



Seascale Golf Club



WINTER 2023/2024



Members of Seascale Community Fitness Centre enjoyed their Christmas lunch in the restaurant

The Club's Christmas celebrations began on 1st December, with delicious Christmas meals being served in the restaurant and bar. We are already receiving lots of positive feedback from people who have received a warm welcome and enjoyed the festive setting, along with the delicious food on offer.

Members of Seascale Community Fitness Centre enjoyed their group lunch and praised the team, commenting that the food and service they received were excellent.





Steak Nights have again proved to be very popular, with tables getting booked up very quickly. They are on hold over the busy Christmas period, however Steak Nights will return in the new year, with bookings already filling up for our January and February dates.

As always, booking is essential and you can reserve our table by ringing the Bar on 019467 28202 Option 1

Conference Facilities

Our conference diary is open for 2024 bookings, so please see our brochure below and let us know your meeting/ conference and catering requirements.





Seascale Golf Club

**Great value
Excellent Service
Beautiful
Surroundings**





Seascale Golf Club

Get in touch to enquire about your conference, meeting or party requirements.

www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk

Contact

 www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk

 seascalegolfclub@gmail.com

 019467 28202

**Seascale Golf Club
Conference
Guide 2024**

www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk

Catering

-  **Soup & Sandwiches**
£7.50 per head
-  **Sandwiches & Chips**
£7.50 per head
-  **1 Course Hot Meal**
£12.00 per head
-  **Unlimited Hot Drinks**
£1.50 per head



Seascale Golf Club

Seascale Golf Club is delighted to be able to offer the use of our fantastic facilities to host your conference. We are ideally situated with a large amount of on-site parking, we offer a very comfortable and relaxed environment with modern facilities. We have several rooms available for smaller groups.

Get in touch to let us know your requirements

Contact Us

-  www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk
-  seascalegolfclub@gmail.com
-  019467 28202

Conference Room

-  **Option 1**
£120 per day
Seats 25 people
-  **Option 2**
£100 per day
Seats 18 people
-  **Option 3**
£80 per day
Seats 14 people

Includes:

- Projector and screen
- Flipcharts
- Wifi



Presentation Night

The presentation of trophies for 2023 was carried out at the Annual General Meeting held recently at the clubhouse. There was almost a full attendance of trophy winners who received their trophies from Club Captain Stephen Sharpe.

Two Lifetime/Outstanding Service Awards were also presented. Gordon Hennis received an Outstanding Service Award with Alan Jardine paying tribute to him for his work on Competitions and Handicapping in some very challenging times. Glyn (Coco) Williams received a Lifetime Service Award for his unstinting organisation of Macca's Cup and Joe Linklater Trophy held annually over the last 15 years - a fitting memorial to two popular members, raising £25k plus for several local charities. Mark Jacques gave a sincere tribute to Glyn, who himself gave an amusing and uplifting thank you.

The trophy trophies presented were: Winter Trophy-Jonathan Easthope, House Trophy (Men's Aggregate Medal)-Martin Baker and Mark Bridgwood, Development Trophy-Jack McEwan, David Tomkinson Trophy-Greg Fitzwilliam, Independence Cup-Andrew Lace, Ernest Anderson Trophy-Eric Gulliksen, Centenary Medals-Div.1-Simon O'Kane, Div.2-Gregg Fitzwilliam, Div.3-Dave Linklater. The Kay Boys Trophy went to Joe Robson, Robertson Cup-Dave Kelly, Texas Wedge (First Net in Club Championship) -Michael Gibson, Graham Cup-Gordon Hennis, McGowan Cup (Individual K/O)-Patrick Wood, Scratch Matchplay K/O- Aaron Lewthwaite, Foursomes K/O-Matthew Ball and Michael Gibson, Mixed Foursomes K/O-Neil Gribbin and Abby Roper, Seniors K/O (Old Boys Trophy)-Peter Warren, Seniors Stroke Play Champion (Veterans Cup)-Irving Bragg, Past Captains Trophy-Eric Gulliksen.

The Captain's Shield Aggregate Trophy was won by Dave Birkett. The Claret Jug, for the 2023 Club Champion went to Aaron Lewthwaite, who also returned the Best Gross score of the year.

Harry's Departure



I think if you were to cut Harry Paterson open you would see some sort of Seascall Golf Club tartan knitted through his veins.

What better acknowledgement to his many years of unstinting service than for the Club to bestow a Life Membership upon him at the recent AGM. From an apprentice Competitions Secretary, under the watchful eye of John Moore, to Honorary Treasurer Harry has given his all in support of the Club. In between those roles he has ridden a blow up horse while reading Tam O'Shanter at the Burns Night Supper, rattled buckets on numerous Bonfire Nights, written umpteen humorous (and informative) newsletters and taken down minute upon minute of Council discussions. He could have also been a handy sidekick on the Government Covid press conferences with his prowess on producing graphs, tables and trends using his Spreadsheet magic.

Highlights from Harry's Captain's year in 2016 included the inaugural Midsummer Madness (and the hilarious Speed Golf) which contributed greatly to the total of £9,000 donated to Breast Cancer Care. Harry's hard work and dedication made the year such a success.

But probably the greatest compliment given to Harry is a message from all the staff who have worked with him over the years and hold him in such high esteem. His support has been invaluable in often trying times.

Simply. "Thank you".



2023 AGM & Report for the Year

Russell Thwaites our accountant from Gibbons presented the Statement of Accounts. He noted that this had been a particularly challenging year for golf clubs as they struggled against inflation and big price increases. Although we increased our membership fees, much of the benefit was lost through reduced numbers and difficulty in attracting new members. Our turnover for Bar and Catering held up pretty well, but especially in Catering the cost of food suffered the biggest inflation increases, reducing profit considerably. Overall income was helped by our realizing refunds on electricity. Wages went up by 12% leading to a £30k increase and it will go up a further 10% in April 2024. Greenkeeping costs stayed high despite efforts to contain expenditure. House costs looked more but included about £10k worth of electrical and fire safety work.

We invested well in the borehole and costs reduced accordingly, and this was also the case with the solar arrays which helped reduce our consumption by more than 35%. Following the pandemic, we were in a situation where we paid virtually no Vat, but this year it has become a significant cost and will do in future years. Overall, our costs exceeded our income significantly due to inflation and we ended up with a large deficit. This was better than predicted in mid-year and hopefully the remedial action which we are putting in place will see us bring our income closer to our expenditure and then move onto firmer ground.

Brian O’Kane took over from Stephen Sharpe as Captain. He recalled joining way back in 1980 at £70 to be with very good friends and very good golfers in what he looked on almost as a second home. Somewhere that he could take the family, compete, laugh and admire others in a premier sports club in West Cumbria. As Captain he will work hard and try his best to be approachable to members and respect and care for visitors (but no desire to inflict his standard of golf on visiting parties). He will try carefully to be the public face of the Club wherever, whenever required. He will help wherever possible with our committees and, crucially, TAKE ADVICE.

The year ahead is going to be demanding – It’s our Club – It’s our second home – It’s our challenge. We may need more help from members – more than usual. Please don’t wait to be asked – if you can help or have ideas please tell us. For his charities he wished to raise funds for McMillan Nurses and West Cumbria Hospice at Home which do incredible work in the area.

Council Snippets

About 50 members attended the **Extra General Meeting** arranged by Council to provide the background to Club finances which were being seriously affected by inflation this year. A working group had recommended remedial action in the shape of price increases for Greenfees, Buggy Hire, Open competition entries, Club Competitions entry and Subscription fees, along with efforts to contain expenditure and seek grant support. There was a good level of member participation. The minutes are available to members on the website Members Hub/Club/Council Matters/EGMs.

The **Fixture List for 2024** is available on the website and has more team and mixed competitions injecting more ‘fun golf’ and the opportunity to have ladies more involved at weekends in the team and betterballs through the summer on Sundays to hopefully increase entries. We will also be seeking

to increase participation in trophy competitions and medals by applying the mixed tee and 3-division formula. Thanks to Gordon for all his efforts.

The subject of **age distribution of our membership** was raised at the EGM. We have about 300 over 50 and 140 under 50. And only 30 in the 20-30 age group. The questioner felt that we should have a better structure to our membership levels in that age group to encourage a more balanced and credible succession. Council considered this and has proposed a change in rates to encourage the 20-30 age group.

It was good to see some members stepping up and volunteering to **support the Competitions and Handicap Team** – and also the Open Competition organisers. There is always space for more to participate and ensure that our busy competition programme is able to run effectively and is not under threat from lack of bodies.

The **badger problem on the 9th** is worrying but is being investigated with possible solutions involving natural chemicals and possibly high frequency ‘cat scarers’. Both of these solutions are now being tried. We are not empowered to eradicate them – that can only be done by licenced individuals.

Gordon has been keeping a watchful eye on the changes coming in **April 2024 to Rules and WHS**. The link below may be useful to members wishing to see what is coming up.

<https://nationalclubgolfer.podbean.com/e/from-the-clubhouse-we-explain-the-big-world-handicap-system-changes/>

One of the decisions the Club must make is whether to continue with the large Course Handicap Boards which were sponsored by England Golf when WHS was introduced in 2021. We could probably do away with these and rely on a set of A4 pages on our competition notice boards if necessary.

Pace of Play seems to be coming back as an issue in competitions. We do advertise that we want people to play ready golf – i.e play without delay, and keep up with the group in front – not just ahead of the group behind. It was suggested that tee signs advising appropriate time to that tee be put in place – as a timely reminder.

Adam started back part-time as Secretary/Treasurer on Monday 30th October and is working part time. He and Kirsty are working closely together and aiming to ensure that the remedial actions are put into effect while ensuring that every opportunity is taken to maintain service and develop our business.

Unfortunately for the Club, **Giselle** has decided that she wants to concentrate on her business, Juniper Wellbeing. She will be there to help Adam and Kirsty during the busy period of December. Giselle is very grateful for the support she has received at the Club and has enjoyed getting to know members, but can't ignore the genuine demand she is seeing for her business. Adam and Kirsty will review the situation ahead of the golfing season.

Part of our survival strategy has to be a campaign or **campaigns to bring in new members** to make up for losses, but also to build a much stronger membership base. Hopefully the incentives we offer in the 22 to 30 age bracket will be attractive. Adam proposed that Council exercises its discretion and reintroduce the 1st and 2nd Year Special memberships at the rates indicated at the AGM. This would be managed in the same way as previously with the condition that returning applicants qualify only if they have been away for 5 years. We will be advertising these offers on social media as soon as we can. Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

Council agreed to place a contract with Focus Group for the overhaul of our IT system and monthly **IT Support** (Inclusive of 24/7 proactive monitoring and security).



Ladies Team Update

Thanks are given to former Lady Captain, Sue Ridout her support over the past year. We now welcome Brenda McCaffrey as this year's Lady Captain, and Sara Lloyd as the Ladies Honorary Secretary. Lynda Parker is the new Lady Vice Captain and Joan Atkinson will be taking over the role as Ladies Honorary Treasurer.

At County level, Judy Davidson is the new County Veterans Vice Captain.

At the Ladies AGM on Saturday 9th December (which had been rescheduled from the week before due to the weather conditions) the ladies presented Abby Roper with a gift in recognition of her amazing golfing achievements this year. Abby's achievements include being Seascale Ladies Club Champion, County Ladies Club Champion, Northern Champion of Champions and Seascale Course Record holder, beating Melanie Temple's record which she held for 20 years.



Brenda McCaffrey



Sue Ridout

Welcome to our New Members

<i>Craig</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Highton</i>
<i>Sandra</i>	<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Philip</i>	<i>Jennings</i>
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Bostock</i>	<i>Kieran</i>	<i>Lawson</i>
<i>Anita</i>	<i>Brereton</i>	<i>Jim</i>	<i>Lennon</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Bunting</i>	<i>Darren</i>	<i>Martin</i>
<i>Glyn</i>	<i>Chisholm</i>	<i>Laurence</i>	<i>McStraw</i>
<i>Graeme</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Edward</i>	<i>Okundaye</i>
<i>Philip</i>	<i>Cox</i>	<i>Alan</i>	<i>Peart</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>Davison</i>	<i>Shiela</i>	<i>Ritson</i>
<i>Ciaran</i>	<i>Doran</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>Roberts</i>
<i>Elaine</i>	<i>Gigg</i>	<i>Cory</i>	<i>Scott</i>
<i>Barry</i>	<i>Gwilt</i>	<i>Darren</i>	<i>Singleton</i>
<i>Robert</i>	<i>Haddow</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Bradley</i>	<i>Halcrow</i>	<i>Valerie</i>	<i>Snaith</i>
<i>Ryan</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Greg</i>	<i>Stainton</i>
<i>Joshua</i>	<i>Hamand</i>	<i>Liam</i>	<i>Stamp</i>
<i>Luke</i>	<i>Hamand</i>	<i>Gary</i>	<i>Turner</i>
		<i>Edward</i>	<i>Williams</i>





Juniors

Perhaps another victim of the pandemic has been our Junior Section. We just never really got going after other things got back to normal. Key to that was again a lack of volunteers to help run the section. There are some ideas coming from Council, but we do need to identify some members and mums and dads keen to develop and support our Juniors. We are looking at making arrangements with the professionals at Whitehaven to get some special coaching at Cumbria Golf Centre during the winter and then extend that to coaching at Seascale when the season starts. If the Seascale 175th anniversary gala day goes ahead, we could feature Juniors along with the Ladies.

There is no doubt that there is talent out there to be nurtured and developed as John Roper and Marion Glassbrook did in the recent past. It would be good to hear from those interested in investing a bit of time to help our youngsters on their journey to play a game they enjoy and who knows excel as Abby has done and Bradley looks destined to do. Perhaps towards the end of January we will call a meeting of all interested parties and see if we can kick start the Section into another gear.



Winter Course

Over the last few years / months / weeks we have been putting a lot of work into our winter course. The reason for this is since the start of the World Handicap System we are no longer allowed to use winter handicaps. To come in line with the World Handicap System, and to allow our members to keep their handicap index up to date to best demonstrate their current playing ability, we must play from a rated set of tees.

Gordon has put a lot of effort in to get the formal acceptance of our new 'Green' course, and the Greens team worked hard to have it ready for assessment. So, we now have a rated Green Course (Yellow tee markers). Course rating 69.5, Par 71, Slope Index 123. This will allow our members to keep their handicap index up to date over the winter period, and crucially allow new members to get their handicaps in place to enjoy the competitive game.

We also have the Gents Red Course rating 68.5, Par 71, Slope Index 119 available for members to return scores for handicapping purposes.

Please mark "Green" or "Red" on the current scorecard to denote which tee you have played from before teeing off, this helps us when we close the competition. Please note the above is subject to course conditions allowing the returning of acceptable scores for handicapping purposes.

Competition:			Date:			Time:			H'cap Index	Course H'cap	Playing H'cap	Tee G.R.	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Par
Player A:													69.5	123	71
Player B:													68.5	119	71
Player C:													74.0	134	74
Player D:															
Marker's Score	Hole	Yards	Yards	Par	S.I.	A	B	C	D	Points + - 0	Yards	Par	S.I.		
	1	276	288	4	6						288	4	9		
	2	303	310	4	16						310	4	14		
	3	393	396	4	2						396	5	11		
	4	305	291	4	18						291	4	8		
	5	168	143	3	8						143	3	17		
	6	441	425	5	10						425	5	3		
	7	554	466	5	14						466	5	6		
	8	181	146	3	12						146	3	16		
	9	368	353	4	4						353	4	1		
	OUT	2989	2818	36							2818	37			
<div> <div>AVOID SLOW PLAY AT ALL TIMES!</div> <div>ALWAYS REPAIR PITCH MARKS!</div> </div>															
	10	131	129	3	13						129	3	12		
	11	451	447	4	3						447	5	4		
	12	344	352	4	5						352	4	7		
	13	150	161	3	7						161	3	15		
	14	445	419	5	15						419	5	5		
	15	282	238	4	17						238	4	18		
	16	451	443	4	1						443	5	2		
	17	277	292	4	11						292	4	13		
	18	325	322	4	9						322	4	10		
	IN	2856	2803	35							2803	37			
	OUT	2989	2818	36							2818	37			
	TOT	5845	5621	71							5621	74			
Points or Par Result									Handicap						
									Nett Score						
Marker's									Player's						
Signature.....									Signature.....						
<div> <div>MEDICAL EMERGENCY PHONE: 999 / CLUBHOUSE: 019467 28202</div> </div>															



Frosty Question for Most Courses

Dale Housden Course Manager, Hollywood Golf Club

Why does Hollywood use temporary greens? We do it to protect our main greens from any additional wear during periods of poor weather conditions, such as frost or rainfall. It is to ensure our greens are ready to go as soon as possible in the spring.

Have you ever thought about just running on those main greens all year round? Yes and we have done so previously. I can see the pros and cons on both sides of the debate

So what happens to your greens if you don't use temporaries in the winter? If we do not rest our greens during periods of frost, they begin the season in a much poorer state. This then requires an increase in dressings, to smooth imperfections and so on, to make them ready for the main playing season. If we didn't use temporary greens, the main greens would be around three to four weeks behind and that's prior to the additional turn around work.

What sort of damage can be caused? From previous experience, I have noted slight bruising on the turf leaf - causing some obvious black burn marks initially. In delicate cases it causes some root searing when the greens are played on during the vital thaw period. Long term, this gives the roots a hard time when we exit the colder period and slows down the recovery in the spring. When we have played on frozen greens, this forced us to topdress more during the winter months and at the start of the spring to avoid the greens coming on later than we wish.

When would you take the decision to use temporary greens? They are used during periods of morning frosts or after heavy rainfall if they are flooded. Regarding our frost policy, if the greens are that hard and there is no possibility that the frost would come out that day – usually after regular minus temperatures – then the greens would remain on mains as there is no potential for root shearing.

The issue for me is that I want to restrict the play on main greens during that crucial period when the top layer is beginning to thaw.

When, and how, do you decide to put them back onto the main greens? When I am confident that the frost has fully cleared, the flags are returned to the main greens. This is determined by using an eight-inch metal probe that goes into the top layer of the green and needs to penetrate fully into the soil. During the winter, if this is later than 1pm then the greens will remain on temporaries for the rest of the day. <https://www.bigga.org.uk/news-listing/golf-winter-greens-frosty-cold-snap.html>

Anyone wishing to raise issues relating to Greens should direct their concerns to Chairman of Greens and not to the Head Greenkeeper.

Winter Greens Report

Firstly, I would just like to take the opportunity to congratulate Guy Lawson who has now been in position as our head greenkeeper for 12months. What a fantastic job Guy and the team have done in producing greens and the course to such a high standard. I have lost count of the compliments but it was rewarding to hear the high praise of Guy and team from our outgoing and oncoming captains at the recent AGM & prizegiving. Achieving this high standard in his first year in charge certainly sets the bar high but I know Guy is looking forward to next season and is determined to build on this year's success.

The headline news is our new TORO GRE-TRIFLEX 3370 all electric mower has arrived following the successful application for a grant from the GDF fund. Work on this application for funding started all the way back in May, we also had to juggle the fact that these mowers are in very short supply with at least a 12-month waiting list. With careful planning and hard work from a number of people involved we were successful in securing a mower that had been on order from the supplier for some time. Guy has already been cutting with it this week and the early feedback is the mower performs fantastically well, he is delighted with it. Powered from our solar panels and operating without hydraulics in near silence we have eliminated the risk of hydraulic leaks on the greens, reduced operating costs and removed any early morning mowing complaints from our neighbours. Most importantly the new mower removes what was our highest risk, continually having to invest in expensive new parts to patch up decades old mowers which were at risk of failure at any time.

Guy and the team have been extremely busy over the last couple of months making a head start on the winter programme. The new green course tees have been installed against a tight schedule in order to enable the course to be measured and rated by the county, they have recently been declared in play for winter competitions. Work has started or has already been completed on a number of paths including the new path up to the ninth tees. Bunkers are starting to be worked on as are some of the tees

including the stripping of turf on the 10th medal tee and 15th yellow tee in preparation of levelling and re-turfing.

As Guy and the team continue with the winter programme our minds are not far from the start of next year and how we progress through the spring. I can assure you no stone was left unturned in preparing the course for the application of acelepryn which is the chemical we apply to combat the leatherjacket problem. To ensure the greens were healthy for application, we carried out aeration and overseeding with fescue in the first week of September ensuring full recovery for the application of acelepryn in October. Our October date was determined by seeking the latest advice from industry experts, suppliers and utilising data derived from pest tracker. At the time of writing, our greens are in a very healthy position and are putting extremely well for this time of year. All this work has been done to ensure the greens are as healthy as possible for the Annual leatherjacket battle in the spring.

At this time of year frost can be an issue, on rare occasions we must deploy winter greens as it would be detrimental to allow play on frosted or partially defrosted greens. Unfortunately, sometimes on a glorious day when the frost appears to have thawed on the surface the ground is still frozen underneath, this is when there is a real risk of root shear damage. The damage sustained may not be seen until the spring when we really need the greens to be healthy as possible for the battle against any surviving leatherjackets from the October acelepryn application.

We thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter and hope you can appreciate we are trying to eliminate any possible conditions which could impact on delivering high quality putting surfaces for the membership earlier in the season.

We would like to wish you all the best for the 2024 season and hope the weather is kind so you can enjoy playing over the festive period and through the remainder of the winter.

Chairman of greens.



New 12th winter tee



New 10th winter tee



Our new greens mower



Re-furbishment of front
left bunker on 12



10th medal tee stripped
of turf levelled and ready
for re-turfing



Fantastic job of new path to
the 9th tees

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