

Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2025 #9
ROBOT Tour Special Edition



Kirby Lonsdale

I, ROBOT *by Tim Wellock*

MY robotic swing proved tailor-made for winning the ROBOT Trophy for the first time. Nothing sensational, just steady scores of 35-38-32, while there was more perspiration than inspiration from the rest.

Some were definitely wilting as the temperature nudged 30°C once the sea breeze stopped caressing them on Walney Island, where Furness Golf Club's short par fours suited my grinding game.

It didn't stop me visiting ten bunkers over the three rounds, some of which were unseen, but in all modesty I escaped brilliantly in comparison with my efforts at home. I knew my name was on the trophy when I holed out from the sand on the stroke one hole at Ulverston on the final day. We all have to ride the wave when it comes along, knowing we'll soon be on the crest of a slump.

ROBOT initially stood for *Randy Old Buggers On Tour*, but Rancid would be more appropriate these days as we're all so low on testosterone. *(Continued overleaf...)*



Furness

Ulverston

Our base at Ulverston proved ideal for a pub crawl, but a shuffle between *The Mill* and the *King's Arms* (both highly recommended) was as much as we could manage. Doubtless we'd have been in another fine mess had we ventured into the *Stan Laurel Inn*.

The trip was built around the intrigue of visiting Walney, which is reached by road bridge from Barrow and boasts the country's sixth oldest golf club. Another claim to fame is that it turned down a membership application from Maurice Flitcroft, the crane driver who twice gate-crashed Open qualifying, giving rise to the film *Phantom of the Open*. When he was told to get lost after starting nine, eight, seven he apparently said: "But I was just getting going."

Furness were happy to have our custom and at £28 it proved very good value, strung out along the southern shore with good views along the beach to the Lakeland hills.



Our first round was at Kirkby Lonsdale, which had the slowest greens in keeping with the lush conditions in a beautiful setting. There were four tee shots over the River Lune, which provided an attractive and challenging feature.

After a sluggish start on the greens, it was a surprise that 35 points proved enough to win here, one ahead of last year's ROBOT winner, Steve Myers. Captain Chadders was so slow out of the traps that he left himself with too much to do, despite a sterling effort over the last two days.

He would have won at Furness but for what looked a fine second into the green at the 17th trickling off into a bunker, from where he blasted into another one on the other side. After taking two to get out of there his decorum was commendable.



He followed up with the round of the week at Ulverston, amassing 42 points on the toughest of the three courses. That lifted him into third place overall, just behind Tony Mawer, who continues to prove the fittest octogenarian on the planet.

The winners of the team game at Ulverston were John Coyne, Malcolm Thorniley, and Ken Walters (aka leader of the *Bring Back the Twos* campaign)!