

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER Spring 2014



Spring Clean



Nearly done – just need a hand to get the lighting sorted. Project Manager and Vice-captain Stirling Graham has spent the best part of a month getting everything sorted for the client – Kirsty Johnston our House Manager. The net result is a rather swish looking lounge able to accommodate many more golfers, guests and customers. Stirling thanked everyone involved in stripping out, painting and decorating and heaving furniture here there and everywhere, but most notably John Roper and Russell.



Captain and Vice-captain ready for the first pint.

Throughout the upheavals Kirsty and her team kept their heads and set up entirely workable temporary arrangements including a natty bar in a rather cosy dining room. Timescales were slightly affected as we tried to accommodate the availability of contractors, but being only a day or so over the target was pretty good considering. Apologies to all who felt inconvenienced by our efforts to upgrade the facilities. For those who are interested, the carpet pattern is called ‘Angus’ – and please be aware that absolutely no Scotsmen were used in selection of colours or carpets.

Winter Programme

Well we thought we were doing well with no frost and snow, but Winter 2013/14 must surely have been one of the windiest and wettest for many a long year. However, it is very pleasing to see the amount of work that the greens staff were able to get on with through these difficult weeks.



Eric's Bridge at the 13th – at last!

The bridge to cut over to the left of the 13th which had been washed away a couple of years ago was finally replaced and what a splendid job the guys did of erecting Eric's Bridge – no long treks back now for the short shot from the tee.

Most of the bunkers have now been renewed over the last couple of years with steps put in place or renewed. And finally the rain gave up and the lads were able to get the turf down on the new and extended tees. All in all it has been a splendid effort.



The new tee at the 10th hole.

We followed the advice of the Sports Turf Research Institute Inspector and did the deep penetration of all the greens at the back end. We all had to suffer a few weeks on temporary greens (which were not so bad), but quite clearly the recommended action was spot on as our greens stood up to repeated saturation for weeks on end, and look pretty darned good as we get into the season.

As we move into the new season our greens staff are looking forward to maintaining and improving the course to an even higher standard. To help them we purchased during the winter an electric work buggy and a John Deere multi-purpose utility vehicle or 'Gaitor'. There will be some changes staff wise also as we look to employ a

an Apprentice Greenkeeper who should be in post some time in April



John Whitham, Charlie and 'Gaitor'.

Cath Hobson Bequest



Cath Hobson, Lady President for many years, passed on last year and had made a bequest to Seascale Golf Club in her will. The residue of her estate has been split equally between Wasdale Mountain Rescue and the Golf Club – who will each receive £26k. Council discussed what would be an appropriate tribute and legacy for Cath, who enjoyed nothing more than looking from her flat over the sea, the 17th and 18th holes and towards the magnificent Scafell Range. With the support of the Ladies, Council has recommended that the Club should dedicate the proposed decking overlooking the 18th as the 'Catherine Hobson Terrace' linking as it would the views of the sea, the course and the views to Scafell and the Wasdale Valley.

At the Helm This Year



Captain Eric Smith



Lady Captain Jane Reeves



Buggies are breeding?

The demand for buggies from visitors was quite high last year and already this year we are noting that there is an increasing demand. The Club has taken delivery of a further two in readiness for the new season. Martin Thomas will be acting as 'caddy master' looking after the Club buggies.

We will shortly be putting up a notice asking members to let us know if they are interested in making use of the buggy storage area which we expect to have in place in a couple of months time. If demand outstrips the number of places available then the Club will endeavour to find the fairest method of allocating those places.

Winter Golf

We had a reasonably successful winter competition programme. The new mats, although not to everyone's liking, certainly did the job of giving us a nearly normal course length and have kept our tees in a pretty good state. The Open Texas Scrambles proved popular once again and brought a healthy income into the Club as well as helping to publicise Seascale's position as a good winter golf venue.

The prize-based winter handicap system again was not to everyone's liking, but we had as many

competitions as last year and entrance was about the same for both Wednesdays and Sundays. Many members lamented their handicap reductions, but there were just as many who accepted their cuts with good grace, in the knowledge that they return to their CONGU handicaps at the start of the season.

New Scorecards

As discussed at the AGM the Course has been reassessed and certificated by County. A commitment was made to include 'Blue' or Championship course measurements on the scorecard and to identify at least six competitions to be played from the 'Blue' tees. The new scorecards were received in early February and the Fixture List has been updated to identify the relevant competitions and is available on the website and displayed on the notice board.

Pace of Play

Golfers, golf clubs and competition organisers have differing views on what constitutes acceptable pace of play, but they are all agreed that slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game for far too many players. Few players complain about play being too quick. There is a responsibility therefore on all players and administrators to ensure that golf is played at a good pace, and a pace appropriate to the course being played. Factors that may influence what is considered an appropriate pace may be the difficulty of the course, distances between tees, the weather and also the range and ability of the players on the course. The guidelines below if adhered to will help ensure a reasonable pace of play:

On the Course

All players must maintain their place in the field, which is immediately behind the group

in front and not ahead of the group behind. This is a group responsibility and not an individual one. All members should be proactive in addressing the slow play problem

Should your group fall a clear hole behind (e.g. you are on the tee of a four or five par hole and the previous group has already left the green) and it is delaying the group behind please invite the group behind to play through (irrespective of the number of players in that group)

No more than five minutes is allowed to search for a ball, but be ready to wave through after 2 minutes. If you can't find your ball in 5 minutes you must proceed by enforcing the golf rules governing the conditions under which your ball was lost.

If more than one ball needs to be found, split up and search for all the balls at the same time.

If you hit a ball that you think may be hard to find, or it may be out of bounds, please hit a provisional ball – it saves time and tempers.

Go to your ball and get ready to hit your next shot as soon as it is feasible; i.e., not impeding another player's shot or endangering yourself. Don't always wait for your mate to play before going to your ball.

Short hitters to tee off first.

Walk briskly between shots.

Leave your golf bag, buggy or cart strategically placed to side of the green nearest the next tee.

Cart users should be particularly aware of the extra time taken in sharing a cart and look for ways to speed up play, for example, move ahead of walkers to look for possibly lost balls, try to position the cart for easy access when leaving the green to reduce the number of times that you have to get in and out.

Always conduct yourself in a disciplined manner. Try and demonstrate courtesy and

sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive you may be - this is essentially the SPIRIT OF THE GAME

On the Green

When you reach the green, move to your ball and repair any pitch marks.

Where possible, line up your putt prior to your turn to putt.

If your ball needs to be marked, then do it as quickly as you can. Anticipate the requirements of your fellow player. Move back and line up your putt.

Except in match play, and where you will stand on someone else's lie, when you start putting, continue until you have holed out.

If playing a par or stableford event and you can no longer score on that hole, pick up your ball and let others continue.

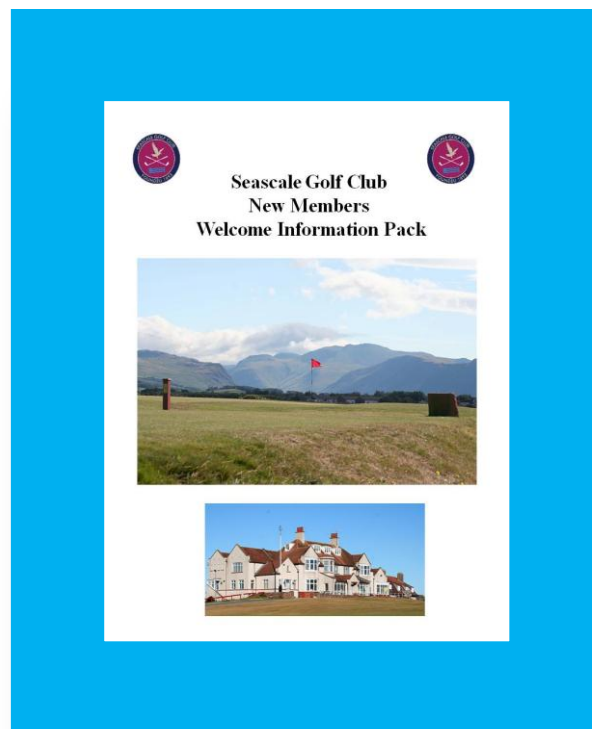
The first player to finish putting should take control of the flag and be ready to replace it in the hole when the final player has completed the hole.

Players should proceed to the next tee without delay. The following group should be waiting to play their approach shots, so the path taken to the next tee should be borne in mind. This is particularly the case on holes 3 and 13.

Think ahead; leave your cart or buggy in a place where you won't be hindering the following players.

Cards should be marked as quickly as possible after completing the hole, but it is best to mark the cards at the next tee. Please mark your card when it is not your turn to play.

Remember at all times your place in the field is immediately behind the group in front and not in front of the group behind.



New Members

A warm welcome to all our new and rejoining members. We hope that you will enjoy your time with us and that you will get involved in our activities. A welcome Information Pack has been mounted on the website, but if you need a printed copy please contact the Secretary.

Joining us this year are:

Malcolm Anderson
Gregg Benbow
Adam Connor
Jay Connor (Junior)
David Cooper
Gary Cooper
Andrew Duignan
Mark Gallears
Barry Goodwin
Phillip Haig
Ian Harwood
Jackson Relph
Ron Looney
Oliver Lucey
Matthew McGrath

Andrew Prince
Stuart Roberts
Raven Shuttleworth (Junior)
Adam Shuttleworth
Gary Simpson
Stephen Temple
Victoria Wheatley
Graeme Wilson
Chris Woloszyn

Entertainment 2014

The Captain wishes to continue the efforts of last year's captain in raising the profile of entertainment and social activities for members and the local community, and has along with the Social 'committee' come up with a programme of events for 2014. The 'committee' is open to suggestions for more and varied events, but more importantly for other members with ideas to get involved. Funds raised from our entertainments programme will help fund bigger and better events and ensure a good flow money into the respective Captains' charities.

The programme for this year so far with tentative dates for later events includes:

- Fri 11 Apr Opening Night (of Lounge)
- Fri 25 Apr Race Night
- Sat 24 May Kirsty's Theme Night
- Sat 21 Jun Mid-summer BBQ + Speed Golf
- Fri 26 Sep Casino Night
- Fri 31 Oct Captain's Cabaret
- Fri 7 Nov Bonfire Night & Family Disco
- Fri 19 Dec Dinner Dance
- Mon 22 Dec Children's Christmas Party
- Sat 24 Jan Burns Night



Richard our New Chef

Kirsty and the staff looked after us very well during November and December following Karen's departure, but they were certainly glad to welcome Richard Minniken our new chef just before Christmas. Richard and Kirsty are already making an impact on menus and quality, with the aim of sourcing as much as possible from local suppliers. Look out for further improvements and developments and sample Minni's menu minis at the Open Night.



New Chef Richard Minniken