**ALLOCATION OF STROKE HOLES**

While there is no perfect system for allocating the stroke holes, New Zealand Golf provides the following endorsement:

*One of the best examples we have become aware of is the recommendation used by the European Golf Association. Logically it makes more sense than anything we have recently published. Whilst this will always remain a golf club decision, we believe this to be an excellent approach to allocating stroke holes.*

The guidelines recommended by the European Golf Association, and used to come up with the new stroke hole allocations, are as follows:

- It is an established fact that the stroke index allocation has virtually no influence on the Stableford result and therefore on handicap adjustments.
- It is of paramount importance for match play that the strokes to be received at all handicap differences are evenly spread over the 18 holes.
- This is best achieved by allocating the odd numbered strokes to the more difficult of the two nine holes, usually the longest nine, and the even numbers to the other nine.
- The degree of difficulty of a hole related to Par is a factor for the sequence of allocation.
- The degree of difficulty can be derived from the bogey rating or by comparing the average score of a group of club members to Par.
- Try to achieve one stroke index table for all tees, men and women.
- The player who is to receive strokes will generally need his/her equaliser starting on the most difficult Par 5 and subsequently on the most difficult Par 4 followed by the other Par 5s. Next in order are the Par 4s and finally the Par 3s. A very difficult Par 3 may take priority over a Par 4.
  - Difficult holes are generally a Par 5 not reachable in 3 or a Par 4 not reachable in 2 for the average player.

Allocating the stroke index numbers to the holes could be done in the following way:

- Split the 18 holes in 6 groups of 3; 1, 2, 3 then 4, 5, 6, etc.
- Stroke index 1 to 4 not on holes 1, 2, 3 or 16, 17, 18.
- The aggregate of the 6 groups of holes should be between 27 and 30.
- If index 1 is allocated to the first of the two nine holes, index 2 should be placed in the second.
- All odd indices on the first nine and all even on the second nine, or the other way around, is preferred, also in view of nine-hole rounds.
- Avoid index 1 to 6 on adjacent holes.
*Example:*

Assign index 1 to the most difficult of 7, 8, and 9. (For 9 holes 4, 5, 6.)
Assign index 2 to the most difficult of 13, 14, and 15.
Assign index 3 to the most difficult of 4, 5, and 6. (For 9 holes 7, 8, 9.)
Assign index 4 to the most difficult of 10, 11, and 12.
Assign index 5 to the most difficult of 1, 2, and 3.
Assign index 6 to the most difficult of 16, 17, and 18.
Allocate indices 7 to 12 to the six groups evenly, 7 does not have to fit in group 7, 8, 9.
Allocate indices 13 to 18 in the same way.

**Result**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holes</th>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>5, 7, 15</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
<td>3, 11, 13</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
<td>1, 9, 17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
<td>4, 12, 14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 14, 15</td>
<td>2, 10, 18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 17, 18</td>
<td>6, 8, 16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>