

# SEASCALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER Autumn 2013



## Thanks Guys



There's no getting away from it. We had a pretty horrendous start to the year in more ways than one. But the test of a Club is how well it copes with adversity – and cope we certainly did.

From a greens perspective, we did have a struggle this year. Every golf course has its own story to tell of the last twelve months, but from over 30 years of experience I have never seen such a set of circumstances collude at causing us grief. We went from a high point of superior greens for the English Amateur Championships in early August to having greens saturated or literally underwater at the end of August and continuing right through to February. Then when it dried the ground temperature right up to May was so low that growth was nigh on impossible. We steadily persevered and followed the advice of the experts and by the weekend of the Club Championships they were almost as good as last year's high point. We need to say a loud thank you to our green-keeping staff who did such a

tremendous job of pulling our greens back into shape and giving us a course that is an absolute pleasure to play on. Thank you Guys.

And of course the work goes on in following through the advice to penetrate and deal with a compounded underlayer. The deep-aeration work on the greens took them out of action for a couple of weeks and put us onto well-prepared temporaries. We should all look on this as a wise investment for the future.

## Defibrillator Training



This year's Captain, Les Moore, achieved one of his key targets by purchasing a defibrillator from part of the proceeds of his Captain's Charity. A training session run by David Moore was held recently for those who are likely to be on hand and potentially have to use the kit. Our picture shows from left to right: Tony Holman, Dave Moore and Tyler Moore (Training Team) Graeme Wilson, Les Moore, John Whitham, Eric Smith, Martin Thomas, Keith Hunt and Kirsty Johnston.

## **Captain's Charity Cabaret**

The entertainment programme continues with the Captain's Charity Cabaret on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Guy Lancaster and Jimmy McLean will be treating everyone to popular song and dance ably supported by maestro Terry Russell.



## **Mega Bonfire & Fireworks**

Button up well for this year's Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display. Word is that this year is going to be the biggest and best yet. There will be the usual burgers, hotdogs etc. available, followed by a Family Disco.



## **Handing over the Reins**

It's official – the apprenticeship is over and John Moore has handed over his Competition Secretary role to the Competition Committee of Keith Hunt, Alan Jardine, Harry Paterson and Angus Russell. Members may wonder why so many to take over from one man, but they will not be aware of the amount of work and dedication John has put into running competitions and handicaps. But of course it wasn't just Competition Secretary work that John was involved in - he has given service in so many ways to his Club. For many years John has been a Trustee of the Club, but he has decided to step down to make way for a new team here also. Trustees will now be Rob Blythe, Brian Maguire, Christine Graham and Alan Jardine. John has just had an operation and we all look forward to his speedy recovery and availability for consultation.

## **Moving On**

Avril certainly knew how to retire on a high! The clubhouse was full on the Sunday of the Annual Prize-giving with the successful shot-gun start competition making for a very good audience. The Captain thanked Avril for her many years of service to the Club and keeping everyone in line on the Sunday competitions.

Good luck to Karen in her new venture at the Falcon Club. She has kept us all well-vitalled over the last few years, and we are sorry to lose one of our 'Seascale Dolls'.



**Rumour has it that Elvis will be in the Building on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – get your tickets soon.**

## Focus on Winter



**Seascale Golf Club**  
*Welcomes Winter Golfers*

**Winter 2013/14 Rates**  
(1 Nov - 31 Mar)  
Mon - Fri: Round £20.00  
Sat, Sun & B.H.: Round £25.00  
Late Start Deals (after 12.00) -  
from just \$10.00

**4 Ball Winter Warmer**  
18 holes - Soup & Sandwiches or  
Bacon Butty Tea/Coffee £80 (Mon-Fri)

**Monthly Open  
Texas Scrambles**  
£50.00 per team

*All subject to availability and prior booking*  
Call us for more details of all our special packages  
Tel: 019467 28202  
Email: seascalegolfclub@gmail.com  
Visit our website: www.seascalegolfclub.co.uk  
THE BANKS, SEASCALE, CUMBRIA CA20 1QL

Seascale is advertising its availability for Winter golfers with an entry in *National Club Golfer's* feature on Winter golf. Year-round availability is one of our strong points for players keen to keep their hands in. Greenfee, rates held for the third year in a row, are really competitive, and we are trying hard to match the success of John Moore's Winter Open Texas Scrambles.

## Winter Works on the Course

The programme of work to be carried out by our greens staff during the Winter 2013/2014 is challenging and will address many of the issues flagged up throughout the year. Please be patient and take care when playing towards ongoing works.

- 1. Greens.** All greens are being verti-drained to break up underlying crust. All winter greens are prepared using existing aprons.
- 2. Tees.** Dedicated good-quality winter mats will be installed on all

short holes plus 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> holes. The 5<sup>th</sup> back medal tee is to be increased in size. A new teeing area is to be built at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee adjacent to the existing high tee, again raised. The 12<sup>th</sup> tee is to be levelled and relaid with appropriate replacement mat.

**3. Fairways.** All fairways will be spiked or verti-drained to aid drainage. The rough area between fairways 11 and 12 is to be cut back to semi-rough height.

**4. Bunkers.** General tidy up. The 6<sup>th</sup> hole first bunker RHS is to be filled in. The 12<sup>th</sup> hole greenside bunker LHS is being remodelled as is the 18<sup>th</sup> hole front bunker.

**5. Other works.** **13<sup>th</sup> hole,** stream to be cleared out and banking reinforced with sleepers to prevent further erosion. New bridge to be installed between teeing area and existing bridge. Also existing bridge adjacent to boundary fence to be refurbished. **Paths,** general tidy up. Steps on 2<sup>nd</sup> to be replaced.

**Practice ground,** install fencing to separate car park area from practice ground.



Work ongoing at 18<sup>th</sup> bunker

## Fully-integrated IT System

The introduction of the new till system and the new Touch Screen Competition Screen was not without its problems. There are still glitches on competition booking and score entry



which are rather hard to troubleshoot and we need members experiencing problems to please record them on the sheet available behind the bar so that Club Systems can investigate. We apologise for not getting everything up and running for team events, but we hope that this will be in place for the new season.

It is worth stressing, however, some of the key benefits for members: -

- A modern, easy to use till system with full maintenance from the supplier on a 24/7 basis.
- A modern looking web site with a secure member's area which is available to share information we would not share outside of the club.
- Cashless entry into competitions for our members.
- Full member's service on the touch screen to track all expenditure and "winnings" credited to your card.
- Online bookings into competitions if you choose to take this option.
- Accurate records maintained in the membership system.
- Ability to email members with important course news and potentially online invoicing for annual subscription (saving the club money).
- Getting your competition and two's, winnings credited rapidly to your club account from which you can purchase a voucher from behind the bar for all of the current shops that are available today. This will reduce the club's administration and place the members in control of how you spend your money.

## Job Done

It certainly was a shock a year ago to see the service road down the 9<sup>th</sup> washed away – just one of the things we had to cope with.



### Before

As part of our agreement with Sellafield/NDA, remediation work was carried out during September to reinstate the road. We are grateful to the guys from Carilion and Lawsons who carried out the work on behalf of Sellafield. There are one or two areas affected by the heavy equipment employed which have yet to be put right, but this will be done.



### After

## Planning Application

The planning application for the extension to the Greens Shed which will include facilities for storage and charging of some two-seat and single seat buggies has been submitted. The detailed arrangements and costs for buggies and has yet to be worked out. Once the capacity and space available has been agreed, members will be invited to put their names on a list for available slots.

## Lotto

Don't forget to renew your '100 Club' membership – use the forms at the bar to set up regular monthly payments – it's much easier.

Money from Lotto members has paid for our BT Sports subscription – for the benefit of all. And again money from the Lotto will be used to help fund improvements in our furnishings and environment in the next few months – for everyone's benefit. Don't hang back – be a part of it!

## Where's Your Nomination?

..And while we are it – Clubs like ours can't survive without the people who put themselves forward to help manage them, to sort things out, to take on duties, to be servants of the club and its members – not for their own good but in the members' interests.

The AGM is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. There are vacancies on Council and nominations are being asked for now. If you feel you can contribute – if you feel your views are not heard - in the words of Dicky Dippinson 'Git among it!' – get your nomination in now.

## Winter Comps Consultation

Following the consultation exercise the Competition Committee has decided to move this year to a prize-based

reduction system on the basis that there is no strong objections, most winter players are already familiar with such systems (Egremont Society, SASRA and Gosforth Society), and a simple approach is fairer on those who have to administer the system.

Views of members were sought and these were freely given and shared with you here:

- Play October and March Sunday competitions as CONGU qualifiers off yellow tees. Agreed will play qualifiers off either white or yellow depending on tee condition.
- Retain length of course as much as possible. Agreed new robust artificial tees will be placed where necessary and the aim will be to retain length.
- Players revert to winter handicap held at end of previous Winter – maintain separate summer/winter handicaps. Interesting but difficult to administer and achieve consensus.
- 18 shot maximum handicap on short winter course. Interesting but may be unpopular.
- Like to see open team competitions off full course and proper greens. Agreed on length and hopefully greens.
- No benefit from staying off 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> greens. Agreed and hopefully will see this as long as no damage is done.
- Tee off from own mats on tees artificial tees not required. See above on artificial tees using own mats and regularly moving teeing area could also apply.
- Address the rough along with putting proposed steps to the bunkers. Rough in winter not so much of a problem – steps part of winter programme.
- Allow time for social golf on competition days. Will try to do.
- Put a sheet up to show who has entered. Considering.
- Individual competitions then CONGU reductions - In team / doubles proposed prize-based system. Interesting but could get complicated.
- Consistent high scorers should be cut for summer. Competition Secretaries wish they had the power, but they don't.
- Play more team based events so handicaps not such an issue. Will look at for 2014 fixtures.
- More variety in team events not always Texas Scrambles – use shot-gun starts occasionally to promote Clubhouse. Will look at for 2014 fixtures.