

Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2025 #8

There's now no reason to say *I Don't Like Mondays*

Thanks to a new system set up by **Ross Law**, we now have a random draw at 6pm on Sunday evenings, so you can know your tee off time and turn up at a time convenient to you. Mondays are therefore now a whole lot better and run *Like Clockwork*.

If you are concerned about *Lookin' After No. 1*, then there is no need to wait around any more. Book in on BRS before 6pm Sunday, and randomised tee times will be published on BRS by 7pm. If you need to leave early, e.g. for a hospital appointment, let Ross know in advance and he'll randomise you into an early group.

Chadders' Chat

Hello Barney Seniors,

It's been a while since the last TeeTalk and we have had busy times. First of all we held our first Seniors Open in May. It was run as a four ball better ball stableford and very well supported with an almost completely full teesheet. We had many compliments from the majority of visiting golfers despite the issues we had with the greens at that time. In fact, some were looking to book next year's event straight away. There were many scores over 36 with the winning team coming in with a bandit-like 47 points! My thanks to all the volunteers, the greenkeepers, and Jack and his team for making it such a successful event.

I also have a number of friendly matches to report on. There were three in May: Darlington away (Won 4.5-2.5), Thirsk & Northallerton home (Lost 5-3 our first defeat!), and Hexham home (won 5-3). We have also won our first two matches in June (Yay!): Brancepeth away (4-2) and Blackwell away (4.5-3.5). As always the games were played in great spirit and everyone had a great time. My thanks to all players who participated including those who put themselves forward as reserves once the teamsheets were posted. I have called on reserves on several occasions and you haven't let me down once despite some late withdrawals.

Continued overleaf...



With thanks to Bob Geldof and the Boomtown Rats for posing especially for this edition of TeeTalk* :-)

*The image of the Boomtown Rats is a deepfake. Course photo by Ross Law.

The most difficult time of the season re availability is approaching as summer holidays take centre stage. July's availability sheets have already been posted, so please check your plans against match dates and put your name on the sheets wherever you can. I currently have half teams for the first two matches in July.

Finally my Seniors Captain's awayday is fast approaching (24th July). There are still slots available however the sign-up sheet will be taken down very soon so please get your name down sharpish.

Yours in Golf,

Chadders

Do you know our local rules?

When was the last time you took a look at, or familiarised yourself with, the Barney local rules? I'm betting it's been a while. Did you know for instance that you can get relief from tractor tracks if your ball lies on them or your stance is affected by them? They are classified as Abnormal Course Conditions which comes under rule 16.1a.

That got me looking in more detail at Rule 16 in general. One of the more interesting parts is relief from animal holes. The definition of an animal hole is "any hole dug in the ground by an animal". The hole includes the loose material the animal dug out of the hole, any worn down track/trail leading to the hole, and any area of the ground pushed up or altered as a result of the animal digging the hole underground (hello you Barney moles!)

Note my reading of this is that there is no relief from animal scrapings unless they are closely associated with a hole.

Did you know...

the average senior golfer at BCGC walks 6 miles per round—half of it looking for his ball?



THE BIG DEBATE:

Is Simon Elliott English or Welsh?

Tim Wellock says: "He's English"

Look at Scunthorpe United. Three England captains have played for them: Kevin Keegan, Ray Clemence and Ian Botham. During his time as a director of the club, Simon used his powers of persuasion to get Keegan to take part in a fund-raising evening. Botham could be a target for something similar in our clubhouse if Simon's plans for ticketed events come to fruition.

"We have an excellent steward and it would be good for Jack if we had guest speakers, race nights and quizzes," Simon said. "It would also help to foster club spirit. A football club is a valuable community asset and it's the same with a golf club."

Although born at Woodhall Spa, Simon's family soon moved to Scunthorpe and his passion for the football club was formed during boyhood. Prior to their recent promotion, they played at the same level as Darlington, but during his time as a director they were promoted to the Championship and Simon recalls a 1-0 win against Newcastle.

"I had a conversation with Mike Ashley about our wage bill being £2m and their's was £120m."

Simon formed a bond with ex-Middlesbrough and Darlington player Brian Laws, Simon's best man during one of his two spells managing Scunthorpe. He also managed Burnley.

"I went to work in China and when I came back the club was in dire straits," said Simon. "I went back on the board to act as a conduit between the chairman and the fans. In 2023 five of us bought the club, but I'm no longer involved because I lost my appetite for putting money in."

Steve Myers says: "He's archetypally Welsh"

I grew up near Betws-yn-Rhos. If you bought milk from the shop, the shopkeeper served you. If you bought petrol from the pump, the shopkeeper served you. If you went to the post office, the same shopkeeper was behind the counter. If you wanted to play golf, it was the same shopkeeper who took payments for the green fees.

So it is with BCGC. Whatever happens—pruning bushes, painting bells, digging foundations for signs, collecting money for the seniors' meals, and many more, it is Simon who keeps appearing. Born in England, yes. But he is archetypally Welsh.

