

# SEASCALE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER Autumn 2017



## Big Six

The best county golfers in the north of England descended on Seascale in early August to battle over 36 holes of strokeplay to decide which county would represent Northern Counties at this year's regional finals. The Club last hosted the Big Six in 2009 and the Little Six in 2014 and we know the considerable amount of work required to stage such events. It was great to see the efforts put in by our greens and house staff and the voluntary support given by so many members in the run-up to the event and on the practice days and tournament day. Those efforts did not go un-noticed, as players and officials from all of the counties were fulsome in their praise of the course, the Club and our hospitality. Adam and his team can be rightly proud of the compliments, with the Club certainly securing a reputation as 'top-notch'.



**Wish you were here?**

In sunny, windy, testing conditions the players found it challenging with only 10 of the 112 rounds going under par. The six-man Northumberland team emerged as clear winners with a total score of 869. Cheshire came second on 882 with Cumbria slotting into third spot on 888. The remaining places went to Yorkshire (891), Lancashire (894), Durham (902) and Isle of Man (925).



**At the turn. (see more on Seascale Golf Club Facebook)**



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## Midsummer Madness

On a wet and miserable Saturday in July people could be forgiven for thinking that there was more than a bit of summer madness going on at Seascale Golf Club. Billed as our major fund-raiser for our main charity Breast Cancer Care, members worked from dawn to dusk – enjoying themselves into the bargain. Adam kicked off the day at 5.00am in his 12 hour longest round. With several changes of dry clothing he played 72 holes, scored 84 points, had three birdies and raised £300. Barry completed his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday treat in running the course in a splendid 49 minutes and raised nearly £1000. Adam's wife Lisa and all her friends put in a fantastic effort in some atrocious weather, walking from Wasdale pushing her golf clubs all the way to the Golf Club, raising over £2000. The ladies ran a very profitable raffle and four teams participated in our first Speedgolf event, further enhancing the fund. Despite the weather it turned into a great family fun day – with a great DJ in young Ollie. Both Captains were delighted with the response and participants and sponsors should give themselves a good pat on the back for a job well done.



**Early start for Adam.**



**Lisa and the Girls – nearly there!**



**Keep on Running - Barry**

## Captain's Day

With the Lady Captain's Day on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July and Captain's Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> it should have been billed as Captains' Weekend. The ladies event started off in nice sunshine, but the back of the field had to battle through some heavy rain. That was all forgotten as competitors and guests celebrated at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole before enjoying a really good Captain's Day buffet and putting the world to rights. Winner of the Lady Captain's Prize was Salli Pilcher.

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**Dedication to the task.**



**Taking it easy at the 10<sup>th</sup>.**



**Captain Joan and winner Salli.**



**Say when Micky!**

Over 90 players participated in the Captain's Day stableford held in fine weather throughout. The Captain and his wife Janis had set up the caravan (donated by him to the Club) at the 10<sup>th</sup> Hole where they treated players to food and drink, and listened to the many sob stories. Young Oliver Hodgson had set up his media tent at the 10<sup>th</sup> and went around taking photographs of the event – see his excellent portfolio on his facebook where he even captured the Captain's prizegiving on a live stream. Ray Teare was winner of the Captain's prize.

## **Membership**

We have a lot of new and returning members in the Club this year and it is great to see so many getting involved and playing in competitions. At the end of April we ran a New Members' Competition Day and expect to hold another later in September or October. Adam is advertising now a deal for £450 for new members from September through to end of December 2018. Once again it is great to be welcoming new members.

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## **Welcome to New members since last newsletter:**

Robert	Adams
Joanne	Answorth
James	Ashcroft
Lewis	Baker
Matthew	Ball
Keith	Benbow
Stephen	Blackwell
Julian	Brown
Lee	Butterworth
Mike	Cummerson
Darren	Donald
James	Dunn
Mark	Farries
Matthew	Garner
Stephen	Hancock
Ross	Harrison
Michael	Hawthorne
Madison	Hawthorne
Calum	Henderson
Stephen J	Hodgson
Steve	Hodgson
Conrad	Hogarth
Helen	Holmes
Jack	Hoy
Lewis	Irwin
Alan	Isherwood
Antony	Leak
John	Lennon
Lewis	Lindsay
David	Meagan
Thomas	Millard
Steven	Mulholland
Mike	Murray
Darren	New
Graham	Nicholson
Robert	O'Donnell
James	Parminter
Michael	Pink
Georgina	Pyne-Lingham
Martin	Rigg
Steven	Sharples
Michael	Shaw
Kevin	Smith
Steve	Sullivan
Eleanor	Taylor
John	Taylor
Les	Taylor

Thomas	Thomason
Paul	Warren
Ashley	Wells
Mark	Wheatley
Maxwell	Young
Simon	Young

## **Cath Hobson Starter Hut**

At the Lady Captain's Drive-in Joan Atkinson and Sylvia Cheetham formally dedicated the Starter Hut in memory of Cath Hobson the late Lady President of the Club. Cath had made a bequest to the Club in her will and this feature at the 1<sup>st</sup> with Wasdale as the backdrop is a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady. One of her wishes was to have a toilet on the course and this too has been realised this year with the Eco Toilet near the 16<sup>th</sup> Tee.



## **Ladies honour Cath Hobson.**

## **Juniors**

It was nice to see the sponsorship of our Junior Team by Morgan Sindall. We have been trying to encourage more members to get involved to lighten the load on John Roper, but probably a bit more needs to be done to encourage more junior participation, which county-wide seems to be a problem.

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We are considering arranging a regular night in the Sports Hall through the winter as a means of encouraging more youngsters and their parents to get into the game. Anyone interested in getting more involved can contact Adam.



**Juniors 2017.**

## Entertainments

We have had a busy entertainments programme and great to see so many supporting the events. It is difficult for many of our members to make the trip through to some of our events, but it is very heartening to see the considerable level of support from the local community and the increased custom this is bringing into the Club. The Club is getting a good reputation also as a music venue with bands like Vortigern, Avalon and Weathered Rock delighted with the location and acoustics.

## 2017 Programme

09-Dec	Dinner Dance - James Bond Night
19-Dec	Children's Christmas Party
24-Dec	Carols @ The Clubhouse
26-Dec	Captain's Drive in
21-Jan	Seascale's Got Talent 1
28-Jan	Burns Night
17-Feb	Valentines Elvis Night

17-Mar	St Patrick's Night
22-Apr	Race Night
05-May	Avalon
26-May	Coffee Morning/Golf Taster
09-Jun	Weathered Rock
15-Jul	Midsummer Madness
22-Sep	Wine Tasting Night
30-Sep	Macmillan Coffee Morning
20-Oct	Casino Night
31-Oct	Halloween Party
04-Nov	Bonfire Night - Avalon
Dec	Dinner Dance - Themed Night



**Shenanigans at St Patrick's Night.**

## How Does our Course Measure Up?

As part of a national initiative that will see all English courses reassessed according to the USGA course rating system, Seascale has had the course re-measured and reassessed. The re-measurement was carried out on the Yellow and Red Courses as for some reason neither the Club nor the County could lay hands on recent measurement certificates. Unfortunately, this re-measurement gives a different yardage on about 85% of the holes

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on the Yellow and Red Courses. With our stocking up with 1000's of score cards recently and having installed our new signage a couple of months ago we won't be rushing to re-stock or make alterations to signage.

The result of the USGA Assessment on our Standard Scratch Scores (SSS) is:

Blue Course was 72 – now 73

White Course was 71 – now 72

Yellow was 70 – still 70

Red was 74 – still 74

For those who want to bone up on what was involved you can get information at ([www.englandgolf.org](http://www.englandgolf.org) › For Golf Clubs › USGA Course Rating) In short the assessment takes account of more variables and factors making a course more or less difficult to play for the scratch golfer.

Effective playing length of a hole takes into account:

**Roll** – how far a tee shot rolls and the effect of that on course playing length.

**Elevation** – from tee to green and effect on playing length.

**Dog-leg/Forced Layup** – factors which cause a scratch golfer to hit less than a full shot.

**Prevailing wind** – especially on seaside courses, effect of wind on shots

Obstacle Factors affecting the landing zone for shots:

**Topography** – factors influencing stance, slopes, mounds, uphill, downhill lies.

**Fairway** - fairway width in all landing zones, hole length, nearby hazards, and punitive rough.

**Green Target** - difficulty of hitting the green with the approach shot- target size, length of shot, how well the green holds, hole locations.

**Recoverability and Rough** - missing the tee shot landing zone and the green, difficulty of recovering.

**Bunkers** - proximity to target areas and the difficulty of recovery from them.

**Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough** - distance from the centre of the landing zone to the OB/Extreme Rough. Ball likely to be lost or virtually unplayable.

**Water Hazards** - distance from the landing zone or green and problem involved in playing over the hazard.

**Trees** – not at Seascale.

**Green Surface** - green speed and surface contouring are the main factors.

**Psychological** - cumulative effect of the other obstacles creating uneasiness in the mind of the player

SEASCALE GOLF CLUB								
COURSE DETAILS 11th August 2017								
Hole	Yards	Yards	Yards	Par	SI	Yards	Par	SI
1	317	317	304	4	6	288	4	9
2	340	340	315	4	16	310	4	14
3	405	405	392	4	2	396	5	11
4	322	322	301	4	18	291	4	8
5	183	183	168	3	8	143	3	17
6	536	486	467	5	10	425	5	3
7	588	558	551	5	14	485	5	6
8	194	194	189	3	12	146	3	16
9	391	391	368	4	4	353	4	1
OUT	3276	3196	3063	36		2818	37	
10	142	142	127	3	13	129	3	12
11	468	468	451	4	3	447	5	4
12	393	393	360	4	5	352	4	7
13	216	216	193	3	7	161	3	15
14	474	474	439	5	15	419	5	5
15	332	312	299	4	17	238	4	18
16	471	471	434	4	1	443	5	2
17	344	344	329	4	11	292	4	13
18	334	334	327	4	9	322	4	10
IN	3174	3154	2959	35		2803	37	
OUT	3276	3196	3063	36		2818	37	
TOT	6450	6350	6022	71		5621	74	
Par	71	71	71			74		
SSS	73	72	70			74		

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## Getting it Right

Despite clear improvement this year on course and greens, we still hear quite a few negative mutterings. Constructive comment and suggestions are always welcome as it's impossible to see every blade of grass on the course and very often a helpful comment can smooth out an unseen greens situation. Negative criticism without thought is unhelpful and very often given without knowledge of the facts.

Recently a new regime of course and greens maintenance has started to rectify what was, with hindsight, some debateable advice from STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute). At some stage or another most golf clubs have called on STRI for advice, but what happens when that advice seems not to be working? That was the situation faced this year as Adam took over, and it is to his, John's and the greens staff credit that they were prepared to challenge and reverse the situation.

To STRI the holy grail for a putting surface is Bent Grasses. Where the conditions are right and money is not an issue this may be fine but replacing, for example, fescues or annual meadow grass with bents is a never ending job needing lots of financial and "hands on" input. Bents are also very susceptible to weather changes and can thrive or wither depending on the time of year. Bents may also be susceptible to disease, particularly fungal varieties like fusarium. And this was the situation faced by Seascale at the start of the season.

Seascale was advised to try to go down the bents route despite the fact that the natural endemic grasses on the course are fescues. In addition to this a regime of soil and subsoil change was suggested. Although we followed STRI recommendations, because of (amongst other things) the very cold winds and winters we get at Seascale, the plan has not really worked, even with valiant efforts to tackle soil compaction.

The new scheme, which will take a couple of years to really pay dividends, is to overseed and develop greens with the endemic fescues. These when well established will cope better with the conditions that prevail on our coast. This was started earlier in the season and already the first over-seeding has taken very well.

Soil compaction, which we as players all contribute to, still has to be tackled regardless of what sort of grass we encourage, and it will soon be necessary to thin out the growth by verti cutting (circular knives about 20mm apart that cut down and through any lateral growth and roots to encourage a tighter sward). There has been some pencil tining which will help relieve the compaction but more needs to be done break up deep compaction – and this will be done. The greens are again being hand cut as and when possible and until the roots are fully developed cut to 4mm. Later cutting heights will be lowered making them quicker.

The Manager, greens staff and Greens Committee are doing the very best for Seascale and communicating to members the work done or to be done. Anyone wanting further information can get it.



...knew these signs would come in handy!

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**Seascale Golf Club**  
**Casino Night**  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
7.00 for 7.30 pm  
Includes Supper  
and \$100 Gambling Chips  
Special Prize Auction  
Tickets £10 from the Bar  
**All Visitors Welcome**  
Contact ... 019467 28202

Seascale Golf Club  
presents  
**WINE  
TASTING**  
Friday 22.09.2017  
Tickets £15



Come and sample  
some great wines  
and indulge in  
terrific food

Opportunities to  
buy the wine you  
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*tickets seascalegolfclub@gmail.com 019467 28202*