



INTRODUCTION

In this edition:

Scratch team Update

Social Fixtures

Autumn Meeting

AGM and 2024 plans

Scratch Team update

The Scratch team had a busy autumn participating in both the finals of the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy at Royal Burgess and The Grafton Morrish at Hunstanton and Brancaster. In Edinburgh, after an impressive defeat of Watsons in the first round the team lost narrowly to Stewarts Melville with all three matches going to extra holes.

It was the first time that we had reached the finals of the Grafton Morrish for some years and we narrowly lost a tough tie to Radley in the first round. However, this put us in the Plate Competition where thanks to James McCormick and James Guterman recording the highest stableford score, Loretto won the Solihull Salver. The weekend allowed the team to get to know the courses and they look forward to returning.

Meanwhile the team awaits the draw for the Centenary Halford Hewitt Tournament which will be made on 10th January. The tournament itself starts on Thursday 11th April.

Social matches

There have been plenty social matches taking place over the past few months. On 27th August we had both the triangular match at Prestwick against Sedbergh and Glenalmond as well as the match against Edinburgh Accies at Luffness. We also enjoyed a match against the school at Bruntsfield in September – this was a good opportunity to introduce the OLGs to sixth-formers. In the south the annual match against the Old Uppinghamians also took place at Reigate Heath. We won't record all the results of these encounters – they are primarily social, perhaps just allowing some bragging rights in the bar afterwards!

As we had lost the date for the Summer Meeting in the South, we managed to arrange, thanks to Stu Mitchell, a weekend of golf at Royal St. George's. A challenge match between a President's Team and a Captain's Team was arranged. The weather on the Saturday was dreadful but Sunday couldn't have been more different. On the Saturday morning the President's Team, armed with their full WHIs, managed to take a 3-2 lead into the second day.



With the rain teeming down outside, the opportunity was taken to enjoy the famous Royal St. George's lunch



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

Despite the very wet and windy weather, a few players went out on Saturday afternoon to compete for the Murray Mugs which were won, somewhat controversially, by the marquee pairing of The Captain and The President. The President enjoyed playing his second shots from rather nearer the green than he was used to; indeed, on the 480-yard Par 5 7th he played his second shot (yes, second shot) from less than 100 yards!



Player of the match, Robin Walker tees off the 1st in much improved weather on Sunday morning

On the Sunday morning the captain's Hewitt hopefuls put up a strong fightback but The President's Team stood firm to win the challenge – player of the match went to 83 year-old Robin Walker, playing Royal St. George's for the first time, who was undefeated in both his matches. It is hoped to repeat this match in future years.



The President proudly holding The Mackie Tassie on behalf of his winning team of 'oldies'

Autumn Meeting

We are fortunate to be able to hold our Autumn Meeting at The Renaissance and it has become so popular that we now hold the event over two days with the handicap Stableford tournament off the yellow tees being held on the Friday and the scratch Medal, off the back tees, being held on the Saturday. We had over 20 participants on each of the days including five Academy pupils (four boys and a girl) on the Saturday. We were interested to hear from Adam McKinley that there is keen competition amongst the Academy players to get the opportunity to join our event.

We were very lucky with the weather on both days which was extraordinarily good for early November. The shadows in the late afternoon could be measured at nearly 100 yards. The course was in excellent condition even if some of the new bunkers which had been added to toughen it up for the Scottish open were not appreciated by all!



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society



The weather at The Renaissance was spectacular

Still, there was some excellent golf played. On the Friday, the OLGS Cup was won by Peter Mackay with a score of 40 points on countback from Ross Stewart who won the OLGS Spoon. The Gedge Trophy for the best round in the Over-55s went to Lorn MacNeal with 38 points.



Peter Mackay receiving the OLGS Trophy

On the Saturday, three Hewitt team members tied with a gross 75 with the Loretto House Medal being won by The Captain, Adam Wraight, on account of him birdieing, Rory style, the 18th to win on countback. However, this was not the best round of the day; this

accolade went to Head-of-School, Bethwell, with a magnificent 73. The future of the OLGS looks in good shape!



Adam Wraight won The Loretto House Medal

After the round on Saturday, a dinner was held in the clubhouse where we were delighted to welcome Graeme Simmers and other OLGS members. At the end of the dinner, The Captain and President presented the Headmaster and Adam McKinley, Academy Director of Golf, with a framed signed scorecard of Loretto's first Halford Hewitt victory to hang in The Academy as an inspiration to the Academy pupils.



The President and Captain presenting the framed scorecard to the Headmaster and Adam McKinley



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society



Two competitors from this year's Autumn Medal reflecting the age range of the OLGS: Craig Cameron, born 1941, and Cameron Mukherjee, born 2008. And Craig wasn't even the oldest competitor – that honour (I think!) went to Martin Black who we were delighted to welcome up from London.

And finally...

The AGM was held via Zoom on Monday 27th November. At the meeting it was proposed to increase the annual subscription from £30 per annum to £50 reflecting the very significant increase in the costs of golf. The subs have not been increased for over ten years and the Society is keen to maintain support for our scratch team, subsidies for young members as well as continuing to cap the cost of OLGS events at £100 for all members. The proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

PLEASE can you amend your Standing Orders as soon as possible

We are also pleased to welcome Mike Allen onto the Committee to be 'Secretary Scotland'. Mike is a member of our scratch squad and has been an enthusiastic member of the Society for a number of years.

We are also pleased to announce that for the first time Loretto will field a team in The Silver Tassie – this is a ladies handicap event held at The Berkshire. Here's to a Halford Hewitt and Silver Tassie double!

There is much to look forward to in 2024:

The draw for the Centenary Halford Hewitt Tournament is being made on 10th January with the tournament getting underway on Thursday 11th April. In addition we have a full schedule of scratch fixtures and social matches – details will appear on the website in early January so take a look. We can confirm that the Annual Medal will again take place at The Renaissance on 8th/9th November 2024.