



Old Lorettonian Golfing Society

Welcome from the President



I'd like to start by thanking Peter Arthur, my predecessor, for all his work for and support for the society over a number of years both as a player and an administrator. They are definitely big shoes to fill and I'm afraid that I won't be able to match his standards on the course. The success of the society depends on the support and commitment of people like Peter.

The Society is a broad church covering all standards of golfers and a range of different events from our scratch team playing in prestigious national competitions to relatively high handicap players who simply enjoy the camaraderie of a round of friendly foursomes and a good lunch. We aim to cater for all these and I think it is important that all society members know what is taking place so I will start regular newsletters to keep everyone informed.

In recent years we have sometimes struggled to get support for matches and events though those who have attended and supported them unfailingly enjoy their day. I'd ask you all to consider participating in at least one event over the next twelve months as it would be a

shame to lose any through lack of support. We are lucky to have fixtures at so many high class golf courses both in Scotland and the south of England.

There has already been a lot of good golf played this year and I will attempt to summarise these events in this newsletter and give you a flavour of what is on offer. Meanwhile if any member wishes to host an event, of whatever type, please do get in touch.

Andrew Brown

OLGS President

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Halford Hewitt Success



The Halford Hewitt Team (plus a couple of 'hangers on')

I have already let you know about the tremendous performance of our team at Deal this year in reaching the semi-finals.

I'd like to add a few observations from the few days I spent down in Deal.

First, if you are ever watching golf on the Kent coast in April with the wind coming off the North Sea, make sure you wear plenty extra layers. I thought I knew about cold (5 years at



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school in Musselburgh!) but this was bitter. It also made the golf difficult as the wind was from an unusual direction.

Secondly the Hewitt is a tremendous event and brilliantly organised. 64 schools with teams of 10 play over four days.



Brodie Good driving off the 1st Tee

And finally it is exciting to report that we have proven that we have the capability of winning it. There were many moments I will remember; Brodie Good and Henry Featherstone leading off against Edinburgh Accies on Saturday afternoon and starting birdie, birdie. The expressions on the faces of the Academy pair when Henry rolled in the second birdie putt at the second were a picture (they went on to birdie four holes in the first seven); Adam and Joel birdieing the 20th to win the top match in the semi-final to keep the team's chances alive; but perhaps my favourite was John Dunn Butler and Ronan Higgins at the 8th in the semi. John had just holed a tricky four footer on 7 to stay 3 down. Ronan walked off the green and said to me 'We are not playing badly; they just haven't made a mistake'. To confirm this at the 8th (a long Par 3 into a fierce wind) the Ampleforth player hit the ball straight over the flag where it stopped just four feet from the hole. John

then stepped up and hit his shot, ending with a 'McIlroy twirl' suggesting he was pleased with it - straight at the pin about 12 feet short. I cheekily said to Ronan that he had done that deliberately to allow Ronan to get the birdie in first. Which he did - and Ampleforth missed. From staring 4 down they walked off just two down. And they went onto square the match on 18. Great spirit, great matchplay golf.

So Ampleforth went on to reach their third consecutive final where agonisingly they lost to Malvern with the final, deciding match being decided in the gathering and increasingly cold gloom on the 23rd hole.

Our congratulations to all our team and in particular to Torquil McIlroy in his last year as Captain. Torquil was in the last Loretto team to reach the semi-finals back in 1982, his first appearance, so to bow out as Captain with another semi-final appearance was a fitting tribute to his long service.

I look forward to next year and hope some of you may be able to come along and support the team.



The quarter final derby (it was a lot colder than it looks in this photo!)



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Other 2019 Events

There has also been success for the OLGS in other fixtures. The match against Glenalmond at Prestwick was played in glorious early April spring weather and ended in a narrow victory for Loretto by five games to four.

Meanwhile at The New Zealand Club a friendly triangular match was held against the Old Alleynians (Dulwich) and Sedbergh with Loretto emerging winners by 5:1.5:1.5 hanging onto a strong lunchtime lead.



Richard Steenberg, Robert Rigg, Andrew Brown and Robin Shuker with the 'Lorwich Trophy' after victory at the historic New Zealand Club.

In fact Saturday 27th April gave us a double over Sedbergh as we also triumphed on the same day in the Scottish match at Muirfield by an impressive 6.5-1.5.

We had less success in two other events. The Stenhouse Quaich was held at Elie in blustery conditions in March (actually on the Sunday 'blustery' didn't really do it justice as the gusts were 40mph+). We were unable to field our strongest team (put it this way, it is a scratch event and your President was playing) and despite some good individual performances we came 5th out of 6. Similar

problems with player availability meant we came up short in the Senior Wayfarers event held over the Easter weekend at Western Gailes. The highlight was Torquil McInroy and Paddy Ledingham decisively winning a match against a Merchiston pair including the Western Gailes Club Captain and thereby ensuring that the Wooden Spoon was avoided!

Indeed we have been short of players at most of the matches this season which is disappointing. We will endeavour to publicise all the events as widely as possible and again I ask you all to support them if you can.

Forthcoming Fixtures

A list of the upcoming events is provided below. I'd like to highlight a few.

On 19th May is the southern Summer Meeting at Worplesdon. This is a flexible format with foursomes in the morning, a good lunch (the only compulsory part of the day) and the option of more foursomes or singles in the afternoon. We have many OL connections at Worplesdon, both past and present, and to keep this day in the calendar we need to support it. Indeed any younger members who may be considering joining a club in the South-East may wish to come along and have a look - you will certainly get a friendly welcome. Please contact Robert Rigg.

On 2nd June is the annual match between the Society and the School. This is an important event and subsidised by the Society so a great opportunity for some younger members to play at Muirfield. The more OLs we can get the better.

Please contact Hugo Balfour-Melville.



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We are one player short for a couple of forthcoming matches: first, the match against the Public School Select team at West Sussex on 5th June. West Sussex is another lovely course and again it is foursomes in the morning and the afternoon format flexible and optional. Please contact Alexander Kilgour or Iain Brooks.

Secondly, we have a very enjoyable fixture against Uppingham at Reigate Heath on Monday 22nd July which starts with a lunch in the beautiful windmill clubhouse followed by St Andrews Foursomes in the afternoon.

The Anniesland Trophy on 25th June is a great tournament for Scottish schools held at Denham and Loretto has had much success there in the past. Unfortunately we have failed to raise a team in recent years (we used to field two). This year we have one team of four confirmed but it would be great if we could field a second. Please contact me if you are interested (all standards are welcome - it's a handicap event).

Finally, please put the date of 26th October in your diary for the open Meeting at The Renaissance - it would be good to get as many members of the Society together for this end of season event.

If any member is interested in playing in any of the fixtures (if we have full teams we often need reserves) please get in touch with The Secretary, Duncan Arthur, who will put you in touch with the relevant Match Manager.

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I hope you all enjoy your golfing summer.



Recognise this famous old links course?

11 May Merchistonians Muirfield John Miller
19 May Summer Meeting Worplesdon Robert Rigg
2 June Loretto Muirfield Hugo Balfour-Melville
5 June Public Schools Select West Sussex Alexander Kilgour and Iain Brooks
25 June Senior Scottish Wayfarers v Senior Golfers' Society Prestwick Torquil McInroy
25 June Anniesland Trophy Denham Andrew Brown
6 July Old Fettesians Prestwick Simon Brook
11-13 July G L Mellin Salver West Hill Andrew Brown
22 July Old Uppinhamians Reigate Heath Andrew Brown
21-23 Sept 62nd Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Trophy Royal Burgess Torquil McInroy
1 Oct Mackay Trophy Denham Andrew Brown
4-6 Oct Grafton Morrish Trophy Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk Torquil McInroy
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