

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Winter Projects Delivered

For the last couple of winters our greens staff have excited us with the development projects that they have completed out of season, sometimes in quite atrocious weather. This year they again have not failed to please, and we are receiving lots of good feedback from members. They have only to complete the laying of new astro-turf paths to have the course ready for the new season. Below are some of the key deliverables from this year's winter programme.

1st Hole: One of the fairway bunkers was filled in and a new one has been created closer to the gorse, and probably where an original bunker was located. Adam, Len Hutton and Don Weavers also carried out phase one of a gorse improvement programme.



New bunker to catch the wayward pull to the left on 1st.



Gorse control phase 1 at the 1st.

6th Hole: The green has been extended to the rear giving some 5-6 yards more of fairly level putting surface, and considerably increasing the number of acceptable hole positions.



Extension of putting surface at 6th.

8th Hole: The right greenside bunker is one of the bunkers that have been rebuilt and revetted this year with astro-turf. This will give us potentially 20 years of use before replacement compared with sometimes only 2 years before standard turf needs replacing – quite a saving on resources.



New techniques for bunker maintenance at 8th.

9th Hole: Fairly major surgery was carried out to slice away a sizeable part of the mound on the left of the fairway above the plateau. This allows players to see more of the landing zone for balls aimed left. Soil from this operation was used to fill in the troublesome gulley to the right of the path, giving an area that can be more easily maintained by the greens staff.



Banking sliced away at 9th.



Cabbage patch filled in at 9th.

13th Hole: The medal tee had become more humped in recent years giving unsatisfactory teeing positions. It has now been increased in size and resurfaced, with railway sleepers used to support it and provide the similar pleasing feature as the 3rd 9th and 17th Tees.



Improved and extended Tee at 13th.

17th Hole: The Ladies Tee at the top of the hill has been raised and resurfaced giving a more inviting aspect to the hole.



Improved Ladies Tee at 17th.

So, the guys have done a great job – something to be really proud of – it's now over to you golfers to look after the course on behalf of yourselves and our visitors.

Murder Mystery



Sacre bleu! What a tremendous murder mystery evening the After Dark Theatre Company put on at the Murder at the Moulin Rouge night on 9th February. Their costumes were magnificent, their innuendo fantastic – and now we know how the Can-can came about. But the artistes were in danger of being overtaken by the fantastic service, food and wine laid on by Kirsty and her staff, not to mention the themed decoration provided by Karen Eddy and the fascinating fascinators designed by Samantha and worn by all our female staff. Look out for another mystery in about 18 months' time.

Entertainments

St. Patrick's Night: Our Paddy's Hooley will take place the day before St. Patrick's Day on Friday 16th MARCH. There will be a Happy Hour between 6 and 7 pm and amongst other offerings Guinness will be favourably reduced!

Plastic Paddy will be your entertainer for the evening – bringing a mixture of songs, games, disco and general merriment.

An Irish hot pot supper will be served from 7.30 pm. The cost for the evening is just £5.00, which includes the supper.

Go on! Go on! You're sure to enjoy it!

Up and Coming: It's hoped that sometime soon the club will be able to host some Theme Nights in addition to the usual Friday get togethers. This was always going to depend very much on our staffing situation and capabilities. As you will see below our new chef has arrived so watch this space.

Diary events for you include:

Race Night. Friday 20th April 2018 to reflect St. Georges Day on 23rd April.

Music with The Roosters. Friday 18th May 2018.

Mid-Summer Madness. Saturday 16th June 2018. Following the success of last year's event this will be repeated this year with Speed Golf, Sponsored Walks and other elements of madness for summer that members wish to take on. If the weather is kind to us there will be a grand outside BBQ. If it is not it will be just as grand inside. We hope also to be unveiling a project to celebrate our 125th Anniversary.

Golf Week. Don't forget the Golf week scheduled for 23rd -30th July. There is plenty for all. The week is being organised to mark the Club's 125th anniversary. Again, if the weather is kind to us there will be some outside functions by way of BBQ and maybe a Barn Dance or similar. Any ideas welcome!

Weathered Rock return. A Friday in September.

Casino Night. Friday 19th October 2018.



John Moore



We were all saddened to learn of the death of John Moore, an absolute pillar of Seascale Golf Club for at least 70 years. John came from a golfing family and became a Seascale adult member around 1949. He married Moullie who herself was a member of the Club from 1937 and went on to be a faithful servant of Seascale and County golf. One can see the attraction of Brierwood to a couple of enthusiastic golfers and they started their married life there in the early 1950's – and if that was their home, the Golf Club was their second home.

Looking through minutes and yearly reports it is easy to see how the Club was important to John and how John was important to the Club. He was a busy businessman and I guess he couldn't wait to get home to get on with his main business – GOLF. No surprise then that John was Club Captain on two occasions – 1962 and 1986 (Moullie too had a double spell as Captain). But he was also a trustee for more than 40 years, Honorary Auditor for nearly as long, and the very essence of the House Committee. The Club was his pride and joy and he made sure that all those little jobs that needed done – got done, without fuss – and he did this right to the end – organising the names on the honours board – telling us to get on and get the trophies engraved – we're doing it now John.

He was a hard taskmaster when it came to competitions – telling us that with that job you have no friends – you must treat everyone strictly by the book. Probably one of his regrets was that latterly you couldn't chop members handicaps for known play – his pencil was always poised.

As befits a 'Club' man he participated in all our entertainment and was himself for many years a key personality in the annual visitation to the Club of Santa and his reindeer, giving that special thrill to kids of all ages for so many years.

John was easily the most knowledgeable person in the Club when it came to its members and its history. He enjoyed sharing stories with visitors and was well known and well-respected by Cumbrian and North of England golfers and officials – as could be seen last summer with the Big Six.

One of the things he was really proud about was the success of Seascale's Summer Opens. He made a point of greeting regular participants and these same participants always made a point of seeking John out. He would remind us that Seascale used to have a Summer Golf Week – it's a shame that he won't see the Golf Week we have arranged for our 125th anniversary.

There is no doubt that John was a faithful servant and a great ambassador for the Club and he will be missed by all. It won't quite be the same coming up to Steak Night and John not being there with Dalene and their friends in the bay window looking out over that fantastic view. But ever the organiser John has a memorial seat being prepared with David Moore for the dedicated golfing duo and Seascale Life Members - and we know just where we are going to put it – outside the bay window forever looking towards the fells. And before this year's Captain drives off on Saturday 31st March to start the new golfing season, the seat will be unveiled and we'll crack open a nice bottle of malt to drink to John's memory.

New Chef – Special Dining

Our new Chef Craig Niven (a golfer) started with us on Sunday 11th February and got in at the deep end with our Sunday Lunches, which were I hear lip smacking good. Craig who hails from Glasgow has worked in several restaurants in Cumbria such as The Inn at Ravenglass, Bridge Inn, Royal Oak and Lion and Lamb. He loved his spell at the Inn at Ravenglass and by all accounts his customers loved what he prepared for them, excelling in fish dishes. Craig hopes to develop The Clubhouse as a go-to eating place and his first Themed Night will be around his special fish dishes on Friday 2nd March. Bookings are being taken now.



New Chef Craig Niven.

CONGU News

Significant changes are coming from CONGU to make competition golf more inclusive. Changes this year include: no restriction on the number of recorded **supplementary scores** that a player may enter (other than for Cat 1 players); endorsement of **mixed tee competitions** with one CSS; and a recommendation to introduce **Cat 5(29-36) and Cat 6(37-54)** for competitions – a recommendation

for 2019 but likely to be mandatory by 2020 – one more step to moving to a single worldwide system.

Council agreed with the Competition Committee's proposal on introducing Cat 5 to the Club's competition regime (currently only 5 members in Cat 5 – and only 2 in Cat 6):

- Competitions to include Cat1 to 4 – all Trophy competitions, Knockout competitions, Monthly Medal competitions.
- Competitions to include Cat1 to 5 – Wednesday competitions, Sunday Medals/Stablefords, Team competitions.
- Competition Divisions will be Div 1 (0 to 9), Div 2 (10 to 14), Div 3 (15 to 54) – currently the balance between each is about even but will be kept under review.

Multi-tee competitions will be piloted in a winter competition in March – and hopefully applied certainly on scheduled 'Blue' competition days – but depending on success to a wider range of competitions. Potentially for next year we may be able to introduce 'genderless tees' allowing competition play even off the 'Red' tees. For this to happen the red tees need to be measured for men – and the men's tees for ladies – and we will look to get these measurements done over this season.

Watch Out – Jack Frost's About

We have had a fair amount of frost this year so far – and frosty comments from members who don't see the need to safeguard against it by invoking our temporary greens arrangements, especially with blue skies and sunny conditions. We are certainly not out of winter yet and we could experience many more frosty mornings, so here we explain the damage that can occur and our policy which we hope our members will understand.

The Root Cause:

Golf greens are fragile & require careful, professional management. A green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants that are very delicate. Putting surfaces are cut at a height from 4mm – 8mm depending on the time of year, which places extreme stresses on the plant. This makes them vulnerable to attack from disease, pests, drought & frost.

Where there is a visible frost on the surface the grass plant becomes brittle as it is 90% water & can be easily crushed. Play in these conditions will cause the plant to die. (Similar to cracking an egg shell. Once its broken it can't be put back together.)

Similarly, even where there is not a visible frost & the top 2 inches of top-soil have thawed, the sub-soil may still be frozen. Play on the greens in such circumstances will cause root break where the underlying roots are severed causing the plant to die.

Damage may not be immediately evident but within 2 / 3 days the leaves will turn brown & the plant will die. This causes thinning of the grass coverage & weakens the remaining plants. This in turn makes the surface more susceptible to disease & weed ingress. At the start of the new season the greens will take longer to recover & the quality of the putting surfaces will be compromised until mid- season.

It is, therefore, essential that golfers do not play to main greens or use the putting green when greenstaff have put temporary greens in play. The greenstaff realise that temporary greens are not popular with the membership but they are a necessary evil.

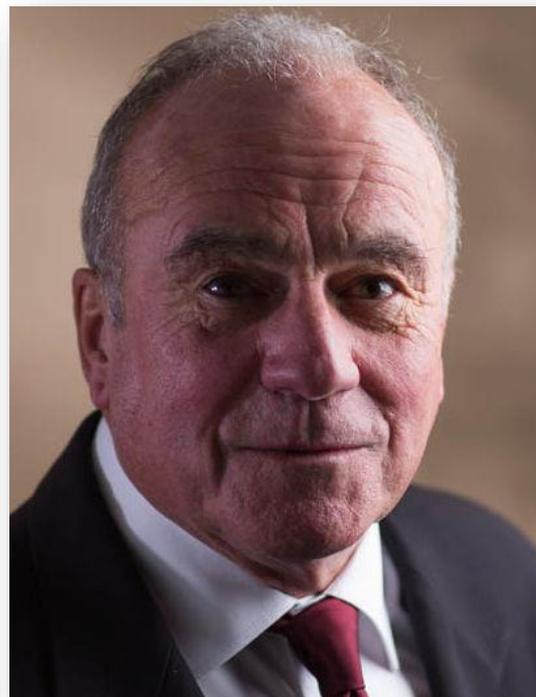
Seascale's Policy:

- The Course Manager decides on the severity of the frost and potential for damage.
- He decides whether our temporary greens should be brought into play and agrees this with the Manager.
- Only in the most serious cases of frost will a decision be taken to close the course – and this more because of health and safety considerations.
- At two-hourly intervals he inspects the greens to see if they have sufficiently thawed to return to the normal green.
- He may decide the extent of temporary greens eg closing only the first nine in the expectation that the back nine will be OK within say 2 hours.
- On competition days efforts will be made to check ahead of the first competitors to see if back nine greens can be reset – but once those players have played a hole as a temporary, it will not be reset for the other competitors.

New Captains



Lady Captain Christine Fawcett.



Club Captain Tom Oliver.





Seascale Golf Club is keen to support the R&A's Ready Golf philosophy to help speed up play – Please follow the new code - not the old 'furthest away goes first':

- If you are ready to play and it's safe to do so then **Play!**
- Players should play their own ball before helping others to look for a lost ball – and call through **asap**.
- When you are not playing a shot you should be preparing to play your shot.
- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options.
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait.
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play.
- Putting out even if it means standing close to someone else's line.
- Taking your stance and making your putt within 20 seconds.
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still furthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker – **forget who's furthest away** – unless in matchplay.
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the

other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot.

- Placing your bag as near to the exit to the next tee as possible.
- Marking score cards after your next tee shot.
- Keeping up with the group in front – not in front of the group behind!

Let's speed up play

Do you have any other good suggestions for speeding up play? – constructive that is.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new and returning members to the Club. Don't forget that there are several groups like Egremont Society, Gosforth Society, Preferred Liars, Slinks and the Wednesday/Friday 11 o'clockers etc. who are happy to welcome newcomers - giving you a good chance to meet and play with sociable people.

And of course, if you need some lessons or want to sharpen your game, Bev New our associate PGA Professional will be happy to spend some time with you on Tuesdays and Saturdays (contact her directly on 07549701243.

This year we will be repeating our New Members Competition on Saturday 5th May.

<i>Adam</i>	<i>Blackburn</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Kenmare</i>
<i>Gary</i>	<i>Blinco</i>	<i>Tom</i>	<i>MacKenzie</i>
<i>Joan</i>	<i>Blythe</i>	<i>Colin</i>	<i>McEwan</i>
<i>James</i>	<i>Connor</i>	<i>Steven</i>	<i>Meagan</i>
<i>Joe</i>	<i>Doyle</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Mellon</i>
<i>Paul</i>	<i>Edwards</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Oaten</i>
<i>Tom</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Alex</i>	<i>Robinson</i>
<i>Peter</i>	<i>Feaver</i>	<i>Karl</i>	<i>Ruddy</i>
<i>Jim</i>	<i>Hodgson</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>
<i>Alan</i>	<i>Homer</i>	<i>Raymond</i>	<i>Stephenson</i>
<i>Pryderi</i>	<i>Humphreys</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Surtees</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Jacques</i>	<i>Callum</i>	<i>Tinnion</i>
<i>Tony</i>	<i>Jennings</i>	<i>Graham</i>	<i>Tinnion</i>
<i>Ian</i>	<i>Johnston</i>	<i>Ciara</i>	<i>Walsh</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Keenan</i>	<i>Christopher</i>	<i>Wilson</i>