

The Adventures of Little Billy Bunker by Dave Gould

Bunker Bill as he is affectionately known is the Mascot of The Cor Meibion Caldicot 'BIRDIE BOYS' golf section. On our recent 2013 five day golf trip to Devon it was the responsibility of the member nominated, or drawn out of the 'hat', to look after Bunker Bill at **all times**, after all he is only a youngster, and the first person to have this honour was Ron Powell (Bass).

During our very first game at the Ashbury Golf Hotel, only a few hours after arriving and taking charge of the little fellow, Ron reported him missing from his seat on his golf buggy. Everyone was dismayed and worried lest he had been kidnapped, and everyone chastised Ron for not doing his duty.

That evening young Bill turned up in my room (Dave Gould), goodness knows where he had been but he seemed no worse for wear. At dinner, the Group decided that Ron's punishment for his carelessness was to take care of Bill for another day, and so it was.

The following day Ron took very good care of Bill, even fashioning a strap system to carry him on his back when playing golf! Later, back in his room Ron took a shower and Oh deary me when he came out the little blighter had absconded again. Later that night (no sign of Bill) whilst we were all having dinner a hotel manager approached waving a letter addressed to me. It said (on Hotel official notepaper and signed by the Manager) that a little Chap named William Bunker had been found in the reception, frightened and all alone.

A meeting took place and it was decided that Ron was not a fit and responsible enough person to look after our Bill. Fortunately, Top Tenor Steve Davies volunteered, yes, volunteered to look after Billy the following day which was Wednesday. At breakfast Steve took charge of Bunker Bill! By 12.45 he'd slipped the net again. At about 1.15 pm everyone lined up on the first tee of the Kigbear course to have a group photograph. Immediately behind everyone was the Club house and on examining the photograph later, there in the window of the Clubhouse was good old Bunker Bill watching the proceedings!

Later that evening, after dinner, a kangaroo court was held. Steve Davies was up before the 'Beak' his grace Lord Alyn of Chepstow Road, charged with gross negligence in failing to care for poor little Billy. The Prosecutor was Barrister Leon Jones who produced much incriminating evidence to show Steve Davies's negligence. This included photographs of Bunker Bill, who due to lack of supervision had been snapped all over the complex.



Playing snooker by himself,



Driving a golf buggy



Causing havoc in reception



Smoking on the patio

Everyone was shocked and dismayed. There was uproar in the Court room, Mark stocker and Richie Llewellyn demanded the defendant be whipped, then sent down for life!, there were even shouts of 'Hang him'. It even woke Anthony Howells who was having 40 winks in the corner!

Judge Lord Alyn of Chepstow Road proceeded to sum up the case against the defendant, then asked for a show of hands to indicate if Steve Davies was guilty. The verdict was unanimous! Guilty as Charged. After thanking the prosecutor for presenting such a convincing case the Judge then moved to pass sentence. He declined the black hat offered to him by Karl Gregory saying that was a bit too drastic. Steve Davies was asked to stand and Lord Alyn of Chepstow Road sentenced him to look after Young Mr Bunker for the rest of the tour and not to let him out of his sight until he arrived back in the fair land of Caldicot.

Everyone was pleased with the outcome except of course the criminal Steve Davies. Suddenly, The Barrister Leon Jones shouted for quiet and then turned to the Judge with a very grave face. He asked if the Judge could produce the 'Fines book' . To explain – in civilian life, the Judge of course' is Alyn Dawe who's job on tour is to log in the 'Fines Book' all misdemeanours, funny happenings and sayings which take place, he also openly encourages everyone to 'sneak' on their friends, (which everyone does).

"Your Honour, where is the valuable document known as the 'Fines Book "reiterated the Prosecutor "for this is a confidential record of deeds, misdeeds and incantations observed on Tour". Lord Alyn hung his head and mumbled that he had mislaid it early that morning but that it was probably somewhere in his room. Once again there was pandemonium in the Court Room. Oh, and Anthony Howells woke up again!

Barrister Jones went on to chastise the Judge for keeping the loss a secret, hoping no one would notice. He went on to say that this volume, full of tour secrets should never have been out of the Judges sight for fear it fell in to wrong hands. Then with a flourish he produced his final damning piece of evidence, a photograph of Bunker Bill openly reading the book in the clubhouse for all to see whilst we were all on the course playing golf !!



Bunker Bill photographed reading the 'Fines Book' in the Club House

Needless to say the Court Room was a scene of utter confusion . Mark Stocker and Richie Llewellyn shouted “ The Outlaw Steve Davies should be pardoned !, “. Anthony Howells fell off his chair, John Wyson blew a raspberry at Tommy Hole and Tony Shepherd forgot where he was and lit a fag.

Prosecutor Jones asked all assembled what was the Court’s decision regarding the grave and irresponsible conduct of the Judge. After much deliberation it was decided that Lord Alyn of Chepstow Road would have to take care of Bunker Bill for the rest of the Tour. He sheepishly agreed and immediately took charge of the young man.

Soon all was calm again, everyone was happy. Spike Hughes phoned Nina again (he hadn't spoke to her for at least 2 hours), Phil Cody's chest stopped wheezing (first time for 2 days), Anthony Howells fell asleep again and Ron Powell stopped talking.

For the rest of the tour Alyn made sure Bunker Bill didn't leave his side. He even slept with Bill tied to his leg using the bedroom curtain retaining cord.

Bill is now safely residing with me in Tredegar and looking forward to more adventures with the BIRDIE BOYS soon.



Dave Gould