Five Pointers from a Short Report of a Meeting of Secretaries and Handicapping Convenors organised by the Lothians Golf Association

* It was agreed that generally speaking most courses in the Lothians could adopt a Special Scratch Score on each Competition day because ground conditions do alter and bring a course into a different Course Category from which it had been allocated in assessing the Standard Scratch Score. This applies both to lowering and increasing the Standard Scratch Score.

* It was recommended that the Special or Standard Scratch Score be fixed prior to play on the Saturday morning so that players could see the target which had been fixed but on the other hand some Clubs felt it was better to do this either during the day or at completion of play. It was pointed out that the Standard Scratch Score has nothing to do with the play of Club Members but is a theoretical calculation of a Scratch golfer playing imaginary shots of a defined length according to Course Category which defines run of ball plus 35 putts

and taking into consideration Course Value and overall average length.

Regarding handicapping it was pointed out that the Golf Unions have issued new recommendations in reviewing Category 1 players. It was suggested that somewhat similar, though perhaps less stringent recommendations be adopted in reviewing players in Categories 2, 3 and 4.

★ It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the player if he wishes his handicap reviewed to produce cards of Open Tournament performances signed by the Promotee Club Secretary and most important of all a note of the Special Scratch Score for the day.

* It was ascertained that most clubs have a method whereby a player's handicap lapses after one or two years if no returns have been made and he must thereafter produce cards in the normal way to achieve a handicap.

