

Central Database of Handicaps

EWGA will be adopting the CDH in the near future, following its introduction by EGU for men's handicaps. Some men's sections have already loaded their handicaps onto the system and EGU want all to do so by the start of the next playing season. There has been a delay for the men because of delays by the Handicap software companies (eg Club Systems, Club Gold..) in getting the software sorted out. The Women will follow the men in adopting the system.

The idea is that there will be a central database which will hold all golfers handicap records and which will be updated by clubs, counties etc after every qualifying competition is closed. There will be a 'button' on the software system which will do this automatically when pressed – but it does require the computer to be attached to the internet!

The initial stage of loading existing handicap records need only to be done once and will take up to 20 minutes. The records are copied onto the Central Database, which assigns each player a unique userid and then copies the data back down to the club computer.

The advantages of the system will be that organisers of competitions will have access to the current handicap of any player in England. This will mean that it will not be necessary to check handicap certificates.

County Handicap Advisers will have access to the full playing record of all players in the County, and EWGA will have access to the handicap records of all women golfers in England.

As far as the ordinary golfer is concerned, this system will make very little difference. They will be given a UserId which they keep even if they change Clubs and they can access their own handicap online. Also they will not have to return Away scores to their clubs as these will automatically be picked up by the Central Database when the competition is closed by the organisers.

Clubs will have to upload their competitions after they are closed, and when they do this any away scores by their members will be automatically downloaded. This means that anyone organising qualifying competitions will have to have internet access on their computer.