



Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2026 #5

Drought Edition



Texas Tim's Team

Simon's Spiel

We are certainly having a golf packed summer. The matches have been coming thick and fast which is great, we have produced some very good results, winning all of our recent games including a much wished for win against Darlington last week as pay-back for the results when we played them at home. Well done to all who have made the commitment to play in the teams; it is greatly appreciated and makes my role much easier.

The seniors opens have been very well received and attended well done to **all the seniors who chip in** and help make these a fantastic day for the players who seem to come from far and wide. **Ross and Tony** manned the registration and scoring desk (I did a stint last time and the number of changes to playing partners is huge). **Ken** looked after the raffle which helps with our Christmas meal fund. **Tim, Mike, and Colin** were starters. **Peter Holliday** kept us on the straight and narrow along-side **Chadders** helping to keep the ship running smoothly. And **the ladies in the halfway hut** really made the day complete with a great selection of nibbles and friendly faces.

As a section we should be proud of the opens and the opportunity to show off our course which was playing very well. ... *continued overleaf*

ONLY in our wildest dreams are we six under after seven holes. But it became a reality for my team on the way to winning our club's Seniors Open Texas Scramble. Ten pars followed before a chip-in at the last put the icing on the cake, a nett 54 leaving us two clear of the field.

It again raised the question of whether we want home players winning our opens and, although I would have no objection to a ban on entering, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I hadn't played in one for several years as I'm usually to be found at the first tee doing the early shift as starter. However, being very fond of a Scramble, I acceded to a request to make up a fourball. Colin Davis took over as the starter, a role he appeared to relish so much he had to be prised from the tee.

... *continued overleaf*

Sid's 17th Save

When an American Mink was about to devour a moorhen and chicks on the 17th, Sid came to the rescue with a swift 5 iron.

Well done, Sid. That was an unusual birdie save.

American Mink is an invasive species, differentiated from a Polecat by the lack of white markings on the face.



Simon's Super Shot

Our esteemed captain, Simon Gates, holed in one for the tenth time in the home match against Darlington.

It's a remarkable achievement for someone who took up the game in his late 30s.

After holing his 8-iron on the 18th, Simon said: "The Darlington captain said he would have tackled me to the ground had it been to win the match, but we'd just clinched victory on the 17th.

"I put a bottle of whisky on the bar and the Darlington players drank most of it."

Simon's Spiel *continued*

Well done to **Tim Wellock** for being in the winning team on the Texas scramble open, I was sitting in the clubhouse as I watched one of their team chip in on 18 for a two from a fairly impossible position.

Finally golf is a fickle game just when you think you have it cracked with a nice purple patch the golfing gods decide to embellish your game with the odd shank and a sprinkling of three putts, thinned or fat wedges. Great to see some good form from many of our players **Steve M** our editor is back to appearing at the top of leaderboards with some excellent rounds, **Tony M** still winning matches with a smile on his face, **Tim W** continuing to pop up in the results on a Monday and weekend. **Andy S** played some great golf in the Senior Captains Cup and suggested—after yet another bad shot from myself—it would not be right to win your own cup!! **Kevin A** who has had a great season with some fantastic rounds and some very good results in the seniors and TDU teams. Well done all, long may it continue.

Kind regards, *Simon*



Making it easier to hit the ball

Seeing a certain straight armed pro golfer get dinged two shots in the Open recently prompted a review of "Improving Conditions Affecting the stroke" of swing/play (naughty Bryson!!). Rule 8.

This is quite a complex rule. Rather than go through the whole rule, I'll pick a couple of situations and show how to approach them.

The overall tenet is to play the course as you find it. The penalty for a breach is the General Penalty (2 shots in strokeplay) so be careful.

Ball in a bush: Don't bend or break any twigs on your line of swing. Get to your ball in the least intrusive way (and not down the swing line). You can bend stuff in making your stance but you're not entitled to a normal one (so Quasimodo style might be required). You can move loose stuff (but not on the line of play).



Tim's Texas Team *continued*

My teammates were Dave Moses, Tony Barker and Jed Collins, who don't play with the seniors largely because they are all still working. I like to flatter myself by thinking they wanted me for my tactical expertise and fortunately I played the anchor role to my satisfaction, although I holed nothing above a tap-in.

Ken's sales patter raised £400 from the raffle to boost the seniors' coffers, while 170-odd entrants at £20 a head raised £2,200 for the club once roughly a third had gone out in prizes. The much-valued efforts of the halfway house ladies also raised around £300 in donations.

Dave and Jed have handicaps in the mid-teens so when I agreed to play I had no expectation of winning. However, since the handicap rules changed I am convinced there is more benefit in having a 32-handicapper in your Scramble team than a two-handicapper. I thought we would receive nine or ten shots; in fact we got 12.

It was one of those rare days when you know the golfing gods are firmly on your side and we were in buoyant mood as we enjoyed the usual banter with Maureen, Doreen and Laney at the halfway house.

On the final hole, knowing that a score in the low 50s usually wins, we felt we needed at least one more birdie. Dave's well-struck tee shot at the last finished at the foot of the slope at the front right corner of the green. It was only about 20 feet from the hole and Tony's chip hit the pin full on and dropped in. Cue joyous celebrations.

In the deep grass: Don't tramp the grass on your line from a reasonable direction. You can back into nettles in taking your stance (not recommended wearing shorts).

Out of Bounds stakes: These cannot be moved or even angled. If your swing is affected you're in for a penalty drop. This is different to red or yellow stakes which can be moved (and replaced post stroke).

You can always take an unplayable ball drop (one stroke penalty Rule 19) as an alternative to any of the above to avoid a general penalty. Having made or witnessed many failed attempts to get out of our fescue it might be the best option!!

Yours in Golf, *Chadders*

