

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER Spring/Summer 2013



Rich's Golfing Marathon



Just looking for an early round of golf at Seascale, followed by a light lunch and then on for the afternoon round at Silloth. That's a challenge enough for young whipper-snappers from Cumbria, but for a 73-yearold from Bozeman Montana it is a bit of a marathon. And a marathon in more ways than one as 10-handicapper Rich Brauss aims to play a couple of courses a day, walking and carrying his clubs, as he attempts to knock the ball round as many links courses as he can in 17 days. This is not Rich's first challenge – previous 'marathons' have seen him 'do' 23 courses in 13 days in Eastern and Northeastern Scotland in 2010, 23 courses in 13 days in Wales and Southwest England in 2011, and 28 courses in 15 days in Northwest England and Scotland last year. This year's plan- a return to Northwest England and Scotland or "The Great Links Adventure Part IV" is the result of having pored over some great books on English and Scottish courses. His journey will take him to real links courses all the way up to Wick and Thurso in the North and back down

to Manchester Airport. Rich was delighted with the Cumbrian courses and more especially with the welcome he received from everyone he met. And the Kestrels who played on the day of his visit made sure that he will always remember his visit to Seascale. 'This course, you guys and gals are something else.' he said as he left. 'Watch out for some special chocolates all the way from Montana – and I can't wait to come back.'

Thank You Judy –Says Jake



Last year's Lady Captain Judy Davidson and Seaside Ladies were delighted to be making a presentation to Lake District Search and Rescue Dogs Association from monies collected as part of Judy's charity drive in 2012. On hand to receive the £1000 cheque were Laura Conolly and a rather sheepish Jake.

For his charity project last year's men's Captain, Alex Johnstone wanted to beef up the resources for the Greens and donated £1200 towards the purchase of a greens iron/roller, of which more later.

It Started with a BRRrrrr...

The golfing season got off to a bit of a stuttery start as Siberian weather hit Cumbria, forcing a reschedule to the Captain v Vice Captain's match. Captain, Les Moore was delighted with the turnout for what is normally billed as the start of the new season. But the weather for the match was pretty good and there were some well-contended matches. The Captain and Vice-Captain played out to a diplomatic draw in their game, but Les can't be too upset about the Vice-Captain winning the overall match by 8 to 5, as he had dished out similar treatment to last year's Captain.



'Men have all the luck.' said Ladies' Captain Lynda Parker, who had to suffer a miserable day's weather for their Captain v Vice Captain match. However, Lynda and Vice-captain Jane Reeves got their teams together and got ready for the fray, got their heads down and got on with it - and over a shortened course the Captain went on to record a win in the match by 4 ½ to 3 ½.



Sad Days For The Club

Just as we were breaking into calmer financial waters, a lot of it due to the efforts of our Secretary, John Barrow, we lost that dedicated Club stalwart. We all knew that John was very, very ill, but his passing touched us all at the Club and in the golfing community further-afield. And then shortly after another faithful of Seascale, Don Blythe passed away. However, just like the ladies it was heads down and get on with it – as both these dedicated members would have said 'We've got a business to run!'

Into the Breach

Christine Graham, Harry Paterson and Alan Jardine stepped into the breach to pick up where John left off and to plan a way forward that would keep the Club steering in the right direction. Apologies to some who may not have had receipts, stickers and tags on time – some are still behind the bar, but if you are missing something let the interim Secretary, Harry Paterson know.

Many will have seen that we have recruited a new member of staff, Martin Thomas. Martin will be providing support to Greens, but also to the Secretary and House. His IT skills will be well used shortly as we transition onto a new integrated system, and he has already overseen the introduction of an upgraded telephone system to replace that damaged in a lightning strike. In this new arrangement the Secretary role will be unpaid just like other Council office-bearers.

Course and Greens

We came through the wettest twelve months on record almost and many will have wondered will the course ever dry out? Without some considerable efforts from our greens staff finding and repairing old drain

systems, it might not have. Still the long dry spell was good for us – wasn't it. Well, no because temperatures went rapidly down again – with the result that just like courses all over the county the growing season is about five weeks behind. Luckily there was only one day lost - and that to snow. Exceptional weather has created a real challenge for greens. But to quote some visitors – we don't know how lucky we are to have such a course in such a location.

The greens staff and committee will be working tirelessly to bring the course to its best, and this year we have our own greens iron/roller, the bit of kit that gave us super-quality greens for last year's English Amateur Championships. But it's not just staff who can make it better – every member can play a part – always repair pitch marks – always replace turf (yours and any others you see) – always pick up broken tees – always take your litter home with you. A tidy course is a pleasure to play on for you and others



We all wish Ron Brown a happy retirement and good luck with the rod. Seen here with his greens staff, Ron left on the high he wanted – a successful major championship.

Fully-integrated IT System

Many of you will have seen that Council minutes are being prominently displayed in the foyer, and will have

noticed that a decision has been taken to move ahead and purchase a fully-integrated IT system for the Club. Agreement has been reached on the contract and installation will proceed in mid-June. Pre-installation will involve validation of current records ready for uploading, rearrangement of the existing competition entry area, leaving effectively the TV screen and a new wall-mounted touch screen – taking away the cupboards. A programme of training evenings will be arranged to explain the new system. Cards will be the key to all competition and bar transactions. The upload of information on balances from the old to new system may require one day of operation on a cash only basis. Information sheets will be produced as part of the pre-launch process.

Entertainment



Karen is piped in with the Haggis

'The storm without might rair and rustle, the golfers did'na mind the storm a whistle.' ... *Tam O'Shanter*. However, as we celebrated Burns

Night in the club, the lightning, thunder and rattling storms led to a flash and a bang that knocked our phone system out. But a great night was had by all.

St Patrick's Night was a sight for sore eyes right enough – with the first appearance of *Hardly Flatly and the Seascale Dolls* – just look for them on youtube to be sure – to be sure.

The Race Night was a great success and went a long way to meeting our Captain's charity targets. This month we have Dicky Dippinson the poet frae' Shap in a night of Cumbrian Crack and next month look out for a Family Disco.

Juniors



You can't fail to be impressed by the enthusiasm of the kids and the dedication of the organisers and helpers in the juniors. John Roper is doing a sterling job, and it is great that Stuart Hemming is spending so much time giving dedicated support to developing our young 'Tigers and Rories'.

The membership situation is healthy with expectation of more joining. Cliff Anders is sponsoring the Junior League shirts, and the Junior section in conjunction with the Tennis and Cricket juniors in the village has benefitted from the disbursement of the funds from the Seascale Youth Centre. The section will be building funds to support travel arrangements for the hopefully successful Junior Team.

Lotto

Council would like to encourage members and friends to participate in the Club Lottery or '100 Club'.

The funds produced by the Lottery give us a ready pot to be ploughed back into the Clubhouse. Since it started in November 2011 we have realised nearly £2,500 for the Club and paid out an equivalent amount to prize winners. Please get involved in this worthy venture – let's lift the numbers up to 100 – it's all to your benefit.

£5 a month (£60 for the year) is all it takes to participate. You can choose to pay in cash or by cheque made payable to 'Seascale Golf Club 100 Club'. But a more effective way is by direct debit – that way you will always be – 'in it to win it'.



As well as the delicious steaks on offer on Thursday evenings, Karen and Kirsty are offering a mouth-watering Sunday Lunch at the fantastic price of £6.95.