



## **INTRODUCTION**

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**Stenhouse Quaich**

One trophy that had eluded Loretto for a while was The Stenhouse Quaich which takes place every March at Elie. In cold but dry conditions we finally achieved an emphatic victory helped by from some added fire power from south of the border in the shape of Adam, Cameron B and Joel.

The format, 'St Andrew's foursomes' with every match playing to 18 and the scores then aggregated, saw us win with a fine score of +56 over 4 rounds.

The opening match against Merchiston was a key victory with the tightest scoreline of the weekend yet it was never in doubt.

The matches vs both Edinburgh Academy and Strathallan were particularly emphatic (+18 and +17 respectively). Sami Bouzabia and John Butler winning 10up against Accies and Allen and Bouzabia winning 9up versus Strath as examples of some brutal victories.

Everyone played a key part in both the golfing victory as well as a rather good weekend of drinking and eating as always at Elie. John

Miller also provided some help with the jokes told by Cameron Blair and Mike Allen at the Saturday night dinner. However, the team will be hoping to have Peter Mackay back in 2026 who has better form in that key part of the weekend.

Here's to another victory in 2026!

Final scores were:

Loretto	+56
Merchiston	+28
Glenalmond	+16
Edinburgh Academy	+3
Fettes	-17
Strathallan	-86

## **The Halford Hewitt**

As soon as we learned back in January that we had been drawn in the first round against Rossall at Royal St. George's, we knew it would be a battle. Back in 2023 when the team completed their hat-trick of victories in The Halford Hewitt, they had only squeaked through against Rossall in the first round at also at Royal St. George's by turning round two matches on the back 9 to record a narrow 3/2 victory. So it was no surprise that Rossall again produced a strong team and with a couple of our players not playing to their full potential, this time it was Rossall that prevailed with a narrow 3/2 victory. Rossall went on to reach the Quarter-finals where they were defeated by Harrow who in turn were defeated in the semi-final by the eventual winners, Bradfield.



This was Bradfield's first ever Hewitt victory confirming a trend that there are now many more schools fielding strong teams which have a chance of winning.

(Secretary's note: Bradfield's team included some notable offspring of 80s greats, notably Gallagher Jnr, Rafferty Jnr and Torrance Jnr)

Losing in the first round, Loretto went on to play in The Prince's Plate. Such is the increased competitiveness of the Hewitt, that first round losers and therefore Plate participants included this year's Tonbridge, Radley, Watson's, Ampleforth and last year's Hewitt winners, Eton, making it one of the strongest fields in the Plate for many years. We made it to the semi-finals where we lost to Tonbridge, who were then defeated by Radley who were in turn defeated in the final by Eton.



*Annual Kummel fuelled putting competition!*

### The Silver Tassie



*The Berkshire rhododendrons were in full bloom for the Silver Tassie in June*

Our ladies' team made a bold defence of their first time victory in The Silver Tassie at The Berkshire in June. You may remember that last year they won both The Handicap Silver Tassie with a total of 79 points and the Scratch trophy with a gross of 154. This year our pairs were Rosie Bailey and Emily Feibusch and Emma Howie and Eilidh Henderson scored 78 points and a gross of 153, one better than last year. So we were very much in the mix but here again competition is becoming tougher and three schools managed to get 81 points with Cheltenham Ladies College winning the Tassie on a countback from Haileybury. For a while it looked as if our gross score would be enough to win the scratch prize but Cranleigh and Millfield both posted 150 to drop us to third place with Cranleigh winning on countback.

### The Mellin Trophy

The Mellin Trophy is one of three competitions held for senior players from the Halford Hewitt schools. The first 16 schools which competed in the Hewitt play in the Bernard Darwin Trophy, the second 16 in The



## Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

Mellin and the remaining 32 in the Cyril Gray. Loretto is the only Scottish school to compete in The Mellin – all the others play in The Cyril Gray.

The Mellin tournament comprises three competitions; The Mellin itself for over 55s, The Burles for over 65s and The Bunny Millard for over 75s. As a small school we always struggle to compete and we didn't get beyond the first round this year in the Mellin or the Millard but let's focus on The Burles! Here a solid defeat of Sherborne in the first round was followed by dispatching Bradfield in the second in a play-off. The semi-final saw victory against Felsted putting Loretto into the final for the first time since 2011.

Unfortunately, here we faced a very strong Shrewsbury team who had won the previous two years.

Congratulations to the squad of Neal Stewart, Alastair Lawson, Robin Shuker, Andrew Joseph, Chris Henderson and Andrew Brown.

We are looking forward to getting some reinforcements from Scotland for our Mellin team next year.

### **The Loretto School Foursomes**

It is worth explaining a little about the history of this event. For many years the OLGS enjoyed a fixture every July against The Highland Brigade at the wonderful West Sussex Club. Latterly The Highland Brigade struggled to get a team together and our Match Manger, Alexander Kilgour, came up with the idea of inviting other school societies to enter pairs into a stableford foursomes competition on then day. The increasing cost of golf, the difficulty of getting dates at clubs and our small pool of players has meant that

over the past 15 years we have lost many of the social matches against other schools which we used to enjoy. By inviting other schools to join us for a day of Foursomes, we can maintain those relationships. We decided to re-fashion our old Winter Foursomes Silver Trophy and we now present this to the winning pair.



*Participants enjoying a drink on the patio at West Sussex*

The event has become increasingly popular and this year we had a record 42 players sign up with schools such as Haileybury, Malvern, Marlborough, Whitgift, Glenalmond, Uppingham, Oundle and Bryanston all participating. This year the trophy went for the first time to a Mixed pair, Nick and Kathy Torlot from Reigate and Canford respectively. The feedback from the participants has been very positive. 9 OLs played in the event: Alastair Lawson, Chris Henderson, Robin Walker (who with his partner Johnny Wybrew from Hertford came second), David Cheyne, Chris Williams, Angus Lindsey-Renton, Kerry McLean, Christopher Herdman-Newton and Andrew Brown.



*Chris Williams putting at West Sussex*

### **Autumn Medal**

Last year's Autumn Meeting was a two day affair held at The Renaissance with the handicap competition being held on the Friday followed by the Scratch Medal on the Saturday. Mike Allen won the handicap cup with a remarkable finish of 3,3,3,3 - that's to a Par of 3,5,3,4!. The outgoing President moaned all the way round about the borrowed set of 20-year-old clubs he was using along with a hickory putter, but still managed to wield them to some effect and win the Seniors' Cup with a score of 33 points.

On the Saturday, the OLGS were joined by five Academy players, three boys and two girls, with John Dunn-Butler winning the Loretto House Medal with a magnificent 68.

This year's competition takes place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October moving to the other side of Gullane where Luffness have kindly agreed to host us. A slightly more elaborate affair is planned this year involving the options of lunch, golf and a dinner at the club with 'carriages' in the form of a school mini-bus for the well refreshed drivers to take them back to Edinburgh. Anyone interested in playing to contact [robert@bam-boo.com.sg](mailto:robert@bam-boo.com.sg)