


Jonathan Metcalfe (third from left) won the Autumn Cup at Ramside Golf Club, organised by Ken (far right)



Why is Peter looking smug?

Find out overleaf



## The Hexham *Battle of the Titans*

**Geoff Davis** ran away with the Captain's Day kudos, returning a magnificent 41 stableford points. And everyone had a very enjoyable day in what turned out to be great weather. But behind the scenes, there were some shenanigans.




Simon Gates piled the pressure on Kevin Atkin in advance by publicising that the longest drive prize was already Kevin's. Simon then put down his own marker at 279 yards. And when Kevin stood on the tee, the reason for Simon's choice of the 14th became apparent – after about 280 yards, the fairway narrowed significantly and turned slightly to the left.

Could Kevin get past Simon's long drive? More importantly, if he did, could he keep it on the rapidly narrowing fairway?

Kevin then hit a massive drive that clearly went a long way past Simon's marker. But from the tee, he couldn't tell if it was on the fairway. Only when approaching the ball could he confirm it was.

310 yards long. 5 yards in from the edge. Simon's cunning plan had failed.

All that can be said is "Well done, Simon: a creditable second place"! But Kevin once again showed himself to be the driving titan.

## Mike's Missive

### A word from the Senior Section Captain

As a relative youngster to the game, standing on the 1st tee and playing through, it could be argued, are some of the game's toughest challenges.




In my first tee talk I want to say a huge thank you to Simon for his leadership, drive and encouragement to the section over the past year.

In taking on this role I'm applying some of the life lessons learned as a driving instructor and magician.

Obviously staying alive is a priority, but we assume nothing and are always ready to learn something new. Golf is definitely not a game that can be pulled out of a hat!

Looking forward to the year ahead we are hoping to enter our first Seniors TDU team which will hopefully encourage more over 55s to join our section.

If you want to find out more we play every Monday morning or you can contact me (details in the online members' directory). I look forward to seeing you on the 1st tee.

*Mike Lee*



## Headlam Hall Hat-trick Headed Off

By Tim Wellock



***Brancepeth*** won our President's Trophy.

Further evidence that visitors find our course tough came with an average score of 28 from 88 players in 11 teams.

With the worst score in each team discarded, Brancepeth totalled 225, three fewer than we managed in finishing sixth when trying to defend the Penrith trophy.

Our seven counting scores at Penrith were all in the low 30s, Kevin Atkin leading the way with 34. Carus Green (Kendal) won, then finished third in our event, 16 behind Headlam, who were four adrift of Brancepeth.

It was raining when president Sid sounded the hooter for the shotgun start but it soon cleared into a bright, breezy day.

Headlam did achieve one hat-trick with a third successive winner of the individual prize in Michael Allenby with 37 points. There were three on 36, two of them from Brancepeth, and with 14 points on the back six Terry Ditchburn won the second place prize.

It was good to see Terry leading in the winning team as he was a close friend of our late colleague Geoff Wall and it was through him that we secured our very enjoyable fixture with Brancepeth.

He thanked the organisers for a "fantastic" day and we were grateful that our team on the desk included Ross Law after his lengthy absence. Mike Lee continued his sterling work as Ross's deputy, and Ken Walters collected the cards with schoolmasterly demands for two signatures and a total in the box.

Yours truly oversaw the whole operation, a task which even included transferring some loo rolls from the ladies to the gents. Don't tell the ladies.

Sid bought us all a celebratory drink for a job well done.



The ***Caption Competition winner*** was **Dean Bradley** with "*Yeah, it's up there. I think I can still play it though*." Dean joined the seniors specifically to try and win the whisky, but found the group so mad and crazy that he decided to stay.

If there was a prize for 'most entries' then Doug Bousfield would have won. Alas, it was quality not quantity that mattered, Doug.

## Peter Holliday had a hole in one on the 11th.

He was the fifth playing partner of Steve Myers to hole out in two years. Steve's charge to be a playing partner has now risen to £5 a time.



**CHADDER'S COUNSEL**:

# *Goldfish Golf*




Whilst basking in the glory of being the inaugural dominoes champ at the recent Seniors Ramside event, I contemplated the similarities with golf (tenuous I know, but bear with me!). The tiles already laid are fixed, just like where your ball has landed, bunkers, trees, etc. The tiles in your hand are your options, restricted by what's on the table. Similarly, your options for a golf shot depend on your skill, clubs, the lie, and any obstacles.

So, before playing your shot, pause and think. Ball above your feet? Grip down and aim right (for right-handers); below your feet, grip at the end and aim left. On an upslope take more club; on a downslope take less. Choose an appropriate club for the lie. On bare ground, might a PW (or even a putter) be safer than a 54 wedge? In deep rough, a sand wedge to get back into play may beat a long iron. Faced with trees, steer well clear.

This all sounds great, but I'll relate my latest Ramside disaster. A downhill par 3 required an all-carry tee shot over a beck. I pulled my trusty 7 wood left, where a bounce off the pathway sent it into the rubbish. Sensibly, I played a provisional; less sensibly, I changed to a 5 hybrid, forgot about the helpful bounce, and dropped it in the beck. Bummer!

I found my first ball, but fluffed my 54 wedge a couple of yards forward. Red mist descended and I tried the 54 again from a bare, hard lie, thinning it across the green. Three putts later, I walked off with a 6 and one ball less in the bag. Nobody in our group played that hole well, but that didn't soothe my bruised ego!!

So, what's the lesson? The previous shot, like a domino already laid, can't be changed. But you can choose what to do next. Pause, consider your options, and try (it's hard, I know) to be like a goldfish and forget the previous shot. If only I'd followed my own advice!

Yours in Golf,

*Chadders*

