

# SEASCALE GOLF CLUB

## Captains Report 2007

It was a huge honour when I was installed as Captain at last years AGM, for that I would like to thank the Past Captains and the members for allowing me the privilege. I have had a fabulous year, which has flown by in too short a time.

My Drive-in was well supported and we were blessed with good weather, and a great day was had by all, I must make a special thank you to the on course waitresses, Brenda, Susan, Marion and Victoria, who kept us topped up with copious amounts of alcohol.

It's been a busy year in house, we've seen some changes in personnel, both behind the bar and in the kitchen, Liz has retired after 17 years service, good luck in your retirement, our best wishes go to Linda who is presently recovering from major surgery. It is always difficult to maintain a stable workforce in this type of business but at the present we seem to be doing ok.

The phased replacement of the clubhouse windows has continued and in addition, substantial improvements have been made in the kitchen with a new sink, dishwasher and grill, all of which were essential. The maintenance of such a large building is expensive and allied to these costs, cleaning materials and service contracts etc rise steadily each year and members can be assured that a prudent policy is adopted, with Council looking very closely at all expenditure and planning accordingly.

My thanks go to the Chairman of house, John Roper, House Manager Mike Saunders and the Kitchen Supervisor Carol Tyson for their support and efforts throughout the year, special thanks must go to those members who gave their time, experience and services free of charge because they wish to help the club. These include John Moore, Ken Rushworth, the 'Boys from the black stuff car park team' and numerous others who have helped in one way or another.

As can be seen from the Annual Accounts, we have operated throughout the year, without any significant reduction in our available cash resources, which include residual sale proceeds of Eagle How and a reduction of £14,000 has been made in our borrowings. However, we cannot afford to be complacent, as this situation can change very rapidly, especially if we lose any significant number of playing members. The recommended subscription increases, for which we ask your strong support, effectively only cover our statutory wage rises and other expenditure, over which we have no control. Council are actively looking to increase other revenue streams, especially income from green fees. Members can help, by actively promoting the club and its facilities.

Some would say it's been a somewhat difficult year on the greens, others say it's been a good one; we all have opinions, which have been treated equally with respect and honesty by the greens committee. I've formed the opinion that there is no easy answer, the only comment I'd like to make is that the green staff and council are committed to providing the best conditions for playing golf for members and visitors alike and will continue to do so.

I'd like to express my thanks to Ian Burns, Chairman of greens for his help, support and guidance to me this year, Ian has produced a strategy report which sets out the aspirations for the coming years to help us sustain the course as a true links, hopefully it will also allow us to make decisions in the future to ensure we can all enjoy a round golf.

What a year, if someone was to ask me what the highlight of my year as Captain was, the answer is simple, following the Scratch teams round the county. We have had a magnificent year with the 'A' team winning the Premier league, and, the 'B' team winning the Western Division, a marvellous achievement in itself, but both teams were also unbeaten throughout the season, a feat never achieved before. The 'B' team won promotion to the Premier league by beating other divisional winners Windermere and Silloth at Maryport. They also joined the 'A' team who qualified automatically for the scratch finals at Appleby, unfortunately both teams fell in the semi finals.

My thanks must go to Glyn Williams as Scratch team captain for once again ensuring Seascale are a top team, and to all the players, we have a great team spirit and are blessed with a huge amount of talent.

The Mail on Sunday team reached the 7<sup>th</sup> round before falling just short of the quarter finals to a very strong team from Manchester.

On the domestic front, congratulations to Stephen Gill for winning the Club Championship for the second time, and all the other trophy winners.

I would like to thank the ladies section for the support they have given the club this year, and congratulate Annette Trainor on her year as Lady Captain, and wish Kay Roberts her successor all the best for the year ahead.

My Captains day is a one I will remember fondly, we were blessed with the best weather of the year, the sun shone, the course was magnificent, the golf was good and hopefully the hot dogs went down well, thank you to all who played, and a big thank you to those ladies who helped on the day.

Our junior section continues to grow, we now have a Child Protection Policy and a welfare officer, this is due to the hard work put in by our junior organisers, I have watched the progress made this year with new initiatives being introduced, the National Skills Challenge being a good example. I'd like to thank all our junior organisers for their time and effort this year with a special thanks to Colin Mitchell for all his help.

It was an easy decision to nominate the Club as my charity for this year, there are a lot of worthwhile charities I could have chosen outside the club but I wanted to ensure that any monies raised through the generosity of members and visitors went back into the infrastructure of the club so that we could all benefit. I can report that over £2000 has been raised, may I express my thanks and gratitude to all who contributed throughout the year. A special mention must go to those ladies who have helped sell raffle tickets throughout the year.

It is with regret that I have to report the deaths during the year of Jack Anderson, who was an active member of the club for many years, Jack Cavanagh, who as well as being a Stalwart Seascale member was a long standing member of Egremont Golf Society, Judy Taylor, wife of Colin our ex secretary, Malcolm Morfoot, and, Moulie Moore, a highly respected life member, Past Ladies Captain, and Past County President. Our sympathies go to their families.

Since its formation in 1893, the club has operated in the traditional manner with a fairly large committee meeting on a regular basis and on the whole, this system has served us well. However, this mode of operation can hold up even the most mundane of decisions and lead to delays and at times, loss of income and in this day and age is considered to be out of date. Council feel that we must move with the times and ask you to approve the rule changes, which will be voted on at the AGM, which are intended to streamline day to day operations of the club and ultimately, benefit us all, especially the Captain, who will have time to enjoy his year in office. These new procedures are particularly relevant at this present time, with the impending retirement of our treasurer, Jack Jones, after 17 years. During his period of office, turnover of the club has almost trebled and on behalf of myself and all members, I would like to wish Jack a long and happy retirement and thank him for all he has contributed to the club, over the years controlling our finances and maintaining the books in such an exemplary manner.

No club runs itself, hopefully I've thanked those who have helped me and the club this year, if I've missed anyone please accept my apologies, the one person I would like to thank for making my year such an enjoyable and easy one is the Secretary, David Stobart, his experience and counsel were invaluable to me and I'd like to thank him for all his efforts, it was a pleasure working with you David.

Finally, I must thank my wife Brenda for all her support, patience and understanding during the year, she has been my rock and has always been there for me.

In closing I would like to thank my Vice Captain Keith Hunt for his support this year and wish him every success in his year of office.

Jeff Blair  
Captain