



# Tee Talk

Xmas take-two! Dec 2024

## Chadders' Chat

Greetings fellow hackers! Our editor has pressed me for another piece of spiel for the "Just before Christmas" newsletter. So, quill in hand, here goes!

### Len Ken Change

I would like to make you aware of an AGM resolution that has changed the way the 2025 Len Kennedy will work.



Essentially it will still be your 6 best scores from a possible 12 that count, but of those 6 **at least 3 must be qualifying** for handicap purposes.

In addition, **bonus points** will be on offer. Specifically, you get a point for turning up! This means up to 12 additional points can be earned over the comp.

### The Treat of Next Year!

Please be aware that my Captain's Awayday has been booked at **Castle Eden Golf Club** on 24 July 2025.

I have reserved 30 places and will be posting the sign-up sheet shortly with more details. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

### Lost the plot on lost balls?

An unusual situation that came up recently revealed that none of those playing (myself included) interpreted the rules correctly. As it turned out, the end result was fine, but... The rules say a ball is lost if it isn't found after looking for it for 3 minutes. They also say that a found ball cannot be "declared lost". But there is no requirement to search for your ball! **Whaaat??**

If you look for your ball and find it, you must play it or take a penalty to play it from another location (which can include going back to the tee and driving again under the stroke and distance rule). *...continued overleaf*

## Len Ken Photo Finish

*Our intrepid reporter—Tim Wellock, joint leader going into the final round—dropped out due to illness. Having been stood down by the vet, from his stable he wrote:*



The marathon produced a devastating sprint finish from **Peter Holliday** to pip **Ray Pipe** on the line. The heavy going resulted in a shortened closing stretch, where Peter's blistering kick landed him the Len Kennedy Trophy by a short head. Having eased into contention with 35 points in round 11, Ray's smooth run up the rails in the final round seemed timed to perfection. He couldn't have foreseen, however, how a birdie two at the 11th would trigger Peter's run for home.

Peter had hitherto been a steady plodder, but now the blinkers were off, a run of pars followed, then threes were recorded at the shortened 16 and 17. An astounding 26 points on the back nine gave him a total of 42. With the best six scores from the 12 rounds to count, he improved his total by 11 to 218. Ray had played in only five previous rounds so his score of 34 was added to his total, leaving him on 216.

Peter said: "I had played well on the Thursday and Saturday, so I set out to not do anything silly and play to my strengths." The other joint leader before the final round, **Ken Walters**, scored 32, adding three to his tally for third place on 211.



## Whisky Galore!

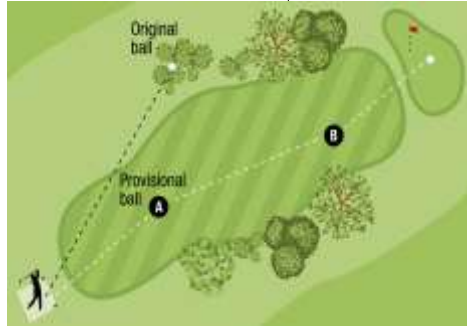
### First 'Third Thursday Tipple' winner

Despite the poor weather forecast, 12 brave souls turned out to battle for the first winner-takes-all prize of a bottle of Speyside single malt whisky—a competition open to all club members over 55. The winner was **Malcolm Thorniley**, who pipped **Stan Bedwell** on count-back, both having 41 points.

Ironically, Malcolm doesn't drink whisky. So, he donated his winnings as a raffle prize in support of the outgoing senior captain's charity (more on that overleaf). Even if you drink it yourself, the entry fees go to support the club, so never before has chasing whisky been such a worthwhile cause!

**Lost the plot? (cont'd)...** But you can't simply decide to switch to your provisional ball. You have to play a new shot.

However, you can decide not to look for your ball. Simply play your provisional and keep playing it. It remains a provisional ball so long as you only hit it when is further from the hole than the likely location of the ball you've not looked for. But once you've played it from a position that is closer to the hole, it is no longer a provisional and becomes the ball in play. For clarity—in the picture—when the ball is on the tee, at A, and at B, the ball is still provisional. But once you hit it at B, it becomes the ball in play.



Another alternative is to play a second ball but not declare it as provisional. In that case, it immediately becomes the ball in play. Seems a bit of unnecessary twaddle to me but I hope that clarifies. If anyone has any other rule interpretations they'd like to clarify, let me know and I'll do a bit of research and post the answer in the newsletter!

*Chadders*

## The alternative Captain's Report

At the AGM on 2nd Dec, outgoing Captain Ken presented his report on what happened during the year. However, uncharacteristically, he didn't always say what he thought. For example...

### What Ken Said

A rollercoaster year. Some achievements, some disappointments.

Overall, though, I wouldn't have missed it.

I used 41 players throughout the season BUT only 6 played 10 or more games.

Unfortunately we only managed a full team in 6 of the 14 fixtures.

Kendal will take Brampton's place next season.

Note, though, must be made of the performance of several Seniors in fixtures.

In the big fixture of the season, the team game in the Penrith Invitational, we came 5th.

I must mention the help and advice I received from ... Peter Holliday and Ross Law.

I wish my successor, Peter Chadbourn, thanks for taking on the job.

## Old captain's charity

Just off Scotswood Road in the heart of Old Benwell lies Newcastle Foodbank. It's a mixture of a few new developments (see in the background of the photo) and many tightly packed Victorian streets. Population density is high, unemployment is higher with matching poverty levels, mental health issues and depression.



People from a vast variety of backgrounds, nations and individual situations live their lives here. A mile from a tank producing plant, in a portakabin surrounded by their well-kept garden and tiny car park the work of a Foodbank goes on every day supported by the volunteers you see. £663.81 doesn't go a long way in these circumstances but I handed it over

and the gratitude was massive. Thanks to everyone who contributed from BCGC particularly Maureen and Doreen. I can't think of a better cause. **Ken.**

## Chadders' Counsel

### Get a grip on your balls!



*Is your golf ball right for you? As our swing speeds decrease in our dotage a Pro V1 or TM TP5 might not be ideal for us. That's because we may be unable to compress them properly and thereby get the best out of those balls (plus they're pricey!). Consider a softer ball with lower compression to get a few yards of distance back. If you're unsure about which of the myriad of balls to go for have a chat with Peter our Pro.*

### What Ken Meant

*An emotional mess. Some disasters, and the occasional lucky moment.*

*If asked again, I'd run in the opposite direction.*

*It was a revolving door of excuses: 'holiday,' 'illness,' and 'accidentally booked for Strictly Come Dancing'.*

*Most games were held together by duct tape and prayer, and Brampton made sure to rub our noses in it.*

*They are desperate enough to give us a shot.*

*A few seniors carried the rest of us who couldn't tell a driver from a wedge.*

*We beat eight teams! But don't ask me how—they were probably too busy laughing to play properly.*

*I never actually did what they suggested, but I nodded a lot to keep them happy.*

*You've got the hot potato now, Peter. Good luck, you're going to need it.*