



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

Introduction

Welcome to this Autumn Newsletter which gives you a flavour of what has been going on over the summer and a reminder of what is on offer this autumn. Can I encourage as many of you as possible to try and make the OLGs Open Medal and AGM on 26th October at The Renaissance Club. This is a very good value day and I would like at the AGM to give you an outline of some of our plans. The Society is in good financial health and we wish to build on this and encourage more participation throughout all age groups and in a variety of events. Meanwhile if anyone has ideas for the Society please email me at andrewjrbrown1@gmail.com

Andrew Brown

OLGS President

Summer events

It's been a busy summer with many events held both in Scotland and down south.

In the south the Society held its summer meeting at Worplesdon in May, an informal affair with the usual good lunch. Robin Shuker used home course advantage to take the spoils. In early June, Loretto hosted a Public Schools Foursomes at West Sussex – this is a new event that has replaced the old Highland Brigade fixture. Ian Macauley and David Cheyne won the day for Loretto – from the photograph below, which includes the event organiser Alexander Kilgour, the red wine was clearly flowing at lunch!



Left to right: Ian Macauley, Alexander Kilgour and David Cheyne

Loretto fielded a team in The Annesland Trophy at Denham for the first time for a couple of years. Unfortunately the team which comprised Neil McPhater, Paddy Ledingham, David Cheyne and Andrew Brown came 'mid to lower table' in the main morning event but David Cheyne and Andrew Brown, fortified by the usual excellent Denham lunch, did win the afternoon 9 hole Greensomes competition with an impressive 21 points.

The Mellin Trophy was held at West Hill in early July. On the Thursday, our Millard (75+) pair beat their opponents but failed to qualify while The Burles (65+) team lost in both the first round and the Plate despite a spirited comeback from Ross Graham and Peter Crerar which ended in the heather on the 18th.



The Mellin Team putting in some serious putting practice



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In the Mellin on Friday we enjoyed a solid first round win over Bedford. A strategy meeting the previous evening over a bottle (or two) of Malbec had decided that we would send The President out with rookie Chris Wykes in the first pair, then hide our marquee pairing of Lawson and Ledingham second out with Shuker and Joseph occupying the anchor position. This worked well with Brown and Wykes fighting back from 1 down after 15 to win the final three holes for victory on 18 and Lawson and Ledingham winning 2 and 1 to secure the match. The third pair lost narrowly on 17.

In the afternoon quarter finals against Cheltenham, every match was very tight. Brown and Wykes had again fought back from 3 down to be just 1 down with 2 to play. Sitting 12 feet away in three on the Par 5 17th with their opponents 30 feet away in four, it looked like it would be all square going up the last. Unfortunately they holed the 30 footer and a half at the last gave them the match 1up.



The Mellin Team: from the left Alastair Lawson, Robin Shuker, Paddy Ledingham, Chris Wykes, Andrew Joseph and Andrew Brown

Lawson and Ledingham had also fought back from even further behind to be just one down with two to play but their fight back ended on the 17th green (or rather the bunker just

short of the 17th green). The final match also went the distance with Cheltenham winning 18 for a 1 hole victory. To put a further positive spin on our performance, Cheltenham went on to win The Mellin Trophy so our relatively narrow defeat was no disgrace. On the Friday evening the traditional dinner with Oundle was held which was enjoyable though they were a little smug as they were in the semis of the Mellin and the final of the Buries!

Finally in the south, a couple of late call offs meant we had to field two ringers in our match against the Old Uppinghamians played at the lovely Reigate Heath. This match starts with a good lunch in the wonderful windmill clubhouse followed by St Andrews Foursomes in the afternoon. The President's choice of ringers proved canny as a 2:2 draw was achieved with Loretto winning both matches which included their 'guest' players. I hope we can get a full house for this event next year; Reigate Heath was the home club of Alec Watt who did so much for OLGS golf and it is appropriate that we still play a match there every year.

In Scotland, disappointingly, planned matches against both Merchiston and Fettes did not take place as the opposition were unable to gather together teams. The Merchiston match was replaced by a Society event which took place over 27 holes at Muirfield with groups changing every nine holes. This proved a great success and a good means of getting members of the Society of different age groups together. We will look at holding more such events in future – Brodie Good, Peter Arthur, Keith Thomson, Matt Sinclair, Peter MacKay, Simon Brook, Paddy Ledingham and Torquil McInroy all enjoyed the day.



The annual match against the school was played on a warm day in June at Muirfield. We had a range of vintages playing including younger OLGs members Angus Oatts and Matt Sinclair, along with others who are no longer in the 'younger' category! The usual wonderful Muirfield lunch gave the team time to quiz the pupils about what is going on at school and to try to work out any weaknesses in their golf games. Unfortunately, after a few years of good results against the school, we were beaten 3-1 by a good school team, boosted by the Headmaster who usually plays for us as an Honorary OL, but filled in for them this year. A great day was had by all. The OLGs subsidises this match so it is an extremely good value day out at Muirfield. Please get in touch with Hugo Balfour-Melville (hugobm1@gmail.com or 07967 022 838) if you would like to be considered for next year.

Forthcoming Fixtures and Competitions

We still have a number of events to come this year. The scratch team are playing in the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Trophy at royal burgess at the end of September. Good luck to Cameron Blair, David and John Dunn-Butler, Cameron Gray, Ronan Higgins and Ian McDowell. There are two events in particular which you are encouraged to sign up for: The Mackay Trophy at Denham on Tuesday 1st October which is an informal and enjoyable day (contact; andrewjrbrown1@gmail.com) and The Open Medal at The Renaissance on 26th October (contact: oldlorettoniangolf@gmail.com)

Remaining dates and fixtures for 2019
1 Oct Mackay Trophy Denham Andrew Brown
10 Oct Old Marlburians Liphook Angus Lindsay Renton
20 Oct Old Fettesians Worplesdon Robert Rigg
26 Oct Open Medal and Halford Hewitt Trial The Renaissance Duncan Arthur
3 Nov Scottish Old Sedberghians Prestwick Jim Hume



Can you recognise this famous golfer? The Bass Rock in the background gives a bit of a clue as to the course. The golfer in question is celebrating a hole-in-one to a green which had no flag! He claims it was a 5 wood, 192 yards into the wind and clearly having no flag to aim at helped! (It has not been confirmed whether he will be buying drinks for all OLGs members who attend the AGM at The Renaissance in October!)