

Tee Talk

Barnard Castle Golf Club
Senior Section Nov 2024



Photos: Ross Law

Hills, Thrills, and Hearty Meals!

By our intrepid reporter, Tim Wellock

Princely Penrith.

Alluring Appleby.

Breathtaking Brancepeth.

Why wouldn't you want to play these and other lovely courses for free, paying only a very reasonable price for a hearty lunch?

Penrith's eight-man team event is one of the highlights of the year and the views of the Lakeland hills were at their finest when 13 clubs did battle in September. We won it three times from 2010 to 2018 but had to settle for fifth this time, despite the best efforts of **Tony Buckley** and **Peter Chadbourn** with 36 points each.

The worst score is discarded and our total was 215, 20 behind regular winners **Keswick**. They play on a quirky course, which obviously provides them with false handicaps (*Ed: Excuses! Excuses!* 🤔)

It's hard to believe but our failure to raise teams this year has led to three cancellations—with **Brampton** (twice) and **Catterick**. But there will still be plenty of opportunities next year for you to play free golf at lots of fantastic courses.

We don't want to lose any more of our prime fixtures so please spread the word that these are very enjoyable occasions. Hopefully it will help to swell our depleted ranks.



Captain's FORE!-word

Team Games = FUN !

Key features of the Seniors' calendar are team games. We play a lot of them in threes and fours throughout the season. Why? We've realised playing against the course or against the same old friends with the same old strengths and weaknesses, week after week, can leave your game without the focus and the enjoyment that team games can bring.

Further, if you know the game of many of your colleagues, what they are good and not so good at, you will play better in team games against other opponents. So, on the Seniors' calendar you will see -

YELLOW BALLS - Double points when it's your turn in the team to drive off using the yellow ball.

2 FROM 3s - Best two Stableford scores to count in your team!

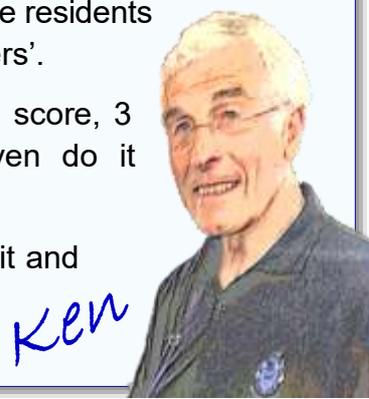
TEXAS SCRAMBLE - Best drive chosen, best approach shot, best putt. Team score adjusted to different handicaps (R&A rules applied).

RYDER CUP - Barnard Castle residents v Cockfield and other 'outsiders'.

WALTZES - 1 to score, 2 to score, 3 to score. Rhythmic. We even do it backwards - 3,2,1.

Join us, you'll possibly enjoy it and certainly have a few laughs!

Team games = fun !



Members' memorable moments

Doug Bousfield recalls his 'Brain Fog on the Tyne'



First we had the *Miracle at Medina* which involved an amazing comeback for the Ryder Cup team. Then we had the *Miracle at Tyneside* which involved an **amazing getting there** for the Barney Seniors Captain's Day.

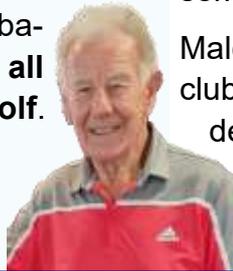
Ken told us there were two courses next to each other and to be sure we got the **right-un**. Then he told us that **Ryton** was the **wrong-un**.

Added to that was the confusion about whether it was at **Tyne-MOUTH** or **TyneSIDE**. Bearing in mind that half us seniors don't know our a**e from our elbow, never mind our **mouth** from our **side**, it's a wonder any of us got there at all.

Nevertheless, by employing the technical and computing skills for which the seniors are rightly famous (*Ed: This made me splutter my Weetabix all over my breakfast bowl!*), and with the aid of our satnavs, we all made it there in time for the bacon sarnies and **we all had a brilliant days golf**.

Thanks, Ken.

Doug



Want to join the Senior Section and/or play in friendly matches at other fantastic courses? Email us at editor@teetalk.uk and we'll send you an information sheet.

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Los Bandidos member **Steve Myers**—despite the imposition of a 5 shot reduction in handicap—won the *Frank Burdis Cup* (3-club comp) with 43 points, beating another *Los Bandidos* member **Doug Bousfield** (40pts). So, **Ruthless Ross** has docked Steve *another* five from his handicap!

October's Caption Comp winner is **Tom Leonard**, who gets a bottle of s**t-oh-nurf-do-poop for: *Forget about the ball, where are those pesky moles*. Other good entries were: *You can take Sid to water but you can't make him drink* (Doug); *Hi Chaps. Pass me a driver, I can play this* (Ross); *I've had this Dunlop 65 for years, I don't want to lose it now* (Tim); *This was full of sticklebacks when I wer' a lad* (Tim).



Buffet, Banter, and a Headlam Victory

In between two sodden days in September, our **President's Trophy** was blessed with fine weather. After finishing second on their debut in the eight-man team event last year, **Headlam Hall** emerged triumphant.



Photo: Peter Holliday

With the worst score discarded, their total of 232 was six ahead of **Carus Green**. Like last year, Headlam's

Howard Klys was the individual runner-up with 41, beaten on countback by Hexham's **Mike MacLean**.

The ten teams enjoyed a sumptuous buffet laid on by **Jack** and the prizes were presented by president **Sid**. A grand day was had by all, boosting our coffers and reputation for well-organised senior events.

Malcolm Thorniley squashes allcomers—almost

After four sudden-death victories in reaching two finals, a fifth proved a step too far for **Malcolm Thorniley**. He looked the likely winner when he hit the 18th green in the seniors' **Stuart Wilson** final. Giving six strokes, he was one up against **Ray Pipe**, but three-putted and lost the match when they went back down the first.

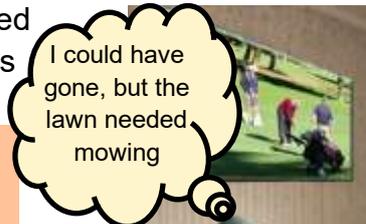


The first was occupied by a crowd of lady visitors when he also finished all square against **Peter Holliday** in the semi-final. So they twice went back to the 17th before it was settled.

Malcolm has survived sudden death three times in reaching the final of the club's premier matchplay event, the Moffat Cup. But sudden death also dealt Malcolm a cruelly fatal blow when he lost at the 21st after giving five shots to **George Wearmouth** in the Moffat final.

Malcolm missed a shortish birdie putt at the 19th and secured a solid par at the 20th, where George was twice in the rough up the right before chipping in to stay alive. Who said golf is fair?

In a successful season which has also included winning our **Brian Holmes Trophy**, Malcolm's handicap has come down from 14 to 10.



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