



## **Minutes to the Annual General Meeting for 2024**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**7pm – held virtually via Zoom**

**Present: Andrew Brown (Chair), Robert Rigg (Secretary and Treasurer), Adam Wraight (Captain), Graham Hawley, Rod McNeal, Robin Shuker, David Sadler, Andrew Joseph, Hugo Balfour Melville, Joel Westbrook, Rosie Bailey, Rosie Smith, John Miller, Richard Fraser, Michael Allen.**

- 1 The President welcomed the attendees commenting this was the most people to attend a virtual AGM and the first time he'd been able to use the plural of the noun lady, a promising sign!

Words of commemoration were also said for two members of the Society who passed away last year, Hamish Ritchie and John Oscroft.

- 2 Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved
- 3 President's 2024 Report

The President briefly covered three areas: Scratch team performance, social fixtures and priorities for the Society.

While the loss to Uppingham in the second round of the Halford Hewitt, ending a 19 match winning streak, could be seen as a disappointment, The President said that it shouldn't be seen in that light. It was a wonderful match and it was only a matter of time before we would come out on the wrong end of a close tie. A birdie by Uppingham on the second extra hole of the deciding match couldn't have been closer. The team took the loss in excellent spirit.

At the 2023 Halford Hewitt, the President and Graham Hawley had met the organiser of the Silver Tassie and committed to entering a Loretto team for the 2024 tournament. Rosie Niven was tasked with assembling a team and only managed to confirm a couple of weeks before the tournament. Rosie and her team of three met for the first time on the morning of the tournament and then proceeded to win both The Silver Tassie (handicap) and the Scratch Trophy! An



extraordinary achievement, ensuring that Loretto didn't suffer a year without a trophy.

But the boys were not to be outdone, as they again qualified for the finals of The Grafton Morrish in October and this year fought through some horrendous weather on the first day and some tough matches to win the trophy for the first time. The Grafton Morrish is in many ways a more difficult tournament to win as it includes a number of very strong golfing schools which don't compete in the Halford Hewitt, it requires each school to qualify for the final and the format has only three pairs which diminishes the advantage of our strength in depth. It was a magnificent performance by the team which was captained by Joel Westwell.

So, in summary, after the slight disappointment of the Halford Hewitt, Loretto ended up with three new trophies in 2024.

Two issues are impacting social fixtures; the reluctance of some clubs to allow society fixtures at weekends and the increasing cost of golf. We are lucky still to enjoy fixtures at Prestwick and Muirfield though we need OL members at these clubs to participate in order to keep the costs down. An informal event held by Mike Allen and Pete Mackay at Rosemount was a great success.

In the south, we have over the past two years lost fixtures against both Marlborough and Uppingham but are now focusing on an event hosted by Loretto at West Sussex; The Loretto School Foursomes. Here we invite pairs from all schools to compete for the Loretto Trophy and it is hoped this year it will attract some 40 participants.

One of the solutions to the increasing cost of green fees is to hold members' guest days. The Captain vs President's Challenge at Royal St George's is such an event organised by Stu Mitchell. Despite some challenging weather, this year's was a great success, the first mixed event we have held.

The President then outlined what he saw as three main priorities:

- Continuing to support the Scratch Team
- Building on the Silver Tassie victory and encouraging more lady golfers to participate in the OLGS



- Building further on the links with the School and The Academy and encouraging recent leavers to engage with the Society
- Finally, he thanked the Committee and in particular, Robert Rigg, the Secretary and Treasurer for all his work in managing the affairs of the Society

#### 4 2024 accounts:

The Treasurer presented the 2024 accounts with the following highlights:

- Almost break even and a significantly reduced deficit from 2023
- Principle reason for this was the increase in subs approved at the 2023 AGM
- The number of people cancelling their subs instead of paying the increased fees was fewer than the fingers on one hand
- Broadly speaking costs associated with the Scratch events were in line with the previous year. Some cost saving was made at the HH and invested in the entry for the Silver Tassie
- Significant costs savings were made in the subsidies for the annual medal, but these were more than absorbed with the funds going to support social matches
- The Treasurer acknowledged that some work needs to be done by the Committee to find a way to reduce these subsidies

#### 5 OLGS Trust

The Treasurer also raised the issue of the OLGS Trust. The Trust was established over 20 years ago and has grown to approx £85,000. The purpose of the Trust was initially to provide income to support the HH Team, though in recent year, the income goes directly to the OLGS who pay the HH expenses.

Peter Arthur had previously asked the President, Secretary and Captain if they felt we should be a bit more open about the Trust's existence with a view to generating more donations and thus more income for the Society.

All present unanimously agreed that this was the right approach, and the Treasurer agreed to share more thoughts in the coming months.



6 Appointment of Office Holders:

The President announced that it was his preference to stand down from the role given he'd done two terms of 3 years. Having previously had a conversation with the former Headmaster, Graham Hawley, about taking on the role, The President proposed Graham as the new President. The Secretary and The Captain gladly supported the appointment and he was elected unanimously.

7 Any other business:

Having been unusually quiet for the duration of the AGM, Robin Shuker requested the opportunity to thank the outgoing President for all his outstanding work over the last 7 years. All present were fulsome in their agreement.

Much to the Treasurer's chagrin, anxious to avoid the loss of a £50 subscription, he proposed that Andrew Brown become an Honorary Life Member. The motion was supported by Graham Hawley.

Robin acknowledged that he would cover this shortfall, the Treasurer looked sceptical.

8 There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7.50pm