

# LITTLE SAI WAN GOLFING SOCIETY



Founded 1964

## Annual General Meeting

### Handicap Secretary's Report

As of April 1, 2016 our members' handicap indices ranged from 2.3 to 23.3. At this time last year, our members' indices ranged from 0.7 to 22.8. The average of the indices was 11.6, and the median index was 11. Last year's mean and median indices were 11.3 and 11.4 respectively. Based on changes in recent years, this slight increase in stats is insignificant.

Of the 13 competitions played between May 2015 and April 2016, four of the winning scores were at the net equivalent of even par or better, three were at two under or better; three at four under or better; one at six under; one at eight under and one at two over. Two runner-up winners scored the net equivalent of three under par. Other scores of runners-up in the competitions ranged from the net equivalent of two under par to six over par. Most runners-up posted a score of net one under par to even to claim their prizes.

In accordance with Society rules, all competition winners have their handicaps adjusted down by 2 strokes and 1 stroke respectively in the next two Society events played. Runner-up finishers are adjusted down 1 stroke in the next event. An adjustment of 3 strokes is likewise applied to a winner with a score of 40 Stableford points or better.

It is each member's responsibility to maintain a valid golf handicap and ensure scores from all rounds are posted. Please note for members who are unaware, there is a USGA app called GHIN for posting scores directly from your phone for all non-Society and HKGA events. A memo from the Committee on valid handicaps is attached to this report. For more information on handicaps, please refer to the USGA Handicap System manual at the USGA website. Also, please note that scoring records of Society competitions after each match are submitted to the HKGA by the Handicap Secretary.

Todd Hooper  
LSWGS Handicap Secretary

### Handicap Validity for LSWGS Competitions

The majority of our members living in Hong Kong are required to maintain a valid HKGA handicap. This means ALL SCORES FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD MUST BE POSTED TO THE HKGA. Members who do not post all of their scores to the HKGA do not have a valid HKGA handicap.

**HKGA Membership** - As a general rule, the LSWGS requires its members to maintain a valid handicap through the HKGA. Most of our members are resident in Hong Kong and play most of their golf in Hong Kong. So it logically follows that these members should maintain a valid HKGA handicap. This requirement applies to the majority of our members.

**HKGA Handicap Validity** - A HKGA handicap remains valid ONLY IF scores of ALL qualifying rounds are posted to the HKGA. This means that ALL scores, no matter where they are played in the world, must be posted to the HKGA. It is the player's responsibility to ensure his handicap is valid and that adjusted scores of ALL qualifying rounds are posted.

**Multiple Handicaps** - It is not acceptable to maintain multiple handicaps with scores of some rounds posted to one handicap and scores of other rounds posted to a another handicap. The USGA Handicap System manual states that if a player maintains a handicap index at another club, all scores should be posted at both clubs. Failure to post all acceptable scores at both clubs could produce a handicap index that is not based on the player's best 10 differentials of the last 20 scores, and consequently, it may not be termed a handicap index. For this reason, it is not acceptable for a member to maintain a HKGA handicap and another handicap (say in China or Thailand) and just play off the lower of the two handicaps. If all scores are posted at both clubs (or associations), then the two handicaps will be equal as calculated by the USGA Handicap System.

**Hong Kong Non-Residents** - There are exceptional cases where a member of LSWGS relocates and takes up residence in a country or city other than Hong Kong for a prolonged period. These members can join a club or the golf association in their country of residence and maintain a valid handicap through the local club or golf association. In these cases, the LSWGS Handicap Secretary should be alerted and the member's valid foreign handicap will be verified for use in LSWGS competitions. In these cases, it is often impractical or impossible for a member to post scores to both his local club and the HKGA. Therefore, the requirement to maintain a HKGA handicap will be waived. In these exceptional cases, members are reminded that:

- a) It is the member's responsibility to maintain a valid handicap and to post the scores of all rounds played.
- b) Upon request, the scoring record of the member's handicap should be made available to the Handicap Secretary, Committee, or any other Society member for the purposes of peer review.
- c) A foreign handicap that is not a USGA handicap index (or equivalent index) will not be adjusted to the relevant course handicap for LSWGS events. The member will simply play off his handicap for the event with no course handicap in accordance with the USGA Handicap System.
- d) All questions concerning handicaps and their validity in LSWGS competitions can be directed to the LSWGS Handicap Secretary.