

Tee Talk

ROBOT Special

BCGC Seniors 2026 #4

Konsistent Kevin Collects Krown *By Tim Wellock*

The geriatrics bowed to the whippersnapper on the *ROBOT Tour* as our youngest member, Kevin Atkin, galloped away with the trophy. We were not so much Randy as **Rickety Old Buggers**



On Tour as we laboured in the slipstream of the 59-year-old seven-handicapper.



Kevin claims to have a bad back, which kept him out of action for five years, but he showed little sign of it with his prodigious striking round Tynemouth, Dunstanburgh, and Whitley Bay. His respective Stableford points totals were 35, 36, 34.

Tony Mawer proved the value of abstinence as he steered clear of the hostelries and struck a blow for the geriatrics by finishing second overall. Ken Walters stayed below the radar but emerged in third place.

Tynemouth proved an excellent base, although one of its attractions, the nationally-acclaimed Riley's Fish Shack, failed to impress some of those who trundled down to King Edward's Bay to sample its wares. Among them was our esteemed editor, who gave it a one-star review on Trip Advisor.

Some of us shunned the Shack in favour of The Cove and didn't object to finding ourselves back there on the second evening. Our intended destination was a Cantonese restaurant called the Hidden Tiger inside an old church. But it had been invaded by a bird, which caused such havoc that they were obliged to switch us to the alternative venue. The Tiger staff cooked and served, and the few minor grumbles were silenced by a complimentary drink.

Tynemouth's golf course proved the ideal starter. Flat apart ... *continued overleaf*

ROBOT Results

Day 1—Tynemouth

Brian Heaton (guest) 39
Tim Wellock 38
Geoff Davies 35
Kevin Atkin 35 count back

Day 2—Dunstanburgh

Kevin Atkin 36
Graeme Dalton 36
Mal Thorniley 34
Allan Phillips 34 c/b

Day 3—Whitley Bay

David Cook 41
Andy Simpson 40
Simon Elliott 37

Overall ranking points

Kevin Atkin. 55
Tony Mawer. 43
Ken Walters. 42

Nearest pins at Whitley

Bay: Alan Coulthard
Tim Wellock
Kevin Atkin

Simon's Spiel

Fresh off my first robots tour and sitting comfortable in mid-table mediocrity, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in organising the tour: Tim, Peter, and team guru Ken. Great three days on very different but enjoyable courses.

Having just finished our seniors match at Appleby with a very nice 5-3 win, I am conscious that the section is very well respected by other clubs and most enjoy coming to Barney both for the course and the comradeship of our senior members. Sometimes we grumble because everything is not quite right but having just spent a very pleasant day on the course with great company from Appleby GC, sun shining and no howling gale going up the second, what more could you want.

A final thank you, given we are about half way through our season, to everyone who has put themselves forward for the matches and committed to playing. Very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Simon





from a shallow valley which meanders around, it provided easy walking and not too stern a test. Then after an hour's drive to Dunstanburgh on the second morning we were blessed by a refreshing breeze on a links which has recently crept into the Top 100 rankings. It stands at 99th in England. Relatively unknown 20 years ago, increasing fame has seen its green fee rise to £55. We paid £35 at Tynemouth to include coffee, bacon butty, soup and sandwiches.

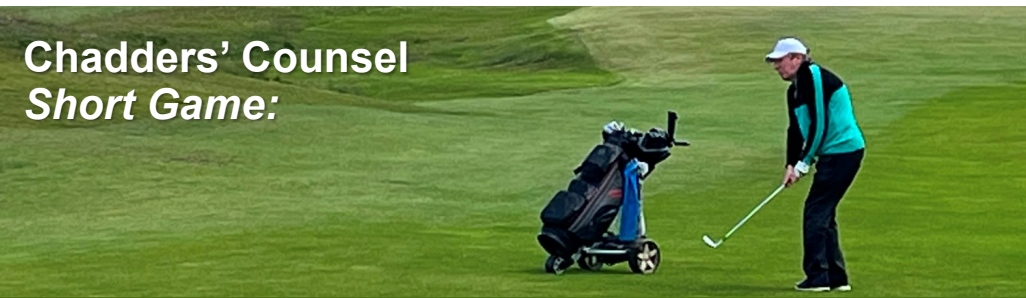
Kevin surged ahead with 36 points at Dunstanburgh and the traditional two-stroke handicap cut for each day's winner didn't hamper him. The greens were too slick for some of us, although tour newcomer Geoff Davies holed three monsters and also floated his left-handed fade to two feet on the famous 13th. With the castle in the background, this 110-yard hole yielded several twos and Geoff's helped him into second place overall with Allan Phillips lurking in third.

They were unable to sustain the challenge at Whitley Bay, where Simon Elliott provided some nearest the pin prizes. The three chosen holes were tough and no-one got within 20 feet. There were no twos



here.

While this superb course is half a mile inland, some mounding has been created to give it a linky feel in places. The most memorable hole is the stroke one 12th at 580 yards. It starts slightly downhill and features a lone tree to be avoided on the second shot. On the left is a stream in a gully, which emerges from a culvert cutting into the fairway as it swings left to climb to the green. Anyone making five here could go home happy.



Chadders' Counsel Short Game:

Three and a half months swanning around on the world's oceans reminded me that the short game is the hardest to recover on returning to play after a break. Yet it's the easiest to practise. Improving my short game last year (including a visit to Peter the Pro) helped me shave 5 shots from my handicap. So here are three things to help:

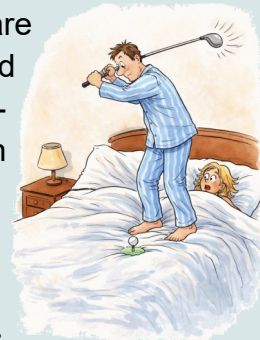
1. Practise your lag (approach) putting. Putt to three different range targets and try to get as close as possible. Vary the distances.

2. Practise your chipping. Do the same as putting and try to get close to disparate targets. If you chunk your chips, try the toe down method employing a more upright, putting stroke style.

3. Practise your pitching. With each wedge you have, establish your distances with a full shot and a half shot (swing 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock). If you want to get funky try the same whilst gripping down the club and see what, if any, difference it makes. Try also varying the ball position (fwd, middle, back) to see

The President's final six: Rules of Bedroom Golf

1. Players are strongly advised to get the owner's permission before attempting to play the back nine.



2. Slow play is encouraged; however players should be prepared to proceed at a quicker pace at the owner's request.

3. It is considered an outstanding performance, time permitting, to play the same hole several times in one match.

4. The course owner will be the sole judge as to who is the best player.

5. Players are advised to think twice before considering membership at a given course. Additional assessments may be levied by the course owner and the rules are subject to change. For this reason, many players prefer continuing to play several different courses.

6. Once membership has been proposed and accepted, playing other courses is strictly forbidden. Any member then caught playing another course may be subject to forfeiture of some or all of his equipment.

what effect that has. This will give you a selection of shots from around 100 yards in.

Remember the main aim for us average golfers for 2) and 3) is *Get It On The Green*. Aim for the big side, be it right, left, short or long. Don't go flag hunting if it's tucked behind a bunker or in a difficult place. Once there, if you practise 1), you'll get close with your next shot. Now I'm off to practise what I preach (yes, I'm as bad as everyone else)!!