

**SEASCALE GOLF CLUB
NEWSLETTER
Summer 2024**



Borealis over Seascale
An entry in photo
competition

Fly-over Footage Coming Soon

We will soon be able to view on the Club’s Website the full extent of our fantastic links course from the air via drone video footage. This is something we have been keen to do for some time but were unable to do due to restrictions on flying drones near sensitive facilities. We are very grateful to Sellafield Ltd who came to our assistance by allowing the drone survey to be cleared and carried out by their UAV (unmanned Aerial Vehicle) Team. Scott Mahaffy and Paul Rickerby worked closely with the team who took the videos in early May, and Bob Charlton is currently producing the finished product.

The still shots shown here give some impression of what the finished product will look like. This will be dramatic representation of the course and its beautiful setting – between spectacular sea and mountain scenery. We know it is a course to be proud of and this will ably demonstrate to prospective visitors from all over the quality and challenge of Seascale Golf Club.



Seascale Gala

Seascale was well represented at the Seascale Gala in June. The weather was glorious for the event which celebrated 175 years since the coming of the railways to the village. There were big plans for turning Seascale into a Victorian spa town with infrastructure and houses spreading right out as far as our 13th hole. It would have been something similar to Blackpool – but instead we got a golf course – and are we not glad about that. Seascale Golf Club is one of the oldest village institutions active today having been formally founded in 1893.

The Ladies Section under Captain Brenda McCaffery put a lot of effort into raising the profile of the Club with several ladies taking part in the Saturday parade to the festivities on the Cricket Pitch accompanied by a couple of gentlemen and a couple of dogs. It was an opportunity to set out what the Club offers in particular for ladies and there was quite a lot of interest shown. The Tombola stall on the field was a great success raising £127, and the kids also had fun with the chipping and putting equipment. Well done ladies – great effort.

On the Thursday, the Golf Club hosted over 30 youngsters and their mums and dads to ‘try golf’ on the practice ground. This event was arranged by Kirsty ably supported by Adam, Lynne, Millie and Gary. A lot of balls were hit and thanks to the greens staff who collected them the following morning. The highlight was probably the pop and crisps, but it certainly looked as though everyone enjoyed it, and hopefully some seeds were sown to help in the regeneration of our Junior Section.



Captain's Day 7th July

The sun gods shone on Sunday 7th July for the 129 Gents and Ladies who competed in Club Captain Brian O'Kane's Captain's Day. The competition format was Stableford and Brian had supplied a very extensive and interesting Prize Table with prizes for the best eighteen scores in the competition and he had also included a number of fun prizes on certain holes for nearest the pin, longest drive, nearest the centre line etc. The Captain also continued the tradition of supplying very welcome refreshments at the 10th hole.

The first ten prize-winners were as follows; first J D Moore, with an excellent 44pts won the competition followed by Glyn Williams 42, Dave Birkett 41, Dave Jenkinson 40, Ian Thompson 40, Bill Jenkinson 40, Tony Hart 39, Brenda McCaffrey 39, Mark Davison 39 and David Pierce 39.

There was an invitation to donate £1 for any ball finding a bunker or the beck at the 10th and about 40% of players were kind enough to encourage their golf balls either to swim or play at sandcastles and still manage to donate with a real smile! Overall, the day raised just over £1500 for the Captain's Charity – Hospice at Home.

On completion of the competition, Brian thanked the Club and Competition staff for their efforts throughout the day. Special thanks went to those who kindly helped with prize donations ; Richard Leach . Cumbria Golf Centre, Lee Butterworth XtremeFitness, The Rum Story, The Beacon Carus Green, Silloth, Penrith, Brampton, Workington, Whitehaven, Maryport and Cockermouth Golf clubs. Thanks also to Edgars, Workington for their donation and of course Rodger and Shirley for their superb halfway house structure!!



Lady Captain's Day

Saturday 13th July was my Lady Captain's Day, our theme this year was 'Children's TV Characters' and, as usual, the ladies made a great effort with the fabulous costumes. We had a wonderful day with a lot of fun and were fortunate enough not to get wet – well maybe a little!! I take it nobody got a photo of "Winnie-the-Pooh" driving a "Unicorn" Golf Buggy across the Fairway? !! But we do have evidence of Adam driving it – sorry Adam, all your street cred is gone !!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success, especially Rodger & Shirley for putting up the tents and decorating them beautifully, my daughter Emma and niece Corinne for their help setting up the food and drinks at the 10th. And Kirsty and her staff for the lovely meal and your patience with me.

The winner of the individual Stableford was Alice Thompson, 2nd was June Hardisty, 3rd Christine Graham, 4th Shirley Temple, 5th Abby Roper, 6th Sian Beaty, and 7th Sadie Cavanagh. Longest Drive on 2nd (silver HI) was Naomi Brennan, Longest Drive on 2nd (bronze HI) Lynda Parker, Nearest Pin on 10th was Karen Van De Pear, Nearest the Line on 12th was Mel Temple (¾ inch!)

In total we raised £235 for Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team.



Greens Update July 2024

Greens have come on a great deal in the last few weeks, trueness and speed has improved with regular verti-cutting and applications of Attraxor: a growth regulator which diverts the growth hormones and redirects it to root establishment and growth rather than the top growth giving us a healthier sward without excessive top growth making it difficult to achieve speed.

We are also applying wetting agent, seaweed, Amino and humic acids on a monthly basis and wetting agent on tees monthly. Selective weed killer has been applied to the tees and the worst fairways will be done in the coming weeks.

We have dyna-cored the greens with solid 9mm tines once however with the surface sealing being so hard we aren't getting the depth required to properly alleviate this problem. After golf week is finished, I am planning on getting a demo of a sarel roller to test on the greens which will give us better depth and give us an idea of whether a sarel roller would be worth owning as a quick and minimally disruptive machine to treat the surface sealing.

With help from volunteers the greens have been aerated with the air2g2 to a depth of 12 inches to keep on top of deep compaction this will be carried out again at the end of the season.

The New fairway mower has been out for a few weeks now and is performing well and the quality of the fairways has noticeably improved. The old fairway mower has been demoted to the practice field where we are slowly lowering the height with the intention to eventually have the field cut at fairway height (15mm) which will help the ball picker perform better and improve the presentation of the field.

The un-cut rough has been a problem this year with the perfect storm of weather for grass growing and is longer than ever. Following a meeting with the greens committee we have agreed to grow in some strips of the semi rough where it meets the un-cut rough to slow balls down before they reach the un-cut rough. Once the season has finished, we will begin a rough management programme utilising the Amazone flail mower and terrarake to top off and thin out areas of the rough and allow it to grow back thinner and whispier for the following season. More information will follow in the winter work programme.



New fairway mower improving the course.

Solar Progress after Two Years

Our solar power installation has been the biggest investment made by the Club for decades. With Electricity costs being such a major and increasing expenditure, anything we could do to reduce that cost had to be taken seriously. The proposal put to the membership in Spring 2022 forecast a potential reduction in consumption of 25% and a likely return on expenditure of seven years. With a 20+ year lifetime on the installation we could look forward after that to 25% of our electricity being free.

We have maintained a good record of our electricity consumption over the last decade (see the table). After a year of solar operation, we were seeing not a 25% reduction but nearer to 35%. Now, after two years we are seeing this reduction holding steady and with last year's installation of batteries a further reduction. In fact, our calculation in the 2022 proposal was based on our full year consumption for 2018/19 which had reached over 102,000 kWh. That year was our most successful business-wise with a heavy programme of activities throughout the year. The following two years were the pandemic years where long periods of lockdown and restrictions meant considerably less electricity used. By 2021/22 we were emerging from the pandemic and climbing back to a better level of business activity.

Electricity Consumption 2015 to 2024		
Sep/Sep	Total kWh	
2015/2016	77547	
2016/2017	87266	
2017/2018	93230	
2018/2019	102269	Busiest year
2019/2020	78271	Lockdown & restrictions
2020/2021	64909	Lockdown & restrictions
2021/2022	86778	Pandemic recovery
2022/2023	53665	Solar
2023/2024	51218	Solar plus Batteries



The first year of solar reduced our consumption to 53,665 kWh and we estimate our second year to be slightly less again. Compared with 2018/19 (the busiest year) we are using nearly 50% less electricity, and compared with the pandemic recovery year we are using about 40% less. We won't let it rest there and we are looking at even more efficiencies in our energy use. In money terms the 33,000 kWh yearly saving over the last two years reduced our costs by about £20,000.

Our thanks go to the original project team and to Rodger Temple who is taking an active interest in getting the best from our investment.

Macca's Cup 2024

Members and visitors alike turned out in great numbers for the annual Macca's Cup, a four-person team event that honours the long-time friend to many, Ian McDonald. After some early morning rain, the conditions turned favourable for the late starters. Winners with a score 112 were Ken Benn (Whitehaven), Billy Dickenson (Whitehaven), Wes Benn (Seascale) and Mark Lee (Seascale) beating the all-Seascale team of Mark Harris, Liam Towers, Chris Madden and Mathew Garrat by one point. Third, also from Seascale were John Taylor, David Stamp, Liam Stamp and John Curwen with 108pts. The final prize went to David Boyce (Silecroft), David McCrum, Peter Warren and John Simpson, all Seascale with 107pts. The competition raised £1,350 for the Captain's Charity (West Cumbria Hospice) and £150 was donated to the Whitehaven RNIB.

Prostate Cancer UK Big Golf Challenge 2024

Last year Graham Begbie led a team of 8 in a charity event for Prostate Cancer involving 2 rounds of golf (half marathon) as part of the Big Golf Challenge run by Prostate Cancer UK. They managed to raise over £1300 - a great success.

On Friday 7th June this year with 3 tees booked they set off at 7.45 by special agreement with the greens staff to repeat or better that achievement, and although the weather on the second 18 holes wasn't very kind, they plugged on regardless.

By 8th June they had raised approximately £1100 with every likelihood of exceeding last year's total and raising between £2,500 and £3,000 for prostate cancer UK over the two years.

Graham extended the thanks of the team to Seascale Golf Club, Adam, Kirsty, the green keepers and bar staff for all their help and support. And I'm sure all members would wish to thank Graham for another great effort.

Ladies Taster Days

Seascale ladies have held two events one in April and the other in July offering those wishing to try our sport to come along and have a go on the practice ground with Ladies Section members on hand to give instruction and encouragement. For those keen to have a go on the course, on-course taster sessions in the company of a member have been arranged. Both sessions were well attended and much appreciated especially the hospitality and Prosecco in the Clubhouse after the event. Several ladies have expressed interest in taking things further and a What's App group has been set up to keep in touch with prospective members. Two ladies who attended the first Taster Day have since joined, so fingers crossed we can get a few more to sign up. It would certainly be great to get more ladies into the Club which at its height in 1938 had 110 members.



Quiz Nights



As well as arranging Taster sessions and making arrangements to represent the Club in Seascale Gala, our ladies have organised two Quiz nights. Both of these were well-attended, popular and competitive with 'Einstein' the inspiring quiz master, helping raise £140 for the section. More events are planned.

Paul Barry



We were all shocked to hear of the passing of Paul Barry, a young and enthusiastic member of our Club. Paul dealt with his illness in the same calm and measured way that he did with his golf. Paul was a genuinely nice guy and left many of our members with lumps in their throats thinking about his loss.

Only 49, he would have had many days and years ahead of him to enjoy his golf and to brighten the lives of his clubmates, but he was taken from his family and friends just far too soon. It was only a year ago in July that he played his last competition taking 1st prize in a ladies and gents stableford. He paused his membership, and we fully expected him to be back with us this year.

His father Len, along with his golfing colleagues are organising a competition golf day in Paul's memory. This will take place on Saturday 14th September and will be a Texas Scramble aimed at raising funds for an appropriate charity. Booking will be by PSI and Howdidido going live soon. Paul was a great competitor on the Links and produced the best gross score of the year in 2004, a superb 69. He was also an able Scratch League member and was dubbed "The County Slayer", owing to the fact that he had gained so many points from opposing Cumbria team members. We will miss him.

New Members

Welcome to all the new members joining us since our last newsletter. We hope you enjoy your time at Seascale Golf Club.

<i>Owen</i>	<i>Ackerley</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Steve</i>	<i>Mott</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Austin</i>	<i>Kenneth</i>	<i>Gouain</i>	<i>Jake</i>	<i>Pearce</i>
<i>Sian</i>	<i>Beaty</i>	<i>Alex</i>	<i>Hayes</i>	<i>Aaron</i>	<i>Porthouse</i>
<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Blackwood</i>	<i>Dale</i>	<i>Hodgson</i>	<i>Andy</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Bostock</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Kirk</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Strong</i>
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Carlyle</i>	<i>Alfie</i>	<i>McDonagh</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Thornton</i>
<i>Liam</i>	<i>Carlyle</i>	<i>Tom</i>	<i>McKevitt</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Williamson</i>
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Carlyle Snr</i>	<i>Glen</i>	<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Gary</i>	<i>Chandler</i>	<i>Alec</i>	<i>Morton</i>		
<i>Garry</i>	<i>Close</i>	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Mott</i>		

Bradley Quayle – European Junior Finalist

Earlier this year young Bradley Quayle participated at Preston Golf Club in the national stages of the European Junior Championships and now goes on to represent England at the European Finals in Spain. Proud parents Barry and Donna gave special thanks for their support to grandparents June and Keith and to Lee Butterworth Extreme for help with equipment.

Bradley also qualified for the English Schools golf finals Under 19s last month which was held in Middlesex. He didn't play his best unfortunately but he gained lots of experience had met a lot of talented golfers from around the country. He also played in the Little six County Qualifiers which was played at Chigwell in Liverpool. Bradley is focusing extremely on the European Final which is held in Spain this November, he is putting an awful lot of hard work in already on and off the course. He would like to thank everyone involved in helping him reach his dreams of becoming a pro golfer. The scratch team players have brought Bradley on massively and continue to do so, also a special thank you to Jack Stubbings aka Brads PE. Teacher and quality golfer for his support.



Big Screen Sport

Kirsty has procured a big screen and projector which was used in earnest for the Euros. It is a great addition to our facilities, and we are looking forward to many big events showing live – but hopefully with more success for the teams.



Photo Competition Entries

There is still plenty of time to get your entries in for the photo competition showing all aspects of the year at Seascale Golf Club. Attached are some of the entries.



Snake in the Grass.



Pheasant Family early morning.



Rabbit Selfies

Stepping Up for Bert

Egremont Golf Society paid tribute to Bert Shuttleworth a long time member of the Society and a stalwart of our Club who passed away in 2023. The steps from the car park have been refurbished and a plaque set at the top as a memorial to Bert. Thanks to Mark Jacques and Peter Feaver for their efforts in realising this project.



Stephen's Charity Donations

Last year's Captain Stephen Sharpe made presentations to his nominated charities recently - £1135 each to both West Cumbria Hospice at Home and to the Grow West Garden Centre run by West House for adults with learning difficulties. Stephen spent a nice morning at Grow West when he handed over their cheque.



Craig Lifts County Matchplay Trophy



The County Matchplay Championship became a tussle between Seascale and Workington in the event that was held at Workington on 13/14 July. Craig Morrow won through to the finals beating Luke Walker (Ulverston) 1 up while Will Bowe was 2 and 1 winner of his semifinal with Kieran Waters (Carlisle). Craig went on to win the final and become County Matchplay Champion for 2024 beating Will Bowe 1 up. Well done Craig.

James Braid sets Course Record at Seascale

One of Tom Wright's friends, a member at Elie in Fife but previously from Egremont, came across an interesting find with a photo referring to the course record at Seascale being held by none other than James Braid – a golfing great. The photo was an advert in Golf Illustrated. There was a lot of competition to promote the new rubber cored balls and Braid was briefly using the Kite ball despite having just won the Open (1905 St Andrews) with a Spalding White. His course record at Seascale was in July 1905. We have not found any record yet in our archives, but we are indebted to Tom and his friend for shining a light on Seascale's golfing greatness when Open Champion winners made a b-line for our hallowed links.



Making an Entrance

Well done Dave Kelly, Adam and Paul Rickerby in sprucing up the entrance to the Clubhouse – much appreciated. And to Brenda McCaffrey for the TV.

