



Editorial

Welcome to Tee Talk, the inaugural Barney Seniors' newsletter. The major purpose of this missive is to help rekindle a spirit which appears to be in decline. With only around 20 turning up most Mondays, Captain Ken has had to reduce numbers for our matches from 16 to 12 and even then he has had to draft in 'outsiders'. His excellent away day attracted 19 when upwards of 30 have attended in the past.

In next month's edition, we hope to have some views on why this is happening and what we can do about it. Send your views or ideas ('letters to the editor') to: editor@teetalk.uk

Member news

Health updates

We seem to have had an unprecedented number of sick and lame this year with the most notable absentees from the course, and the team, being club chairman **Geoff Wall** and the seniors' former secretary, **Bob Henderson**.

Another ex-captain, **Dick Stevens**, has managed the odd outing between bouts of chemo but is currently recovering from bowel cancer surgery carried out last Monday. All appears to have gone well. *Continued overleaf...*

Bandits at 12 O'clock!

Senior Captain's Away Day Report by Tim Wellock

As a Mackem, it was brave of **Tom Leonard** to venture into Geordieland to join our happy throng at the Senior Captain's away day at Tyneside Golf Club.

Fortune favours the brave and Tom surprised even himself by emerging as the winner, making subtle use of his 37 shots to accumulate 37 points. He was one ahead of last year's winner, **Andy Simpson**.

"I really like the course," said Tom. "It's right up there among the best I've played. I was rubbish in our yellow ball competition three days earlier, but this was a lot better." One of his playing partners, **Sid Lowes**, added: "He hit the fairways and putted well. If only he'd got one more point, we'd have been in the team prizes."

Captain Walters' organisation of the prize-giving meant that Tom was last up and had to accept the only surviving bottle of wine. He is more likely to sprinkle it on his chips than lay it down in his cellar.

Continued overleaf...



Awayday Results

Teams: 1 Ken Walters, Steve Myers, Doug Bousfield 101 pts

2 Alan Coulthard, John Hall, David Cook 94.

Twos: Ken Walters on the 16th
Ross Law on the 9th.

Individual div. 1 (up to 20 handicap)

1 Andy Simpson 36
2 Alan Coulthard 34
3 Doug Bousfield 33

Div. 2 (over 20 handicap)

1 Tom Leonard 37
2 Steve Myers 36
3 Alan Cassidy 32

Bandits at 12 O'clock! ...continued

Most of the field of 19 were visiting the Ryton club for the first time and, once they had coaxed their satnavs through the intricacies of finding the place, they agreed it is a hidden gem.

The handsome clubhouse was built in 1911 and is one of the last surviving Edwardian pavilion clubhouses in the country. The plethora of honours boards helped to create a sense of history as sumptuous bacon butties were hungrily demolished prior to play. And the chicken dinner afterwards, followed by waffles in chocolate sauce with ice cream, left us exercising great restraint not to lick the plates.

Member news ...continued

Geoff has been chairing management committee meetings since being laid low by debilitating doses of chemo. That was stopped two months ago while he awaited surgery to his kidneys, which went ahead on July 2. The chemo then restarted in tablet form and he reports that walking is becoming easier and his PSA levels are falling. His aim is to play (in a buggy) on September 20.

Bob reports slow progress after his recovery from his leg amputation was impeded by breaking his hip, which also caused the stump to move back. He is now having regular physio to get his leg straight. "I'm getting about on my mobility scooter or wheelchair and might turn up one Monday morning," he said in his usual upbeat manner.

Another upbeat member, **Fred Lewis-Bynoe**, had his first outing since February last Saturday following complications with a new hip.

Tim Wellock is considering asking for transgender tees to be installed as he undergoes hormone therapy to curb his prostate cancer. "Apart from the hot flushes I feel fine, although my drives get shorter by the week," he said. He starts four weeks of radiotherapy on August 27 and will amuse himself by recalling that the man ahead of him on a visit to James Cook's urology department was a Mr Peacock.

All this and the golf for £30 ensured rapturous praise for Captain Ken. Competition Secretary **Ross Law** thanked him for his choice of a superb venue and meticulous organisation, except perhaps for the wine distribution and the draw.

Los Bandidos

There would have been no point in running a book on the team event as **Ken, Doug Bousfield** and **Steve Myers** would have been 10-1 on. With a combined total of 101 points, they finished seven clear. Ken insisted it was a random draw, while Steve suspected it was the dark chocolate and whisky he hands around his playing partners that earned him his place alongside the captain. "If Ken had been sober, he would have won easily," he said. "He duffed his first two shots on 17 then hit a superb 3-wood to two feet."

It's the taking part that counts

While **Sid** and **Dennis Robinson** have been on more than 20 of these trips, it was the first for **David Wright**, who thoroughly enjoyed his accumulation of 16 points.

"It's a very picturesque course with lovely views down to the Tyne and across the valley," he said. "The different elevations and blind shots were something I haven't come across before."

John Coyne had an adventurous round, saying; "The course is just over 6,000 yards, so why does my Fitbit say I covered 14,600?"



(Ed.: "Isn't there a 'law' against such 'shocking' trousers?")



Los Bandidos on the first tee

