

Tee Talk

Barnard Castle Golf Club
Senior Section Dec 2024

Photos: Ross Law

Captain's AFTER!-word

A departing leader's epilogue for 2024!

£663-81 to West End Foodbank, my charity

Not a lot of money when you consider the 118,000 children (figures from research by the **Child Poverty Coalition**) living in poverty in Co. Durham, Tyne and Wear, and Northumberland but I'm sure when I take the money to the West End Foodbank in Newcastle next week they will be extremely grateful. A retired ex-colleague of my wife who works voluntarily in the Foodbank will receive the money and monitor its use for me. Food and hygiene products were most needed when I last spoke to her.

The number of children in poverty in this country has increased every year since 2015 and **Newcastle** ranks third behind Middlesbrough and Blackpool in the **Child Poverty league table** for England. No comment needed.

I am immensely grateful for the efforts of **Maureen Raw** and **Doreen Braithwaite**, whose work in halfway house in two Seniors' Opens yielded the majority of the money in thankful donations from the golfers. And, without appealing or asking, the generosity of fellow golfers and friends—*they know who they are*—who also made significant contributions.

At the end of my year as Captain can I thank all the 41 players who have represented Barnard Castle Seniors. I've enjoyed your company and hope in the success you've enjoyed (played 14, won 9, drawn 2) you've also had a few laughs and a good time, and I look forward to playing with you, well, *most* of you, next season.

Apologies for that, I couldn't resist!



Sid's Squad Swansong!

By our intrepid reporter, Tim Wellock

Raindrops keep falling on my head.
Especially when I play with Colin Stead
Or Keith or Doug.
We must still have the bug,
And are aware you're a long time dead

Sid prompted this ditty (well he came up with the first line) after playing in the rain on two successive Mondays. On the second occasion four of the top five were octogenarians - Sid 88, Doug 87, Keith 83 and Colin 81. There is powerful evidence that going out in the rain prolongs life and this quartet, along with Tony Mawer and Denis Robinson, provide strong testimony.

Sid also teed off in the Past Club Captains' event, but this time the elements got the better of him. A torrential downpour forced off all bar two after five holes. Peter Holliday soldiered on with Craig Hamilton and won at the first extra hole, which Craig had to play as a par three because he was off plus five on the forward tees!

Sid announced after the final match of the season at home to Richmond that it would be his swansong for the team. Of course we all know he's as fit as a butcher's dog and will help if needed, but after more than 30 years' service he's entitled to a back seat.

"I've always thoroughly enjoyed the matches, visiting other clubs and forming new friendships," he said. Now he feels it's time for the next generation and is pleased that his son, Adrian, has helped out this year.



Ken

Come and join ROBOT golfers

Wed-Fri, 18th-20th June 2025

Barrow might not sound like the ideal venue for a golf trip, but that's where we're heading on the Robot Tour next June. Not to Barrow Golf Club itself but to the course known as Furness, on Walney Island.

It's the sixth oldest course in England and is easily reached from the town via Jubilee Bridge. The clubhouse and surroundings are reported to be unattractive but there's a lovely run of holes along the shore and fine views of the Lakeland hills.

We'll be staying at the Premier Inn, Ulverston, an interesting town with a good choice of hostels. It also has an excellent golf course, where we will finish the trip after starting at Kirkby Lonsdale. This course stands in the Lune valley and is said to have matured really well since opening in 1991.

The tees are booked and will allow us to take a group of 20. We have four vacancies, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Enquiries to Peter Holliday or Tim Wellock.



R. O. B. O. T.

Randy Old B***s On Tour?**

Rarely Outa' Bunkers Or Trouble?

Rough, Off Balance, Odd Technique?

Really Obnoxious Blokes Overindulging Tequila?

Caption Competition

Send your entries to
editor@teetalk.uk

Photo: Ross Law
(an unwitting
volunteer for
this month's
comp).



Prize: nice bottle of wine.
Competition open to mem-
bers of the senior section
only. Closes 19 Nov.

"A trophy, a trophy, my kingdom for a trophy!"

By trophy manager, Peter Holliday

(Ed: Shouldn't that be "atrophy, atrophy"?)

When the leaves start falling, it's a sign that not only has the Seniors Section financial year ended, but there are also only two trophies left to get your name engraved on. The Len Kennedy Trophy is contested over 12 rounds, one each month throughout the year starting in January. The winner is the member with the best six scores and, with only the November and December rounds remaining, likely candidates are starting to appear at the top of the results sheet.

The final trophy of the year is the Christmas Trophy which—according to the records I have—was first played in 1992 and was won by Mr J. White. Traditionally played on the second or third Monday in December, it's a Stableford competition that we try to play using a two-tee start (Holes 1 and 10), aiming to get everyone around as quickly as possible so we can enjoy lunch. The Seniors' Treasurer provides £50 prize money for the day, resulting in prizes of £20, £15, £10, and £5 for the top four players.

By "lunch", I'm not talking about the usual bacon bun or tuna sandwich. The Seniors use this day to sit down to a three-course Christmas lunch, followed by the presentation by the Senior Captain of trophies won throughout the year.

As you can imagine, things have not always gone to plan. The weather often has its say, and the Christmas Trophy is sometimes played in January or even February of the following year. Before Covid, we were always well-prepared for this. If there was no golf that day, we would meet at an agreed time (usually 11am), for darts, dominoes, knockout whist, and a shortened snooker game. Now, we arrange for an earlier lunch with Jack and just meet for a social drink.

As you may have read in earlier articles, Seniors Section membership is £10 per year, running from October to the end of September of the following year. Anyone who has paid their subs before the Christmas Lunch will be entitled to a £5 discount on the cost of that lunch. A similar discount is usually applied in the summer for the Senior Captain's Away Day, resulting in members getting all their subs back—and sometimes even making a profit.