



## INTRODUCTION

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## Autumn Medal November 2022

We are very fortunate to be able to hold our finale to the season, the Autumn Medal, at The Renaissance Club.

This year we had a strong turnout of 40 players with a span of over 60 years in age and over 24 in handicaps! We were also delighted to welcome five members of our winning Halford Hewitt team and four players from the Golf Academy. They all played a scratch competition off the back tees for the Loretto House Medal while the rest of the field played a friendly stableford from the yellow tees.

Three of the Hewitt team (**Sami Bouzabia, John Dunn-Butler and James McCormick**) all scored a gross 72 with James winning the Loretto House Medal on a countback on the back 6. The OLGS Trophy for the best stableford went to **Paul Ferguson** with 39 points and **Bob Waddell** with 38 points won the Loretto Spoon for runner-up, pipping the President on a countback. The Renaissance

was in excellent condition and the day greatly enjoyed by all.



OLGS President presents the Loretto House Medal to James McCormick

## The Halford Hewitt 2023

This will take place from Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – a week earlier than usual because of the timing of Easter. This year we have been drawn in the first round against Rossall who older members will remember were the school which beat us in that infamous final in 1973. Time for revenge! This is a relatively tough draw; Rossall reached the semi-finals in 2021 so will be a stern test. That said, the rest of our 'quartile' contains few of the big names some of whom have been drawn against each other in the first round; Ampleforth play Eton, Watson's play Merchiston and Malvern play Tonbridge.

Our team starts at Royal St. George's at 7.45am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. Full live coverage will be available on the OLGS Social WhatsApp Group – to sign up contact Robert Rigg. Anyone wishing to come down and support the team should also get in touch.



## Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

### ☰ HALFORD HEWITT CUP

RSG	Loretto				
07:45	Rossall				
RSG	The Leys				
08:20	Framlingham				
RSG	Cheltenham				
08:55	Wrekin				
RSG	Merchant Taylors'				
09:30	Bedford				
RSG	St Bees				
10:10	Felsted				
RSG	Dulwich				
10:50	Wellingborough				
RSG	St Paul's				
11:30	Shrewsbury				
RSG	Glenalmond				
12:10	Stowe				

### The Mellin and Burles Draw

1. 8.30 Downside  
Cheltenham
2. 8.45 Shrewsbury  
Aldenharn
3. 9.00 Bradsfield  
Lancing
4. 9.15 Forest  
Cranleigh
5. 9.30 Loretto  
Sherborne
6. 9.45 Felsted  
Hurstpierpoint
7. 10.00 Oundle  
Bedford
8. 10.15 Haileybury  
Mill Hill

### The Mellin Salver 28-30<sup>th</sup> June

This comprises three tournaments for over-55s, over 65s and over 75s. While it is played off scratch you do NOT need to be a scratch golfer or anything approaching that to compete. Anyone with a WHI of around 15 and under will enjoy it, particularly in the older age groups which are played off forward tees. I would urge anyone interested in playing to get in touch – it is always a very enjoyable couple of days. This year's draw (it is the same for both the Mellin and the Burles) sees up playing Sherborne in the first round with Felsted, last year's winners of the Burles in our quartile. Our Burles team won The Plate last year so will be looking to go one better.

The Millard starts with a stableford competition with the top four qualifying for the semi-finals.

### 2023 Events Schedule

Details of all events, Scratch and Social, are now available on the website. [www.ol-golf.com](http://www.ol-golf.com)

Please take a look and can I suggest that everyone looks to try and play in at least one OLGS fixture this coming year. The more people we get the more events we can arrange. Please take a look at the schedule and email your interest in a particular event to the OLGS contact given. One further plea; if you are asked directly if you can play, please reply yes or no as it makes the life of a match manager much easier.

### The Loretto Academy

We were delighted that Adam McKinley, the new Director of Golf at The Loretto Academy was able to join us at our Autumn Meeting and bring along four pupils to get a taste of OLGS golf. We have plans to strengthen our



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links with the Academy with a regular series of events both involving scratch players and regular golfers. There will be scratch matches between the elite Academy players and the OLGs scratch team both in Scotland and in the north of England. We are also keen for ordinary OLGs members to get involved and we will look to hold a series of informal matches during the course of the year – this should particularly attract OLGs members living relatively local to the school.

We will communicate during the course of the year the dates of these events.

### **Old Lorettonian wins the Amateur Championship**

I thought that headline might get your attention! It is quite true but it happened over 130 years ago. The first Amateur Championship was held at Hoylake in 1885 and four years later in 1889, the final was contested between Old Lorettonian John Laidlay, a member of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers and Leslie Balfour-Melville, a member of The Royal and Ancient. Indeed, there is a Loretto connection with both finalists as Leslie Balfour-Melville was the great grandfather of Hugo, a current OLGs Committee member! Laidlay was one of the foremost amateur golfers of his time, a great rival of the likes of John Ball, Horace Hutchison and Harold Hilton. Laidlay won The Amateur again in 1891 and was three times runner-up in 1888, 1890 and 1893. He played thirteen times in The Open and was leading amateur on four occasions. During his golfing career he was Captain of Prestwick, Lundin Links, Elie, The Honourable Company, North Berwick and Tantallon! Leslie Balfour-Melville also went on to win The Amateur, the next

time it was held at St Andrews in 1895 when he defeated John Ball in the final in a play-off. Balfour-Melville, as well as being a top amateur golfer, had a remarkable sporting career captaining Scotland at cricket, playing for Scotland at rugby and winning both the Scottish Tennis and Billiards Championships!

Those were the days!



OL John Laidlay -Amateur Champion 1889 and 1891

### **AGM 2023**

Our AGM will be held by Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 28th February at 7pm. All members are very welcome to sign up and join in. The President will give a short review of last year and outline plans for the forthcoming season while members will have the opportunity to ask questions and give suggestions.

The AGM invitation and papers will be coming out in the next few days.