

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



A Farmer's Holiday



The flocks are building – under a blue sky at last.

A productive shift in the lambing shed.



Adam set aside March for some leave. It's lambing time and busy, busy, busy. At all hours of the day and night – in all weathers – sometimes in the lambing shed – often way out in the fields. And it's not just a one-man job – all of the family get involved – birthing and nurturing the new arrivals. Lots of twins – a few singles – and quite a few triplets – upwards of 300 lambs now graze happily in the fields near our 3rd hole. Things go well – but emergencies happen and must be responded to rapidly. The following from a Shropshimustsums up the joys of lambing:

The romance of lambs and daffodils and sunshine isn't really where it's at. For all the wonder of helping to bring new life into the world, the reality is a busy, repeated set of chores, the responsibility for lives, more chores, more fragile young lives, more chores, and less and less sleep. ...John Heighway

Not that Adam wasn't also reacting to golfing issues as well and helping Kirsty who kept things going back at the 'Ranch' looking after members, visitors and public ensuring that the business was being attended to, with Harry in the background for support when necessary.

A busman's holiday it wasn't – a farmer's holiday it certainly was.

Freshening Up – Stepping Up

The House Committee set its sights on improving the appearance and first impressions for members and visitors to the Club, doing so with minimal cost impact. Dave Kelly was keen to improve the foyer and the way into the Club and volunteered to take the initiative. Adam had already cleared the old shillies from the outside areas ready for the blue slate chippings. The greenkeepers helped put in placing the sleepers and build up the grassed area for the benches. The entrance foyer is already cleared and freshly painted, some furnishing yet to be set in place.

Vice-captain Paul Rickerby and Kirsty have done excellent work to relocate and refresh uplighters from the foyer into the lounge and Kirsty erecting nice photos of our course. Paul has also taken down the chandelier lighting and replaced these with more efficient roof lights, and together with Kirsty put in place suspended lighting in the booths/banquettes which really enhances the appearance and ambience of the lounge. And with an eye to efficiency Paul has ensured all the lighting is LED with dimmer and proximity switches used to good effect.

There are many areas of our Club that can do with improvement and the House Committee have shown how voluntary effort can help us achieve these improvements. If you would like to step up and volunteer, we'd love to hear from you ... contact Adam or Kirsty.



Dave Kelly stepping up and painting the foyer.



Malcolm Campbell painting himself into a corner.

Successful Winter Opens

After a brilliant Friday, it was looking like being a disaster as we contemplated Saturday morning's thunder, lightning, rain, sleet and snow as we arrived in the dark to set up the December Open. And it got worse as the A595 was shut due to icing and accidents between Gosforth and Boonwood. By 9.00am we had cancelled and informed everyone. We rescheduled for late February and crossed our fingers that January, February, and March would treat us better – and so they did. All the opens were completely full and the weather for each was better than we could have hoped for. Kirsty and all the staff worked tirelessly from early doors catering for our visitors and Angus, Robin and Harry ensured that the competitions ran efficiently. The players from all over the county and further afield were full of praise for the course and our service, and best of all – the winter set of opens were our most successful so far.

Captains v Vice Captains



**Lady Captain Brenda McCaffrey and Vice-captain Lynda Parker
Brenda gives it big licks with her drive-in.**

Despite the wind being against them, literally, the Ladies managed to complete the Lady Captain v Lady Vice Captain Team match. It was a very good turnout and after some very close hard fought matches, the Lady Captain's Team won 6-3.

The Lady Captain's Drive-in was won by Adam Lamb who had the nearest guess. In that wind, the ball could have gone anywhere! Thank you to all those who entered.

The men's Captain v Vice Captain's match was held on Saturday 23rd March despite the rather windy conditions. About 30 members turned out to support the duo. Overall, the result was a sound victory for the Vice Captain's team by 5 1/2 to 2 1/2 points. Despite the weather, the golf reflected the high standard of the course at the present time with some very good scores being returned. The event was rounded off with an excellent meal prepared and served by Kirsty and her team and a raffle courtesy of the Captain with some donations. Overall, the event raised £240 for the Captain's charity.

Cumbria Schools Championship 2024

Another victim of our fickle weather in 2024, suffering the tail end of storm Kathleen and the unfortunate coincidence of a high spring tide, was the Cumbria Schools Championship. Jack Stubbings organised the event for Tuesday 9th of April on behalf of Cumbria Schools Golf Association hosting their team and individual championships at Seascale. Jack said 'the CSGA are incredibly proud and grateful to be able to host the Championships at one of the premier courses in Cumbria.' They had 45 entries from Juniors across the County all set to tee off from 12.30pm. Gordon had set it up as a recognised competition on Club V1. Course closure due to flooding meant cancellation but we hope to find an alternative date for this excellent initiative soon.

Monday 4.00pm saw the course in great condition. The photographs below show what faced our greens staff 12 hours later. But despite some wet patches the course was ready for play on Wednesday – if only the rain would let up.



3rd Hole awash.



An island hole at the 9th.



Trouble at 13th.

Badgers

We have been investigating possible solutions to the badger problem on 9th involving natural chemicals and high frequency ‘cat scarers’. We are not empowered to eradicate them – that can only be done by licenced individuals. The Sonic ‘cat scarers’ have been deployed and garlic etc oil spread strategically to discourage them moving to other parts of the course. Our environment contacts at Sellafield say there is little that can be done to remove the problem – we need to act prudently, and that means building any case based on clear evidence of business loss to the Club.

Seascale Gala Day 22nd June 2024

To celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Seascale's foundation the village is holding a week of events involving groups and individuals from the village. Seascale Golf Club which was set up in 1893 is one of the oldest established organisations in the village. The ladies' section will be using this as an opportunity to attract potential new members, with displays and putting and chipping competitions. Kirsty and Dave Kelly are considering other potential initiatives on the day or during the week, and they and the ladies are keen for members to lend a hand and at least turn up and support the initiative. There will be opportunities for interested juniors, men and ladies to have a go under supervision on the driving range and putting green on certain days during the week and posters are already out offering Seascale Primary School pupils the opportunity to come and try.



Ladies Taster Day Saturday 27th April

The Ladies are keen to boost their numbers and will be repeating the very successful initiative of 2018 where as well as supervised sessions on the practice green – those who are really interested will be offered a few of holes as a taster and introduction to the game. Refreshments will be available afterwards including a Free Glass of Prosecco. Please encourage anyone you may know who would like to give golf a go to come along. The success of this event depends on having enough volunteers to help supervise and pass on their knowledge and experience – I'm sure our ladies will make it go with a swing.

Scratch Option in Competitions

Following calls for more of a challenge and reward for gross scores it was agreed that we offer an option to enter a scratch competition alongside most of our individual competitions. Gordon has set up this option on Club V1 so that at signing in the player is asked if they wish to enter the scratch competition at £2 per player. This will work in a similar way to the Two's Competition with the best gross taking the pot or in event of a tie the pot shared between the tied players. Players must play from either the blue or white tees.

Who Marked Your Card?

Something that affects us all - Under the new Rules of Handicapping (WHS) dated 1st April 2024.

When entering your score onto the PSi you will be asked who marked your scorecard and who's scorecard did you mark.

Players should enter the name of the marker in the drop-down box.

Council Minutes

Council has agreed that as from March 2024 the Minutes of the most recent Council Meeting will be available, as previously, in draft form on the **Website (Members Hub)** a couple of days after the meeting. The previous confirmed minutes, instead of being displayed on the notice board, will be filed in the **Minutes Folder** in the lounge (under the Trophy cabinet).

What Makes Us Sustainable

An article in *The Golf Club Secretary* on Sustainability in Golf Clubs makes us realise just how far we have come on this topic which is well up the priority list of the R&A.

Most people asked about sustainability on the golf course will immediately think about ecological aspects of the rough and out-of-play areas. However, there are far more practical aspects that help with golf club management and make absolute business sense.

Things such as energy, electric powered equipment, alternative water sources, availability of materials, waste management, supply chains and community engagement.

Energy - There are many examples of what clubs have done to invest in energy initiatives, such as windpower, biomass, or heat pumps that save them money and deliver environmental benefits.

Seascale has installed solar panels on the roof of the maintenance complex with the electricity fed back to the clubhouse, providing a third of the power the Club uses. It also helps power the complex itself, charging our buggies and electric and hybrid equipment. Excess energy can be sold back into the grid. In addition, we use a green power company to supply mains energy for the clubhouse and other buildings and that means all electricity consumed at Seascale is potentially from renewable sources.

Over the last few years, we have installed LED lighting, proximity and time-controlled lighting and dimmer switches all of this leading to a significant decrease in energy consumption and costs, as well as a reduction in our carbon footprint.

Water – lots of clubs are looking to secure alternative or more reliable sources of irrigation water through boreholes, rainfall capture and storage. Seascale has installed and is using its borehole and has a licence allowing us to extract enough water to cover our greenkeeping needs. With a little bit of effort, we could probably engineer a rainfall capture system. Only 40mm of rain is required to fill 2,000 litres of storage tank, with the water being used for liquid spraying applications, as well as tool washing.

Materials - One of the key findings to emerge from the R&A's GolfCourse 2030 initiative was that aggregates and sands for construction and for dressings were a resource that is becoming scarcer, and that this is likely to have repercussions for golf. Seascale is well placed to utilise its own source from within its own boundaries and has been doing so for decades.

Other Considerations –

- Our use of astra turf for bunkers, paths etc sees us recycling a fair amount of that material.
- Our use of local suppliers means that we are minimising effects from supply chains.
- We do as much recycling of our waste as we can – but maybe could do better.
- We shouldn't be complacent – but we certainly have a good story to tell.

Seascale Photo Challenge

A few years ago we had a competition where we challenged members to photograph wildlife on the Course. We had a good response and a worthy winner.

We'd like to set another challenge this year, but leave it to members, visitors or friends to photograph any aspect of Seascale Golf Club that they think inspires them throughout the year. Just send your photo to the Secretary.

Captain Brian O'Kane will be happy to present a prize or prizes to the winning entrants.



2020 winner was Stephen Brown who snapped this Roe Deer at the 8th.

Welcome to Our New Members

<i>Paul</i>	<i>Aitken</i>	<i>Alex</i>	<i>Cronin</i>	<i>Ben</i>	<i>Mahaffy</i>	<i>Dean</i>	<i>Steele</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Bailey</i>	<i>Steve</i>	<i>Curry</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>McGowan</i>	<i>Glynn</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
<i>Xander</i>	<i>Bainbridge</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>Edmondson</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Merner</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Toole</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Banks</i>	<i>Gabe</i>	<i>Galloway</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Murphy</i>	<i>Kristian</i>	<i>Tyson</i>
<i>Wesley</i>	<i>Benn</i>	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Garratt</i>	<i>Gary</i>	<i>Nelson</i>	<i>Patrick</i>	<i>Williamson</i>
<i>Alan</i>	<i>Brack</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Owens</i>	<i>Reece</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Mike</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Gill</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Powell</i>		
<i>Adam</i>	<i>Burke</i>	<i>Fletcher</i>	<i>Hodgson</i>	<i>Christopher</i>	<i>Poyner</i>		
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Butterworth</i>	<i>Darren</i>	<i>Johnston</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Reddock</i>		
<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Lewthwaite</i>	<i>Neil</i>	<i>Richardson</i>		
<i>Steven</i>	<i>Charlesworth</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Lynch</i>	<i>Martin</i>	<i>Robson</i>		
<i>Barry</i>	<i>Cornish</i>	<i>Tom</i>	<i>MacKenzie</i>	<i>Brian</i>	<i>Stamper</i>		

Spring Greens Update

Unfortunately, we have suffered another horrendous winter on the weather front, every year now we seem to hear the familiar words “wettest winter on record”. Despite the weather our greens remained in excellent condition which is testament to the green staff but due to the weather our members and visitors have not been able to enjoy our fantastic links as frequently as possible.

Despite the weather the green staff have been working hard on the golf course when conditions permitted, as well as other tasks they have been refurbishing bunkers by refacing and turfing to an exceptionally high standard. A new blowout bunker has been added to the 11th hole, to explain further a blowout bunker is a more natural looking bunker compared to a rivetted bunker. Modern links golf course design merges classic rivetted bunkers with the addition of more natural historic looking blowout bunkers. You may recall seeing this in the Martin Hawtree re-design of the 17th hole at Royal Liverpool which hosted last year’s open championship, we will be studying the latest design philosophy when implementing any changes to our historic links. The new bunker is 260 yds from the white tee, it gives the lower handicapper something to consider by introducing a hazard on the bail out line while also providing a similar challenge off the 12th tee. The bunker on the right was filled in, this is now a contoured mound helping to frame the tee shot which will be seeded with fescue to provide a challenge which will not be as severe as the bunker it replaces giving the higher handicapper the opportunity to advance further down the fairway.

The green staff have also been working on the tees, the 10th upper tee was levelled and returfed, the same was carried out on the 15th tee and the ladies 17th tee. As we speak, we are ensuring the roots are strong on these tees before bringing into play, again the weather has not helped us but hopefully it will break soon and we will get them into play.

As you will have seen over the winter period, we now have a dedicated winter green course with purpose built winter tees. The team did a fantastic job finishing this off into the start of the winter period, the tees have been positioned to minimise damage to the summer tees while also taking safety into consideration as far as reasonably practicable. I personally believe we now have the best winter course set up in the county however our number one goal is to be known as the best course in the county all year round.

New paths have been installed including up to the 9th white tee, up to the 7th blue tee and a long-anticipated path was installed for the ladies up to their fantastic 17th tee, hopefully those snakes will be easier to spot now ladies!!!

We introduced a new white tee on the 18th, this is a proactive measure to try and help our neighbours by reducing the number of balls striking houses on the right hand side of the hole. This tee adds distance to the houses on the right while minimising additional yardage onto the hole. This is a trial being carried out with the best intentions, we will monitor the feedback from our members and neighbours, we can always re-assess this white tee position moving forward.

As I write we have been delayed starting our aeration and fescue overseeding programme due to the persistent wet weather, the team carried this work out early last season and we saw some great results. Guy is chomping at the bit to get started, the sooner we get going the sooner we can get back to the fantastic greens condition we saw last season, again please be patient when the work starts and into the recovery period.

Having played through the winter myself and listening to our members most have advised the green health has improved and we have also seen less leatherjacket damage. We have seen leatherjackets out on the greens in recent weeks, the Acelepryn product is not a silver bullet, but it is designed to

minimise the damage if applied at the right time. Hopefully we have made good progress in this area and we will endeavour to keep learning and keep up with the latest expert advice.

Some of you might not know but we have a small team of highly appreciated volunteers who give up their time to work on the course and help out where they can. Recently a “very well known” member carried out aeration work on all 18 greens using the Air2G2 machine, which is no mean feat - this work will undoubtedly help the greens recovery. Volunteers have also helped greatly with the irrigation system over the winter period, we are trying to be more self-sufficient rather than relying on contractors who have not delivered value to the cost of the membership. We can only achieve this by the generous support from our members which is very much appreciated by myself & Guy.

I would like to finish off by thanking the green staff for their hard work over the winter period in very testing and trying conditions, we really have a fantastic team headed by Guy Lawson and I wish him all the best in his 2nd year as head greenkeeper of our fantastic course.

Scott Mahaffy

Chairman of greens



Re furnished 5th hole bunker front right



Re furnished 2nd hole greenside bunker



New 18th white tee



Levelled and turfed 10th upper tee



Re furnished 12th hole front left bunker



New blow out bunker on 11th hole



Levelled & re-turfed ladies 17th tee.



Re furnished 11th hole front left



Levelled & re turfing 15th tee



New path to ladies 17th tee



New path up to the 9th white tee



New winter 17th tee



The Greens Team – l-r Guy Lawson, Will Fox, Sam Thompson, Stephen Youngs and Kyle Brown – and not forgetting Will's dog - Bruce.

QUIZ NIGHT



AT SEASCALE GOLF CLUB
FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024 @7PM
TEAMS OF FOUR PEOPLE - £10 PER TEAM

Seascale Golf Club

**Friday
26th
April**

**Start
8pm**



**Rock &
Roll Band
Live**

**Happy Hour
7-8pm
(Special Offers)**

**Food Served
6-7.30pm
(Sharing Menu)**

BAD ADVICE

To Book Your Table for Food 019467-28202 option 1
 (please note- we will not take requests to reserve specific tables
 when booking)
GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON !!!
ALL WELCOME