

Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2025 #11

Chadder's Chat

You will have seen the promotion of the 200 Club over the past few weeks. This is a great initiative aimed at raising funds for the club whilst giving someone the opportunity to win some dosh every month. I understand that over 100 numbers have been sold to date but it would be great if we can push that up to 200. That will maximise the funds available to the club and also the size of the monthly prize. If you haven't already done so please sign up. Alternatively the Seniors as a group are planning to purchase a couple of numbers with the winnings swelling Seniors funds. If you wish to support the club in that way please donate £5 per head to one of the Seniors committee members or direct to the Seniors account.

Just one result to report on the friendlies front this issue. That was a 5-3 win at home to Catterick. Thanks again to all participants. Availability lists for the matches in September will be posted soon. These will be the last of the season so get your names down sharpish.

The final Seniors Open, a four ball better ball, was also a success. My thanks to all the Barney people who made it another great day.

Bandit of the month is awarded to Malcolm Thorniley who'll be getting the trophy soon! It's a relief to hand it on!!

Bandit for July:
Malcolm Thorniley

Breaking news, our Seniors have just won the Penrith Invitational event (see further details in Tim's article, right).

Yours in Golf,

Chadders



Penrith Premier Position

By a nameless journalist

Our brave boys have done it again. For the fourth time in 15 years we won Penrith's eight-man team event with the irrepressible Malcolm Thorniley leading the way. Playing off nine, he matched his 41 points in the Captain's Away Day at Castle Eden with two twos and a third birdie at the par five 15th.



"The course was in superb condition, the weather was perfect and we had a great day," he said.

It was fortunate that the worst of the eight scores is discarded as someone who shall remain nameless had a nightmare—starting badly but then fading away.

The rest all topped 30 points to total 250, nine ahead of second-placed Penrith in the ten-team event. Peter Holliday and Andy Simpson had 38, Tony Mawer and Ken Walters 35, Dave Hurst 32, and Simon Elliott 31.

The team were presented with the usual trophy, something known as a tantalus, and all received glass tankards, completing a collection of three for Peter, Ken and the nameless one.



BCGC's last win was in 2018

"The whole event was well organised but Andy was in a slow group and we had almost finished the buffet when he came in," said Malcolm. "We thought we'd have a chance if he'd done well, so his 38 points clinched it."

It was a successful first look at the course for Dave Hurst, whose handicap index had been cut to 9.5 following his outstanding round the previous Monday. Already in pole position to win the Senior Captain's Cup, he blew the field away with a gross 75 off the white tees in the third of the three rounds. His nett 63 left him eight ahead of Steve Myers on the day, with David Cook third on 73.



What have the Romans done for us?



Bossus Maximus: *Centurio Petrus*

Assistant: *Nullus* (BCGC pauper est)

Legionarii: *Unus voluntarius* (pater) & *unus auxiliarius* (Allan, raro stipendium)

BCGC's *Horatius on the Bridge*—holding the club front line—is usually one of the first on site (7:30am weekdays, 6:30am weekends in summer) to disable the alarm, unlock buildings, move buggies/trolleys, charge batteries, and check the diary/bookings.

He greets members as they arrive, answering queries on bookings, handicaps, and rules. For those struggling with the technology, he enters them into competitions and records scores. Visitors need more time—guidance on hazards, facilities, GolfNow deals, issuing of tags, and, where possible, encouragement to join as members. Peter also promotes the club by playing in Pro-Ams and attending national events.

The phone rings 80–100 times most mornings—covering bookings, buggy hire, catering liaison, lost property, and more. Peter also provides social glue, introducing new members, listening to feedback, and passing on concerns to the club. The shop closes around 6pm in summer, when Peter often tries to fit in some golf for himself or continues with calls or other work.

Alongside all this BCGC support, Peter runs a one-man business that benefits members: lessons and custom fittings with his £24k Trackman kit, club repairs, ordering stock from 25+ suppliers (many requiring minimum spends such as £7,500 with FootJoy), and careful stock planning months in advance. If he doesn't have what you need, he'll still order individually and price-match.

There are other duties—too numerous to be listed—including organising kit/embroidery, club repairs, new grips, shoe cleat replacement, away days, after-sales support, valuations, weather-safety monitoring, first aid, daily reports to the club, etc., etc.

It's a demanding role for one man, but Peter is the visible hub of BCGC. With a golf degree from Birmingham, DBS/safeguarding checks, and first-aid training, we are all in safe hands. So next time you see him, use the time-honoured salute:

"TE SALUTAMUS, BOSSUS MAXIMUS ET GOLFUS GLORIOSUS"

July Caption Competition—Thanks to all for the excellent, creative entries to last month's comp. One entry stood out above all others from Ken Walters: **A Lowes between two thorns** Ken has opted to upgrade his prize to a bottle of Tamnavulin single malt.



Unwitting rule-breakers?

I was watching DP Golf the other day and one of the golfers was taking back on the line

relief. Because of rather large trees & bushes in the way he couldn't see the pin and asked if he could use Google maps to determine the location (presumably as a joke). He was told by the referee to estimate the pin position. Sadly, he had to drop in the rough and took a double bogie.

That got me to thinking about tech on the golf course. Most of us have some form of GPS/rangefinder that we use regularly.



The developers of these gadgets often give you features that you can't use in competition. For example adjusting the distance measured to account for slope (up or down), measuring wind speed, etc.

These can be helpful for practice purposes but if for a competition round you forget

The world record for longest putt holed to disable them is 401.26ft, set by Jay Stocki in 2023

you are breaking the rules and risk disqualification. My advice is to disable them and don't use them to ensure you're safe because if you're like me you'll forget at some point!!

Letters to the Editor?

The TeeTalk inbox is starting to look like the right-hand bunker on the 11th—almost completely empty. Remember, there might be a bottle of something at the end of the year for the best contribution. Send to editor@teetalk.uk