in my opinion, the software should recommendations only be used as a starting point – you know the individual better than the computer does!

Another reason not to follow the recommendations to the letter is that generally players do not put in enough cards to make the statistics accurate. Even the software accepts that you need at least 7 QS's for the statistics to be significant.

You should also consider other circumstances and scores. This includes matchplay results, social golf and also the age of the player. If you are not sure about a handicap decrease suggested by the computer, for instance, you might accept the recommendation for a player in her 40's, but not for one in her 70's.

In my opinion, it is more important to increase handicaps than to decrease them. If a lot of players have handicaps that are lower than they can play to, the CSS can be affected which could result in the whole CONGU system not working as it should. If a player's handicap is too high, however, she should come down during competition play, and also she does not influence the CSS in any way.

Once you have made your decision you should stick to it – do not give the player a chance to 'turn-down' the handicap change. This is especially true for increases as, in the long term, this can affect the CSS and thus everyone else's handicap.