



Captain's FORE!-word

Swinging Seniors

The Seniors' Open on 7th August, a pairs Better Ball Stableford, went off smoothly with another couple of thousand added to club coffers.

I've been here loads of times and still can't find the castle.



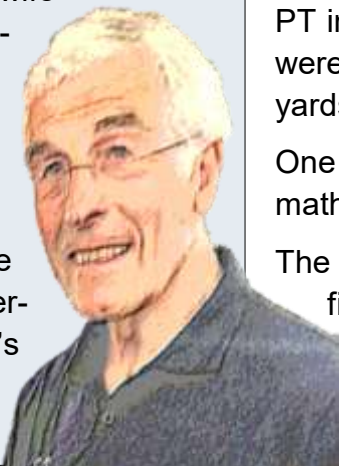
Strangers on a golf buggy

It was won by the visiting pair of **Lofthouse and Graham** from Brancepeth Castle with 42 points.

It was run smoothly despite torturous playing handicap calculations by messieurs **Law, Mawer, Holliday, Walters,** and **Wellock** with **Dave Raw**, ex Seniors' Captain, doing a starting spell and his wife **Maureen**, ably assisted by **Doreen**, on half-way house.

Good teamwork folks with much praise for the course, **Jack's** catering, and **Maureen's** snacks.

Ken



O, Hole-y One!

An old dog does a new trick

DOUG Bousfield has won many competitions during his 60 years of golf but admitted that his first hole-in-one was a fluke.

It came at the third during round eight of the Len Kennedy competition and playing partner **John Matthews** found the ball in the hole after they initially searched up the right.

"It must have gone in off the side of the bunker," said Doug.

"It was pure luck. I've been a member for 35 years and have often gone close. I remember a far better

shot at that hole which finished half an inch short.

"I'm more proud of shooting scores below my age. I went round in 79 when I was 85."

Having played off a handicap of nine at 87 Doug is now off 19.3 and plays three times a week. His fitness results partly from having been an army PT instructor. He served in the Royal Engineers and said: "Our camp were the army athletics champions. I represented the army in the 120 yards hurdles, and my other speciality was the long jump."

One of several Gainford residents in the seniors, he went on to teach maths, then art, at King James' Grammar School, Bishop Auckland.

The following Monday Doug shot a nett 69 off the white tees to share first place with **Ken Walters** in the third and final round of the Senior Captain's Cup. With the best two scores to count, the overall winner was **Tim Wellock** (73, 71), four ahead of second-placed Doug with **Colin Stead** third on 154.



Photo: Ross Law

Past Captains' Plate

By our intrepid reporter, *Tim Wellock*

DENIS Robinson, captain in 2008, took the honours on countback in a three-way tie when 11 former seniors captains turned up for their annual competition.

As an experiment they played off the red tees and also on 38 points were **Tony Buckley** and **Phil Hartley**, whose impressive striking suggested he had been taking lessons from his son, **Peter**.

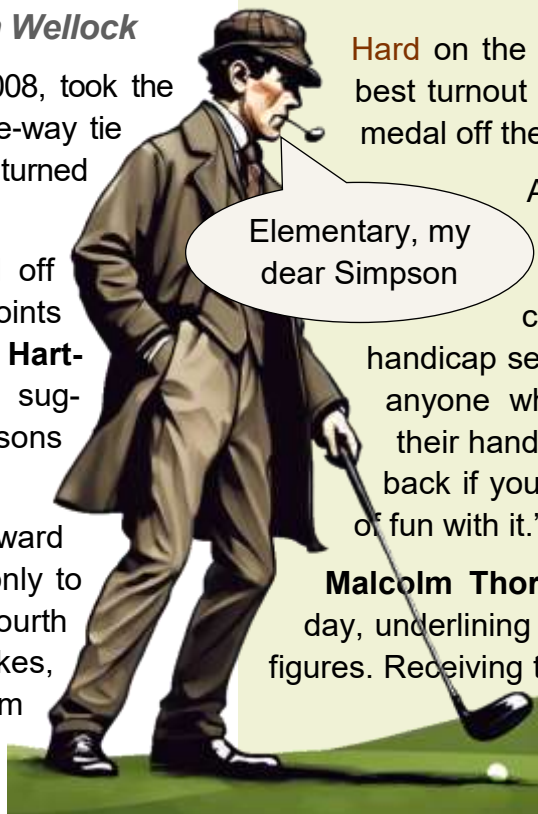
Taking advantage of the forward tee, he drove the 15th green, only to three-putt, robbing him of a fourth birdie. Receiving only five strokes, it was impressive stuff from someone who plays only two or three times a month.

Others we don't see on a Monday morning these days were **Bob Ward**, **Jim Bush**, **Colin Oates** and **Mick Gossage**.

Jim hopes to rejoin us soon, while Colin plays regularly at Headlam Hall and Mick has returned to his original club, Catterick, where he maintains the buggies and gets free use of one. Doubtless he needs it to get up Heartbreak Hill.

Geoff Wall began his comeback by playing eight holes before donning his chairman's hat to welcome 50-odd ladies from Hexham ahead of their meal. They turned up in a coach for their away day and seemed mightily impressed with the course and hospitality.

I reckon we'd be able to solve Fermat's Last Theorem quicker than calculating these Seniors' Open handicaps



Elementary, my dear Simpson

~~Brian~~ Sherlock Holmes Trophy

Hard on the heels of our first newsletter came the best turnout for some time when 26 contested this medal off the yellow tees.

As one of the few who remembers **Brian Holmes**, president **Sid** was delighted, saying: "He was a jovial character who acted as the seniors' handicap secretary. He took great delight in telling anyone who scored more than 36 points that their handicap had been cut. You also got a shot back if you scored less than 30 and he had a lot of fun with it."

Malcolm Thorniley was the runaway winner on the day, underlining his determination to get back to single figures. Receiving ten strokes, he shot a nett 69 to win by five from **Andy Simpson**, who beat **Ken Walters** on countback.

Seniors' Trophy Year

It's not the taking part, it's the winning that counts!

AGE might wither us but the competitive fires still burn, even in midwinter when we fire up the *Len Kennedy Trophy*. It continues on the first Monday of every month with each player's best six Stableford scores to count.

Len Kennedy was the seniors' captain in 1994 and secretary in 1999. Whether he was a bit of a masochist is not recorded but it was certainly an endurance event when he stipulated that all 12 rounds should count with a bonus point for turning up.

Some more recent captains have delighted in announcing on the first Monday in October that it was the day for Len Ken Ten. By that stage only the frost runners* are still fired up and all the other trophies have been contested, bar the Christmas one. They are listed below.

*A frost runner is a front runner prepared to play in the cold of winter!

Info from **Peter Holliday**—ask him the etymology of 'Ladybeck'

Trophy name	When is it?	What's the format?
Len Kennedy	First Monday of each month	Stableford (best six)
Stuart Wilson	April to September	Matchplay Knockout
Ken Thompson Trophy	April	Stableford (yellow tees)
Senior Captains Cup	June to August, 1/month	Medal (best two)
Brian Holmes	Early August	Medal (yellow tees)
Seniors Past Captains Cup	August	Stableford (red tees)
Ladybeck (v Ladies Section)	August	Matchplay
Frank Burdis Cup	September	3 clubs & putter
Christmas Cup	2nd Monday in December	Christmas Lunch!
Senior Captain Awayday	Sometime (who knows?)	Who cares?