

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015



Dear Members

To become the first Secretary/Manager of Seascale Golf Club is an absolute honour ... links golf always stood out for me from a very early age; to work at one is a dream come true. I remember the first time I played Seascale some 7 years ago, I simply asked myself what no doubt many of our visitors do - why had I never heard of this Course before !!!

Over the last 7-8 years, many of you may know that I was the Director of Golf at St Bees School. I had never been to the West Coast of Cumbria until then but it wasn't long before I witnessed the beautiful yet differing way of life in this part of the world. Having travelled and worked all over the world, in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and Asia, many ask why did I come back ? The answer to that is simple, the North West is where my family are and what I will always call 'Home'.

In 2005 when I became a fully qualified PGA Golf Professional, my ambition was to become the next David Leadbetter !!! It was my ambition as a coach that led to me turning professional and enrolling onto the PGA Qualification. Had I not become a PGA Golf Professional, I fancied being an architect or even an accountant ...

Although I still have ambitions of coaching the next Rory McIlroy I also have a desire to develop and manage my own Golf Facility. In reality, this may depend on me winning the lottery, nevertheless, I look forward to using the knowledge, skills and experience that I believe I now have to take Seascale Golf Club forwards. On that note, may I take this opportunity to publicly thank the Council for providing me with the opportunity to become the Secretary/Manager of Seascale Golf Club.

Having worked in the Golf Industry since the last millennium I have witnessed and experienced the rocky road that so many Golf Clubs and PGA Golf Professionals have had to endure.

Fortunately for the last 7-8 years I felt extremely fortunate and secure working within a School that had existed for over 400 years. As I'm sure many of you were, when the School announced it would have to close I was totally stunned. St Bees School was a special place, one for me that truly highlighted the strength and power of a community, a family of people who were willing to support and work with each other for each other.

Granted when the recession rocked the world the Golf Industry like most other industries felt its impact. Nevertheless, like all business cycles the Golf Industry had peaked and had started to sadly dip. Well before the recession golf participation levels were steadily increasing along with the number of golf facilities. Sadly the increase in golf facilities saturated the market and combined with the recession we simply had too many Golf Courses and not enough golfers. Personally this simply reflects the position we are in on the West Coast of Cumbria.

From a Golf perspective St Bees School, who own St Bees Golf Course, combated this by developing a Golf Academy that successfully attracted overseas students to the School which in turn helped keep the Golf Course open. Whilst some Golf Clubs decided to close some made cut backs. Many began to restructure the way in which the Club ran, the Club Pro's role rapidly changed. Naturally Golf Clubs had to first and foremost SURVIVE ... those that have managed to do this, which to its credit includes Seascale Golf Club, have ridden the wave and are now beginning to ask themselves - how do we THRIVE once again?

As your new Secretary/Manager I am excited and enthused by this new challenge. At this present time Golf Clubs are seen to be running successfully if they merely break even and let's give credit where credit is due. Seascale Golf Club has broken even for the last 3 years off the back of a 6 year period where it ran at a loss. Having been in post for almost 3 weeks now I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harry Paterson personally and on behalf of the Club for the unbelievable job he has quite clearly done. The generosity, care and love that Harry Paterson, Christine Graham, Rob Temple and Rob Blythe have provided the Club is overwhelming and I'm sure it has not gone unrecognised. In addition, it is clear to see how supportive a large number of members are, whether they take up a role within a sub-committee or simply offer help and support as and when they can.

Golf Clubs have and will continue to SURVIVE and THRIVE by pulling together. Nothing has changed there, what we need to do is ask ourselves how do we do this efficiently and effectively. I am determined to lead OUR CLUB forwards but I MUST emphasise that this is only possible if ALL MEMBERS work together. Before I finish by suggesting we ALL ask ourselves a number of questions- and please do pass on your thoughts to the relevant committee/sub-committee member/representative - may I once again thank everyone for the warm welcome that I have received.

OUR FUTURE

- Do we wait for people to decide to become GOLFERS or do we encourage/inspire people to become GOLFERS ?
- Do we expect other Clubs/Initiatives to develop a new generation of Golfers or do we HELP develop new golfers ?
- Do we pay MORE to have sole use/exclusive use of OUR facilities or do we explore and develop new ways to generate EXTRA REVENUE ?
- Do we accept the standard/range of facilities we currently have OR do we be ambitious and work out a way to improve our existing facilities and develop more ?
- Do we celebrate being a CLUB (family/community) enough or should we celebrate together more ?

Stuart Hemmings, Secretary/Manager

Club Championship Feedback

Thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire about the Club Championship and ways to increase participation. The Competition Committee are still pondering the best way ahead. Respondents did not always state clear preferences and some wanted to have either or solutions, but the feedback from the consultation was generally as follows:

37 To be played end of June.

13 To be played end of July.

13 Status Quo (Over Saturday and Sunday on Blue Course).

11 Sunday 36-Hole Competition on Blue Course.

21 Sunday 36-Hole Competition on White Course.

6 Two consecutive Sunday Competitions on Blue Course.

15 Two consecutive Sunday Competitions on White Course.

26 Best 16 progress to Knockout.

8 Best 8 progress to Knockout.

Three respondents preferred 36 holes on a Saturday, and one respondent suggested that the Knockout should be treated like other knockouts – i.e a Scratch KO spread over the whole year just like the other KOs. At the moment it looks like a return to an end of June fixture and a preference for a 36-hole one-day event. There is a clear preference for ‘White course’, but the Competition Committee will reserve a decision on that pending further consultation.

Ladies European Tour Stop-over



Stacey Tate meets Lady Captain Sue Ridout and Seascale Ladies Champion Melanie Temple.

On the day of the Ladies Open the Club was happy to welcome Stacey Tate a New Zealander playing on the Australian Tour who has now joined the Ladies European Tour. Stacey, who is based in Paris was visiting friends and relations in the area and was keen to keep up her practice by playing Seascale before going over to Scandinavia for some tournaments. She was delighted with the course and with the welcome she received from everyone.

Your ‘The One’



John Roper was the first beneficiary of Lakes Distillery Hole-in One prize for those getting an ace in a club competition. Liz Parkes from Lakes Distillery presented John with his bottle of ‘The One’ whisky at the club recently. Up to five per year can be won.

Kestrels Entertain Keswick



Seascale Kestrels (the Club's Seniors) held their last home game against Keswick recently. It has been a year of two halves with some blistering performances at the start, but indifferent form in the second half leading to few victories a trend repeated with Keswick. However, the intrepid band are all set for next year's season, but are looking out for some new blood. Don't be shy – if you are that tender age of 55 or over and want to raise Seascale's profile while making new friends and enjoying some good golf – get in there.

Snippets from Council

To assist with the monitoring of visitors on the course greenfee bagtags were introduced. Ted McAllister raised the profile of the course ranger, checking regularly with players that they had and displayed their tags. By and large we don't have a major problem with people not paying before play – but please be ready to challenge as they are actually taking money out of our collective pockets if they do that.

A new member claimed to have had a bad experience as a lone golfer who was not being called through by players who were obviously holding him up. This highlights a frequent misinterpretation of the standing of single players on the course (Secretary has posted a notice highlighting the R and A Rule – single players do have same rights as groups).

The Club's Rules compliance with The Equality Act 2010 was reviewed and the historic bias towards males in the constitution is the only area of concern.

To address this Council agreed to take the following proposals to the AGM:

- *Provision of voting rights for the Lady Captain.
- *Creating a place on Council for the Lady Vice-Captain.
- *Dropping the position of Past-Captains' representative.

An apprentice was appointed, but subsequently resigned over the issue of low initial starting wage. Summer greens support effort has been in place from May through August. We will look to secure another apprentice in time for the Spring.

The Chairman praised the efforts of all those in the Club involved in the Northern Counties 'Little Big Six'. Feedback was extremely good from the executives of each of the counties involved. The Captain received a letter from the Cheshire county executive which was very complimentary on all aspects of the course and its preparation, the staff and their helpfulness. Everyone he talked to was delighted with the course and the welcome.

Stuart Hemmings as project manager agreed with the management team the scope of works, outline costs and has engaged a contractor to carry out the works on the flat. The bedroom and bathroom have been completed, allowing the flat to be partly occupied, and the project should be fully complete by the end of September at reasonable cost.

The Club is seeking to obtain stainless steel trollies as replacements for the current visitor trollies which have a poor corrosion record.

Council agreed to highlight again the benefits for the Club and members from the Lotto scheme, and encourage more people to participate. You've got to be in it to win it!

The issue of playing off the white tees and the wear caused by regular use in non-competition games is a concern again for our staff. The Greens Committee had previously considered whether to restrict access to white tees for general play and decided that as long as the tees are not being abused or damaged,

they would allow this to help players get practice on the longer course . Members are asked to use this as a concession and not as an absolute right. Visitors will be required to play from the yellows unless they have been granted approval by the Secretary/Manager.

A complaint was made to Network Rail with respect to the condition of the wall along the track at the 17th tee. An engineer had visited and declared that there was no need for action by Network Rail. We have in our letter to them said responsibility for any damage or injury caused as a result of falling stones is theirs.

Members have suggested the Club considers Foot Golf as a possible revenue earner after seeing it in action at other clubs and driving ranges. The downside would be potentially excessive noise, muddy boots and management of the facility. However, this might be considered as an event organised activity.

The Captain of Silverdale who held his Captain’s away day at Seascale wrote to say how delighted they were with the course and with the service and welcome they received. Feedback generally has been very positive from visiting parties.

An advert has been placed in National Club Golfer highlighting our Winter deals including focussing on a 15 month deal for winter golf and 2016 membership for new members.

Tom Oliver has prepared a report on actions to be completed to bring the kitchen up to scratch. He has with the Club’s agreement and grateful thanks already embarked on a programme of remediation.

It was agreed to allow a tee in front of the ladies tee at the 17th to be prepared for seniors who find it too difficult to get drives up and over the ridge.

Entertainment

Weathered Rock played to an audience of about 90 on Saturday 29th August in what was a very successful evening. The Captain and Lady Captain’s Charities each benefit to the tune of £97.50 each.



Weathered Rock in action

The Lady Captain is arranging a Casino Night for 17th October conducted by the Maryport Lions with members asked to donate prizes for the end of evening auction.

A bonfire night will go ahead as last year.

‘Avalon’ – a new Cumbrian group will be playing at the Club on a weekend evening in November and the Club will be aiming to feature regular monthly acts to attract more customers.

Membership Numbers

7th Sep 2015	Total Paid	Previous Year Members	New	Resigned	Outstanding	Last Year	Diff
Men Full&Over 18	337	294	43	36	30	363	-26
Ladies	31	28	3	3	2	34	-3
Junior U18	30	19	11	2	15	36	-6
Junior U18 with HC	12	12		0	5	17	-5
Non-playing	33	31	2	3	11	41	-8
Total	443	384	59	44	63	491	-48

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to all our new and returning members starting since the last Newsletter. Please do seek them out and make them feel at home. It can be a little daunting finding your feet when you join a club but a friendly face and a welcoming smile works wonders.

Sue Cockroft	Social Member
Jake Devonald	Junior U18
Jo Devonald	Full 1st Year
Davin Dhillon	Full 1st Year
Paul Fligg	Full
Tom Foster	Full 1st Year
Tom Fuller	Junior Over18
Oliver Hodgson	Junior U18
Dave Hoyle	Full
Jake Huddart	Junior U18
Craig Johnston	Full 1st Year
Philip Lawson	Full 1st Year
Carl Morrison	Full 1st Year
Charlotte O'Connor	Junior U18
Paul O'Connor	Full 1st Year
Gary Snow	Full 1st Year
Ethan Spedding	Junior Over18
Kenny Tait	Non-playing
Malcolm Walker	Country
Maureen Walker	Country
Harry Whitfield	Junior U18
Sam Whitfield	Junior U18
Andrew Woodburn	Full 1st Year
Stephen Young	Full 1st Year

Quiz Night Returns

Brush up on that general knowledge Quiz Night returns on Tuesday September 15th and every second Tuesday through to April. The quizzes are open to members and non-members usually in teams of four – but don't worry if you don't have a team as there is a good mix on these popular nights.



Seascale Golf Club
“Quiz Nights”

Tuesday 15th September
Then every Fortnight until April

Quiz starts 8.00pm prompt

All Welcome

Tel: 019467 28202
www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk
Email: seascalegolfclub@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at: Club House

The poster features a white silhouette of a person with arms raised, surrounded by red question marks. Below the main text is a globe made of various national flags.



FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF **HELP for HEROES** North of England Children's Cancer Research

Seascale Golf Club
Casino Night

Saturday 17th October 2015
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Includes Pie & Peas Supper
and \$10 Gambling Chips
Special Prize Auction
Tickets £10 from the Bar

All Visitors Welcome
Contact ... 019467 28202

The poster includes illustrations of a red die, a roulette wheel, a slot machine, and a horse race.

Beginners' Texas Scramble

The Ladies are organising a Texas Scramble to help introduce new and prospective members to the game and the fun of Texas Scrambles in an informal social setting. The Lady Captain is seeking names and we hope that new and prospective members will come and enjoy the afternoon on Saturday 17th October at 12.30pm.

BIG THANK YOU

Everyone in the Club and all of our visitors have been glowing in their praise for the condition and presentation of the course this season. As well as that and without exception, visitors have considered the welcome they get and the service from staff as excellent.

Thank you guys from all of us.



Banish Those Winter Blues
with **Open Texas Scrambles**
at **Seascale Golf Club**

Saturday 14th November 2015
Saturday 12th December 2015
Saturday 16th January 2016
Saturday 13th February 2016
Saturday 12th March 2016

Entry Fee: £50 per team (members £24)
Call 019467 28202
or email sgc.competitions@gmail.com

Great Winter Deals

**Your Winter Golf and 2016
Special Membership for £359**
October 2015 to December 2016

*- Open to new members and
members returning after 5 years*

Winter 2015/16 Rates (1 Nov –
31 Mar) Mon- Fri Round £20
(Sat/Sun £25)

Late Start Deals (after 12.00) –
from just £10

4 Ball Winter Warmer - £80
(Mon-Fri) 18 holes –
Soup&Sandwiches or Bacon
Butty Tea/Coffee

**Monthly Saturday Open Texas
Scrambles** £50 per team

14th November- 12th December-
16th January – 13th February –
12th March

Whatever the Weather -Seascale's
challenging links are open all
year round providing members
and visitors with the ideal and
mud-less way to banish those
winter blues.