

WEAR SIDE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



Issue 5



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CLUB CAPTAIN

First of all, I want to take a moment to thank all members and staff for being a part of this amazing club.

Gents Team

Thank you to all the team players for their support, hard work, dedication and commitment, finishing 4th in the league. Special recognition to three players in the top 13 of the order of merit: - Evan Oliver, Paul Ward, Paul Carl.

Juniors Triumph again!

Congratulations to our junior team for winning the North East League, that's the fourth time in five years they have won it - a fantastic achievement. Well done to Oscar Hancill, Evan Oliver and Millie Hixon for retaining their places in the England Regional Squad this year. Only one other club in the country can boast that!

Captain's Charity

Thanks to all the members for supporting my chosen charity, Breast Cancer, for the kind donations and to all the people who helped make the weekend a massive success.

On a personal note, it's been a privilege and honour to have been Captain of Wearside Golf Club. It has at times been challenging, but so many fantastic people helped, with special mention for Craig Mathieson my Vice Captain, I am so incredibly grateful.

Alan Rutter

Division 2 League Table 2025

DIVISION 2						
TEAM	P	W	L	D	T/Pts	Points
Hobson	14	9	2	3	130	21
Ramside Hall	14	9	4	1	130	19
Heworth	14	9	3	2	118	20
Wearside	14	9	4	1	118	19
Chester le Street	14	7	6	1	117	15
Crook	14	6	8	0	87	12
Garesfield	14	3	11	0	60	6
Washington	14	0	14	0	24	0

Player Scores Merit Table - Division Two 2025

Player	Club	Matches Played	Total Points	Home Points	Away Points	Points per Game
Josh White	Heworth	11	20	10	10	1.82
Ryan Biemings	Hobson	14	20	10	10	1.43
Lee Evans	Hobson	13	19	8	11	1.46
Kevin Suggitt	Chester le Street	13	19	11	8	1.46
Matthew Stephenson	Ramside Hall	12	19	12	7	1.58
Keith Flinn	Chester le Street	13	18	8	10	1.38
Adam Reay	Chester le Street	14	18	9	9	1.29
Evan Oliver	Wearside	11	18	10	8	1.64
Jason McGuire	Heworth	13	18	14	4	1.38
Ryan Wotton	Hobson	13	17	9	8	1.31
Davey Turner	Hobson	14	17	10	7	1.21
Paul Ward	Wearside	12	17	12	5	1.42
Paul Carl	Wearside	14	16	7	9	1.14

SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Let us know what you would like
to see in future editions

email: suggestions@wearsidegc.co.uk

01/09

CAPTAIN

WINTER PROJECTS

17TH GREEN

Winter Tee Boxes - October to November

Purpose built artificial winter tee boxes on 1st 2nd 3rd 6th 13th 14th & 15th

Tee Boxes - November to March

Resurface 2nd ,4th 5th,9th & 15th tee boxes

Bunker sand- January to March

Continue the rolling program to replace the old sand in the bunkers.

Re-turf damaged bunker edges – March

Repair some bunker edges

Reshape 2nd hole bunker February to March

Split the middle fairway bunker on the 2nd into two with a 'runway' between

7th Paths- Jan to February

New pathway construction on the 7th hole



It was terrible to see the mindless damage to the 17th green, however Danny and team have done a marvellous job in repairing the damage with 'donated' turf from the practice putting green

We will need to stay in the winter green for the foreseeable future.

PREFERRED LIES & MATS

Preferred lies came into play on Monday 20th October, this is to protect the course during the winter period when growth is at a minimum This applies to ALL grassed areas and bunkers,

We will again be using fairway mats this year when the conditions dictate. The starting date will be communicated when necessary. Mats will be available from the Club at a cost of £5, which is less than cost to the Club to purchase them.

DAILY TASKS

- Course inspection by 7.00
- Rake bunkers 3x week
- Remove dew from greens daily
- Move tee markers daily
- Cut greens 2x week
- Roll Greens once a week
- Cut tees once a week
- Cut aprons 2x week
- Change holes 2x week
- Cut fairways when ground conditions allow
- Cut the practice field when ground conditions allow
- Spray greens when needed
- Cut green surrounds when ground conditions allow

02/09

COURSE

CONGRATULATIONS THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

Club Championships

Club Champion

Evan Oliver

Seniors Champion

Howard Walton

Junior Champion

Oscar Hancil

Net Division 2

Neil Blue

Net Division 3

Gary Andrews

Net Seniors

Brian Bainbridge

Club Knockouts

Wearside Scratch

Evan Oliver

Presidents

Ben Wilkinson

Harvey Craig

Stephen Cook/Derek Goldsmith

Veterans

Steve Coxon

Alex Atkinson

Peter Sweeney/Terry Sharkey

Robson Shield Gross

Adam Sloanes

Robson Shield Nett

Dale Huggins



Evan Oliver makes history at 17

Evan became the club's youngest ever Gents Club Champion.

Shooting 71 & 71

Evan is just 17 years old, +1.5 handicap and represents the England Regional squad

Congratulations Evan!

Club Board Competitions

Infirmary Cup

John McKenzie

Lady Captains Prize

Andrew Scott (Lady Captain)

Harold Gregg

Thomas Brough / William Spence

Walter Bryant

Dale Huggins / Lee McMahon

Presidents Putter

Simon Avis

Westwood Cup

Tony Scott / Peter Broomfield

Bob Pearson Texas

Peter Adamson / Paul Wilson / Jeff Whiteley / Gerard Dunn

Middleton Cup

Luke Outhwaite/Jake Outhwaite

Handicap Bowl

Mark Humphrey

Vaux Cup

Stuart Kennedy

Palm Beach

Graeme Cowings/Elliott Patterson

Gordon Oliver Trophy

James Dunn/Darren Taylor/Gavin Sloane

R.N.L.I. Spoons

Stephen Cook/Derek Goldsmith

Norman Wake

Lee Hall / Darren Barkess

Wilkinson Cup

Lee McIntosh/Dan Parker

S.G.Farrow

Gary Parker

Sam Dudley

Chris Barrass

PRESENTATION NIGHT - FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER - 6:30PM

This year we really want to re-establish Presentation night as a celebration of the year and 2025 has a lot to celebrate!

Everyone is invited, so please get the date in your diaries and bring along friends and family.

A buffet will be provided as well as entertainment and special prices on selected drinks.

Board competition winners are expected to attend, or give their apologies to the club in advance

03/09

COMPETITIONS

JUNIOR TEAM



Paul Tinkler DCGU Junior Chairman presents the trophy

We are pleased to say that our junior team once again won the north east league. This is the fourth time in five years we have done so and represents a fantastic achievement.

Well done – Oscar Hancill, Oscar O'Connor, Josh Willey, Alex Gordon, Callum Whyte, Charlie Hancill, James Russell, Harry Sheen and Millie Hixon.



Evan Oliver and Oscar Hancill in the Scratch U18 DCGU vs Yorkshire. Both winning their match.

OSCAR OCONNOR

Oscar O'Connor has seen his handicap tumble from 10.7 to 2.2. Competing with the best U14 boys, the highlight of his season was a fantastic finish in one of the most prestigious U14 events in Europe, finishing T16 in The Reid Trophy. This performance means he is finishing the season ranked 17th in England and 88th in the whole of Europe in the U14 boys category. This is an achievement to be very proud of.



MILLIE HIXON

Millie claimed joint 1st place in the Stephen Gallacher Foundation Girls' U-18 Championship breaking the amateur course record. Shooting a stunning 8 under par 66 on day two of the tournament.

Millie has also been crowned the Durham Junior County Champion for both 2024 and 2025

Aged just 15, with a handicap of +0.9, Millie is ranked 24th in England U16 girls and 182nd in Europe.



OSCAR HANCILL



Oscar Hancill Represented Wearside GC at the Northern Golfer Mens Champion of Champions finishing 3rd.

"WE NEED JUNIOR SECTION VOLUNTEERS – COULD YOU HELP SHAPE THE NEXT GENERATION?"



Steve Hancill is stepping down as club Junior Liason Officer after 9 years. He will still oversee the junior team. Thank you for your dedication and hard work Steve!

The club are therefore looking for volunteers to help run the junior section. If you have an interest in this area or have a junior golfer at the club and would like to help share the workload - please contact the office.

SENIOR IPS TEAM



Wearside Golf Club is proud to be a Founder member of the first Seniors Golf League in the history of County Durham Golf. The 9 other clubs are: Beamish Park, Brancepeth Castle, Consett & District, George Washington, Ramside Hall, Ryton, Seaham, Tyneside, and Whickham. Whickham became the first DSGL Dunholm League Champions and Double Winners beating Seaham in the Dunholm Knock Out Trophy held at South Shields G C.

Can you help Wearside challenge for trophies in 2026?

We have over 350 seniors eligible to play. If you are interested in representing Wearside Golf Club please get in touch with the office or the Senior Captain

SENIORS FRIENDLIES

Alongside the Durham Seniors Golf League, IPS Wearside Seniors have a programme of friendly fixtures played Home and Away from May to September. Participating Clubs include: Beamish*, Bishop Auckland, Boldon, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Ravensworth, South Shields, Ravensworth, Whickham*, Whitburn, and Whitley Bay. (* may be played as DSGL fixture). These matches are usually played on Thursday mornings and include a pre-match bacon butty and post-match meal for all players.



CAPTAIN'S FIELD DAY

The Captain's Field Day to decide our 2025 Champion, was held on 18th September. Alan Smith won and is shown receiving the trophy from Seniors Captain Elliott Patterson:

LADIES v SENIORS

The annual season ending Ladies v Seniors Match for the John Chaytor Trophy was played in perfect conditions on 25th September. The Ladies Team, led by Captain Gillian Patterson accumulated 209 pts to the Seniors 222 pts. Mrs Linda Chaytor-Lowes presented the Trophy to the Seniors Captain.



We look forward to the 2026 Season and to welcoming more members to the Seniors Section.

Happy Golfing!

05/09

SENIORS

ANDERSON & SIVEWRIGHT TEAMS

The teams had mixed success this year, facing difficulties fielding teams because of illness, injury and declining numbers.

The Anderson team came 4th in the Durham (5 player) 2nd division league. They were unable to secure enough wins over the season so will drop to the 3rd division in 2026.

The Sivewright team won 6 of their 8 games in the Durham north division, halving 1 and losing 1. They came 3rd out of 14 teams in the league.

Lady Captain 2026

I'm delighted to announce that Helen Ross has accepted the invitation to be Lady Captain for 2026. She will be officially elected at the Ladies AGM in November. I'm sure she will be a great asset to the club and ladies section in the coming year.

Gillian Patterson
October 2025

CASC

As part of our responsibility as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), in August, the ladies section invited members of St Benedict Hospice Bereavement Group to the club for a golf taster session.

The aim of the session was to reach out and promote emotional wellbeing, engagement and social support through golf activities.

Elliott led the group with putting practice and competition, followed by refreshments in the clubhouse providing a safe, tranquil space to meet and talk. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the event and welcomed the benefits of our beautiful location, space and activity to their wellbeing.



06/09

LADIES

PRESENTATION NIGHT 2025 - FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER



We are delighted to welcome back the fantastic Laura Cairns. Laura has over 15 years experience in the entertainment industry.

Singing upbeat, dance hits from the 60s all the way up to current chart music. Laura will be sure to have you singing and dancing along to songs from artists such as Fleetwood Mac, The Drifters, Ella Henderson and many more...

The club will also be providing a buffet on the night, so be sure to come down and enjoy an evening of entertainment.



COORS, MADRI AND GUINNESS JUST £3.50 PER PINT



12" STONE BAKED PIZZAS

Our artisan pizza bases are made using premium re-milled durum semolina, hand stretched and stone baked.

RUSTIC CLASSIC (v)

£10.95

Rustic combination of oregano infused Barrel & Stone tomato sauce and creamy Fior di Latte mozzarella.

SIMPLY SALAMI

£11.95

Delicious cured Napoli salami with oregano infused Barrel & Stone tomato sauce and Fior di Latte mozzarella.

NICE & SPICY

£12.95

Barrel & Stone tomato sauce, Fior di Latte mozzarella, topped with spicy Calabrian 'Nduja sausage laced with chilli, Peppadew peppers, fiery Ventricina salami and sliced Roquito peppers.

THE GARDEN CLUB (v)

£11.95

A vegetarian celebration with oregano infused Barrel & Stone tomato sauce, Fior di Latte mozzarella, balsamic glazed onions, globe artichoke hearts, Peppadew peppers, a sprinkling of olives and finished with peppery rocket.

HAM & 'SHROOM

£11.95

Oregano infused Barrel & Stone tomato sauce, Fior di Latte mozzarella, smoked speck ham and sliced mushrooms.

BBQ CHICKEN

£12.95

A smoky, sweet bbq sauce base, Fior di Latte mozzarella, pulled seared chicken breast, balsamic glazed onions and smoked speck ham.

NON GLUTEN? Our pizzas are available with a 12" non gluten base. Although every effort is made to avoid cross contamination, they are prepared in a kitchen that uses gluten and so the finished pizza cannot be guaranteed to be completely gluten free. (v) vegetarian

Food Allergy or Intolerance

If you have a food allergy, intolerance, or coeliac disease – please speak to a member of the team about the ingredients in your food and drink before you order.

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We would also like to remind everyone that the clubhouse is available for function hire, and there is no room hire charge for members. Thanks again for your support

SUNDAY LUNCHES ARE BACK!

Sunday Lunches are back for the winter!

We are now taking bookings for 9th November and will be taking weekly bookings thereafter. Takeaways also available.

Adults: £12.95

Children: £6.95

SUNDERLAND AFC

November is a great month for live sport at the club, two of Sunderland's fixtures will be shown live:

- Monday 3rd: Sunderland v Everton 8pm
- Saturday 8th: Arsenal v Sunderland 5:30 pm



HOSPITALITY

07/09

MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS

How do you rate the following		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tee boxes	Good or Great	62.3%	65.9%	68.0%	54.0%	48.5%
	Poor	7.1%	5%	3.5%	8.2%	17.8%
Fairways	Good or Great	87.7%	86.3%	93.7%	90.9%	68%
	Poor	7.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	8.3%
Bunkers	Good or Great	20.5%	18%	26%	12.9%	20.8%
	Poor	40.9%	38.8%	30.5%	55.3%	34.7%
Rough	Good or Great	67.4%	70.3%	68.1%	59.7%	67.6%
	Poor	2.8%	2.6%	3.5%	6%	1%
Greens	Good or Great	84.2%	91.3%	98.9%	97.5%	98.3
	Poor	4%	1.7%	0.4%	0.3%	1%

What one change would you make to the course to improve it for members?

- 37% of comments were about bunkers
- 18% referred to tee boxes needing improving
- 6% wanted paths improving
- 5% general course appearance and tidiness

Actions

1. The club will continue its programme to replace the sand in all bunkers over the next 2 years
2. Build winter tees on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 13th, 14th & 15th
3. Re turf and level tee boxes 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th & 15th
4. 7th path rebuilt this winter

Which hole do you think is our best and why?

- Every hole received some votes, except the 8th or 9th holes
- 7th Hole received the most votes – 121 (40%). Picturesque, challenging, signature hole – a thing of beauty!
- 16th next with 72 votes – tough hole, challenging, needs a good drive to go for it in two, the new bunker has improved it

Which hole do you think is our worst and why?

- Every hole received some votes including the 7th (5%)
- 13th hole received 109 votes (36%) - can't see the pin, too long, needs a driver, hit and hope hole, dangerous. 194 members did not vote the 13th the worst hole (64%)

How do you rate the following		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Clubhouse	Good or Great	94.1%	97.4%	95.8%	93.7%	94.4%
	Poor	0.4%	0.9%	4.2%	0.9%	1%
Food & drink	Good or Great	87.3%	84.8%	87.4%	97.8%	94.7%
	Poor	0.8%	2.6%	1.1%	1.3%	0.3%
Toilets	Good or Great	65.9%	65.3%	73.3%	63.9%	67.7%
	Poor	5.6%	6.4%	5.3%	7.5%	4.6%
Service	Good or Great	93.6%	94.5%	93%	93.7%	96%
	Poor	1.2%	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%

What one change would you make to improve the hospitality when visiting the club.

- 59% offered no suggested improvements, keep doing what we are doing
- 10% wanted member etiquette to improve
- 7% suggested improvements to the gent's toilets

Actions

1. Etiquette in the clubhouse is the responsibility of all, we would ask all members to behave appropriately
2. We will get costings for improvements to the gent's toilets downstairs

08/09

MEMBERS SURVEY

MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS

How do you rate the following		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Office	Good or Great	88.5%	87.8%	90.6%	91.8%	92%
	Poor	2.4%	2.3%	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%
Golf Shop	Good or Great	72.3%	59.5%	67.0%	52.8%	46.2%
	Poor	7.1%	13.4%	7.7%	15.7%	18.5%
Lockers	Good or Great	43.6%	51.5%	61.1%	52%	48.2%
	Poor	15.1%	11.7%	11.6%	11%	17.8%
Car Park	Good or Great	53.9%	48.1%	52.6%	45.0%	42.6%
	Poor	16.3%	16.9%	15.8%	15.4%	13.9%
Service	Good or Great				91.5%	93.4%
	Poor				1.3%	0.7%
Communication	Good or Great			82.8	85.2	84.8%
	Poor			2.8	2.8	3.3%
Competitions	Good or Great					81.2%
	Poor					2.6%
What one change would you make to improve the members experience when visiting the club.						
10% wanted improvements to the gents' locker rooms 10% made suggestions to change competitions 7% wanted improvements to the shop 6% wanted online booking all year round and 3% wanted ball in chute all year round						
Actions						
1. We will get costings for improvements to the gents' lockers						
2. Competition feedback has been provided to the Handicap & Competitions Secretary						
3. Shop feedback has been passed to Marc						
How likely are you to recommend Wearside Golf Club to family, friend, or colleague?		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
60% of members would recommend Wearside GC 7.5% would not recommend us		58%	60%	58%	60%	60%
Net Promoter Score		50%	54%	51%	52%	52%
Number of responses		252	343	285	318	303
Are you likely to still be a member in 2 years' time		96%	97%	96%	95%	95%

YOUR FEEDBACK HELPS SHAPE THE CLUB'S FUTURE – THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART.

Another hugely positive result with 303 questionnaires completed this year. Overall feedback seems to be keep doing what we are doing to improve the course and clubhouse.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Greens 98.3% Great/Good
- Clubhouse, Food & drink and service all above 94%
- Office & Service above 92%
- Net Promoter Score 52%

ACTIONS

- Danny will continue the bunker sand replacement programme and this winter build all weather tee boxes as well as resurfacing some medal tee boxes.
- We will gather costings to improve the Gent's locker rooms as well as the downstairs toilets. Once we have these we can report back.

09/09

MEMBERS SURVEY