



## **2025 Club Captain's Report**

My year of being Captain of Seaton Carew Golf Club is nearing its conclusion, and I can truly say it's been the greatest honour and achievement to serve you as your Captain. As many of you will have heard me say, probably many times, being Club Champion was always my aspiration as a young player. However, to become Captain of this great Club has exceeded anything I could have dreamt of as a 12- year-old playing his first game of golf at Seaton Carew Golf Club. I only wish my dad, Hughie Hamilton Snr, could have been part of my Captain's Year, he would have been immensely proud.

It will shortly be my Vice Captain, Pete Bianco's, inauguration to the Captaincy and I wish to thank him for his support and wish him the best of luck and health for 2026.

### **Overview**

My Captaincy started with the traditional New Years Day drive-in, with over a 100 members, family and friends watching. It is a very different experience to the normal teeing off for a game of golf. I managed to hit the ball thank goodness and thank you to Nick Procter for being by my side. It was then onto celebrations in the club house with the boisterous saxophonist Steve Bone, delicious food from Ranju and Peter Gupta, finishing off with guitarist Jacob bringing some calmness to the proceedings. Thank you all for supporting me on New Year's Day.

My chosen charity has been to continue with the local Dementia Charity that Phil Cain supported as his Captain's Charity. The wonderful team at the PFC Trust-launched the Rare Dementia Fund in memory of Lesley Connor, a friend of both Phil and I. They manage and support local people suffering with this awful disease. I am very grateful to the members who have supported my charity.

March brought the beginning of the Club's golfing calendar with the annual England v Ireland match with Ireland being the winning team. As I was born in Southern Ireland, I enjoy playing for the Ireland team and of course winning.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, my birthday, was the Captain versus Vice-Captain's match with the Vice-Captains team winning. There is always a wonderful atmosphere in the bar afterwards after the above matches.

A big thank you to Ian Phillips for his work in organising the annual golf day in support of the Macmillan Nurses. Ian has raised tens of thousands of pounds over 36 years and this was his final year, so thank you again Ian. He is now handing the reins over to John Pennington and I wish him all the best.

I want to personally thank the players that represent the club in the team matches. I tried to attend every game both home and away to support the team. Having been a team player for many years I know how demanding it is to play every week, rushing from work or college to get there on time. Thank you also to Simon Neil, Team Manager of the TSU team, for his hard work keeping everyone happy. Also thank you to Neil Dawkins for his sterling work with the Juniors. Good luck for next year to all the Club's teams.

## Memorable Events

My Captain's Day was held in June with many members supporting this day. It was very windy and me, mam and my nephew nearly ended in the North Sea. The talented Claypath performed and a surprise appearance by the House of Bamboo dancers stole the show (I never know what my mam and her friends may get up to). Thank you to Lee and Paul for an excellent barbeque and Richard and staff for serving the drinks,

My Captain's trip was to Fulford GC York, over 50 members joined me on what was the hottest day of the year. Thank you to all who made it a very special day for me and not forgetting Michael Wilson who brought a water pistol, for the bus journey back, to cool us all down. How considerate of you Michael!!

The Club hosted the Northern Counties Golf Competition with some phenomenal young players teeing off, many I am sure will be the stars of the future.

The annual Brancepeth versus Seaton Carew match is always two good days of golf. This year's match went down to the wire with Seaton losing by 6 points. Great to meet old rivals who are also friends

Another event was the much-anticipated Chain Match with Hartlepool retaining the Chain. The Triangular match between Hartlepool, Castle Eden and Seaton Carew saw Seaton winning the event.

## Social Highlights

There have been several social evenings over the year and it's lovely to see members socialising with each other. Special thanks to Sammy Mosely for sourcing and booking the acts, not an easy task. Also, thanks to Pete and Dianne Bianco for the musical quizzes which bring much laughter and competition.

Nearing the end of my captaincy, it will be my pleasure to present awards to the winners of the various club competitions at the Annual Prize Giving. Congratulations to all winners and special congratulations to our 3 Club champions, Men's - Brian McEwan, Ladies - Barbara Connelly and Junior - Ollie Hudson, who is also Junior Captain next year.

My final role as Captain will be hosting the Annual Captain's Dinner on the 21st of November, with Alan Crowther as MC, Sammy Mosely as guest speaker and retired Chief Superintendent Tony Hutchinson recounting his exploits on the force, especially about the Canoe Man. I am also honoured that Ted Kirtley and representatives from Durham County Golf will also be my guests

## Thanks

My thanks to the Lady Captain Mel, and the Ladies Section for supporting my Captaincy, it's been my pleasure to share this year with yourselves. Thank you to Club Secretary, Roy, and Club Manager, Alex, your tireless work keeps the club ticking over. The greens staff led by Tom Coulson, Lee, Richard and the bar, catering and domestic staff, Martyn and the professional shop staff, you have done a sterling job as always. My fellow committee members who give up their valuable time and without this the club could not function. Not to forget my mam Yvonne, son Oliver, partner Erika, sister Debbie and nephews Finn and Rory (a new fanatical junior member) for their encouraging support.

And lastly thanking the golf course itself. At the end of my village there was a golf course, a championship one none the less, that has shaped my life. I have travelled the world playing golf and met some wonderful people on the way all because of Seaton Carew Golf Club. I call it the elegant Old Lady and it certainly is

What an honour it has been and thank you all

Hugh Hamilton Jnr.

Captain Seaton Carew Golf Club 2025