



## **INTRODUCTION**

In this edition:

**The Halford Hewitt**

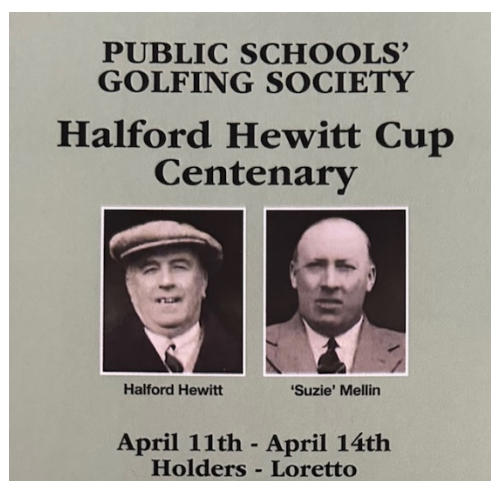
**Scratch events**

**Scottish social events**

**Southern social events**

## **The Halford Hewitt 2024**

Well, it was going to happen sometime. Our team's incredible 19 consecutive winning match run came to an end in the second round this year against an inspired Uppingham team. We have experienced some close matches over the past couple of years but this was the closest of them all and we came out just on the wrong side when Brodie Good's 10 foot putt just lipped out and Uppingham's 8 footer fell in on the second extra hole.



This year was the Centenary of the Halford Hewitt and there were a number of celebrations held. In January, a dinner was held at the Grosvenor House in London with

nearly 800 attending a very enjoyable evening. On the eve of this year's tournament a cocktail party was held in a large marquee at Deal – it was difficult to tell how many people were there but at its peak the marquee was certainly not big enough!

Loretto's week started with the now traditional lunch at Royal St. George's on the Tuesday where we celebrated the incredible feat of winning three tournaments in a row.



The team warming up with kummells in the Royal St. George's Clubhouse

One of the features of the tournament is that it doesn't finish until relatively late on Sunday evening so there is seldom time for celebration immediately after the event so it was good for the team to get together in advance of this year's title defence. The usual excellent lunch was followed by Kummells and a putting competition – I can't remember who won but it was very competitive!

This year's draw was incredibly tough; a first round against our local rivals Watson's, ranked 3 behind us in the unofficial Hewitt rankings and then a need to beat the likes of Uppingham then Bradfield or Wellington and



probably Tonbridge just in order to get to the semi-final!



The first tee at Royal St. George's

The match against Watson's was predictably tight. The two James', McCormick and Guterman, went out in the first match against a strong Watson's pair who took an early lead and never let us back in. This meant that we needed to win three of the final four matches. Generally, we were ahead in all of them but not by much with matches 2 and 3 going to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile Adam and Joel won match 4 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and after being behind for most of the round Watson's mounted a spirited comeback in the final match. So, it required both Abs and Cam and Henry and Brodie in those two critical matches to win 2/1, giving us a win by 3 ½-1 ½.

The relatively early start allowed the team to relax afterwards and with the weather warming they retired to their house to enjoy Joel's barbecue.

The second round match was against Uppingham who I had noted overnight had beaten Watson's last year. There was one change to our team with Stu Mitchell replacing Sami to partner John Dunn-Butler.

With potentially six tiring matches having a squad of 11 was a wise move.

It was the James' again who went out first as dictated by the random App! Their match was tight early on, with a couple of holes exchanged and all square after five. Loretto won the 6<sup>th</sup> and then spectacularly eagled the 7<sup>th</sup> to go 2up and never relinquished the lead. A birdie at 12 took them to 4up and they eventually won 5/4. A great win. Behind, however, things were very tight.

In Match 3, Abs and Cam were up against a strong pair. I watched Uppingham get a sandy par at the 1<sup>st</sup>, birdie the 3<sup>rd</sup> and get up and down from a horrible spot on 6. Abs and Cam were hanging on well, but around the turn Uppingham established a lead and went on to win 5/4.



Supporters, Ian Mavor, Adam McKinley, Alastair Lawson and Angus Lindsey-Renton enjoying 'shovrils' at the halfway hut.



## Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

At that stage, in the remaining three matches we were 1up in two and 1 down in the other. In Match 3 Uppingham won two holes around the loop and made it to the 16<sup>th</sup> tee 3up and closed out the match on 16. We had to win the two remaining matches.

Tension was certainly mounting. The OLGS WhatsApp group had swelled to over 120 participants – a new high! Messages were coming in from all over the country; indeed all over the globe including Peter Mackay from Hungary and Chris Henderson on a train to Barcelona!



Nip and tuck was the order of the day -if you look closely the Loretto and Uppingham balls are just inches apart – both hit from 200 yards!

Adam and Joel had also struggled round the loop but an incredible up and down from a nasty spot over the back of the 15<sup>th</sup> green got them to the 16<sup>th</sup> tee 1 up. They held this lead through 16 and 17 and when Uppingham drove into a bunker on 18, it looked all over. Adam's second into 18 looked good as it headed straight for the pin. Unfortunately, it was too long, took a big bounce and rolled out of bounds! Drama! Meanwhile, Uppingham were struggling from their bunker and could only make 6, and Adam and Joel held their nerve to halve the hole. 2-2.

At this stage the final match was going up 17 with Henry and Brodie 1up. However, Brodie found the bunker at the front left of 17 and Henry had a difficult lie from where he hit it just off the back of the green. Uppingham, however, were still well short of the green from where they hit a good putt, using the slope at the back of the green to bring the ball back to about 6 feet. Brodie could only get Loretto's 4<sup>th</sup> shot down the hill to about 15 feet from where Henry holed magnificently for a fighting 5. To their credit Uppingham holed from 6 feet for 4. All square.

There was drama to come on 18. From the middle of the fairway, Uppingham ended up off the right-hand side of the green. Brodie's drive was just off the fairway but in a difficult lie from where Henry hit it left of the green. Brodie's pitch was solid, up onto the top tier where the flag was, but still some way from the hole. Uppingham's pitch was over-ambitious and didn't make the green. Advantage Loretto.

However, Uppingham's next pitch was excellent to less than a couple of feet. This left Henry with about 25 feet for the match – a good putt but not in. Both teams tidied up and it was onto 19.

Uppingham hit an excellent drive up the middle and Henry followed with a lovely strike. But it proved to be too good a strike, as it reached the bunker in the middle of the fairway, some 100 yards from the green. Was it the stronger wind or a bit of adrenaline – probably a bit of both. Things looked even worse when Uppingham hit a delicate second which landed perfectly and rolled up about 12 feet short of the flag; a possible birdie and a





certain par. We needed at least a par from a fairway bunker 100 yards short of the green.

Brodie's shot out of the bunker was extraordinary. Remember, this was a Royal St. George's bunker not one of those shallow things you get at the likes of Augusta and the long bunker shot is probably regarded as the most difficult shot in golf. Brodie swung hard and the ball shot high into the air and landed on the back of the green over 100 yards away. I think it went via the moon. From there, a safe par was made, Uppingham missed their birdie putt and it was up the second.

Both drives were good, up the right giving a good angle into the flag. Henry played first and the ball bounced just short of the green and rolled just past the flag, almost hitting it, to about 10 feet. Uppingham then followed and to their enormous credit played an almost identical shot which finished a couple of feet short of the Loretto ball. Crucially, it also meant that they would get a read from Brodie's putt. The putts weren't easy as they were sharply downhill with a bit of break. Brodie's hit the hole at perhaps a fraction too much pace and lipped out leaving Uppingham to hole for the win and the overall match. Impressively they did.



The team already looking forward to next year

This was an incredible, classic Hewitt match and a privilege to watch. Uppingham had never been up in the crucial final match until the all-important 20<sup>th</sup> hole and they played some inspired golf to hang on and then clinch it with a birdie. To demonstrate their quality this pair had birdied the 4<sup>th</sup> – you don't get many birdies at 4 at Royal St. George's.

Clearly the team was disappointed but they can be enormously proud of their incredible achievement of three wins in a row. They are now looking forward to making a challenge for The Grafton Morrish.

Thanks are due to all the supporters who turned out over the two days: Ian Mavor, manning the halfway hut as usual, The Headmaster, Adam McKinley, the Academy Director of Golf, David Cheyne, Alastair Lawson, Angus-Lindsey-Renton, Christopher Newton and the parents of Adam, Joel and Henry. Oh, I nearly forgot, Stu Mitchell's dogs. The team really appreciate the support which has built over the past few years and makes a big difference.

### **The Spirit of the Hewitt**

Please play as our fathers  
have done before us:

- Win or lose respectfully.
- Play quickly.
- Let equity prevail.
- Resolve any disputes between yourselves amicably with common sense.
- Be proud of your behaviour.
- Have fun.



A final observation; the Rules Sheet of the Hewitt has on the back 'The Spirit of the Hewitt' – see above. It is to the team's great credit that they adhere without thought to all these values.

### **Scratch Events 2024**

The season is now underway and our Senior Wayfarers team has already played at Panmure in the annual Wayfarers match, proudly picking up the wooden spoon! Qualifying for the Grafton Morrish takes place in May with the finals at Hunstanton and Brancaster in early October. The Mellin Tournament is as usual at West Hill towards the end of June.

### **Social Events**

There is also a full calendar of social events both north and south of the border. Please head to the website for details.

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

I would like to draw your attention to a number of these. In Scotland we have a couple of matches against the school and the Academy players – if you would like to get involved in any of these please contact Hugo Balfour Melville

[hugobm1@gmail.com](mailto:hugobm1@gmail.com)

We also have a new social invitational event at **Blairgowrie Golf Club** on 13<sup>th</sup> July. There is already considerable support for this event. Please contact either Peter MacKay or Michael Allen if you are interested.

[pmackay1990@outlook.com](mailto:pmackay1990@outlook.com)

[michael@stayaltido.com](mailto:michael@stayaltido.com)



The 18<sup>th</sup> and clubhouse at Rosemount, Blairgowrie

Down south we are again holding **The Loretto School Foursomes at West Sussex**. This is a very relaxed day with a round of Foursomes in the morning followed by a leisurely lunch.

This year's match against **Uppingham** at **Reigate Heath** on 15<sup>th</sup> August will have an extra edge to it following the events at Royal St. George's! I would like to field a strong team for this – perhaps some of the scratch team might like to join us this year!

Finally, Loretto is hoping to field a team for the first time in **The Silver Tassie**. This is a school team competition for Women golfers which takes place at **The Berkshire** on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. It's a handicap tournament – any OLs wishing to play should contact Rosie Niven.

[roseanneniven@gmail.com](mailto:roseanneniven@gmail.com)