

## **USGA COURSE RATING**

During 2017 a total of 7 courses were rated in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System. These Clubs were Brett Vale, Hintlesham, Royal Worlington, Rookery Park, St Clements, Seckford and the West Suffolk Golf Centre. Each of the Clubs have been informed by England Golf of their SSS and Slope ratings (copies sent to County Secretary). It is interesting that a number of Clubs are now considering the introduction of Gender Free tees, and so far Hintlesham, Royal Worlington and Seckford have had some or all of their tees rated for either gender. Recent enquiries from Flempton and Aldeburgh have resulted in England Golf providing temporary SSS for gender free tees pending formal rating within the next year or two. I am also attaching to this report a Guide on Gender Free Tees provided by England Golf for information.

The rating programme for 2018 is as follows (in no particular order):- Beccles, Bungay, Diss, Gorleston, Halesworth (18 hole), Rushmere and Stowmarket. We hope to rate a further 7 courses during 2019 prior to the planned introduction of the Worldwide Handicapping System in 2020, and I understand that courses that have not been rated by then will be given a temporary SSS/Slope figure by England Golf pending formal rating. Based on current progress it is envisaged that all courses in Suffolk should be rated by the end of 2020.

For added information the rating team at present comprises 3 trained Team Leaders and 10 further volunteers (men and women) from various Clubs in the County. Additional volunteers to assist with the rating programme are always welcome.

David Barnes

SGU SSS Assessor

January 2018