



Old Lorettonian
Golfing Society

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

HALFORD HEWITT VICTORY SPECIAL

(Now published annually!)

2008	Tonbridge	"	Malvern
2009	Tonbridge	"	Merchant Taylors'
2010	Clifton	"	Charterhouse
2011	Watson's	"	Malvern
2012	Charterhouse	"	Epsom
2013	Eton	"	Tonbridge
2014	Merchiston	"	Bradfield
2015	Eton	"	Kings Canterbury
2016	Tonbridge	"	Radley
2017	Epsom	"	Ampleforth
2018	Winchester	"	Ampleforth
2019	Malvern	"	Ampleforth
2020	No Competition		
2021	Loretto	"	Sherborne
2022	Loretto	"	Tonbridge
2023	Loretto	"	Epsom



The Loretto Halford Hewitt team made history at Royal St George's and Deal earlier this month winning the Halford Hewitt Cup for the third consecutive year. Only Charterhouse (1982-84) have achieved this since 1958 when the tournament reached the 64 teams that now participate.



From the left: John Dunn-Butler, Brodie Good, James Guterman, Adam Wraight, Henry Featherstone, John Miller, Joel Westwell, Cameron Blair, Sami Bouzabia, James McCormick and Abs Ruia.

It was a remarkable feat achieved in challenging weather conditions and a tribute to skill, stamina and teamwork; six rounds over four days with two rounds on both the Saturday and Sunday. Friday and Saturday's weather in particular was abysmal.

The team decided to follow last year's winning formula, meeting on the Tuesday for a celebratory lunch at Royal St. George's. There was, however, one difference this year. Stu



Old Lorettonian
Golfing Society

Mitchell had not noticed that this year's competition was being held one week earlier due to the timing of Easter and had booked a family skiing holiday so was, much to his frustration, unable to join the team! Adam decided to replace Stu with one new boy, James Guterman, and one old boy, John Miller, thereby taking a squad of eleven to the tournament.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
GOLFING SOCIETY**

The
Halford Hewitt Cup

March 30th - April 2nd
Holders - Loretto

The trophies will be presented
by Mr. Sam Smale
HAILEYBURY

**2023
DRAW SHEET**

As last year, the team played their first two rounds at Royal St. George's. And the story very much starts with a titanic first round struggle against Rossall; it is worth saying that Loretto's week very nearly ended here because this match went down to the wire. For at least an hour during the back nine, any 'WINVIZ' prediction would not have had Loretto as favourites as we were behind in three matches!



While Sami and John D-B were playing strongly in the first match, Rossall fought back from being behind in the second match to beat the two James' on the 16th. So, it was one match each and we were behind in two of the remaining three matches. Adam and Joel had gone three down early on and had been gradually clawing their way back and managed to win 17 to go up the last all square. Meanwhile Cam and Abs were in a nip and tuck match with Rossall hanging on with some inspired putting. Through the early part of the back 9 Rossall went 2up only for Abs and Cam to wrestle it back winning 15 and 17 and also go up the final hole all square. These two matches were eventually shared with Adam and Joel completing their remarkable comeback to go ahead for the first time winning 18 and their match. Sadly, Cam and Abs's brave fightback ended on 18 with Rossall prevailing. So, it was all down to the final match where Brodie and Henry had generally been one or two up all the way around. However, Rossall never lay down and won both 15 and then 16 with a long putt to get back to all square on 17. The relief of Adam and Joel's fightback was now offset by this impressive Rossall fightback. Suddenly the pressure was back on Loretto.



Old Lorettonian
Golfing Society



Captain Adam was wrapped up warm

The 17th at RSG is a long par 4 and was into a strong wind that day so virtually impossible to reach in two. Henry's drive was straight and Brodie left the second about 40 yards short of the green. Rossall were in a similar position in the left hand light rough. The 17th green at RSG is horrible with a steep bank and the pin sitting just on top of it. All sorts can go wrong. Henry's pitch almost landed in the hole and spun sharply dancing around the pin to finish a few inches away - a remarkable shot under such pressure. Rossall had to try and get close to match Loretto's certain 4 and the ball didn't quite make it up the bank from where they failed to make what would have been an unlikely putt. Loretto had restored their narrow advantage; could they sustain it up 18? Once again Brodie and Henry stepped up; a booming drive by Brodie and a great second by Henry which ended about 10 feet beyond the pin. Pretty much game over and so it proved as Rossall failed to make four.

It had been a great Hewitt tussle – enormous credit to both sides in a match which could have gone either way. There was much relief in the team – they certainly knew that they had been fully tested.

Their second round match was played in dreadful conditions – rain and high winds – on the Friday morning and while Framlingham were an improved side on that we had played a few



years' back victory was completed fairly comfortably 4.5-0.5. Indeed, after the very tough first round, Loretto's draw was reasonably friendly until the semi-finals and so it proved. The weather on Saturday, when they moved to Deal, was no better – if the wind was a little less strong, the rain was definitely wetter – and two relatively comfortable wins were achieved: 3.5-1.5 against Merchant Taylors' and 4-1 against Dulwich. Again, both these sides seemed to be stronger than in recent years – this is true of many teams – but again we had the firepower to see the job done despite our Captain, Adam, resting an injured ankle in the afternoon. The decision to have a squad of 11 paid dividends here.



Brodie keeps his head down through the ball

It was a relief on Sunday morning to see the weather forecast promising 0% chance of rain. However, while it was bright, the wind had moved round to the north east and was bitterly cold. I managed to put on seven layers and was just about warm enough.

Eton, given their size as a school, are always a tough prospect and they had surprised many by beating Ampleforth in the first round and followed this up with good wins against Taunton and Edinburgh Academy. While the eventual scoreline of 3.5-1.5 looks relatively comfortable, this was a tight match. Winning the first two matches took the pressure off a little; the two James' won on 17 and Adam and Joel won 4/3. However, the next two matches went up the 18th so if Eton had won both of these it could have been a different story. Sami and JDB despite fighting hard eventually succumbed on 18 which left it to Abs and Cam in match 4 to see if they could get the all-important final point. They had been ahead through the back 9 but Eton had fought back to take them up the 18th but calm



nerves saw them through so Henry and Brodie behind weren't required on this occasion to finish the job.

There was time to get back to the clubhouse to warm up and enjoy some lunch before the final against Epsom. Epsom are always a strong side having won the tournament twice in the past 15 years. They had beaten Charterhouse in the semi-final who in turn had edged out Tonbridge in an epic quarter-final which had gone down to the final putt in the final match on the 18th. Tonbridge had 10 foot and Charterhouse 20 foot; the latter holed it and the former missed.



Like the first round tie against Rossall, the final was a battle all the way and the match could have gone either way. Only one match was decisive with Brodie and Henry winning comfortably with a dog licence. Despite this, it was not clear where our other points were going to come from. In the top match Abs and Cam enjoyed another titanic battle; they were 1 down for most of the round and lost 16 to go 2 down but a magnificent birdie on 17 meant they went up the last. Another great putt from Cam to make par left Epsom to do the same to win which to their credit they did. Meanwhile in the third group Sami and JDB had a topsy-turvy match; Loretto went ahead during the front 9 but Epsom hit back around the turn winning three in a row to square the match at 12. They then took the initiative and went on to win 3/2.



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society



Sami unleashes one of his monster drives at Deal on the Sunday

This left us needing to win both the matches left on the course; the two James' in the second match who were 2 down after 8 and Adam and Joel in the final match who had been 3 down after 3 – rather like their start in the first round!



The two James' match was always tight and at one point they had to contend with three Epsom opponents. On the short 4th Epsom had a long putt across the green which was interrupted by an Epsom dog which ran on and picked up the ball before it had made it to the hole (which it wasn't going to!) Unbelievably the Epsom player when taking the putt again holed it! From 2 down after 8, Loretto won 9, 10 and 11 and made a tricky par saving putt on 12 to lead 1 up. A lost ball from Epsom on 15 (they let Match 3 through which is why this match was the last to finish) put Loretto 2 up with 3 to play but then Epsom immediately birdied 16 to keep in touch – Loretto just 1 up going down 17. Nerves were jangling – amongst the spectators and the 100 strong followers on the WhatsApp group!

Meanwhile Adam and Joel, as they do, were fighting back and were just 1 down going through 12. They won 12 to get it back to all square – suddenly there seemed to be a possible lifeline. Then the news started to get better and better; they won 13 to go 1up and 15 to go 2up!

Needing to win both matches, we were 1up on 17 and 2up on 16. Where to watch? In the final match we were short of 16 in 2 with Epsom just over the back. Adam had a tricky blind putt of some 60 feet – so tricky that he hit it to about 3 feet! Epsom failed to get up and down and Joel finished it off. We rushed up the 17th fairway where who else but James McCormick was standing over an awkward putt which would secure Loretto the Halford Hewitt – a very similar scene to last year and the result was the same; James holed and Loretto won for the third year in a row.



James holes the winning putt (again!)



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society



Adam being presented with the Trophy by Sam Smale



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

It had been an exciting week and again a great team display with every pair contributing. This is the key to our success. Many teams have three, maybe four good pairs. We have five and that generally proves decisive. Sami and JDB's great win on day won was crucial, Henry and Brodie were again undefeated, Abs and Cam brought home the critical point to beat Eton and John Miller and the two James' were involved in a number of key wins including of course the winning match in the final. As for Adam and Joel, I have just one request. I know going three down before engineering a heroic fight back is exciting (as they did in the two critical matches against Rossall and Epsom) but it does take its toll on the supporters' nerves!

My thanks too to all the supporters and fellow WhatsApp correspondents pictured below. And a particular thanks to The Headmaster who was the only one to brave the weather in all six rounds and who I must credit with most of the photographs in this newsletter. The WhatsApp Group swelled to over 100 at one point and then went into overdrive as James sank the winning putt. I know that the team hugely appreciate the support; I remember in the semi-final defeat to Ampleforth in 2019 noting the greater support that the Ampleforth team had. That has now changed and the team knows it too. I look forward to more of you joining us as the team look to make it four in a row at the Centenary Tournament next year.



The supporters and roving correspondents. From the left; The Headmaster, Chris Henderson, your President, Ian Mavor, John Miller and Robin Shuker



OTHER NEWS

Please look below and see if you can support Loretto at any of these other events

Triangular Match vs. Dulwich and Sedbergh Saturday 27th May at The New Zealand Club

This annual match at the lovely New Zealand Club near Woking will also this year be a chance for you to meet at least one of the Hewitt team and indeed members of the Dulwich team who we beat in the third round and who will no doubt be looking for revenge! It's a relaxed social day playing with full handicaps so please contact Robert to sign up.

robert@bam-boo.com.sg

The Anniesland Trophy Tuesday 27th June at Denham

This is another great day in the calendar always enhanced by the famous Denham lunch. Loretto has a strong tradition in this handicap event – please get in touch with me if you would like to play.

andrewjrbrown1@gmail.com

The Loretto School Foursomes

Alexander Kilgour has successfully held this wonderful day at West Sussex over the past few years. Some twenty different schools participated last year for the Loretto Foursomes Trophy which was won by Haileybury. I urge you to support the event. Pairs can be Men, Ladies or Mixed and represent one or two different schools. It's a great social day – a full handicap stableford competition so open to all standards – and an excellent opportunity to treat a friend to a day's golf at this lovely venue. Please contact either Alexander Kilgour or Robert Rigg.

alexander@kilgour-family.com

robert@bam-boo.com.sg

Southern Social Matches vs. Uppingham, Fettes and Marlborough

Dates for your diaries: we have struggled to get participants for these matches over the past couple of years so I urge you all to sign up so that we can maintain these enjoyable fixtures at great golf courses. Contact andrewjrbrown1@gmail.com

Uppingham at Reigate Heath: Thursday 10th August

Fettes at Worplesdon: Saturday 20th August

Marlborough at Liphook: Thursday 5th October



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

The Autumn Medal at The Renaissance 10/11th November

Please also note the date of the Autumn Medal. This year it will take place over two days, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th November to accommodate the increased demand. We will publish plans in due course. For other events and matches please keep an eye on the website;

<https://www.ol-golf.com/events>

The Loretto Golf Academy

One of our objectives for 2023 is to forge much closer links with the school and the Loretto Golf Academy. We are delighted to hear about the many successes. Six pupils have secured Golf scholarships or places at universities in both the US and UK. The lower sixth team won the HMC Strokeplay at Fairmont St Andrews and they have also progressed to the regional finals of the HMC Matchplay.



There have also been some exceptional individual performances. Sophie B won the Ladies HMC Strokeplay with Vanessa R coming second while Anastasia H won the 9Zero Foundation Ladies at Longniddry. Ollie M, who last year became the youngest ever winner of the Scottish Amateur Championship, won the Mens 9Zero foundation event which included an amazing 11 under par 60 at Craigiellaw! Brother Cameron won the previous 9Zero event at Kings Acre. In all eight Academy players have been called up to play for National Squads. We look forward to welcoming all these players into the OLGS soon!