

**SEASCALE GOLF CLUB  
NEWSLETTER  
Summer 2022**



## **Progress on Solar Installation**



### **Panel Installation Day 2**

We are well on the way to commissioning and operating our Solar Installation. It had taken quite a bit of work and about two months wait to get final planning approval. First step on installing was trenching-in the substantial 75kW supply cable from the Greensheds to the Clubhouse and this was mostly complete by first week in July with our own guys supporting the contractors and making a very neat job. Then over a period of three days 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August the panels were secured to the roof and the large inverter installed in the main Greenshed. The smaller unit was installed in the Welfare shed and this went live with solar generation on the last day. The linking up of the solar supply to the Clubhouse will be completed in week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> August. We will be holding off on installation of the batteries as some new and improved types will be available from October. Meantime we will be monitoring our use of electrical equipment to optimise the electricity from solar generation.

What is happening on the energy markets justifies the decision for alternative supplies. We have just signed a two-year fixed contract at 35p/kWh while our previous supplier could only offer us supplies at 45p/kWh. We hope that our solar installation sees our grid supplied electricity reduce by about a third.

We are grateful for the effort and support of Panda, Scott Mahaffy and Terry Conaghan in running with the project and to our contractors SJD for a job well done.

## Borehole Project Update



**Early morning watering on 17<sup>th</sup>**



**.... And 13th**

This project is now complete and up and running. The only delay was in waiting for a pump which like many things this year was on a boat from China. We have been looking at doing this for almost 10 years. We should give a good pat on the back to those involved in bringing this to fruition in the space of four months – Adam, Paul, Will and our consultant Chris Saul whose expertise dropped the borehole in the best place.

The recent dry spells are a fitting sign-off on the need to tackle our water issues and our well-maintained greens under near-draught conditions are just what we were aiming for.

## Window and door Upgrades

As one who supported Tom Oliver in painting and putting a gloss on the front foyer five years ago, I was glad to see that these have now been replaced with UPVC units. Over the last five years we have managed to upgrade quite a lot which has led to an improved appearance and several years of low maintenance to come. All of this approved by the Management Team and Council who were happy to have Adam get the best deals he could to push on with these improvements. From 2017 we have seen: new front doors, new pro-shop door and windows, new bay windows in the flat, new end attic windows, new doors to kitchen, rear door and internal bar door, new trolley store door, outside porch renewal, new dining room windows and replacement of the large kitchen window. All of this work proceeded efficiently without interruption to golf and services and at very reasonable cost.



## New Buggies

We are replacing the Club's buggies this year with new lithium battery versions. The first two have arrived from Rickerby Ltd and the other two should be replaced sometime in October. We would like to ask all buggy users for their co-operation and remind them of some rules that we have at Seascale.

- Only use a buggy if you really need one. Buggy tyres are making burn marks in the fairways due to the drought and we would like to keep these to a minimum (see photo). These marks will take longer to recover when the rains come.
- Keep buggies well away from tees and greens. Try and keep to the semi rough where possible.
- Do not turn tightly with a buggy and do not drive up and down the rough looking for your ball.
- You must give at least 24 hours' notice when booking a hire buggy.
- You must not drink alcohol when driving a buggy.



**Driving on Lithium**



**The negative impact – you can help**

## Practice Ground

We have been making improvements to the Practice Ground facilities. Distance markers are now in place, the putting/chipping greens are being renewed and bunkers improved. New range balls have been purchased. Please abide by the rules which will be displayed prominently and keep yourself and others safe.

### **RANGE RULES**

For your own safety and for Seascale Golf Club to comply with health & safety regulations, please ensure you follow this guidance when using the practice ground.

Applicable to all members and visitors:

- You are not permitted to use your own practice balls when using the range unless using the chipping green & bunker practice area where you may use your own
- Only practice balls supplied via the ball machine may be used on the main practice facility, tokens can be purchased at the clubhouse bar

- You are not permitted to collect golf balls from the range at any time, if the ball machine is not working report to the bar staff where your tokens can be refunded
- Only hit from the designated area which is identified by white posts and ropes
- All practice balls have been marked to identify as property of Seascale Golf Club, you are not permitted to remove from the practice ground for any reason
- You must stop hitting balls if the greenkeeping staff are collecting balls within your range

Anyone observed not following the range rules may be subject to challenge and further action by the Seascale Golf Club Council.

## **Behaviour in the Clubhouse and on the Course**

We enjoy our golf in the knowledge that there is a requirement on all golfers to abide by Golf Etiquette which is all about **respect and fairness**. Golf relies on the integrity, honour, and **decorum** of its participants. This is because, for the most part, the game is played without the supervision of an official umpire or referee.

We like to enjoy ourselves in and around the Clubhouse also and that requires golfers, guests, and visitors to show respect and decorum towards others. However, some of our guests and visitors have complained about loutish behaviour in some quarters and we hope that those involved will take heed that we are prepared to take firm action to root this out if necessary.

## **Penalties for Non-return of General Play Cards**

During this season we have had a number of members entering club competitions and not returning their scorecard.

If a member indicates their intention to return a General Play Score by signing in on the PSI or MyEG App and they fail to return the score after receiving an email they automatically receive a Penalty Score.

If someone indicates their intention to return a Competition Score by signing in on the PSI and they fail to return the score they will receive a Penalty Score.

If the member can give a good reason for not returning the scorecard or can produce their scorecard the penalty score can be deleted from their handicap record.

Please see attached England Golf guidelines on Penalty Scores dated 9th December 2021

[Automation of penalty scores following creation of a score intent - England Golf](#)

## **Presentation of Trophies Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Apologies: We had intended holding back the money prize for trophy winners to be paid if they came and were presented with their prize, but the winners have already been paid out. We will therefore be reverting to our normal practice for the presentation day. Winning and having our names engraved on the trophy is an honour that many of us also-ran golfers wish we could achieve. To those who do win we hope that you too consider it an honour enough to honour us also-rans by being present for the presentation.



## Greens

The drought has been exhausting with all of our efforts going into keeping the greens and tees up to sufficient moisture levels. We were supplementing the night-time irrigation with daily hand watering, trying to keep readings above 20%, but daily evaporation was seeing us drop from 20% in the morning to below 10% in the afternoon. The borehole has been one of the best decisions we have ever made with 702m<sup>3</sup> used since we switched over from the mains supply in late Spring. I sprayed wetting agent on all greens and tees a couple of weeks ago, just before the rain, and they have responded well. The fairways are very parched, but we have grass coverage on them, and the recent rain should replenish them.

Our Wiedenmann Terra Rake was used on all our fairways last week. This machine pulls all the dead organic matter out of the thatch layer and aids recovery from the drought. It enables the desired Fescue grass species to naturally regenerate. The process leaves a bit of thatch on the surface, but this cleans up nicely when the fairways are cut.



**Terra Rake on 3<sup>rd</sup>**



**Results on 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**The guys who look after you l-r Will Fox, Sam Thompson, Stephen Youngs, Kyle Brown, Ben Mahaffy and Guy Lawson.**

## **Knights of Olde Seascale**

For 30 years an honourable band of golfers from the London area have been holding an annual golf weekend at Seascale. Many members will recall how much they enjoy our course and the reception they get at the Club and locally. This year on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July the weather could not have been better, and Kirsty laid on a fantastic barbecue and entertainment. Gary Wilson a key player in the group said 'We absolutely love the Club and the people there who always make us feel so welcome. It's just a great place.' And Ian Penfold writes 'For me it's the end of 30 years of golf, friendship and above all else fun. We managed to raise over £250 and more than 20 bags of food for the local food bank that ensures kids get meals in the school holidays. Going to miss this place.' And guys we are certainly going to miss you – so Haste Ye Back.



**Some of the Knights along with Sandra and Paul Dennett who have looked after them during their visits to Calder House.**

## **Open Week**

The annual Golf Week got off to a fine start with thirty-eight, four person teams from the north playing a Texas Scramble. In first place with a score of 51.5 nett came a team of golfers from Seascale and Alva comprising Andrew Doyle, Stuart Smith, Gary Bowman and Alan Flanagan. Second, with 51.54 came the Dunnerhome team of Christine and Paul Burton, with Martin and Lorraine Morrison. Seascale's, Phil Robinson, Eve West, Jo and Beth Blythe slotted into third place on 51.81. The Gross prize with a round of 54.65 went to a team from Clitheroe, Skipton, West Hought and Settle.

On Friday the popular Mixed 4BBB for the Kennedy Cup was played by sixty pairs in perfect summer conditions. The Seascale pairing of Benji Moore and Jane Reeves won the Cup with 44pt beating Carlisle's David and Janette Smith on countback. Two points behind, Father and daughter, Rob and Beth Blythe took third spot, again on countback from Kenny Burns and Helen Holmes. Both third and



fourth pairs were Seascaleians.

In a complete contrast the one hundred and thirty-one entrants in Saturday's Individual Stableford endured continuous rain resulting in only one hundred and eight card cards being returned, many only partially complete. After a card playoff Mathew Wills (Gt. Lever & Farnworth), Alan Brack (Knotty Hill) and Paul Baldwin (Hunley Hotel), took first, second and third spots with 38pts. The remaining seven prizes went to members representing many different clubs.

The final competition of our Golf Week was a 4BBB Stableford on Sunday. Fortunately, the weather relented and the one hundred and eighty-six players from as far afield as Singapore enjoyed fine sunny conditions, though a strengthening wind added a bit of spice. Liam Blacka and John Lockett (Shibley) won outright with 46pts. Second, third fourth and fifth places went to Nick Marner/Jack Bradbury 44pts (Saddleworth), Tony Porter/John Neild 44 (Kirby Lonsdale/Selby), Neil Bamford/Mark Sarsfield 43, (Saddleworth/Seascale), Tony Zutchi/Gary Johnson 43(Hunley Hall).

Thanks go to Angus, Adam and their helpers Alan, Tony, and Mark (and working remotely from Caithness – Harry) who helped keep it all on track.



**Visitors were delighted with our greens**



**Powfoot golfers sampling Seascale's Links**

## **Captain's Day**

One hundred and sixty Gents and Ladies played in club captain, Mark Jacques', Captain's Day Stableford. The weather was kind, allowing the players to enjoy their golf and be treated to a break for refreshments by the Captain and his wife at the tenth hole.

Back in the Clubhouse on conclusion of the competition, the Captain thanked the members present for their attendance, the Manager, Greens staff and the Clubhouse staff for their efforts in helping him produce a very successful day. He then went on to announce the winners and present their prizes from a very comprehensive prize table. The ten nett prizewinners were, Adrian Pilcher, with a very impressive 49, Shirley Temple 44, Karl Smitham 44, Dave Hodgson 43, Adam Blackburn 42, Phil Robinson 42, Keith Hunt 42, Michael Gray 41, Jill Brocklehurst 41 and Neil Atkinson 41. The three Gross prizes went to Jack Stubbings 71, John Rushforth 73 and Steven Ball 73, John winning on card playoff. Prizes for closest to the pin on 10th hole went to Jane Reeves and on the 18th in two, to Ryan Pearson. The Competition entry and a raffle for prizes contributed by members raised £1,532 for the Captain's Charity, Hospice at Home.



### Captain gets ready to entertain

We don't have a report on the Lady Captain's Day, but we can report that they enjoyed some mouth-watering sweets and cakes courtesy of Lynn and Kirsty.



The winning pair tee off

### Mizuno Golf Pairs Seascale - Tuesday 16th August

Today we were in the west lakes at Seascale golf club. This course was included in "The Rolex World's Top 1000 Golf Courses" along with only 282 courses in the whole of Europe.

A slightly smaller field today but it was as competitive as ever in some tough links conditions. Dry and blustery so typical links weather to make it a true test.

The best dressed golfer today was Stuart hill looking beautiful in blue.

Longest drive for men was won by Brad boddie and the ladies won by Celia Stanley. Both excellent tee shots on the 7th hole into a stiff breeze.

The Scotland road trip starts tomorrow at Tain golf club and also a crossover event at Royal Lytham on Thursday with 212 golfers taking part @£150pp.

#### WHS Leaderboard:

- 1st - Andy Ross + Jim White (Golf Escapes Holiday)
- 2nd - Lee Grimley + Anthony Richardson (Mizuno Golf Bags)
- 3rd - Jackie Starie + Janet Vorster (£200 MGPT Voucher)
- 4th - Rob Davies + Mike Taylor (£150 MGPT Voucher)
- 5th - James Arthur + Richard Twiner (4-ball voucher)
- 6th - Mark Adams + Matthew Klink (£100 MGPT Voucher)



## Winter Golf and Competitions

As a club are expected to endeavour and encourage our members to return acceptable scores throughout the year where possible. But we know there are periods when that is not possible – particularly in the wetter periods of winter. If it's not possible then we need to protect the course during such periods with restrictions that don't allow members to return scores for handicapping purposes.

It would be good to allow our members to return scores for handicapping purposes over the winter and keep their handicaps under control. But we also need to protect our course from the amount of winter golf we have at Seascale Golf Club.

Sunday competitions over winter are often team competitions, although we may have the odd qualifier. The day for handicapping over the winter period is Wednesday. It would be good if we could have a rated winter course available to keep our members handicaps under control. We will re-look at getting the winter course rated so we can use it over the winter and rest the main course.

We will try qualifiers from the yellow course until we see a problematic deterioration in the semi rough. That could happen at any point through the winter, in 2020 it was mid-December. If that happens, we will have to revert to non-qualifiers. There is no satisfactory outcome that will protect the course and appease some of our members – we are using best endeavours for the benefit of most.

