



Chadder's Chat

First of all I'm sure you are aware of the sad passing of Geoff Wall. He was a great servant of the club and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Elaine and the rest of his family at this sad time.

It has been another busy time for the Seniors since the ROBOT tour with five friendly matches, a Seniors Open and my Captain's Awayday (report by Tim in this issue). We've played three home games (Bedale, Appleby and Blackwell) all of which were victories (4.5-1.5, 6.5-1.5 and 7.5-0.5 respectively). The away fixture at Hexham was an honourable draw (4-4). Unfortunately, Thirsk & Northallerton completed the double over us at their course (2.5-5.5). These are our only defeats so far this year. More important than the results though, was the good time had by everyone in all the games. Thank you to all Seniors who participated.

The Open was a Texas scramble and enjoyed by all who participated. Maureen and Doreen were again stars in the Halfway House – my thanks to them. Further thanks to Alan and the greenkeeping team who have done wonders with the course and as always to Jack and his staff for the warm welcome and excellent refreshments served to the competitors.

Finally my Seniors Captain's awayday was an absolute hoot! Thank you to all of the guys for making it such a memorable day.

Yours in Golf, *Chadders*



The Magpie flies away with it

Tim Wellock writes... We launched this newsletter a year ago with a report of how a Mackem, Tom Leonard, had won the Away Day Trophy. This year it went to a diehard Newcastle fan.

Weardalians tend to support Sunderland, but Graeme Dalton is a Magpie who could have formed his own football team from his siblings.

One of a family of 11, he has moved down dale from his Wearhead roots to live in Wolsingham and first joined our club 50 years ago.

"Ken Driver was the pro and I bought my first clubs off him," he said. "Once I had a family I left for about 25 years and played a bit at Alston and Allendale, but it's good to be back at Barney.

"I also played cricket for most of the old Weardale clubs and when they folded I moved to North Bitchburn and scored my only century there when I was 45. This is probably my biggest sporting highlight since then, but Newcastle winning the Carabao Cup wasn't bad."

Captain Chadders made the excellent choice of Castle Eden for his away day. It attracted a field of 38 and a splendid time was had by all.

Everyone had at least two more shots than at home, with four or five par fours being out of reach in two for most of us. *Continued overleaf...*

Use it or Lose it

It's easy to forget how lucky we are to have Peter in the Pro Shop—running comps, tee times, buggies, etc. He's part of the fabric of the club.

But like any small business, the pro shop only survives if we use it. Every item of golf equipment, clothing, lesson, or fitted clubs that we buy helps keep that support on-site, and the money within the local community.



As we've known too well in the past, an empty Pro Shop places a considerable burden on other staff and deprives us of expert support.

Peter promises to match prices elsewhere – and will often beat them. So, please buy local to keep a great, friendly professional exactly where we need him—at Barnard Castle.



Chadders
Counsel

A Downward Trend!

Lately, my WHS index has started moving in the right direction—downward—and it's immensely satisfying. The improvement hasn't come from dramatic swing changes, but from better course management and a much-improved short game.

One of the biggest changes has been how I approach each hole. I now play every hole as a bogey hole—so, for example, I treat a par 3 as a par 4. It takes the pressure off and helps me play smarter. I've also made a conscious effort to steer clear of real trouble. Penalty areas and bunkers nearly always cost at least one shot, so where there's risk, I lay up or aim wide.

My second shots are more considered too. I think carefully about which side of the green offers the safest approach, rather than going straight for the flag every time. From 50–100 yards in,

Thanks from Steve to all those who signed the Parkinson's Petition. We've reached the 100,000 target.

I've been putting in the practice—just getting it on the green is step one, but I also aim to get as close to the flag as I can... without falling for "sucker flags" tucked behind bunkers or perched on a narrow tier. If the safe play means a longer putt, so be it.

Lag putting has been another focus. I'm working hard to cut out those dreaded three-putts and have been practising those testing three- to four-footers. I'm not sinking them all, but I'm definitely improving.

If your handicap's over, say, 20, you might find some of these techniques helpful. They're not flashy, but they work. As for my next step—it's time to work on some of the technical flaws (like my habit of pulling shots left and my inconsistent long game). So, I'm going to book a session with Peter, our Pro.



Magpie flying continued... With a handicap index of 19.9, Graeme played off 23 and amassed 43 points after collecting four on the first when he holed from off the green.

He continued to hit his left-handed fades off the tee into the middle of the fairway and finished two points clear of Malcolm Thorniley.

It could have been even better for Malcolm, who had two birdies. In an otherwise immaculate display on the greens he took four putts on the first par three, while his eight-foot putt for a two on the nearest-the-pin hole lipped out.

The day's superb value began with bacon butties which consisted of half a pig inside a stotty, which was enough to fuel anyone round 18 testing holes.

Crawley and Duckett completed a century stand on the big television screen as we tucked into our post-round carvery, so it seemed appropriate that the captain was wearing his cricket trousers as he conducted the prize-giving.



He began by announcing that the raffle had raised £254 towards our winter mats and the total rose as most of the prizemoney was handed back. It epitomised the tremendous spirit of a memorable day.

Results: Division one: 1 Malcolm Thorniley, 2 John Matthews, 3 Simon Gates. Division 2: 1 Graeme Dalton, 2 Tony Mawer, 3 David Wright.

Team event (best two from four): 1. Malcolm Thorniley, John Hall, Tom Leonard, Tim Wellock (95 pts); 2. John Matthews, David Cook, Adrian Lowes, David Wright (93); 3. Ross Law, Sid Lowes, Gary Paterson, Alan Coulthard.

Nearest the pin: Alan Coulthard; longest drive: John Matthews.



Caption Competition

Best entry sent to editor@teetalk.uk by 15th Aug wins a bottle of red wine. Open to senior section only.

