



# Tee Talk BCGC Seniors 2026 #1

## Simon's Spiel

February is now upon us, behind the scenes members of the Seniors committee are putting the final touches to the 2026 calendar. This includes all our home and away matches which in 2025 were very well attended.

We will follow the same process in 2026 that Chadders established with the sign up sheet going up on the board well in advance.

Our first match is at the end of March away at Appleby, something to look forward to. Big shout out to Ross for organising these matches.

Worth mentioning a couple of updates. In an attempt to add some spice to the Len Kennedy competition we will add an eclectic (Nett and Gross) for the season long event. The revered Bandit award will now be presented at the last Monday of the Month to an individual who has recorded an exceptional score during that month. We will start this in February.

Great to see some of our senior members working on their swings with our Pro Peter during the off season looking to start the new season with some great scores.

Looking forward to get our season going with great golf, great company and plenty of laughs along the way. Here's to a great 2026 on the Links.

Kind Regards

Simon

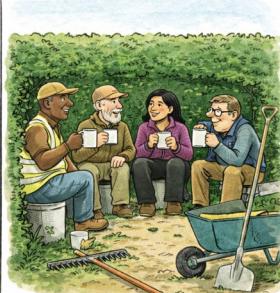


*Congratulations to Callum Tallentire for winning the January Third Thursday Tippler*

## Viva les volunteers!! Become one!

Although we have a great team of staff, the club simply could not function without the time and dedication of its volunteers. Some members give 10, 20, or even 30 hours in certain weeks — maintaining the course, raising funds, undertaking improvements, supporting competitions and opens, keeping things running smoothly, and quietly fixing problems before most of us even notice them.

That said, volunteering is not an endurance sport. Even a small contribution can make a big difference — many hands make light work. There are also some unexpected side-benefits: widening your circle of friends, learning new things, and the quiet satisfaction of having done something genuinely useful (without having to read the rules of golf).



Some magic happens off-camera.

If you might be interested, have a think about two simple questions: How much time you realistically have? What sort of thing you might enjoy helping with — course maintenance, computers, promotion, being a starter during opens, and so on.

Then have a word with David Hammond (projects director) or with Lisa in the office.

There's no need to commit to large amounts of time, and you may well find that volunteering is not only worthwhile, but rather enjoyable.

**STOP PRESS**  
**ANOTHER HOLE-IN-ONE**  
 On the 18th temporary green, during the Third Thursday Tippler. Congratulations Tim Soullier (a Senior in spirit if not in paid-up subs!)



## Profile: our new Seniors Captain

You will know already, or will have guessed, that Simon Gates is a former scratch golfer. We hold him in such high esteem that he had been a member of our section for less than a year when he was invited to be captain.

"It was a bit of a shock, but I am happy to do it. It's nice to put something back," he said.

He owes us nothing, but is "putting back" into a game which has brought him much pleasure since he gave up his previous passion of cycling. He rode in prestigious events like the Milk Race and Tour of Ireland before opting to put his maths and accounting degree to more lucrative use.

Raised in Halifax, he began work with Coopers and Lybrand in Leeds, then moved south with the Midland Bank. At 34 he joined Deloitte and settled in Dorking, Surrey.

"Everybody at work played golf, so I joined a club called West Hill then switched to Windlesham, where I became club captain," he said. "I got down to scratch after about 12 years and got the call to play for Surrey when they were playing on the shorter courses."

### Five Facts about Simon

He is a former professional cyclist

He was a partner with Deloitte

He has four dogs

He has had nine holes-in-one

His son is our club champion

While most myopic seniors might think he hits it out of sight, 61-year-old Simon does not concur. It's one reason why he prefers Barnard Castle to the "long slog" at Rockliffe.

He and his wife, Sandra, also love Teesdale, where he enjoys walking his dogs on the moors above their Newbiggin home.

"We always intended to move north after retirement," he said. "Work took me all over the world but I'd had enough of being away so much and retired at 50. We already had a cottage in Mickleton so we knew the area well."

His son, Josh, a student at Stirling University, plays off plus two. He was 19 when he won our club championship at the first attempt last summer. He also starred for the TDU team as they gained promotion to division one, with his dad helping out when needed.



Simon's ninth hole-in-one came at the eighth in the Saturday Winter League. "It landed just in front of the pin and we heard it rattle the flag. As we approached we could see it resting against the pin then it suddenly dropped in.

"I really like the course. I never get bored playing it and it's the right sort of length for me. I also enjoy visiting other courses so I'm looking forward to leading out the team in our matches."

*Tim Wellock*



**Did you know?** If you are a BCGC member, you are covered by Golf England's insurance policy. But there is a £500 excess on third party damage (e.g. if you go out of bounds on the left of the 14th and hit a car — cough, cough). And the policy doesn't cover your clubs.

*You can get top up insurance from the Golf England website.*

## Where's Chadders?

There's no 'Chadders Counsel' this month because he's gone AWOL. If anyone knows his whereabouts, please report them to the Missing Golfers' Hotline.



## Peter Hartley's February Special Offer

**Spend £150 or more in the pro shop and get a free lesson or hour on the simulator.**

**Do you want to try some different clubs?**

Peter has arranged demo days:

Wilson—19th February

Callaway—20th February

Odyssey—21st February

*See Peter in the Pro Shop for details*

