

# Seascale Golf Club Newsletter Autumn 2020



## Coronavirus Response



**You can't see it but be sure Kirsty and Sam are giving service with a smile in our Covid-safe environment**

Following a return to social golfing in early May we were able to progress safely to Competition golf in early June. Take-up on social golf has been high with the members booking system working well, and participation in competitions has been higher than it has ever been. It almost seemed as if we were back to normal with the opening of the Clubhouse along with other hospitality venues on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

A lot of work went into sorting out all the safety aspects, with Adam, Kirsty and Sam pulling out all the stops to provide a safe, socially distanced environment. The late relaxation of the 2-metre distancing to 1-metre plus mitigation helped, but still our capacity is down to about 44 seated customers in the lounge and just over 30 in the dining room. For the most part our members and visitors have adhered well to the arrangements, but there were a few who let their guard down. A lot of the success of the re-opening is down to some very clear and timely communication from Adam to our members. Council members are committed to ensuring that they, members and visitors follow the guidelines as closely as possible so that no enforcement action is taken against the Club. The mid-September tightening up on regulations with face masks required, table service, strict social distancing, closure by 10pm at latest, and mandatory track and trace were taken in our stride, and it is good to see members and visitors playing their part. The three tier restrictions may pose more problems which we hope we can overcome.

The 'Furlough Scheme' was extended to the end of October with employers making more of a contribution, while being able to take staff back flexibly on part time. We brought more staff in from furlough as we tried to re-establish our catering service, with the chef back 60% kitchen assistant 60%

and Kirsty and Sam working wonders in house and bar. Thursday nights and Sundays have been almost back to pre-emergency levels, but other days have been slow. Generally, we are seeing catering trade at about 50% normal and bar trade at about 70% normal. As the Prime Minister says there is likely to be a bumpy road up to Christmas and beyond, but we will be trying hard to maintain a viable Covid-safe business and service to all.

Our trusty and friendly bar staff member Sue Parker will be retiring at the end of the year after many years of early morning shifts looking after our members as they set out to battle on the links. The best wishes of all are with you and thank you Sue for putting up with us.

### **Financial Position**

Compared with last year we are down about 35% on bar and catering income mainly as a result of zero income over a three month lockdown period, but we have managed to recover to about 75% of the turnover we achieved in August and September last year. Greenfee income is down by £13k and this is partly offset by increased membership income. We have seen a welcome increase in visitors over the first couple of weeks of September compared to the same period last year. Support from the government with the grant, rates relief and furlough helped us and along with delaying investment projects we are likely to end the financial year in better shape than we expected at the start of the emergency. However, next financial year looks like being a real challenge as those levels of government support may not be there, but the virus certainly will, along with potential business interruption or even local closures.

### **For Outstanding Service**



We would certainly not have been able to weather the Coronavirus storm without the absolute dedication of Adam to the task of saving our greens from drought, keeping the course maintained, organising a safe and successful return to social and competitive golf, then managing the safe and successful opening of the Clubhouse and a return almost to normality. Council were keen to show their appreciation and that of many, many members in recommending that he receives Seascale Golf Club's Outstanding Service Award. Well done Adam, Lisa, Maria, Grace and Bella– we're proud of you.

## Keeping Our Course in Great Shape

It is a great tribute to our greenkeeping staff that we have so many members and visitors keen to let us know how much they appreciate what has been done to keep the course in shape and to provide greens that are better than most of Seascale's senior members can ever remember. Of course, it does not come without some pain and concern to protect our great asset. Below is a picture of what has had to be done by Adam and the guys to give you the great course that you are able to enjoy day in and day out.

**Greens** - The greens suffered during lockdown due to a lack of natural rainfall. The irrigation was at full capacity between March 28th and June 12th with 3mm of water being applied every night. Unfortunately, evaporation levels were ranging between 3mm - 6mm per day owing to the constant wind and sunlight hours. This meant we had to supplement the pop-up system with daily hand watering to achieve any worthwhile results and with only two staff this proved very challenging. We also had a Leatherjacket problem which produced a weaker sward on many greens. For the most part we still had envious putting surfaces and we saw them flourish into superb, consistent greens with a high proportion of Fescue giving firm, fast playing conditions cut at a healthy 5mm. Wetting Agents and Seaweed have been applied monthly along with Bio Stimulants. We have also incorporated some Bent seed into the weaker areas, and this has established quickly.

**Tees** - The tees were left at 12mm through lockdown which enabled them to recover really well from the winter play. Irrigation was applied from time to time but when the dry weather really kicked in, we targeted all our resources to the greens. The increased play from our return to golf has seen the greens staff double their efforts on divotting and we applied a granular fertiliser to perk them up. Over-seeding was carried out on the 3rd, 6th, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11th tees this Autumn.

**Fairways** - The drought had a big effect on the sward density on a number of fairways. Where we initially saw great recovery in March, we witnessed a steady decline over the dry months of April and May. Wetting Agent was applied during this period but with no rainfall we didn't get any benefit. We are now left with hydrophobic areas of turf which would never rewet unless another application of Wetting Agent was carried out. We did this in late August using the product in stock from last winter.

**High Footfall Areas** - With the increased play we have been left with worn areas on the approaches to paths. We aim to drill 100kgs of a Dwarf Rye mixture into these areas. Dwarf Rye is more resistant to traffic and will be a much hardier alternative to our native Fescue which suffers through over-use. We have also sent a correspondence out to all members highlighting their use of buggies and trolleys and to try and alleviate some damage.



Adam overseeding with the Vredo on the 14<sup>th</sup> Fairway.



Overseeding with the Vredo on the 18<sup>th</sup> Green.

**Autumn Treatment** - The fairway over-seeding operation was carried out successfully with 25 bags being drilled into them. This will give them a better chance of withstanding any drought conditions next season. The greens renovation followed a week later and with over-seeding and top dressing all of the putting surfaces. The overseeding programme was reasonably costly with Strong Fescue drilled in plus machinery hire charges. We are already seeing results.

We have purchased the expensive leather jacket killer, Alcelypryn. The jury is still out on this product, but we must try something as we have seen record numbers of crane fly on the wing recently. Each lay over 300 eggs, so we are looking at a big problem if we experience a mild winter. This chemical is the only defence on the market and is quite costly just to apply to the greens.

With all the play on our greens compaction of the sward root was going to be an issue, so to break this up we have again brought in the compressed air root buster Air2G2 which had very good results previously, with minimal impact to players and playing surface.



Air2G2 compressed air decompactor in operation by Richard Peel Groundworks operative on 17<sup>th</sup> Green.

**Above.** Overseeding the greens. And with special thanks to Andrew Wallace, James Wallace, Ken Banks and Terry Conaghan for adapting our flag pins to be Covid safe. The envy of many visitors.

Thanks also to Alex Johnstone for fixing the bell at the 17th.

The Coronavirus has resulted in a bit of an interruption in our Apprentice Greenkeeper programme, but the Myerscough tutor, Barry Graham now has that back on-line and we hope our young lads will be fully fledged by the Spring.



**Apprentices Will and Kurt under instruction from their Myerscough Tutor.**



**John Jackson mulching the rough grass and brambles around the practice ground.**

**Winter Programme 2020/21-** As well as maintaining the course to the best we can achieve during the winter period the greens staff will be delivering a challenging programme of works to improve the course.

- Hole 1. Fill in front left green side bunker
- Hole 2. Nothing of note
- Hole 3. Nothing of note
- Hole 4. Reface back right green side bunker
- Hole 5. Reface front right green side bunker
- Hole 6. Reface back right green side bunker
- Hole 7. Lay Astro Turf from 7<sup>th</sup> tee to 7<sup>th</sup> fairway
- Hole 8. Lay Astro Turf from 7<sup>th</sup> green to 8<sup>th</sup> tee and onwards towards 8<sup>th</sup> green
- Hole 9. Lay Astro Turf from gravel path at bottom of buggy path towards 9<sup>th</sup> green
- Hole 10. Lay Astro Turf from 10<sup>th</sup> tee to 11<sup>th</sup> comp tee
- Hole 11. Nothing of note
- Hole 12. Nothing of note
- Hole 13. Build new bunker into the banking, visible from tee and fill in back right bunker.
- Hole 14. Fill in bunker and build new bunker nearer to green
- Hole 15. Lay Astro Turf from 14<sup>th</sup> fairway to 15<sup>th</sup> fairway
- Hole 16. Build sleeper wall at front of comp tee
- Hole 17. Nothing of note
- Hole 18. Nothing of note

Alongside all these improvements we will also be concentrating on the following-

- Applying wetting agent/seaweed to all fairways on a designated programme
- Slit tining and verti draining all greens, tees and fairways
- Expanding the bottom car park
- Continuing our Gorse Management Plan
- Continuing our Winter Tee Plan

## Lady Captain's Day was a Colourful Display

Many golf fixtures had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus emergency, but Seascale Ladies were able to hold their delayed Captain's Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September in pleasant conditions. All the ladies turned out in rainbow colours in honour of our NHS heroes. Lady Captain Sara Scott teed off good-style at the 1<sup>st</sup> for her charity drive-in. The Captain's Team won the Captain v Vice captain match. In the individual competition June Hardisty came 1<sup>st</sup>, Christine Graham 2<sup>nd</sup> and Brenda McCaffery 3<sup>rd</sup>. The secret pairs were Mel Temple and Abby Roper. Nearest the pin at the 5<sup>th</sup> went to Christine Graham and at the 10<sup>th</sup> to Mel Temple.



**Captain Sara has her drive-in on the 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Captain Sara with Abby versus Vice captain Judy and Mel all set to do battle.**



**Sunny – but just a tad cold perhaps.**

## Wildlife on the Course



Thanks to all who sent in their photos of wildlife on the course over the summer. First prize goes to Stephen Brown for his photo of a Roe Deer all but concealed in the brush and greenery off the 8<sup>th</sup> Tee. How he managed to see it is amazing. Runners up were Dave Stubbings who took the Slow Worm on the path to the 17<sup>th</sup> Tee, and Stephen Hodgson who snapped the Adder slithering across the 14<sup>th</sup> Green.

## Competition Scene

Gordon Hennis had to step back a bit from competition administration in the last couple of months, and Mark Jacques has coped well as almost the last man standing. However, this highlights once again a crucial need to strengthen the team with at least another couple of willing members – **volunteers required please.**

Over the last few months, we have been reviewing the numbers of players in our divisions with the aim of ensuring that we get the best possible balance. We have not changed the division splits for our Sunday competitions – what we had is the best fit and will continue as: Div 1 <0 to 9, Div 2 10 to 14, Div 3 15 to 36(54). For our Wednesday competitions our review shows the best fit to be: Div 1 <0 to 10, Div 2 11 to 16, Div 3 17 to 36(54). All Wednesday competitions until further notice will operate on this basis.

We have also monitored prize-winners in Division 3 and find that players on lower handicaps are just as likely to be in the prizes as those on higher handicaps. Therefore, we will not be introducing a 4th Division, as some players have requested.

With the large numbers of competitors in our competitions, we have also reviewed the numbers and values of prizes in each Division. An upper limit of £35 has been applied for 1st prize with a consistent share-out for subsequent placings, up to 7 prizes for a field of 166+.

Since we returned to competitions after lock-down we have seen a considerable increase in the number of members playing in competitions. Last year from the second week in June to the second week in September we recorded 2742 players in comps, in the same period this year it was 3517.

Alternative Day Competitions: With the heavy demand for places on Sundays, the extra hour on a Saturday where we were able to fit it in, did help address the availability of tee times for competitions in summer. We would not wish to allocate more time on Saturdays and spoil the possibility of social golf and potential visitor opportunities. With expected demand and light restrictions in winter, our next option would be to create a third alternative day on the Monday booked through BRS members booking for the tee and with the option to sign into the 3<sup>rd</sup> alternative day for those who wished to enter. We are arranging this on a trial basis in November/December.

## **Presentation of Trophies**

Our annual presentation of prizes will go ahead this year on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November but will obviously be affected by the coronavirus restrictions and social distancing. We will lay out the trophies as per usual with the names of the winners shown. Winners will be invited to come up and pick up their hard-won trophy, hold it for a few moments and have their photo taken. They will then replace the trophy and on completion of the presentation the trophies will be placed back in the trophy cabinet by gloved hand.

## **Macca's Cup and Joe Linklater Trophy**

Once again it's a big thank you to Glyn (Coco) Williams for all his hard work in organising another 'Macca's Cup' which raised over £1400 for charity - well done. And thanks too to Dave Linklater for organising the Joe Linklater Trophy which raised £1900.

## **AGM 2020**

Whereas we might have made a case for a 'near normal' AGM with a limited attendance of 40 members seated as per restaurant social distancing, we are now making arrangements for a 'Virtual AGM'. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be sent out to members by email with the opportunity to vote on relevant items – mainly the Statement of Accounts. We will invite questioning of the Annual Report and will provide answers as far as we can in an addendum before the vote is due. Voting to be completed by 25<sup>th</sup> November – which would have been the AGM date. This is in line with guidance from England Golf.



**Well done Adam and the lads in getting us in the Top 100.**

## A Bit of Christmas Cheer

Many of our customers have told us how pleased they are to be able to come to the Golf Club for their usual Thursday Steak-night or Sunday Lunch confident that they will be well and safely looked after. Obviously we cannot cater for large groups to sit together because of the restrictions, but our table layout does allow smaller groups of 4 to 6 to sit in a Covid-safe and compliant environment – and we know this is what customers want.

We will be offering our Christmas Dinners once again this year and we already have orders for that. The mouth-watering menu is shown below. It would be great to see as many members as possible treating their spouses and households in the run-up to Christmas – and we will endeavour to make it as Christmassy as we possibly can.



**SEASCALE GOLF CLUB  
CHRISTMAS MENU**

**STARTERS**

- BLACK PUDDING BON BONS  
*Served on our Apple Cider Chutney with Crispy Smoked Streaky Bacon*
- GARLIC MUSHROOMS  
*Mushrooms in a rich creamy garlic sauce, served with Crusty Bread*
- SOUP OF THE DAY  
*Homemade Vegetable Soup served with Crusty Bread*
- BRIE WEDGES  
*Deep Fried Brie Wedges served with a Cumberland Sauce*
- TRADITIONAL PRAWN COCKTAIL  
*Served with Brown Bread and Lakeland Butter*

**MAINS**

- ROAST TURKEY  
*Roast Turkey served with Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing and all the Trimmings*
- ROAST BEEF  
*Roast Beef, Yorkshire Puddings and all the Trimmings*
- SALMON  
*Salmon Fillet served on a Chive Mash with Hollandaise Sauce*
- NUT AND VEGETABLE ROAST  
*Vegetarian roast served with all the trimmings*

**DESSERTS**

- STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING  
*Served with Vanilla Ice Cream*
- APPLE AND BLUEBERRY CRUMBLE  
*Apple Crumble with a hint of Cinnamon, served with Custard*
- CHRISTMAS PUDDING  
*Rich Fruit Cake soaked in a Brandy Sauce*
- CHEESE AND BISCUITS  
*Selection of Cheeses served with Chutney and a variety of C...*

**Tel 019467 28202**  
**£19.95 For Three Courses**  
**£16.95 For Two Courses**  
**£12.95 For One Course**

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## **Annette Trainor Trophy**



Erica Robinson (right) daughter of Lady Past Captain, Annette Trainor presents the family trophy in honour of her Mum to Shirley Temple this year's winner with Lady Captain Sara Scott on the left. The individual Stableford trophy competition was held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October along with the Open 4 Person Team competition. The 4 Person Team winners were Samantha Blair, Nick Blair, Rob Stalker and Malcolm Campbell on 100 points.

## **Please Stick By the Guidelines**

There has been a bit of confusion surrounding the latest guidelines issued in September involving Clubhouses.

Please note the following:

### **FOR FOOD AND DRINK -**

- \* Find a seat
- \* Bar Staff will come and take your order and take payment
- \* Please be patient
- \* Wear a face covering until you are seated

### **FOR CARD TOP UPS, GREENFEES, BUGGY PAYMENTS, TAKEAWAY DRINKS/SNACKS, ANY QUERIES -**

- \* Access the bar via one way system and queue safely in "Bar Queue"
- \* Only one person in "Bar Zone"
- \* Wear a face covering

All other guidelines that have been communicated to you this year can be found on the website. Click "Members Hub" then "News".

Please also utilise the QR Code scanner that is situated through the entrance. Download the NHS Covid 19 App and scan our unique QR Poster. This will help with our Test and Trace requirements.



Seascale Golf Club  
The Banks, CA20 1QL

#### Seascale Golf Club Covid-19 Rules

- Masks must be worn in all areas of the clubhouse except when you are sat at your table, this includes any time you stand up.
- Scan our QR code on entry using the NHS Covid-19 App or ask for a paper track and trace form to fill in.
- Sanitise hands on entry and make sure you wash and sanitise them regularly.
- No standing allowed, you must stay seated at all times, no circulating and moving between parties.
- It is table service only, please be patient and a member of staff will be with you shortly.
- If you are waiting to pay a bill, do not go to the bar, a member of staff will do this at the table.
- Please follow our one way system.
- Pay attention to the 'number of people at this table' signs, do not move furniture and stay one metre plus away from people not in your household.
- Try to use contactless card payment where possible.
- Children must be supervised at all times, no running around, and must follow social distancing guidelines.
- Toilets are on a one in one out policy and you must follow the one way system to reach them.
- Exit via the side door clearly marked exit, if you leave the building via this door, you then have to enter through the main entrance at the front of the building.
- Failure to observe safety measures will result in service not being provided.

