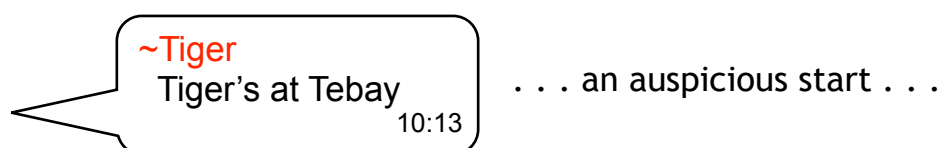


Wednesday 26th June 2024

2024 “The TBAGS Cumbria Tour”

Sixteen tourists (same number as last year and 2022) headed for Cumbria - three days at Workington, Siloth and Seascale with the prospect of three dry days of golf - a rarity so far this year.

Normally one or two early contenders for MOTD put in an appearance during the ‘arrival’ stage of a TBAGS tour like Wingco visiting two ‘Worksop’ courses before finding Worksop! or Mike Peers bouncing a practice ball off the clubhouse window (also Worksop). This year was no exception. Having decided to have breakfast at Tebay fifteen of sixteen assembled TBAGgers were greeted by the TBAGS WhatsApp chat pinging . . .



WORKINGTON GC: All arrived in plenty of time although parking was a bit tight and several had to park in the school car park down the road which caused a few moans and groans. Apparently there was a charity do at WGC the previous evening and those that couldn't drive left their cars - must have been a good do.

More on this later, but Jon spent most of his warm-up time chatting to the participants of the Lady Captains match going out before us.

As the Pro shop wasn't open (a bit odd on a busy course/club?) we were given a pamphlet on how to get around the course which turned out to be essential as it was definitely a course where TBAGgers could “*play all the holes but not necessarily in the right order*” (M&W 1970).

The course was difficult in places but as it turned out not the most difficult course on the tour.

Skip took first place, Ian was R-up and claimed NTP and Jon took the rolled over 2's pot (a bit stuffy - not really)



MOTD DAY1: This is a 'competition' perhaps best described as one-sided banter which attracts as much as, if not more attention than the main purpose of the tour - yet there is no prize for winning. If there had been a prize Dunny's trophy cabinet would be overflowing after the last few years, but somehow he managed to avoid his usual place on the podium only attracting one vote. Day 1 saw Mouse take the honours, most of his votes coming from his fellow travellers who apparently arrived at '*Chez Mouse*' to find him in a state of undress, then Alec somehow spilt water on something, Ray's driving came in for criticism and the whole thing spiralled into revenge voting and a clear win for Mouse. PS: Alec and Ray picked up a few votes too.

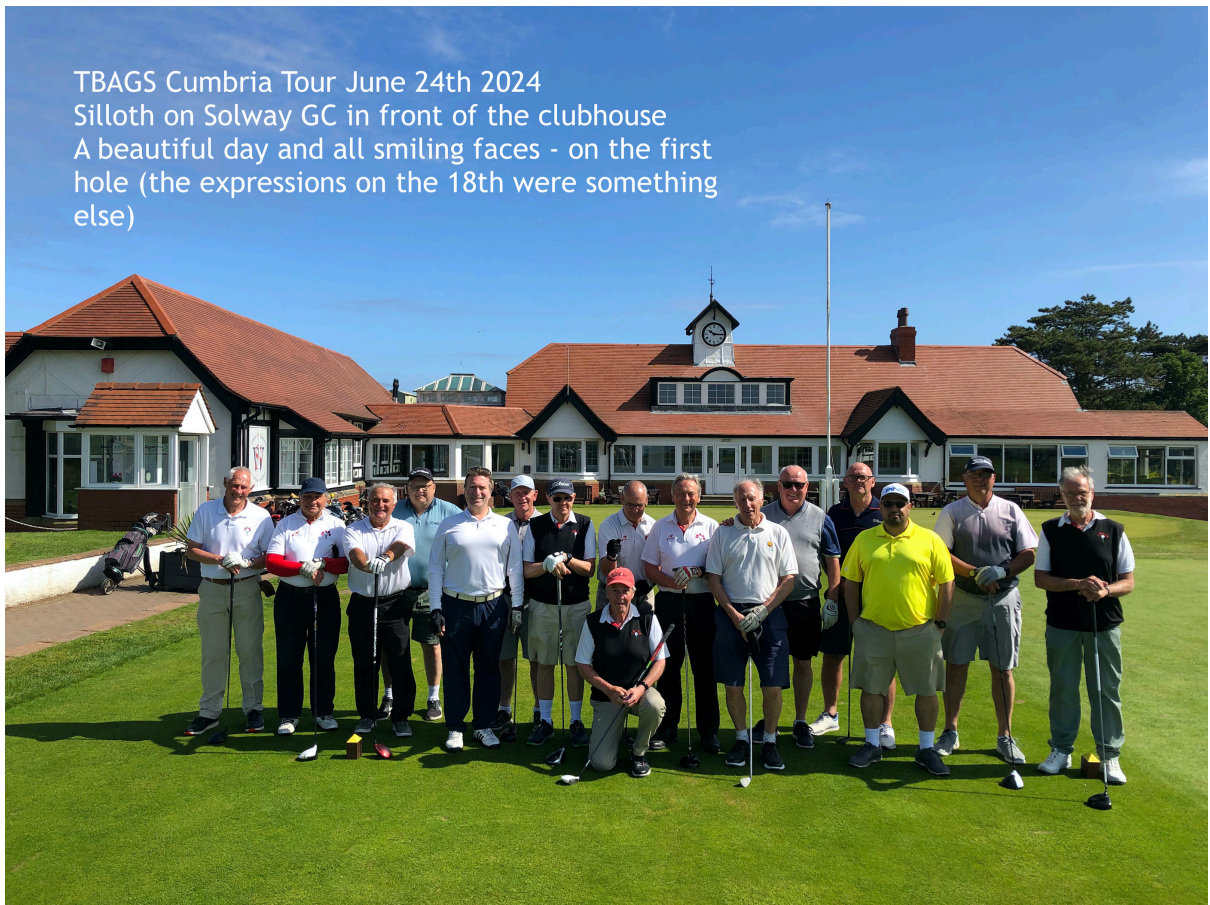
SILLOTH ON SOLWAY GC: The centre piece of the tour and by some margin the most difficult of the three courses. As a measure of the difficulty TBAGS scored 79 points less here than at Seascale the following day. However, a beautiful links course with a Pro (Simon) who really loves his job.

TBAGS Cumbria Tour
1st hole Silloth on Solway GC June 24th 2024



A glorious day for weather too, except the wind suddenly picked up right on our tee time . . .

TBAGS Cumbria Tour June 24th 2024
Silloth on Solway GC in front of the clubhouse
A beautiful day and all smiling faces - on the first hole (the expressions on the 18th were something else)



Just out after our tee came a whole series of ladies matches most of them two-balls, that eventually began to play through the TBAGS ranks. This is where Jon began to accumulate votes for MOTD DAY 2. Apparently because he didn't lose any balls (at Silloth) he had plenty of time to chat to each and every one of them as they played through - leaving his playing partners scurrying around in the rough (described by the Pro as 'penal', don't go in the rough!).

Jon inevitably took first place by a margin of 6 points(!), Ian was R-up and claimed the NTP from the Pontiff. And not too surprisingly there were no 2's leaving a rollover for Seascale.

MOTD DAY 2: This was conducted at 'the Bitter End' pub in Cockermouth after a warm-up in the 'Swan' a few yards up the hill. Stephen did sterling work here as he'd composed a list of the pre-ordered meals a couple of weeks ago. "I ordered Fish & Chips" was quickly countered with - "No you didn't it was Steak & Ale pie".

This MOTD turned into a landslide victory for Jon. Most of the 'critique' revolved around his attention to the ladies playing through, perhaps supported by a few memories of his chattiness with the Lady Captains day at Workington. I suspect also that there was a hint of the green-eyed monster involved after he basically beat the field by six clear points with a magnificent 35 points on what was definitely not an easy course.

SEASCALE GC: is very definitely on the coast but is not exactly a links course. It is more hilly than a links course and slightly 'parkland' in places. Perhaps a coastal heathland links is a better description.

There were a few surprises around the course not the least of which was Mouse plonking his tee shot off the 16th on the green of the 14th. It certainly confused Archie!

The course sits right next door to the Sellafield nuclear power station which judging by the number of razor-wire fences, cameras and alarms going off is very security conscious.

Alec usually comes up with an 'odd lie' shot. Last year it was stuck in the top of a gorse bush at Kington. This year it was in a rabbit burrow. How he won the day I will never know . . .



Dunny tried to compete with the deepest bunker he could find on the course. On the 5th if I remember correctly.



No . . . it didn't come out. it is probably still in that long grass contributing to the 50 balls lost at Seascale !

Even after the rabbit hole lie Alex ran out winner at Seascale with 37 points. It really should have been more, he had 23 on the front but then remembered he had a few crap shots in his bag that had to be used up (!). Ian R-up for a third time. Jon trumped Dunny for the NTP on 10th; nobody even hit the green for NTP on the 13th. And Keith took the rolled over 2's pot (a healthy £32 - I still owe you £12 KP!).

And so to the overall results . . . (NB - if you find errors in the following - email DT@skroou.com for an immediate and succinct reply)

The 'Ryder Cup' was 3 - 1 to Blue on Day 1 but Reds came back to level the score 4 - 4 on Day 2. Some of the Blues remembered the Red comeback last year on Day 3, but this time it was not to be and Blue ran out 10 - 6 winners. Congratulations . . . !

The 'Ryder Cup' Competition:

Red vs Blue

Day 1	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Jon	Ray	55	Blue	58	Pontiff	Brian
2	Skip	Wingco	54	Blue	58	Ian	Al
3	Stephen	Derek	42	Blue	50	Archie	Mouse
4	Jenks	Dunny	46	Red	41	Richie	Alec
			1		3		
Day 2	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Dunny	Jenks	50	Red	39	Pontiff	Al
2	Skip	Stephen	43	Blue	58	Mouse	Ian
3	Wingco	Ray	45	Red	44	Archie	Alec
4	Derek	Jon	57	Red	27	Brian	Richie
			3		1		
Day 3	Singles		Pts	Win	Pts	Single s	
1		Stephen	24	Blue	25	Richie	
2		Jenks	19	Blue	29	Pontiff	
3		Skip	28	Blue	37	Alec	
4		Dunny	26	Blue	28	Mouse	
5		Jon	34	Red	30	Al	
6		Ray	29	Red	28	Brian	
7		Wingco	24	Blue	35	Ian	
8		Derek	23	Blue	25	Archie	
			2		6		
Result		RED	6	-	10	BLUE	

The results table is on the next page. It is sorted to show the overall winner (most Stableford points) for the Tour trophy over the three days. The prizes are listed - First and 2nd places, NTP, 2's (and MOTD !) for each day.

There's also *Most LB's* = most lost balls which was won by Ray. I didn't have a prize for this but as nobody even reached the green on the second NTP at Seascale he was rewarded with the spare bottle - well played Ray !

The number of lost balls each day wasn't all that different. However there is a very large difference in the total points scored each day which I think reflects the relative difficulty of each course. Silloth was 79 points harder than Seascale (5 points per player) - (yet 50 LB's vs 51).

Ian had a great tour with 2nd place each day ending up as Runner-up in the overall to Jon Morgan - the Tour champion and winner of the trophy. Well played Jon !!

Here is Jon receiving his trophy from Wing Commander Leonard J. Laithwaite who seems more interested in the camera than Jon (!)



Jon, Sir Leonard and some other bloke. Finally I'd just like to say a huge thanks to Stephen for getting this tour (and all the others) organised. It is extremely difficult to satisfy everyone, but he somehow succeeds. I certainly enjoyed it - Thx

Sincerely . . . *Snake Hips*

The Chairman's Challenge & Tour Trophy:

Player	Day 1 Workington		Day 2 Siloth		Day 3 Seascale		Total Tour
	Pts	Prizes	Pts	Prizes	Pts	Prizes	Pts
Jon	29	2's Pot	35	First/ MOTD	34	NTP	98
Ian	32	NTP / 2nd	29	NTP / 2nd	35	2nd	96
Skip	33	First	21		28		82
Ray	26		26		29	Most LB's	81
Che	29		26		25		80
Alec	23		18		37	First	78
Pontiff	28		21		29	2's Pot	78
Mouse	21	MOTD	29		28		78
Alan	27		18		30		75
Derek	27		22		23		72
Brian	30		14		28		72
Dunny	23		22		26		71
Jenks	23		28		19		70
Wingco	21		19		24		64
Stephen	15		24		24		63
Richie	18		13		25		56
Total	405		365		444		1214

The "Ryder Cup":

RED	1	3	6	10
BLUE	3	1	2	6

Lost Balls:

Day Total	60	51	50	Most LB's (see above)	161
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