



# Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors January 2025

## Chadders' Chat

Greetings fellow golfers of the mature persuasion and a Happy Golfing New Year to you all.

As you can see from **Tim's** article in this edition, the Christmas Golf & Lunch was an absolute hoot. If you are over 55 and not yet joined the senior section, you are missing out! Though, the new Captain's dad jokes went down like a lead balloon (tough crowd!!). At least I tried out my gavel!

Whilst playing in the Christmas competition, I hit my tee shot on the 11th into the right-hand bunker. My ball **fried-egged** into the face of the bunker so that little of it was visible. My chances of getting out were zero, but I gave it a whack anyway! It went 18", the red mist descended, and it was two more hacks before I got out of the bunker for a 6 and a Eurovision 'nil point'.

The rules of golf are not just to punish but can be quite helpful. I should probably have declared the ball unplayable and taken a lateral or back-on-the-line relief *inside* the bunker for one penalty shot. But the last big rules update also gives the option to drop back-on-the-line *outside* the bunker for two penalty shots.

I recommend getting the free R&A Rules of Golf app downloaded to your phone. It's easy to use and explains various rules scenarios in a very understandable way. Useful for those on-course situations when some clarification is required (and for keeping those rules know-it-alls straight!!). E.g. you can take unplayable ball relief anywhere on the course EXCEPT in a Penalty Area (Rule 19.1) – worth knowing!

*Chadders*



## A bounty on Ray Pipe's head

By our intrepid reporter Tim Wellock

**Ray Pipe** became a marked man after being voted **Bandit of the Year** at our very convivial Christmas lunch. He has won almost as many prizes as he's had hot dinners, but he's never had a Bounty on his bonce before.

The chocolate bar raised a laugh after Ray won the vote among 35 attendees, who included our old friend **Peter Lind-Jackson**. He accepted the invitation to attend and say grace with his usual clarity and well-chosen words.

While he offered thanks in advance for the food, our members expressed their appreciation afterwards. They were unaware that they were lucky that **Jack** was able to prepare three excellent courses with the help of **his dad**. Efficient and friendly service was provided by **Nicky** and **Maggie**, while downstairs an electrician was trying to keep the lights on.

A later partial power failure dashed our hopes of accompanying the three-man shoot-out for Bandit of the Year with theme music

from *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. (Ed: why did you put me last in the picture?)

The other contenders were **Steve Myers** and **Doug Bousfield**, who had already been among the three bandidos who formed the winning team on our away day. With new captain **Pete Chadbourn** presiding over the annual presentation, Steve and Doug claimed two trophies each. (Continued...)



## Bounty on Ray's head (cont'd)

Ray joined them after landing his second on the day, winning the *Christmas Trophy* for the second time in three years. His 42 points left him three clear of **Keith Walker** with newcomer **Dave Hurst** third on 38 in a round which included three birdies.

Ray also won the *Stuart Wilson matchplay* and came second in the *Len Kennedy*. Steve finished first on the *Robot Tour* to Bridlington and won the *Frank Burdis Trophy*, our 3-club event (*Ed: then a 10-shot cut!*).

Proof that there is life in the old Doug yet came with victory in the *Ken Thompson Trophy* and a runaway lead in the overall points tally for the *Summer Trophy*.

Other winners were: **Andy Simpson** (*Winter Golfer*), **Malcolm Thorniley** (*Brian Holmes Trophy*), **Tom Leonard** (*away day trophy*), **Denis Robinson** (*Past Captains*), **Tim Wellock** (*Senior Captain's Cup*) and **Peter Holliday** (*Len Kennedy*).

## Steve Myers arrested?

No, I haven't been nabbed by the police. **Peter Hartley** committed the crime—by fitting me for new golf clubs—and he's guilty of excellence.



Arriving early with my 7-iron, Peter whisked me to the practice ground. Awaiting me were over 50 shafts of various lengths, flexibilities, and materials, plus a range of heads. Using these and a Trackman, Peter built custom test clubs in seconds, to tweak loft and lie angles.

First, I hit balls with my old 7-iron while Peter measured distances and spin. Then he built a club with a new shaft and head, instantly improving my shots. After trying several options, one shaft stood out. Next, we tested heads and made adjustments to improve accuracy. By the end of the hour, I was hitting 20 yards farther and straighter.

I treated myself to new irons and plan to return for hybrids and woods. Hybrids will replace my now-unplayable 1- and 2-irons. Peter was very professional and offers good after-sales support, including gap analysis.

Could I have bought a standard set for less? Yes, but they're for beginners or budget-minded players. With Peter's expertise, I've rediscovered the joy of the game. Thank you, Peter.

## President's Premier Prize

Club president **Sid Lowes'** crossword entry demonstrated the talent that has taken him to the top. His was the only 100% correct entry. A bottle of Speyside (i.e. smooth/mild) single malt is on its way. **Bob Ward** was close-but-no-cigar with one letter awry. The rest of the field stumbled over combinations of gigabit, xi, and kg.

Did 25a make you scratch your head? "Greek alien leaves leaving BCGC" is XI because: leaving BCGC is "exit"; alien is "ET"; so when ET leaves exit, what remains is "xi", which is Greek.

Simples! 😊

G	R	E	E	N	F	P	U	T	T
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O		A			G	I	G	A	B
C		R	A	V	E	N		U	
K	E	N		A	E	G		X	I

## December's Third Thursday Tippler

This month's competition was a close-run thing, and we welcomed participation from several players 55 or over who are members of the club but not the senior section.

**Simon Elliot** (right) grabbed the whisky with 40 points, ahead of **Peter Holiday** (39), **Jed Collins**, **Tony Walker** (37), **Paul Howell**, and **Phil Ball** (35). The next competition is on Thursday, 16th January, open to all 55+ club members.



## Chadders' Counsel

### Course strategy

How many times in a round do you hit your approach and find it coming up short of the green?

I read recently this is likely due to using a club that you hit occasionally or rarely to that distance not the average distance for that club. So instead pick a club that, on average, will hit the middle or back half of the green. Doing this will give you a better likelihood of hitting your target.

If you sclaff it, then you may be on the front edge, if you hit it out of the screws it will be at the back or, at worst, leave you with a wee chip back, and if you hit your normal shot: bingo!

Give it a try and hopefully you'll be hitting more greens with your approaches.