



Minutes to the Annual General Meeting for 2023

Monday 27th November 2023

7pm – held virtually via Zoom

Present: Andrew Brown (Chair), Robert Rigg (Secretary and Treasurer), Adam Wraight (Captain), the Headmaster, Gordon Wilson, Robin Shuker, Joel Westwell, Martin Black, Stuart Mitchell, Ian Sinclair, Michael Allen, Blair Mackay, Roseanne Bailey, Peter Arthur, James Guterman and Hugo Balfour-Melville.

- 1 Minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved
- 2 President's 2023 Report

The President briefly covered three areas:

The highlight of the Scratch team's season again came early with the magnificent 'three-in-a-row' victory in the Halford Hewitt at Sandwich and Deal in April. It was a great week, despite challenging weather, and much enjoyed by supporters both at the course and in the 100 strong WhatsApp Group.

The team also managed to qualify this year for the finals of the Grafton Morrish – the first time in a number of years. This tournament is in many ways more difficult to win than the Hewitt as all those schools who qualify are strong and there are only three pairs so strength in depth is less of an advantage. The team lost to Radley in the first round but thanks to a great round by James Guterman and James McCormick won the Solihull Salver as part of the Plate Competition.

The Mellin team lost in the final of the Plate Competition – it is hoped that more members from Scotland can be persuaded to play in this in future.

The challenge for social matches is the increasing cost of golf. In Scotland we rely on having strong memberships at Muirfield, Prestwick and Luffness which allow us to disperse green fee costs. We don't have that luxury in the south and had to give up a match against the Old Marlburians at Liphook as the club was wanting £130 for a minimum of ten players with payment up front. The Society has had to be creative and look at other options. A successful 'members' event' was held at



Royal St George's in the autumn while two dates have been secured at Worplesdon in 2024 for a reasonable price. One of these will be a 'quadrangular' match involving Repton, Marlborough and Shrewsbury.

Finally, The President pointed to the ambition to get more lady OLGS members involved and handed over to Rosie Niven who confirmed that Loretto next year will enter a team for the first time in The Silver Tassie – a Stableford handicap competition lady alumni of schools at The Berkshire on 10th June. Discussions were also being held with other schools about setting up a mixed event for schools on a similar format to the Hewitt.

- 3 The Treasurer presented the provisional accounts for 2023, a deficit for the year but smaller than the previous year. He explained that deficit had two main causes: as the 'price of success' given the achievements of the Scratch Team at the Halford Hewitt, but also qualifying for the Grafton Morrish this year, the first time in many years. The second factor was the increasing cost of social golf.

At the 2022 AGM, the decision was made to cap the cost of OLGS social fixtures at £100 per person per day and subsidise U30s to the tune of 50%. The purpose of this was to encourage participation across the membership.

For the Scratch Team, and the Senior Scratch Team, the long-term goal is to win silverware in addition to the Hewitt – all of this will take additional financial resources. The immediate goal however is to ensure that the Society is in the black in 2024.

- 4 The Treasurer proposed to the AGM that the most appropriate way to address the annual deficit and secure the long-term financial future of the Society was to increase the Annual Subscription from £30, which had been in place for over a decade, to £50. He cautioned that the effect would not be immediate, OLGS members are often slow to move on administrative matters, and there would be the risk that we would lose some members, but these risks were worth taking.

The Treasurer proposed the motion and was supported by The President and Gordon Wilson.



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

- 5 A relatively small administrative measure, but the Secretary felt that the OLGS database was starting to feel a bit out of date and, given the desire to increase subs, some work would be done to ask that all members ensure their information on file is correct – including age and who should be paying. How many members responds to this is of course anybody's guess!!
- 6 Appointment of Office Holders. Paddy Ledingham had previously given the President advance notice of his desire to step down from the Committee. This was accepted by the President. The Secretary has for some time been concerned about how to engage with younger non-Scratch Team members north of the border and was delighted when Michael Allen agreed to accept the role of 'Pied Piper – Scotland'.

The nomination was proposed by The President and supported by Ian Sinclair.

- 7 To close, the President asked the Headmaster to say some words about what the Society's activities meant for the school. The Headmaster said that the team's success, and the way they conduct themselves, was giving Loretto a very positive reputation in golf which was of significant benefit to the school. He also felt that the growing links between the school and the society had created a strong 'vibe' which will encourage leavers to stay engaged with the OLGS which will be of long-term benefit.
- 8 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8pm.