



BARNARD CASTLE GOLF CLUB

Captain Chronicles, March 2023

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to introduce myself, for those that don't know me, my name is Geoff Wall, I have been a member of the club since 2004, last year I was appointed Captain of the Seniors Section, in January of this year I was extremely proud and honoured to be elected as Barnard Castle Golf Club Captain. At this stage I would also like to introduce the clubs Management Committee (MC), who are all volunteers that give up their time freely to help the club.

Chairperson - Colin MacLeod
Club Captain - Geoff WALL
Club Vice Captain - Graham WEST
Ladies Captain - Yvonne CARR
Ladies Vice Captain - Vacant
Seniors Captain - Tony BUCKLEY
Competitions – Craig HAMILTON
Greens Convenor - Andrew HALL
Treasurer - Vacant
Welfare - Joy PALLISTER
Employees of the club:
Head Greenkeeper – David Cuthbertson and three green staff
Admin assistant (Secretary) – Lisa MacLeod
Financial assistant – Sheila Jones

This is my first newsletter/chronicle which I intend to produce on a monthly basis to keep members informed of what is going on around the club.

Since my appointment the MC have been working extremely hard to produce a budget for 2023 – 2024 which was presented to members at a Special General Meeting on Tuesday, February 28. The main talking point was the inevitable increase in full members subscriptions, the first for over 5 years, from £695 to £750, this keeps us competitive with other golf clubs in the area. A special thank you to Colin, Craig, Andrew and Sally Lavender for the many hours of work putting the budget together. Now that has been completed, we can look forward to the Annual General Meeting to be held in May 2023.

One of my first tasks (other than the budget) was to select my nominated charity. This year it will be 'The Clique', which is a charity run by members of the local community who raise funds to support projects within the Teesdale community.

My first fund raising event will be an evening of live entertainment in the club house on Saturday, April 15, tickets are available behind the bar and club shop, a hot buffet is included in the price. See the posters around the club for more information. Hopefully with your support we will have a great night and raise some funds for the charity, donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. It is hoped to hold similar functions throughout the year.

I have been asked by numerous members 'what about a pro'. Last year we advertised for a Golf Professional and had a number of interested parties, we interviewed two potential candidates, however the stumbling block appears to be our teaching facilities and location of the practice ground, I think we all agree a swing room would greatly benefit the club and attract a suitable golf pro, the MC have already started researching funding, design etc of a swing room to be built as an extension to the club shop, I will give further updates on this matter as it progresses.

From the Chair

As previously mentioned an SGM took place Tuesday 28th February in the club house where the budget for 2023/24 was presented, this included an explanation regarding the inevitable increase in member annual



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subscriptions, green fees, buggy hire etc. In addition, those in attendance were given an update on the financial years 2020/22 (18 month) and 2022/23. At the conclusion questions were taken from the floor.

By now you will all have received your annual subscription bill and locker fees (if appropriate). Those paying by direct debit will notice the monthly payments have been reduced but will be made over 12 months and not as in the previous years over 10 months and will included the increase in annual subscription.

Ladies Section

One of the aims of the section is to provide something for the clubs Lady members no matter their golfing standard, all ladies are welcome.

During the winter period every Tuesday morning the section holds a weekly 9 hole competition, from the end of March to October this extends to various 18 hole competitions each Tuesday and Sunday. The emphasis is on fun and friendly banter.

Throughout the year the ladies also hold other social events including a mixed friendly with Knaresborough GC, a match against the Senior Section etc. It is planned to have a lady's dinner sometime near the end of March.

The ladies also enter a teams in Durham County's Anderson League (scratch team) and Siverwright League (handicap) in addition to regular friendly matches with other clubs.

The current Lady Captain, Yvonne Carr, has chosen The Great North Air Ambulance as her charity. In February the section ran a very successful Coffee Morning and raised a fantastic £1800+ for her nominated charity.

For more information about the Ladies Section contact Yvonne via the club secretary.

Senior Section

Barnard Castle Golf Club has a vibrant, friendly and competitive Seniors' Section. The Section is open to all BCGC members over the age of 55 who are prepared to pay £5 (rising to £10 in October 2023) annual subscription which provides such financial benefits as subsidised Christmas Lunch and Captain's Away Days. The Seniors meet every Monday morning before 0900 and have the first tee booked from 0915. There is a different type of nominated type of competition each week, these may be team events such as Texas Scrambles, Waltzes, best 2 from 3 or Yellow Ball, or pairs games like Greensomes and Blind Pairs, plus qualifying Individual Stableford competitions all for the princely sum of £2, of which 50p is for "2s" winners.

Throughout the warmer months matches are organised against other Golf Club's Seniors. We are not in any league, but these very sociable, but competitive occasions, are just played for the honour of the club.

For more information about the Senior Section contact the Senior Captain Tony Buckley via the club secretary.

Competitions

The winter league will continue until the finals which will be held on the 25th & 26th of March, weather permitting. Andrew Bowman is leading the way on Saturdays followed by Dave Moses and Ian Graham.

Gareth Matthews is ahead on Sundays followed by Colin Perry and Dave Moses.

Results are updated and posted every Monday.

The 2023 fixture list is now completed. A copy is posted on the notice board and the fixture books will be available as soon as you start paying your 2023-24 subscriptions.

Entries are now open for the 2023 four ball better ball and foursomes' knockouts. You can enter in the Pro shop or via the HowDidiDo App.

Press the menu on the top right (3 lines) press knockouts and select event to enter. Note. You must have funds



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in your competition account to enter.

Our first inter club match will be against Appleby GC who we host on Saturday, April 22nd, first tee time 12.30pm. This week the team sheet will be displayed on the notice board, if you want to represent the club annual match please put your name on the sheet. The team sheet for the home match with Bedale GC will also be displayed on the notice board this week.

Greens

In March we hopefully see some good temperature increase and chance to see some growth especially late in March post fertiliser application however the damage that was caused on the wet greens that froze badly back in early February when we could not change holes for 2 weeks, will bear the scars until we can fully aerate, dress out and feed in April. Lesson learnt and next winter we will use winter greens midweek when frosts are forecast.

- Wetting agent will also be applied mid March to aid surface drainage especially on the 6 really wet poorly drained greens.
- We will continue to aerate the surface via use of sorrel roller one week and the slit tiner the following week just to break up that surface compaction and permit both air and water movement.
- Approaches: Light aeration once via slitting with weekly mowing has improved surface as well as roping off throughout winter months (removed end of March) which will provide better areas for winter holes next winter.
- Bunkers: We have a small amount of bunker sand remaining but hopefully just enough to excavate both greenside bunkers on 2 and replace with the new sand. As per the normal we weekly full raking will be carried out Mondays and Fridays.
- Fairways: Perimeters will be mowed weekly in March with full mow by the end of month. Slitting has not been carried out this winter as tines are all worn and awaiting replacement before next winter. Worn areas will be verti drained throughout March.
- Tees: Mown weekly and slit weekly. The 7th tee is finally nearing completion following the really wet late autumn and winter which left the tee unworkable. New irrigation is currently being installed and we hope to have turfed before the end of the month and in play at the end of April. Once we have finished using the digger for the 7th we will be excavating the worn path between the 13th tee and winter tee and installing sleepers to tidy up the area and define the two plus providing the space to relocate the hole signage.
- Tree work: The brushing and raising of low canopies on several copses and in play areas will be complete, which will improve aesthetics, air flow, and stop inhibiting both golfers and mowers. It is good to see that all these areas are being enjoyed by countless types of wildlife furraging and using the wildlife stacks left over.

The Green (Club house)

I think we all agree there has been a vast improvement in the service since Jack was appointed as Caterer/Steward near the end of last year. The new menu has proved to be a great success and the Sunday Carvery goes from strength to strength, at £10.95p it is fantastic value, due to its popularity it is advisable to book via bar staff or direct with Jack.

Congratulations to Jack, partner Amy, daughter Evie on the safe arrival and new addition Olivia who have all now settled in the newly refurbished club flat.

Last week we received the sad news that our previous club steward, Ian Needham passed away after a short illness, our condolences and thoughts are with Ian's family and friends at this difficult time.

Finally

If you have any item you wish to share with members in my monthly chronicle please contact Lisa, funny, serious or general banter will be welcome.



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To all, have a great 2023 golfing season and keep trying that difficult objective, lowering your handicap.

Geoff WALL