

# BRITISH AMPUTEE & LES AUTRES SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity Number 1051180

## BALASA OFFICE

63 High Street Loscoe Heanor Derby DE75 7LG.

Tel. 017737159847

E-mail: [balasaoffice@aol.com](mailto:balasaoffice@aol.com)



## BALASA Newsletter January 2008

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**

Ray Williams our new Chairman welcomes you all, and wishes you well in your endeavours and asks you all to take part and enjoy the sports provided by BALASA. If you have any problems or suggestion for your sport please take it up with your chosen sports committee.

It is with sadness to announce the passing of Carol Charlton from the original Power-Lifting team and Ron Taylor from the Bowls squad. They will be greatly missed by BALASA, their families and friends.

### SPORTS

#### Archery

For more information

Contact Rob Anderson on 0118 9343812

#### Athletics

For more information

Robert Shepherd

Tel. 07974 161602

E-mail [shepherd@gmail.com](mailto:shepherd@gmail.com)

#### Bowls

Please note the next training dates for Bowls at the Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club will be:

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 10am. – 5pm

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 at 10am. – 5pm

Further training dates to be arranged.

The BALASA Bowls Nationals took place at Mablethorpe Bowls Club on 23/26<sup>th</sup> August 2007. The results were as follows:

Group A Winner David Evans

Second Gordon Welbourne

Third Irene Cheer

Group B Winner David Fisher

Second Ray Smith

Third Wally Cowley

Overall Winner David Fisher

Second David Evans

Third Ray Smith

Forth Gordon Welbourne

Ray Smith was presented with the Stan Hathaway Trophy for his tireless work involved with the coaching of the Bowls squad.

The 2008 BALASA Bowls Nationals takes place at Mablethorpe Bowls Club on 23/25<sup>th</sup> August 2008

BALASA National Drawn Pair Championships.

These Championships were held at Tamworth Indoor Bowls Club on Saturday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The results were as follows:

Winners Bob Love & Barrie Allibone

Second Mac Otton & Dave Evans

Third Pearl Page & David Fisher

This competition is the third to be played, and usually played in August at the Solihull Outdoor green. There are five players from each BALASA CP and BWBA squads, plus the winner of the previous year. Last years winner being Owen Smithson, therefore he was automatically entered. The remainder of the BALASA team is made up of the first five in the singles National Championships, this year the competition was put back until January 2008 due to our representatives playing with the squad in Australia/.

The Players selected for the masters are:

David Fisher

David Evans

Gordon Welbourne

Wally Cowley

Irene Cheer

Ray Smith was selected to play, but due to an unfortunate accident in which he broke his leg at the Australian Bowls event he was unable to except his place on the Masters team.

For more information.

Contact Barbara Smithson on 01964 535502

#### CHAMPS

CHAMPS events for 2008 have not yet been finalised, negotiations are in progress. "Watch this space".

Contact Elaine Lowe 01204 494308

#### Golf

Balasa Golf Nationals 23/25 May 2008 Broome Manor Golf Complex

Entry forms will be emailed or sent to members.

For more information

Contact Brian Cherrington Tel. 01270 585508

E-mail [Brian.cherrington@uk.fujitsu.com](mailto:Brian.cherrington@uk.fujitsu.com)

#### **EDGA medical passes:**

There seem to be number of misconceptions relating to the pass.

1. The word 'Permanent' on the card relates to your disability – not the validity of the card.
2. Only those with walking difficulties as a result of their disability will have 'Buggy' on their card.
3. Card holders without the word 'Buggy' will have to walk during competitions.
4. The 10 Euros is solely for the production of the card.

5. There are no players who are EDGA members – only organisations.
6. BALASA is the only UK member of EDGA.
7. If you give up your BALASA membership and have a card **it is invalid**.
8. Whilst not all countries demand a medical card to play in competitions many do – even if they are not official EDGA competitions.

**Regulation of competitors is becoming better controlled so if you leave BALASA you may be refused entry into a competition, worse you might turn up and be turned away; if you know of former members who may contemplate EDGA competitions in the future please relate this information to them.**

**It is further expected that in the near future EDGA competition entries not coming via BALASA will not be valid.**

#### **GA meeting of The EDGA in Is Molas Golf Club, Sardinia – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Whilst the agenda had 13 items for discussion we did not get past the first five before we had to break and some items were discussed in further detail either in private with Roberto Caja – the President or in a subsidiary meeting in the hotel the next day.

In order for Pieter Van Deyne to report back to the R&A each of the countries present was asked to report on golf development in general and for the disabled.

I could only say that having spent much time trying to discuss matters with the various members of The Golf Partnership in the past – and getting nowhere, and where the 'way forward' as they see it is a waste of resources, money and effort and the £20,000,000.00 earmarked for this could – in my view - be better spent.

Oddly, considering their position the R&A have no wish to try to influence matters.

Other countries reported similar problems where the lack of juniors – disabled or otherwise - coming into the game gave cause for concern. The only country making some headway in this direction was Italy, where they have installed golf nets and putting greens in rehabilitation centres and have the cooperation of a number of professional golfers and have at least one sports centre for disabled where golf is just one of the options. They also appear to have the support of the IPC in Europe, whereas the IPC in the UK have little or no wish to address golf. Following this there were only two major items discussed and neither resolved satisfactorily.

## European Open – Spain 2008

The first relates to the maximum players able to play in EDGA tournaments and was precipitated by the announcement that for the European Championship next year only eighty, (80), competitors will be allowed. It was announced - somewhat belatedly - that the Spanish have selected MonteStCastillo in Jeres some time in November 2008.

The Spanish – whilst leaving matters to the EDGA Committee to put their stamp of approval on the final selection process suggested that only groups A&B should compete, or if there were insufficient entries there might extend the handicap limit to 25, thus excluding all group 'D' and many in group 'C'! (They use the limitation on number of competitors at this time of year and the difficulty of the course as their reasons for this.)

Also mentioned by Rudi Elmpt - who had played the course, was the fact that the walking disabled, i.e. those who are not allowed a buggy would not be able to complete 4 rounds of golf there, as the terrain is so hostile. This means that all competitors would require buggies.

Now the above goes totally against the grain of the EDGA philosophy and under the EDGA competition Rules making the proposed Spanish Open an invalid competition.

All of the UK players in Sardinia that I asked, (seven or eight), said they would not bother going, but I would ask that Bob and Brian convey their dissatisfaction to Pieter Van Deyne and Roberto Caja as soon as possible please.

I do not believe the R&A would welcome this *volte face* and would withdraw their support.

### CONGU handicaps:

This has raised its head again and although I now fully comprehend the problems arising there are still a number of problems outstanding.

The problem stems from the fact that the UK is one of the last countries still remaining on the CONGU system. In this system a player's handicap is the same on any course irrespective of the difficulty of the course in numerous terms, e.g. terrain, topology length and in general will only be adjusted following a qualifying competition – played off white tees and off full handicap.

In very broad terms this means a player off 28 at St Georges or Hoylake would be playing off 28 at the

local park course and a member off 28 at his local park course would be off 28 at St Georges – obviously there is some disparity here and the only parameter which relates to this is the Standard Scratch Score, which would not be reflected in the playing handicaps..

The EGA Slope system would not allow for the above, e.g. the player off 28 at St Georges would play off about 20 at the park course and the player from the local park course would play off 36 at St Georges.

It is important to realize that under the Slope system a player's exact handicap is not related to his Home Club, but is based on a course where there is a zero slope!

It is also understandable why many Slope System players are aggrieved when they play in competitions in the UK and receive no consideration – **they should do!**

### Annex:

I was given a very good example of this in Sardinia: When the CONGU system was used in Europe the EDGA President – Roberto Caja – had a playing handicap of 28 at Castellconturbia – his Home Club. This is a very difficult course and with the introduction of the Slope System his Exact handicap

was reduced to 21.6! This may sound odd, but, using the tables it meant that when he played in competition from the white tees at Castellconturbia his playing handicap was 28.

Now if a UK player off 28 were to play at this course and were he to get the slope he would be playing from 35 or 36.

In the previous example if the player were from St Georges this would place him at a distinct advantage over local players, whereas the player from his local park course would not.

However, since the EDGA have no way of knowing anything of the UK courses, they therefore adjust the UK players playing handicaps by the course rating less the par. (The course rating is similar to the Standard Scratch, but is more accurate).

For example in Sardinia the course was very long and had a par of 72 for men and women. The course rating was 74.0 for men and 76.2 for women. Hence CONGU players received 2 or 4 shots for men and women respectively. Where the course rating is at least .5 of a shot below the par figure then UK handicaps will be reduced!

Perhaps it is easier to comprehend why European players do not appreciate UK players getting the slope.

However this throws up a number of anomalies within competitions concerning the EDGA categories, in that players from the higher end of any category in Europe, can have a higher playing handicap than UK players with handicaps at the lower end of the above category, which means that those UK players affected will be playing in the lower category.

The following relates to those groups who operate handicap systems outside of CONGU, e.g. the blind, special needs and handigolfers. (Note: these systems are now recognized by CONGU, who are now proposing slight variations, but still outside the CONGU system).

Since the upper limit for EDGA competitions is now an EGA exact handicap of 35.9, UK entries of 36 or above can be eligible or not depending on the course rating and par figures. In Sardinia for example, UK females with a playing handicap below 43 and males below 39 would be eligible.

I further maintain that since these groups – as far as I am aware – base their handicaps off yellow tees and on the stableford system over a variety of courses they should get the full slope. (This is confused by the few players who have Home Club CONGU based handicaps.)

The following goes into more detail:  
Under the EGA system, where the Slope System operates, all courses are weighted, (I think between 100 and 150 – 100 being very easy and 150 being extremely difficult), and all the features of the course have some bearing on this, i.e. length of holes, terrain, hazards, trees, fairways etc. so that each course can provide a table relative to each of the tees used.

A player will then use the local slope table – relevant to the tees they intend to play to calculate their playing handicap.  
Players can have an initial handicap of up to 54, which is assessed using the stableford system of scoring from the yellow tees, but once they reach 36 they cannot go back up!  
This is complicated a little by the fact that the difficulty of the course they are assessed on has a bearing, e.g. if a player uses a course where the slope is zero, (I think a slope rating of about 110), then his exact handicap will be a true reflection of his playing handicap, but where the course is easier,

i.e. shots are deducted then his exact handicap will go up and if more difficult his exact handicap will go down.

Ray Lee BALASA International Golf Rep

Tel. 01424 814324

E-mail [rayndpam@-hotmail.com](mailto:rayndpam@-hotmail.com)

#### Football and Badminton.

For more information

Jim Frere

E-mail [jim\\_frere@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_frere@hotmail.com)

#### Power-Lifting

For more information

Roy Garner.

Ring Roy on 0178814290

On Sunday 6th July 2008 at 9.35am the London 10k run takes place.

BALASA has taken up 6 places, for any member or their family members, or friends to take part in this great fund raising run.

Please help us to raise funds by taking part or asking your friends and family to sponsor us on the form included in the news letter.

Please contact the BALASA office for more information.



**Please note that 2007 memberships are due. If you have not already done so, please send your memberships form which is included in this newsletter plus the fee to:**

Membership Secretary  
Mrs Elaine Lowe  
12 Cavenham Grove  
Bolton  
BL1 4UA  
Tel 01204 494308