

**SEASCALE GOLF CLUB
NEWSLETTER
Winter 2021/22**



From everyone at the Golf Club

We would like to thank you for your support throughout this challenging year and to wish all members and customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



Kirsty and her staff are determined to make up for the loss of Christmas 2020 and are fully booked with Christmas Lunches and Dinners. We wish them success and hope that all our members and customers enjoy their meals and celebration as the Clubhouse returns to its pre-eminent position as a best value eatery.

It's Not All Over Yet

We had hoped that after almost two years we would be getting back to normal, but there is another twist in the tail of this pandemic. Hopefully we don't see a huge increase in cases from the new variant and that the vaccines do their work in suppressing the evil effects of the virus. You will see that we are trying to encourage customers to continue to protect one another by respecting our requests to maintain some of the practical and sensible precautions such as face masks when walking around, hand sanitising, and respecting people's space.



On Course

This last year has proved how much the course is at risk from climate extremes and pesky beasties in the soil. Coming out of lockdown and winter the greens looked good, but we were fooled into thinking all we needed was for the grass to grow and the greens to be cut a few times for everyone to be happy. But leatherjackets and drought struck us a severe blow. Considerable effort was required by the greens staff, and significant financial input to bring our greens back. And how they came back! We owe a debt of gratitude to our young lads and Adam for sheer commitment to the job. Thank you. With the focus (and most of the water) going on greens our next issue was tees, and here Adam's efforts with seeding and nurture looks to have retrieved the situation. And the seeding on the fairways also seems to be bearing fruit. But 2021 wasn't quite finished with us as October's torrential rain caused our most serious flooding episode since 2012 and we had to close the course for three days. Thankfully no serious damage was done, and we were quickly back in action. There is no quick and legal solution to the leatherjacket problem – we are already on with recommended treatments so it's a case of – fingers crossed on that – but with luck we may have a solution to the water shortages if we can achieve a productive borehole.



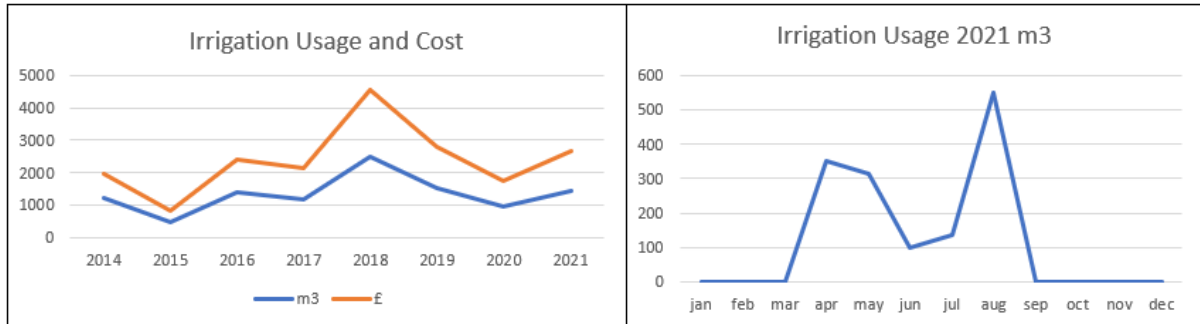
Adam overseeding the 7th Tee with 'new' multi-tasking tractor .



Exceptional rainfall closes course – no significant lasting damage – view at 9/10th.

Borehole Project

Council endorsed next steps with the borehole project – exploratory drilling and proving. The diagrams below show our water usage over the last few years and the monthly usage pattern. The upward trend because of more drought conditions and potential price increases will lead to bigger bills each year – so this is a suitable case for investment likely to pay for itself within 5 years.



Apprenticeship Success

Congratulations to Will Fox who has successfully completed his Greenkeeping apprenticeship with the Club.

Will joined us on work experience aged 14 and now the 18 year-old whose farming background is calling him is moving to work on a dairy farm in the Whicham Valley. We wish him well, and will be happy to see him return in the future.

We will now be looking for another apprentice of the calibre of Will. Any members who know of likely candidates please get in touch.



Trophy Presentations

Several winners were missing from the Trophy Presentation held on 3rd October – a trend which we would like to do something about- maybe members might like to offer suggestions. Captain Christine Graham presented the trophies to 10 of the winners who did attend and who appear in our photograph – The full list of trophy winners includes:

Winter Trophy-Lewis Baker, House Trophy (Men's Aggregate Medal)-Neil Gribbin and Ellis Gribbin, Development Trophy-Mark Sarsfield, David Tomkinson Trophy-James Wallace, Independence Cup-Paul Maher, Ernest Anderson Trophy-John Brocklebank, Centenary Medals-Div.1-Andrew Barnes, Div.2 Joe Robson, Div.3 David Ward. The Kay Boys Trophy went to David Ward, Robertson Cup-John Steward, Texas Wedge-Adam Blackburn, Graham Cup-Paul Rickerby, McGowan Cup (Individual K/O)-Neil Atkinson, Foursomes K/O-Tony Hart and Mark Sarsfield, Mixed Foursomes K/O-Tim and Linda Parker, Seniors K/O (Old Boys Trophy)-James MacIntosh, Seniors Stroke Play Champion (Veterans Cup)-John McCabe, Past Captains Trophy-Eric Smith.

The Captains Shield Aggregate Trophy was won by Scott Mahaffy. The Claret Jug, for the 2021 Club Champion went to Craig Morrow, who also returned the Best Gross score of the year, and also went on to win the Scratch Knockout Trophy.



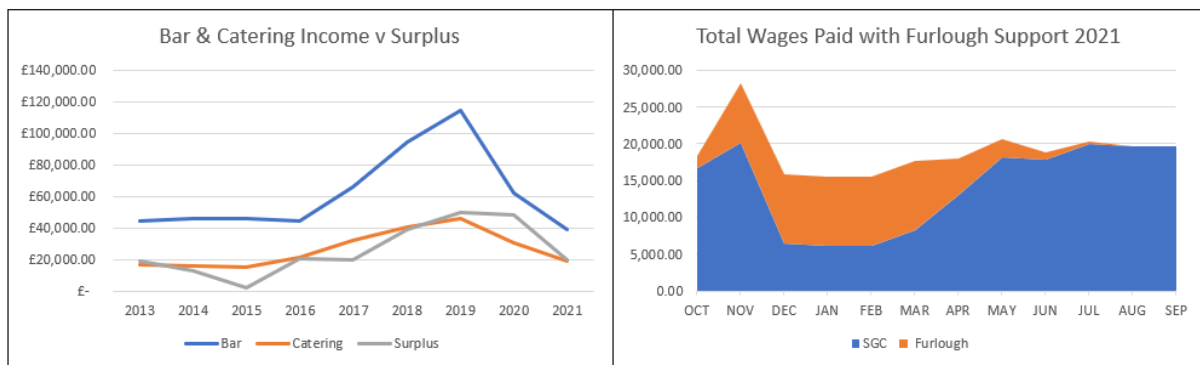
Standing l-r Scott Mahaffy, Neil Atkinson, Paul Maher, Lewis Baker, James Wallace, Mark Sarsfield, Joe Robson, Linda Parker and Tim Parker. Seated Eric Smith, Captain Christine Graham and James MacIntosh.



Club Championship winners left Craig Morrow Christine Graham and Adam Blackburn.

AGM Highlights

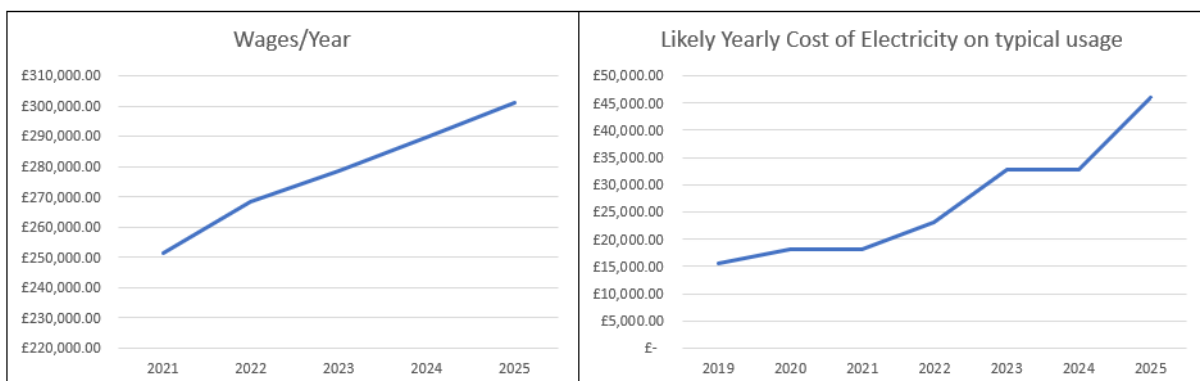
There was a smaller than usual attendance at this year’s AGM, probably because there was nothing contentious and it looked like a successful year. The biggest challenge for us last year was the loss of business on bar and catering because of covid restrictions. In 2019 we had a combined net income of £160k – in 2021 our net income was £58k. However, government support from grants, furlough wage payments and rates relief effectively covered that loss and helped significantly in our achieving a net surplus overall.



Members will be pleased that we have maintained subscriptions at their 2020 level for a further year, but that comes with a bit of a health warning. We all know that prices are beginning to spiral, and we just don’t know where we will find ourselves at the end of 2022 in our own domestic situations – or in Club finances.

We do know that two of the main drivers for increasing costs are wages and energy. In wages the main influence is the national minimum wage and living wage which we are committed to. That goes up by 6% in April and following years may well increase by something like 4% each year. The diagram below shows how that will impact on our wages bill between now and 2025.

Increases in energy look frightening. For gas we are contracted on a fixed price until 2025, but for electricity we will be looking to renew our fixed price contract from July 2022. Our current supplier has indicated a tariff that is almost double what we are paying. We will test the market, but in the current climate are not hopeful of much improvement. The diagram of electricity costs to 2025 is quite sobering.



We will not be the only club to be having to respond to increasing costs, but we believe that our membership should be aware that we will have to be ready next year to bite the bullet on subs.

Lifetime and Outstanding Service Awards

In one of her last duties as Captain, Christine Graham made a presentation to Harry Paterson of a Lifetime Service Award recognizing the work he had done since being thrown in at the deep end in 2013 and continuing to support management of the Club. Also, in recognition of the unstinting work she has done in delivering bar, catering and customer service in the face of and recovery from the pandemic, the Captain awarded Kirsty Johnson with an Outstanding Service Award.



Kirsty and Harry discuss what to put in the decanters.

Christmas Hamper Display



Lady Captain Judy Davidson and the Ladies Section have put together a great collection of hampers to raise funds for their Captain's Charity.
Main Prize Winner: Joan Douglas

Other Winners:

- Terry Conaghan
- Stephen Murphy
- Zoe O'Hanlon
- Stephen Sharpe
- Adam Lamb

Please collect your prizes from the bar

Captain Christine Graham will be presenting £4,700 to her Charity – Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. Thanks to all who supported her.



New Captains 2022



Club Captain Mark Jacques



Ladies Captain Melanie Temple

It's History Now



We are currently collecting and digitising some of the old photographs that map the history of Seascale Golf Club. A lot of the photos appear in Don Blythe's Centenary Book. The photos will be mounted on the website in the near future. If anyone comes across other relevant photos we would be delighted to record them also.

Top. A postcard shot of golfers on the 1st tee around 1904 before the Clubhouse was built.

Middle. June 1913. Duncan v Varden exhibition match.

Bottom. 1910 Putting on the 18th.



Team Competitions

Two teams have been disqualified recently for failing to counter-sign their cards. Our rules require this - *In team events of 3 or 4 players, one player in the team will be required to mark the card and sign it in the box labelled 'Marker's Signature' also one member of the team is required to sign in the box labelled 'Player's Signature'.*

Please also ensure the team order on the card matches the team order on the computer.