



# Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

7pm (via Zoom)

### MINUTES

**Present: Andrew Brown (President), Robert Rigg (Secretary), Adam Wright (Captain), Ross Richardson, Graham Hawley (Headmaster), Peter Arthur, Robin Shuker, Craig Cameron, Martin Black, Gordon Wilson**

**Apologies: Hugo Balfour-Melville, Paddy Ledingham**

#### **1. Minutes of 2021 meeting**

These were approved noting the change to the timing of the AGM now to be held in Quarter 1 of the following year.

#### **2. The President's Report**

The President covered a number of areas:

The highlight of the year happened early with the successful defence of the Halford Hewitt in April 2022. This was in many ways an even more impressive achievement than the first victory the previous September as it required victories against Charterhouse, Haileybury and Tonbridge in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final respectively. The team begin their attempt to become only the third school ever to win three in a row on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. We struggled to field strong teams in the Stenhouse Quaich and the Grafton Morrish while the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy was cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The Captain is hoping in 2023 to field stronger teams in these other scratch events – the geographic spread of our top players can make it difficult.

There was limited success in our Senior Scratch events though we won the Plate Competition in the Burles (the over-65 section of The Mellin).

There was a welcome return to a full schedule of social matches after the disruptions of Covid. However, it proved difficult to get strong participation in these, particularly in the south, though the Annual Medal at The Renaissance was a notable exception with over 40 players.

Getting weekend fixtures which attract younger members in the south is increasingly difficult. Discussions are underway with Worplesdon to re-instate one of our traditional dates there. Thanks to the efforts of Stu Mitchell we have secured a date at Royal St George's to hold a 'Young' vs 'Old' match.

Finally, the Society is planning to increase its contact with the school and the Golf Academy. Hugo Balfour-Melville on behalf of the OLGS has met with the new Director of Golf, Adam McKinlay, to formulate a plan which includes contact for both elite and social golfers. This will develop during the year.

The Headmaster thanked the Society for the invitation to Academy golfers to join the Autumn Medal and felt that there was enormous mutual benefit to be gained from increased contact between the Academy and the OLGS and the school would do what it can to facilitate this.

### **3. Latest Accounts – 2022**

Robert Rigg summarised the accounts. While there was a small deficit during the year, this was largely the result of a series of 'one-offs' which were highlighted. He also briefly explained a small change in accounting practice.

A recruitment programme undertaken with significant help from the OL Society helped generate over 20 new members.

Finances are in good shape and the cost of social events will be capped at £100 for all members (£50 for under-30s). A number of attendees made the point that the Society should use its healthy financial position to encourage participation particularly amongst younger members.

The accounts were formally approved.

### **4. The subscription level for 2023 and 2024**

It was unanimously agreed that this would stay at the current level.

### **5. Election of Office bearers for 2023**

**The President, The Secretary and the Captain** have all completed three-year terms (2020 year discounted). All three were prepared to stand again and they were all unanimously elected into their positions.

Thanks were expressed to the Officers for their efforts.

### **6. AOB**

Craig Cameron was pleased to hear about the greater contact between the Society and the Academy. He felt that there were three categories of golfers: elite players who will look to go to America and become professionals; elite players who will become top class amateur golfers; and finally social golfers of a range of standards. All three are important. The President agreed and said that the proposals from Hugo and Adam do cater for all three of these and include both formal and informal events and opportunities for members of all standards to engage with the Academy.

Ross Richardson asked if any progress had been made on the idea of a 'North' vs 'South' fixture. It was acknowledged that this was difficult to arrange and needed a champion but certainly the Committee would enthusiastically sponsor the idea should someone come up with a plan.

A general discussion was held on how best to capture young members just out of school and encourage them to join in events. Further to the meeting a number of ideas are being progressed.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm