

Tee Talk

BCGC Seniors 2025 #6

Seniors practising before the Penrith match (photo by Ross Law)

Lawrie Swires Obituary

It was with deep sorrow and profound shock that we learnt of the sudden death of former club secretary Lawrie Swires, aged 78.

He appeared to have made a good recovery after a mystery illness last year kept him off the course and recently returned to playing three times a week.

His most regular playing partner, Andy Moorhouse, said: "He was in good form on Easter Sunday and we left him in the clubhouse preparing to eat lunch with his wife, Fiona. To hear two days later that he had gone was a dreadful shock. Lawrie knew everyone and everyone knew him. He was a real people person and was held in enormous respect."

A native of Pateley Bridge, where he often returned to walk, Lawrie first worked as a lab technician at ICI and came to Barnard Castle to work at Glaxo in 1986. He played for the town's cricket club and continued to support them, although golf became his passion and he was known to most members during his stint as secretary in the 2010s. After he handed over to fellow cricketer Stuart Everall he played regularly with the seniors prior to the Covid pandemic.

He leaves a wife, daughter (Karen), and son (Daniel).

Tim Wellock



Captain Chadders' Chat

There's a slightly different feel to this edition of Tee-Talk. We have lost one of our own. I would like to add my personal condolences and those of the entire Seniors section to Lawrie's wife and family.

Last newsletter I reported a victory in the away friendly against Appleby. I now have the pleasure of recording two more (I hope we made you proud Lawrie)! The first was at home against our friends from Richmond by the margin 5-3. The second, again at home, was over our Penrith colleagues by 5.5-2.5. Despite the scoreline, five of the matches were halved so it could have been very different! All the games have been played in fantastic spirit. In the games I contested it was like playing with mates and the craic was excellent. In the last match I got a new middle name from the Penrith boys namely Pete "I've got a shot" Chadbourn. Canny selection policy I say to have my partner provide me with shots aplenty!! *Continued overleaf...*

Profile: Simon Elliott

Commercial Manager

By Tim Wellock

We are striking while the iron is hot. With **Scunthorpe** in the news, what better time to highlight the work of our man from those parts.

Scunthorpe United are known as **The Iron**, but like **British Steel** they have seen better days. Both have been thrown a lifeline and, after helping to prevent a melt-down of The Iron, **Simon Elliott** is putting his experience to invaluable use as our own club's new commercial wizard.

His first month as commercial director at BCGC saw £13,000 raised from sponsors and the Mother's Day raffle, although modesty forbids him... *Continued overleaf...*



I must record my thanks to Mike and Craig, our greenkeepers, who have maintained our course in great condition despite being at half strength. My thanks also to Jack and the team for their hospitality and the tasty meals.

There are three Senior Opens at Barney this year. The first one taking place on Wednesday 21st May. Can I ask you all to support these events in any way you can whether it be playing, volunteering to help the Committee on the day or simply by providing a raffle prize. The raffle is the Seniors main source of income for these events.

Yours in Golf,

Chadders



Profile: Simon Elliott... (continued)

from taking all the credit as he heads a sub-committee. Like our other new recruit to the seniors' section, treasurer **Dave Hurst**, Simon volunteered his services after retiring to Teesdale and joining the club last year. He held several managing directorships in the automotive industry and worked in Surrey, Milton Keynes, Belgium, China and Dublin, where he was happiest, before finishing in Northampton, where he was a member of Collingtree Park.

He was captain of Dorking Golf Club in Surrey, where he played off five and had one of his two holes-in-one. The other was at Turnberry, where he proposed to his wife, Kay. They now live in Eggleston with daughter Josie. Son Cameron is at university.



Simon, Josie, and Kevin signpost the Cummings and goings at BCGC

When Simon had back trouble recently Josie drove him out on to the course in a buggy and dug the holes for him to plant his railway sleepers on several tee boxes.

"I got them from S & A (builder's merchants) and painted them black," he said. "With three sponsors named on each one the aim is to have them on 12-13 tees. The signage is done by Lightning Signs from Mickleton.

"Our committee are very passionate about moving the club forward, which is why I wanted to get involved. What's really motivating is that people can sense that things are changing in the club.

"It's very different from running big car companies. I wanted to get out because the higher up you get there is an expectation that you'll be arrogant and that's not my way.

"I'm talking to anyone I think might be interested in a sponsorship package, including members. I even collared the window cleaner here. I went to Thorpe Farm for breakfast and when I thanked the lady on the way out I realised she was the owner. We had a chat and she agreed to a three-year deal.

"We are offering one and three-year deals, which can be tailored to make sure there is a benefit for the company. We can offer them a four-ball or advertising on the big new TV in our clubhouse, or access to our members. In return the members might get discount from firms like S & A. If we can keep up the momentum we will be the envy of most clubs around here."

We will take a closer look at his involvement with the football club in the next edition of Tee Talk as space forbids it here.



I was out on the course the other day and my putt rested against the flagstick. It was leaning a bit so I straightened it and, of course, the ball fell in

(ye cannae defy the laws of physics Captain!). Sometimes flagsticks have not been properly replaced (come on folks – it's not that hard!) and can lean over quite a lot or it might be a particularly windy day. And that got me thinking; when does a ball count as being holed in this circumstance? So I fired up the trusty R&A Rules app to check.

If any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green it is treated as holed. If no part of your ball is below the surface, it is not holed and must be played as it lies. If the flagstick is removed and your ball moves, there is no penalty and it must be replaced on the lip of the hole. Which means an extra stroke to hole out!

Now I quite like to leave the flagstick in while putting as it encourages me to hit the ball slightly firmer and hopefully not finish short (if it ain't up it ain't in!). But, in future I will check that the flagstick is upright and if not, probably take it out to avoid falling foul of this rule. But if you find yourself in this situation confirm the ball is below the green surface before moving the flagstick!



Check your emails
Sunday evening
for important info.