**New Golf Croquet Handicap System**

As advised in Croquet Matters, a new range of handicaps will come into effect for the new season starting 1st September this year.

The reason for the change is that the present range of handicaps

needs to be opened up, particularly at the low handicap end. This was the subject of an AGM Remit. The Executive undertook to review the system, and implemented an experimental system of effective handicaps for the Gold and Silver Stars competitions. It was hoped that this would give enough information to design a better system, but it did not succeed in that. Meanwhile, in the UK the Croquet Association conducted a detailed analysis of over 8000 matches, and devised a new scale, which they then tested in one of their regions over 3000 games. This system fixes the original problem of bunching at the low handicap end, and also deals with a similar concern at the high end. By opening up the scale, it also adjusts the numbers of extra turns awarded, and increases fairness.

CNZ have decided to adopt the UK system, with a few minor modifications to meet our needs.

To implement the change, Rule 16 and the Appendix to the WCF GC Rules have been modified. While the new version will appear in next season’s yearbook, a copy is included with this notice so that it is available when needed.

There is also a guide for handicappers giving the full detail of changing players to the new system. A simplified version of this that will cover most cases is included here.

CNZ will issue new index cards with the new tables, but it is possible to continue with existing cards provided the correct tables a used to calculate the numbers of points gained or lost, and the numbers of extra turns given in handicap matches.

**Simplified Guide to Changing Existing GC Handicaps**

On the 1st of September, or as soon as practical thereafter, Club Handicappers should ensure that all player’s handicaps have been converted to the new system. This must happen before players play their first match on or after 1st September.

There is a complete set of instructions in the document “Changing to the New System”. This note is intended to cover the most common cases.

**Players with handicaps of 3 or greater**

These players nearly always keep the same handicap, but their index is changed by adding a number to the existing index. That number is 1100 for handicaps 6-12, 1150 for 5s, and 1200 for 3s and 4s.

The only change to the handicap occurs if, after adding 1200 to a 3’s index, the new index is 1800 or more, when their handicap is changed to a 2.

**Players on 2 or below**

The first question to ask is whether these players have a current world ranking.

Most will, and they will certainly be aware of it. If they do, the rankings can be found at <http://rank.worldcroquet.org/gcrank/rank.php>

If you can’t find the player’s record, there is additional guidance in the complete instructions.

Find the player’s grade from the rankings list, and use that as the new index. Then set the new handicap from the trigger point table in the GC rules.

For example, if a player’s Grade is 1973, the trigger point for 1 is 1900, and for 0 is 2000, so the new handicap will be 1.

If the new handicap is higher than the existing one, then don’t change it, and set the index at the trigger point for the existing handicap.

If the player does not have a world ranking, then use the effective handicap for the player from the table on page 221 of the 2015-2016 CNZ yearbook., and set the index at the trigger point for the handicap. E.g 1900 for a 1.

If the player has not played very much recently, and you think that the new handicap may not be right for the player, then look at the Additional Guidance in the full instructions.

**New Index Cards**

Ideally**,** start a new card for the player when you convert their handicap