



Seascale Golf Club



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022/23



We advertised and interviewed for a Part-time Secretary/Administrator to carry out some of the office-based tasks currently carried out by Adam with support from Harry when necessary. We are pleased to say that Giselle Nejady has joined us and started her training at the end of November. She will work closely with Kirsty and Sam forming a good team to provide continuity as Adam and Harry move on.

Council and Management Team are agreed that we will still seek to appoint a Manager or Manageress to take overall responsibility for the Club's affairs and able to consolidate and develop the business. Within our membership we believe there are people capable of doing just that and in a position where they would enjoy the challenge and opportunity - an e-mail has been sent to members to try to find likely candidates.

We are also pleased to say that Guy Lawson has agreed to step up to the post of Head Greenkeeper with immediate effect. It may take some time for Guy to bed-in to his duties and members will have to get used to taking greens issues to Guy and the Chairman of Greens (Scott Mahaffy) – and not to Adam from now on.

Adam has indicated that he would wish to formally finish on 21st December. He will, however, make himself available to continue training Giselle and the girls along with Harry into January and be available to troubleshoot issues.

Getting ready for Christmas at the Clubhouse

l-r Kirsty, Sam and newly arrived bearing gifts Giselle.

Retiring Captain Mark Jacques said that he wanted to thank the many people (including his mates) who helped and supported him during his year, and in particular his wife Pat who did a great job on his Captain's Day along with Lady Captain Mel and Rodger and Shirley Temple. A big thank you went to everyone who helped and contributed towards a total of about £3,000 for West Cumbria Hospice at Home. As Captain he had enjoyed playing golf with as many members and groups as he could – Gosforth Society, Kestrels, Preferred Liers, Slinks, Cleator Moor and more. Everyone was impressed with the Course which was absolutely fantastic all year thanks to Adam and all the Greens staff. He paid tribute to Gordon Hennis and Angus Russell who did so much to make sure our competitions ran so smoothly. Kirsty and all the catering and bar staff deserved a big thank you for looking after our members and visitors so well.



Club Captain Stephen Sharpe

On taking office Stephen said that he was pleased and honoured to be taking on this role and promised to do his best to play with as many members as possible. For his charity he wished to raise as much as possible for two charities: West Cumbria Hospice at Home, and Westhouse – for young people with learning difficulties.



Ladies Captain Sue Ridout

Sue Ridout informed Council that 2023 is Seascale Golf Club Ladies' Section's 100th anniversary. The ladies are looking for good ideas for celebrating this historic year.



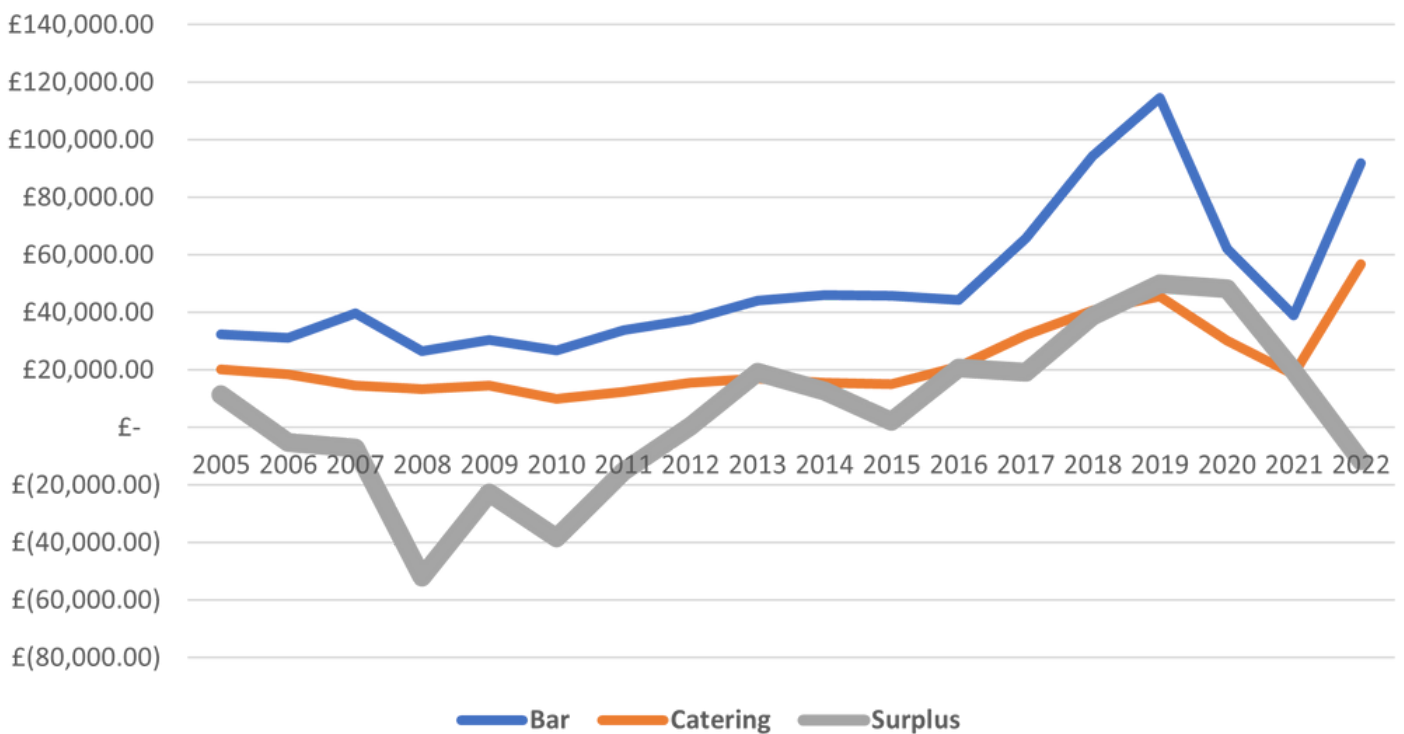
**10 o'clock at the 10th on a bright
and frosty morning**

Marking our Card for 2022

Russell Thwaites, our accountant from Gibbons, presented the Statement of Accounts which against a difficult background was again something to be proud of. Membership had increased financially, and numbers maintained. He noted that our costs had increased as inflation had struck and cautioned that the effect of this was only beginning to be seen in the second half of the year, and hasn't stopped. He noted the very positive contribution to income from bar and catering and reminded members that to provide a minimum service just to members only we would be spending about half our current house wages and not seeing much in terms of income. All-in-all he thought it had been a pretty good year.

Adam and Harry presented a review of the year – their swansong so to speak. In comparing post-pandemic 2022 with pre-pandemic 2019 (our best-ever year) they noted that bar and especially catering performance were almost back to the same level – a tribute to the effort from staff in a year when we were only just getting back from the pandemic. Green fee income had been buoyant, reaching a record level. Play in competitions also reached record levels as did profit from Open competitions.

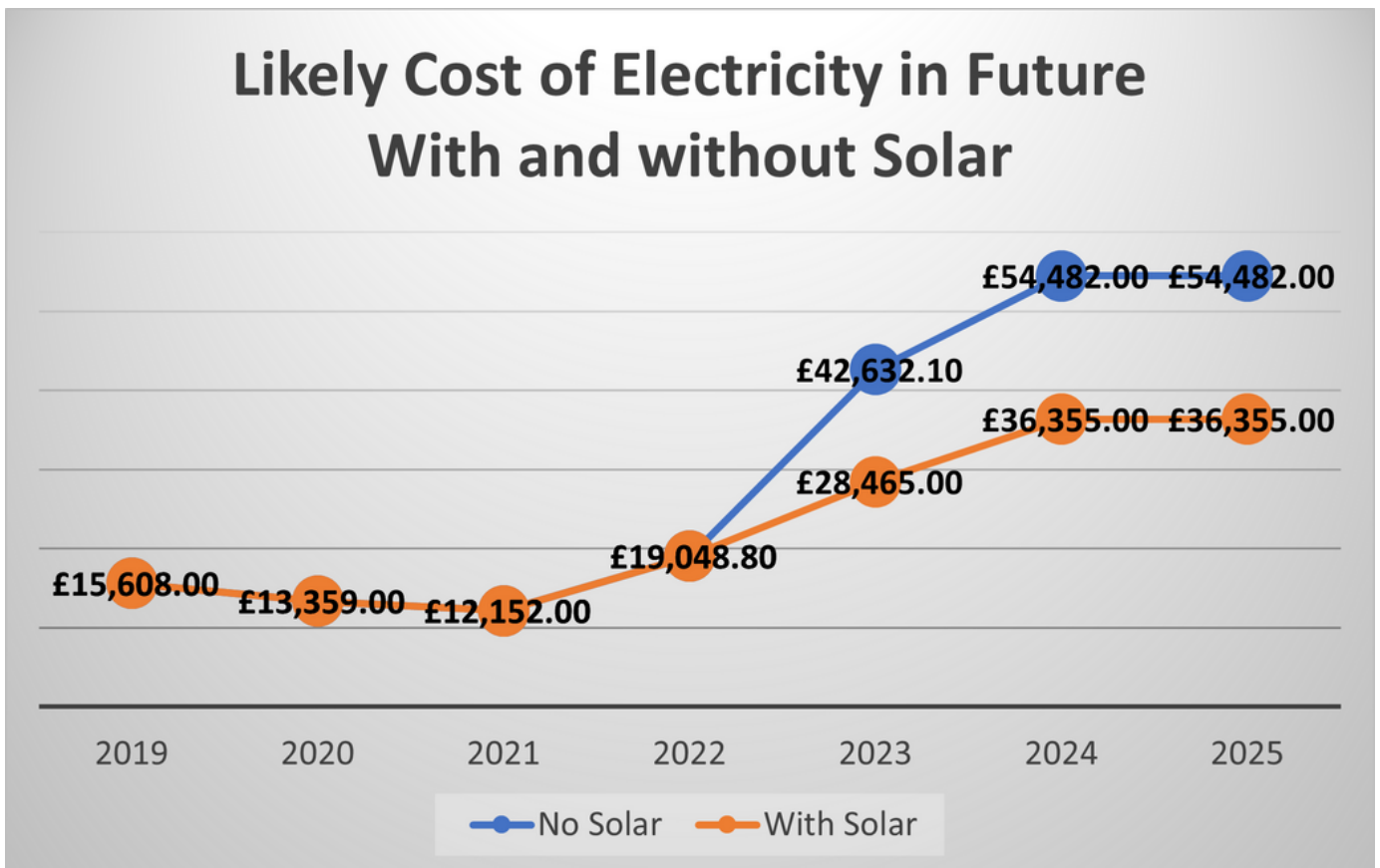
Bar & Catering Income v Surplus



Marking our Card for 2022

They noted that the borehole project at £20k and the solar panel installation at £71k were the main elements of our capital investment of £118k this year – these will see year-on-year reductions in water and electricity costs. Since 2016 the total capital invested back into the club was over £400k and the bank balance remains the same as it was in 2016.

Our electricity costs took a sharp increase in July as our tariff rate rose by more than double, reflecting what our members are experiencing domestically. Without solar the costs could reach £54k per year - with solar that might be cut to £36k. Our first three months with solar (Sep, Oct, Nov) saw us use only 57% of what was used in the clubhouse in the same months of 2021, while in the greens facilities, with costly drying facilities and buggy charging, it was 75% of the 2021 usage.



Why Have my Subs Gone Up?

We held our subscriptions at the 2013 level until 2020. And in appreciation of the support from members throughout the pandemic, we kept subscriptions at the 2020 level for 2022.– but realistically we had to expect increases beyond that.

Inflationary Pressures

Wages – the main driver is national minimum and national living wage rates.

- 2022 increased by 6%.
- Our wage bill increased by £27k (11%) between 2019 and 2022.
- The government's 2023 NLW is to increase by 9% so our wages bill could increase by another £25k.

Energy – We all know what has happened on the energy front.

- New contract rates for electricity could see our annual bill go from £19k/year to £43k/year (+121%).
- Our Solar initiative and some govt support might reduce the increase to 50% - £30k.
- Expect years after to be around £36k with solar reductions – could have been £54k.

Other Goods, Materials and Services – inflation is above 10% and rising.

- Our non-wages expenditure increased by £42k (+21%) between 2019 and 2022
- Expect a further increase of £23k on current inflationary trends.

So, Wages plus £25k Energy plus £10k Other Costs plus £23k Total likely Increase £58k
The Membership Increases will cover only £20k of that.

Briefing the New Council

The New Council with several new members held a special meeting on Tuesday 6th December where Adam and Harry prior to their departure briefed them on the running of council and current issues. Captain Stephen Sharpe agreed to take on the role of Chairman. Scott Mahaffy was appointed as Chairman of Greens with his team of Eric Temple, Tony Hart, Simon Young and Dave Rogers. Mark Richardson was appointed as Chairman of House with his team of Mark Jacques, Paul Rickerby, Stirling Graham, Brian O'Kane and Sue Ridout. As pointed out elsewhere in the Newsletter Council sees an urgent need to strengthen the Competitions Team under Gordon Hennis. The Management Team comprises the three directors the Greens and House Chairmen and Captain and Vice-captain as ex-officio members.



New Council for 2023 l-r Brian O'Kane, Scott Mahaffy, Stirling Graham, Eric Temple, Mark Jacques, Tony Hart, Mark Richardson, Stephen Sharpe, Giselle Nejady (reporter) and Sue Ridout.



During renovation



After renovation

Pictures above - 10th bunker renovation and Youngs carrying out essential greens aeration



Winter Progress

The winter programme is well underway with three bunkers already refaced and the Astro Turf path on the 2nd extended. The Wiedenmann Verti Drain has been in operation on all parts of the course using 12mm tines to relieve compaction built up from a very busy playing season. The Autumn renovations were a great success with a high percentage of Fescue seedlings coming through on all Greens and Fairways. We also drilled some Dwarf Rye into the path ends to mitigate damage on these high traffic areas. This, along with the normal applications of bio stimulants, has produced a great grass coverage with a Fescue dominated sward.

Competition Team

A record number of entrants in competitions in 2022 at 10,400. 110 club competitions to create and administer, plus 13 opens and the knockouts. Now that's a heavy workload and Gordon Hennis and his diminishing band deserve a round of applause for another year keeping everything on track as well as looking after everybody's handicap and making sure it is all done by the rules.

But what if Gordon was not there to do this? Would you be happy if we could not deliver these competitions?

It is only by people volunteering their time that we can keep giving our members what they want. So come on guys - start giving something back and volunteer to join the team. Don't leave it to someone else to crumble under the responsibility.

Competitions News

Rules of Golf:

The Rules of Golf are being updated as from 1st January 2023 please check this link for details of the changes:

<https://www.randa.org/rules/rules-hub>

Competitions:

The 2023 fixture list is now available to view on the Club Website and Howdidido.

The Club Knockouts 2023 will be open for entry on 1st February 2023 at 07:00 hrs until 18:00hrs 26 March 2023. You can enter via the Howdidido website by clicking on More at the top of the page then Knockouts.

The competition team tries to play a variety of formats during the season for your enjoyment. If you would like a new format to be included in the fixture list, please let us know.

If a member has indicated their intention to return a score (by registering an intent to submit a competition score and commencing play) then they should return their score. If for some reason they are unable to return their scorecard, then they should leave a message to say why the scorecard was not returned. This will save the competition team considerable effort and frustration when trying to close the competition.

General Play Scores:

One of the major changes introduced with the new World Handicap System (WHS) is the option to submit scores under General Play. Under WHS you can submit General Play scores to count towards your Handicap Index at any time over a measured course using the My England Golf App, Howdidido App or signing in on the Club PSi.

The World Handicap System (WHS) works on an average base system the more scores you enter the more accurate your handicap index will be.

Annual Handicap Review:

The Annual Handicap Review was carried out on 8th November 2022 details of the review can be found on the club notice board.

Members can ask for a Handicap Review at any time. Let's say you have had an illness that affects your playing ability, and you cannot compete on fair and equal terms with the rest of our members please ask for a review of your Handicap.

Stay Safe, wishing you many shots reductions on your handicap index in 2023.

Your Competitions and Handicapping team.

**Welcome to our New Members who joined us since March
2021**

<i>Tim</i>	<i>Austin</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Graham</i>	<i>Sean</i>	<i>Kickerby</i>
<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Berragan</i>	<i>Guy</i>	<i>Harwood</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Riley</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Bland</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Isherwood</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Scott</i>
<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Broatch</i>	<i>Scott</i>	<i>Kiggins</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Sharing</i>
<i>Stuart</i>	<i>Carnegie</i>	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Madden</i>	<i>Shirley</i>	<i>Sharing</i>
<i>Robert</i>	<i>Charlton</i>	<i>Gary</i>	<i>McCulloch</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
<i>Patrick</i>	<i>Cowman</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>McIvor</i>	<i>Adam</i>	<i>Sinclair</i>
<i>Ellis</i>	<i>Curnow</i>	<i>Stephen</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>Dave</i>	<i>Smart</i>
<i>Davin</i>	<i>Dhillon</i>	<i>Craig</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>Smart</i>
<i>William</i>	<i>Douglas</i>	<i>Shaun</i>	<i>Newbury</i>	<i>Stuart</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Ellen</i>	<i>Eyes</i>	<i>Craig</i>	<i>Nichol</i>	<i>Callum</i>	<i>Tinnion</i>
<i>David</i>	<i>Eyes</i>	<i>Keith</i>	<i>Pickup</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Warren</i>
<i>Peter</i>	<i>Gilbert</i>	<i>Brian</i>	<i>Proctor</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Barrv-Joe</i>	<i>Goodwin</i>	<i>Billy</i>	<i>Redden</i>	<i>Simon</i>	<i>Witham</i>



**Photo taken after renovation showing our high percentage of
Fescue**

Thank you, Adam

In 2016 Harry was holding the fort as Secretary/Manager and worrying about his upcoming Captain's year ...and along came Adam. He returned as Manager of the Club that he had cut his teeth on, and which meant so much to him. Harry 'rode shotgun' as Adam got up to speed in managing the Club and we can look back now on six years of continuous development of the Club with Adam at the helm. Yes, there were periods of very choppy water to be navigated with Covid in particular - but we got through it in large part due to Adam's determination - even with the virus striking him a severe blow in summer 2021. This photo montage is a reminder of Adam's contribution to the Club over those tumultuous years - **and comes with a big thank you from Seascale Golf Club and all its members.**



Hand watering at night during an extensive dry spell Lockdown 2020



Summer 2021

Autumn 2016



Bond Night, December 2016



Autumn 2021

Spring 2021



Mid-Summer Madness, 2019

April, 2019



Autumn 2020

Christmas 2019



Spring 2017

Summer 2017