

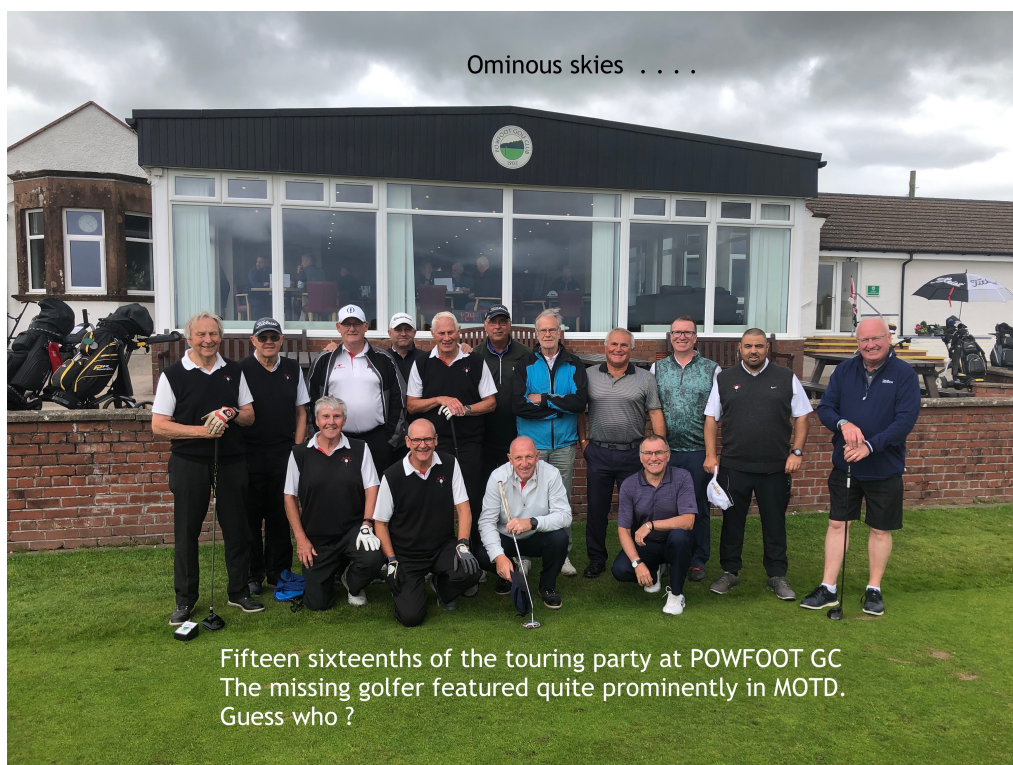
Thursday 10th July 2025

2025 “The TBAGS Dumfries Tour”

Sixteen seems to be the standard number for TBAGS tours over the last few years. This year the Holiday Inn, Dumfries was our centre of operations for a three day tour of Powfoot, Southernness and Dumfries and Galloway.

Having won MOTD (by a mile) on last year's Tour Jon Morgan arrived at Tebay cunningly disguised as a Harley Davidson biker - although his short fat hairy legs were a bit of a give away. Shirts became a theme for the Day 1 MOTD.

POWFOOT GC: A beautifully lush green links course right on the coast with approach lanes which don't seem to have been recorded on any GPS systems. Almost everyone arrived via a pot-holed lane or been sent the wrong way through the neighbouring caravan park. The course was busy with a juniors competition so no possibility of starting earlier than our 1:30 tee time. The weather was looking ominous but, although it did rain, the expected drenching didn't materialise.



Skip took the honours on day 1 with an impressive 39 points (well Skip though so) along with NTP. Dave Hutton came in runner-up with a handsome 37. Palo arrived at the 19th with 11 points, a bad knee and looking for sympathy - oddly enough none materialised, but a buggy beckoned for the following day.

MOTD DAY1: Shirts were mentioned frequently and unsurprisingly Jon Morgan's Tebay effort came in for some vivid descriptions. Richie arrived to dinner in a loud shirt but was completely over shadowed by Gary's flowery blouse (presumably borrowed from an elderly Hawaiian relative). Despite the competition JM came through with a resounding 5 votes to take Day 1.

SOUTHERNESS GC: Beautiful clear blue skies and a stiff breeze greeted us at Southernness.

Group 1: A motley crew.
The two in the middle wearing much conservative outfits compare to the previous night.



Group 2: Note the heavily strapped Palo 'bad' knee being thrust forward to demonstrate the injury. Coming in with 37 point and a win didn't help on the sympathy front. A good deal of scepticism on the medical diagnosis as a whole. The chubby bloke next to him took second place with 34 points.



Group 3: A very good effort at TBAGS kit apart from Ernie on the left. KP has never practiced golf in his life and seems dead set no not even bothering with a club on the day.



Group 4: A four ball of MOTD contenders if ever I saw one. Despite being his first outing with TBAGS Jamie has fitted in well! Basically he has a sense of humour and a suspicious handicap - the two main requirements. There were plans to modify his “suspicious 18” as we went along but this fell by the wayside.



NTP was won by Stephen on the 4th with a fine shot to beat Skip's only-just-on effort. Mouse came in second with a beautifully played 34 points and Palo came in with 37 points to win the day. Yes, 37 points after recording an abysmal 11 points at Powfoot! The recovery was remarkable - and remark on it we did! The suspicions running deeper when he danced with his doubles partner on winning for the Reds on the 18th.

MOTD DAY 2: The Coach & Horses pub in Dumfries was the venue for a pint before dinner at La Dolce Vita across the road. The empty bar was an appropriate venue for a full volume MOTD 2. Derek had somehow avoided the voting on Day 1 even after missing the team photo. However, he was now the man in focus accumulating a massive 7 votes in as many minutes.

For some reason Jon didn't even register one vote - is he a changed man? Doubt it.

Skip noted that over the two days Derek had accumulated 7 votes but so had Palo. Who was the overall winner? A hastily convened MOTD committee unanimously voted for a M**ge-Off - both candidates to present their case in one minute followed by a vote. I'm not sure if either candidate understood the rules and I certainly didn't understand what were saying - but Derek came out the clear and unequivocal winner.



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY GC: a completely different course - parkland with a few blind shots which the Pro came out and explained to us all. Richie dutifully noted all the detail on his card - then swapped cards, giving his opponent all the info - Doh! Much hillier than the previous two courses, three consecutive days of golf and a surfeit of wine and beer all contributed to lower scoring on Day 3. The Pontiff even gave up walking halfway and then 'graciously' scored even worse than Skip to lose his singles match.

Day 3 has no MOTD yet (at least in my 4-ball) there were MOTD candidates aplenty! On hole 2 we spent the full 3 minutes looking for Mouse's ball only to find it 180 yds further down the fairway. Derek, in seems had mistaken a plain white ball for his blue and white striped ball. It seems that the Overall MOTD had indeed been awarded correctly !

Ian come out winner of Day 3 with a fine score of 33 followed in second place by Jenks with 32. Our TBAGS guest Jamie won NTP on the 15th green.

RYDER CUP REDS vs BLUES: a comprehensive win for the Reds, Surprisingly two games halved. The Reds all received a large Southernness ball marker to mark the win. One was found later discarded on the bar room floor !

LOST BALLS SWEEPSTAKE: Gary (Thanks Gaz!) ran a £2 lost ball sweepstake which was won by Jamie Morgan his guess very close to the total lost - 74. This was less than 50% of last year's lost balls (161). Why?

Palo contributed 13 of the lost balls - nearly a fifth of the total - mostly on Day 1. In contrast Richie lost only one on his first shot on Day 1.

OVERALL TOUR RESULT & TROPHY: Over the three days (see the table below) there was a slump in scoring on Day 3 - energy levels dropping, more possibilities of losing balls and the accumulation of beer and wine probably all contributed.

However, six players managed to accumulate 90+ Stableford points - Alec, Jenks, Mouse, Stephen, Skip and Ian - no mean feat over three days. Two reached 97 points but unfortunately for Skip he had made public Day 1 that a tie would be settled with a count back on the back nine of Day 3 coinciding with a poor back nine (hence the grimace in the photo!). So Jenks claimed the beautiful Laithwaite trophy for his scores of 34, 31, 32 - which after all is very consistent over three days.



Congratulations to the man from Newport - Jenks!

I'd just like to repeat a huge thanks to Stephen for the tour planning. The courses were great, the hotel fine, food, beer, wine all good. I certainly enjoyed it - Thank you Stephen!

And the trophy is a real winner - Thank you Wingco !

Sincerely . . . *Snake Hips.*

PS: for the nerds - the results tables are below . . .

The 'Ryder Cup' Competition:

Red vs Blue

Day 1	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Gary	Jenks	61	Red	58	Pontiff	Archie
2	Skip	Dunny	65	Halved	65	Dave	Richie
3	Stephen	Jamie	66	Red	63	Ian	Alec
4	Derek	Palo	41	Blue	62	Mouse	Jon
			2 1/2				
					1 1/2		
Day 2	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Gary	Jenks	57	Red	48	Dave	Richie
2	Skip	Palo	69	Red	67	Mouse	Ian
3	Stephen	Dunny	60	Red	57	Pontiff	Jon
4	Derek	Jamie	53	Blue	61	Archie	Alec
			3				
					1		
Day 3	Singles		Pts	Win	Pts	Singles	
1		Stephen	28	Red	20		Jon
2		Jenks	32	Red	20		Archie
3		Skip	26	Red	23		Pontiff
4		Derek	28	Blue	30		Mouse
5		Jamie	27	Blue	33		Ian
6		Ray	25	Red	24		Richie
7		Dunny	21	Blue	27		Dave
8		Gary	25	Halved	25		Alec
			4 1/2				
					3 1/2		
Result	RED		10	-	6	BLUE	

The Chairman's Challenge & Tour Trophy:

Player	Day 1	Powfoot	Day 2	S'ness	Day 3	D & G	Total
	Pts	Prizes	Pts	Prizes	Pts	Prizes	Pts
Jenks	34		31		32	2nd	97
Skip	39	1st NTP	32		26		97
Ian	29		33		33	1st	95
Mouse	30		34	2nd	30		94
Stephen	33		32	NTP	28		93
Alec	33		32		25		90
Jamie	33		28		27	NTP	88
Pontiff	30		31		23		84
Richie	28		30		24		82
Dave	37	2nd	18		27		82
Gary	27		26		25		78
Jon	32	MOTD	26		20		78
Che	28		29		20		77
Derek	22		25	MOTD	28		75
Dunny	26		28		21		75
Palo	11		37	1st	25	Most LBs	73
Total	472		472		414		1358

The "Ryder Cup":

RED	2 1/2		3		4 1/2		10
BLUE	1 1/2		1		3 1/2		6

Lost Balls:

Day Total	17		30		25	Most LB's (see above)	72
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