

Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2025 Issue 2 (Feb)

Photo: Ross Law

Captain Chadders' Chat Column

Welcome Seniors to the latest piece of drivel from the Senior Captain! You will note that this month's newsletter has listed our friendly matches for 2025. Please get these dates into your diary and add your names to the team sheets when they are posted on the notice board. For those who are unaware, the match format is 4 ball better ball matchplay using handicap. We welcome all members of the Senior section irrespective of whether they are able to join us for our usual Monday gatherings.

It would be great if we could have a full complement of 16 players for every match this year. Even if there are already 16 names on the sheet, please add your name as we often have players dropping out and it's good to know we have reserves available. There are some cracking courses to play and it's very good value. You also have the opportunity at our home games to be a club ambassador and sell the attributes of our wonderful course to your playing partners. We want to encourage opposition players to come back and try us again.

The Thursday Tippler has been well supported – thank you to all those taking part – I didn't know there were so many closet whisky aficionados in the club!! For those who are free on a Thursday and haven't tried the competition out yet, come and join in.

Finally, this month's rules check. It's the plugged or embedded ball – particularly relevant in the current damp conditions. A ball is plugged if it lies in its own pitch mark and part of the ball is below the surface of the ground (note not the grass) If you find yourself in this unfortunate situation this is what you do. If you're in the General Area of the course, mark the position of the ball, pick a spot just behind the ball (not nearer the hole) as the reference point. Then drop your ball in a semi-circular area, radius 1 club length from the reference point. If, however you're on the green, mark your ball, repair the pitch mark you're in and replace your ball. Note it must be your pitch mark, so guys make sure you repair all pitch marks on the green or you might not get free relief! As usual there is no relief from a ball embedded in a penalty area. Check out Rule 16.3 for further wrinkles.

Yours in Golf, *Chadders*



Third Thursday Tipple

Graham Shipman won the rearranged Third Thursday Tipple for January, with a score of



39 points. He is seen here (right) being presented with his prize by the old (in every sense of the word) Senior Section captain. It seems Graham is a bit of a whisky connoisseur, so we await with bated breath his verdict on this Speyside single malt.

Next month's comp is on 20th Feb. If you don't drink whisky, the *TeeTalk* editor (Steve Myers) will exchange your prize for £20 cash.

'The First Hole'

David Hammond's first experiences in the BCGC Senior Section....



Despite being a Southerner, every member I have met this year has been very friendly and welcoming. Language barriers aside, it's true to say that northern hospitality is strong at the club.

My first encounter was the AGM, where I was warmly welcomed by the **Chairman** and **in- and out-going Captains**. After a lengthy debate about ... *continued overleaf*

Put these dates in your diary now:

Seniors' matches vs other clubs

We tee off at Appleby on April 1st. Will we be All Fools together, soaked and shivering, or will we be blessed with a day to match the glorious setting?

There's never a problem raising a team for this one and hopefully that will continue following the influx of enthusiastic new members.

Last year's struggles cost us the much-loved fixture at Brampton, who declined to come down from their lofty perch to play with reduced numbers. Showing no sympathy for our plight, they shanked us into long grass.

Having also lost Woodham and Bishop Auckland in recent years, the fixture list is changing. We have been lucky enough to add Brancepeth, while Kendal approached us for a fixture, which should be confirmed shortly. It's not Carus Green but the old Kendal course on the west side of town in the Lakeland foothills.

We have sometimes lacked good away trips in high summer but this year sees visits to Brancepeth, Hexham, Thirsk and Richmond, with Catterick to follow in early September. There's also the captain's excellent value for money away day at Castle Eden (Thursday 24th July). Roll on summer.

Tim Wellock

The first hole (continued)

qualifying matches—still don't understand that—the welcome continued when my golfing buddy, **Dave Hurst**—I think you have the measure of him already—and I were drawn with BCGC's award winning pro pairing of **Pipe** and **Matthews**. I wish I had worn my running shoes that day, these two get a lick on.

After a lovely round with **Ken** and **Fred**—there was some swearing, by me mainly—we arrived at the Christmas Meal. What a hoot that was, especially when **Mexican Ray** cheerfully accepted his fate for the year. So many of you introduced yourselves and made me feel right at home.

I've enjoyed chatting with **Peter in the Pro Shop** before teeing off and meeting some of you on the practice green and in the Club House.

Now to the course. There are a number of holes that dislike me already. The 11th extends its yardage when you hit your tee shot, the 12th acts all innocent until the green elbows your ball sideways into the stream and the 13th triples the wind speed as you step onto the tee. I call it "Our Amen Corner". (*Ed: were you "Swearin' in That Amen Corner"?*)

Looking forward to the next 3 months. If only the snow would melt.

Free golf
Fantastic courses
good Food
new Friends
a Fun day out

Apr	Tue 1	Appleby	Away	09:30
	Wed 9	Richmond	Home	09:30
	Mon 14	Penrith	Home	09:30
May	Thu 8	Darlington	Away	09:00
	Wed 14	Thirsk&N'al'ton	Home	09:30
	Wed 28	Hexham	Home	10:30
Jun	Thu 5	Brancepath	Away	10:00
	Tue 10	Blackwell	Away	09:30
	Tue 24	Bedale	Home	09:30
Jul	Wed 2	Appleby	Home	09:30
	Tue 8th	Blackwell	Home	09:00
	Wed 16	Thirsk&N'al'ton	Away	09:30
	Mon 21	Hexham	Away	11:00
	Wed 30	Catterick	Home	09:30
Aug	Thu 21	Richmond	Away	09:30
	Wed 27	Brancepath	Home	09:30
Sep	Mon 8	Catterick	Away	09:30

Chadders Counsel

Mind the Gap or Why Length Matters

Following on from last month's thoughts, this month's bit of advice is "Know Your Distances". When was the last time you did a gapping session with all of your clubs? I suspect it may be a while ago, if at all!

Carrying out this exercise will give you a better idea of the AVERAGE distance you currently hit each club both for carry and total distance (includes roll out). It will also give you how far left and right you spray your balls and therefore inform club selection/choice.

Go and book a session on Peter the Pro's simulator. Make sure you use your normal ball for the test.

And also remember that in the current soggy wintry conditions take something off your normal distances as the ball will not fly or roll as far.

Caption Competition

Send your caption for the picture (right) to editor@teetalk.uk by 25th Feb. Best caption wins a bottle of Malbec.



Photo: Ross Law