

Right now there are two big things happening in the world of golf which I'm sure you are all aware of. The first is the change to the rules of golf for 2019. England Golf have produced a presentation, a video and other helpful material for this, as well as running workshops over the last few weeks. I hope that your clubs through your club secretary or your head professional have attended and are organising rules events for your members - if they're not you might like to persuade them to do so!

Secondly is the significant change to the handicapping system which will be implemented in January 2020. and for which purpose all the courses have been or are being assessed for the slope rating system. More detailed information about this change is now starting to come from England golf. Val Howard and her team have continued to assess our courses throughout 2018 and are well on the way to completing them in time. Thank you Val and those involved in this process.

England Golf continue to try to focus on increasing regular participation and club membership, not just focussing on the elite players. Their golf week was again held at Frilford Heath in August and included various club events. Golf week will be repeated next year back at Woodhall Spa. – the plan is that this event will alternate between the 2 locations.

Meanwhile England Golf has had some financial restrictions put upon it by the voting members from the counties. England Golf had asked for an increase in their affiliation fee from £8.25 to £9.50 but this was curtailed by several counties (not us) and an increase to just £9 was agreed. I expect this will not be the last of this matter as England Golf believes it cannot achieve its plans with the fee set at £9.

I now step down as Surrey's voting member and I would like to wish Lorna many happy trips to Woodhall Spa.