



THE OO GOLFER

Old Oundelian Golfing Society News

OOGS Newsletter

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2023. It's been a busy year already and we hope you enjoy reading about the golfing exploits of our wonderful society.

Click here

for OOGS fixtures listed on the OO Sports web pages

OOGS Clothing

A reminder that OOGS clothing can be ordered direct [here](#)

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The Halford Hewitt 2023

HALFORD HEWITT		Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club		SECOND ROUND	
MATCH No. 6		Friday	31 March 2023	11:50	
HAILEYBURY		v	OUNDLÉ		
1	JHR Kellock	0	HCJ Fray	19th	1
	SC Horwood		TEP Tusa		
2	RRW Bonallack	6/5	1	AW Lang	0
	EL Songaila			PJ Foster	
3	SJW Havelock	3/2	1	AJ Lightowler	
	KM Bartlett-Hillier			RT Pentecost	0
4	SA Ruberti Torrado	0		WNA Kendall	2/1
	GPP Piattore			JPA Ireson	1
5	JS Rixson	0		JS Carr	1 up
	RP Ambrose			TWE Goodley	1
RESULT		2			3

Highlight of the 2023 tournament: beating Haileybury, one of last year's semi-finalists, in a tight match

Results in brief:

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Deal

1st Round: **Oundle 3 Forest 2**

2nd Round: **Oundle 3 Haileybury 2**

3rd Round: **Oundle 1½ Charterhouse 3½**





The Halford Hewitt Cup 2023

Captain Richard (Bomber) Harris (F '91) writes:

Halford Hewitt Trial, Prince's GC, February 18th & 19th

Perfect links conditions greeted 15 top OOGS golfers for the Halford Hewitt trial at Prince's – blue skies and a decent wind, which was a welcome change to the previous years of storm conditions. With the top three places over 36 holes of scratch stableford guaranteed a place in the Hewitt team, the standard of golf was excellent. Andy Lightowler (Lx '97) coming out on top with 66 points; Patrick Foster (St A '05) was second with 64 points; while Richard Pentecost (St A '05) came third on 60. Great fun was had by all and, as a destination, Prince's is getting better and better, with great golf courses and fantastic accommodation. Slightly worrying, however, was the news that Skipper Bomber Harris and team stalwart Will Kendall could not complete 36 holes as both were suffering with painful backs.

OOGS v Denham GC, Saturday, March 4th

A favourite OOGS fixture, the match against Denham Golf Club was as fun as ever and a great opportunity for a Hewitt warm up against stiff opposition: it is extremely difficult to improve on the ever-developing golf course, fantastic company and magnificent lunch. Two newish members of the society, Peter Langsdale (Lx '18) and Rupert Monroe (G '09) were made very welcome and quickly understood why we enjoy this so much. It was good to see Stuart Rowland and Charlie Underwood (Sc '93) playing again.

The morning golf went well with the score being 3-3 at lunch time. Unfortunately, Oundle lived up to the reputation of over-lunching - but it is hard to resist when the standard of food and wine is so good - meaning that we were easily outplayed in the afternoon and the final score was $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Captain Bomber Harris paid tribute to outgoing Skipper Steve Carr (S '84) for his fantastic work over the last 9 years and presented him with an engraved silver wine coaster, from all those who had played under him - it was clearly most appreciated!



Above, presentation to Steve Carr (right)

Above (right) Will Butler (Lx '08) driving off the 1st tee at Denham after lunch.



Halford Hewitt First Round v Forest, Royal Cinque Ports GC, Thursday March 30th

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Bomber Harris had selected a very strong looking squad of 13 for his first campaign as leader of Halford Hewitt team. Unfortunately, a new job for Stuart Rowland and a health worry for Mark Eddy meant that neither of them could make the trip, so in the end, eleven travelled to the Kent coast on the Tuesday with a bleak looking forecast set in for the week.

Practice on the Tuesday in heavy rain and strong winds was very tough but Wednesday’s practice conditions were drier, but still with extremely testing 40 mph winds. The standard of golf was very good and Skipper Harris was confident of a good tournament ahead.

An inspirational speech, in which he called for the team to play “Bomber Ball” (stolen from the England cricket team’s recent change in tactics), basically to play their natural game, seemed to go down well. Harris wasn’t so sure about this when the first round started and 3 of the 5 Oundle pairs lost their ball off the first tee against Forest! On a wet and windy afternoon, the opposition were capable golfers and much better than their poor record suggests.

Pair 1, Henry Fray (G ’08) and Tris Tusa (S ’16) played great golf and won their match 2 & 1. Captain Harris, who was struggling with his back again and Angus Lang (F ’09) could not find their usual standard of play against a good pairing and went down 3 & 2. Pair 3, Andy Lightowler and Richard Pentecost also went down to a redoubtable partnership 2 & 1, so our last two combinations needed to win. Fortunately, all played brilliantly: Will Kendall (S ’02) with Patrick Foster in 4; Steve Carr and Tom Goodley (G ’99), both running out 2 & 1 winners.



HALFORD HEWITT		Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club		FIRST ROUND	
MATCH No. 12		Thursday 30 March 2023		14:10	
OUNDLE		v		FOREST	
1	HCJ Fray TEP Tusa	2/1	1	M Nathan M Phillips	0
2	RJC Harris AW Lang	0		S Allen JMH Attfield	3/2 1
3	AJ Lightowler RT Pentecost	0		S Seman J Heasman	2/1 1
4	WNA Kendall PJ Foster	2/1	1	G Nash M Andes	0
5	JS Carr TWE Goodley	2/1	1	G Tidder TR Leyhane	0
RESULT		3		2	

Halford Hewitt Second Round v Haileybury, Royal Cinque Ports GC, Friday March 31st

Another wet and windy day didn’t start brilliantly: with trap 1 of Fray and Tusa three down with four to play; trap 2 of Lang and Foster losing 6 & 5 to a Bonallak; trap 3 of Pentecost and Lightowler losing 3 & 2, it looked tough for Oundle. However, a magnificent fight back from Fray and Tusa saw them win on the 19th. Kendall and the splendid golf of Jack Ireson (Lx ’15), the super-sub for Bomber’s bad back, won 2 & 1, while the ever-dependable Carr and Goodley held on to win at the last.

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This was a great win, showing that this team is gaining experience and confidence with each outing.

Halford Hewitt Third Round v Charterhouse, Royal Cinque Ports GC, Saturday, April 1st

So to the first Saturday appearance since 2017: Charterhouse at 7:45 am, a very tough match in more wet and windy conditions against the school which has won the tournament more than any other. Skipper Harris again tinkered with the pairings: trap 1 of Fray and Tusa were up against a formidable pairing and this time lost 6 & 5; trap 2 of Pentecost and Foster played brilliantly to take another very strong pairing to the 18th, but unfortunately lost there. Pair 3 of Lightowler and Lang were playing their best golf and were three up with four to play. However, some birdie play from the opposition pegged them back and took the match down the 19th. At this stage, pair 4 of Ireson and Kendall had just won their match one up, with more great golf, and Carr & Goodley were fighting back from three down with five to play to take their match up the last, where they would level the game and potentially go into extra holes. Unfortunately, at this point the news came back that Charterhouse had won the third game after all, so winning the tightest of matches.

This was the best performance we had put in at the Hewitt for several years and the fact that the average age of the team was 36, rather than 56, which it was only a few years ago (2014), bodes very well for the future. There is plenty of competition for places and there are several more youngsters coming over the horizon.

As ever, we were very grateful for the support from the regular gang, who were only slightly put off by the wind and rain!

(Likewise – those of us stuck at home appreciated the regular updates, videos and commentaries from the correspondents on the ground – Ed.)

3rd ROUND SATURDAY				
HALFORD HEWITT		Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club		THIRD ROUND
MATCH No. 3		Saturday	1 April 2023	07:45
CHARTERHOUSE		v	OUNDLE	
1	RIC Caldwell	6/5	1	H CJ Fray
	JP Wauters			TEP Tusa
2	MSP Benka	1 up	1	RT Pentecost
	AP Hollingsworth			PJ Foster
3	RJ Hill	19th	1	AJ Lightowler
	RG McKinnia			AW Lang
4	AJB Giddins		0	WNA Kendall
	HRG Light			JPA Ireson
5	ATH Stanley		½	JS Carr
	RJ Allen		½	TWE Goodley
RESULT			3½	1½





OOGS v Old Uppinghamians

Rye Golf Club,

Wednesday March 29th, 2023

This match is foursomes, off handicap, playing all 18 holes of the wonderful Rye Old Course, for the Copestick/Gotla Salver, initiated in 2007. Oundle were 6-5 up in the series (with 3 ties and 1 loss to Covid!)

Our line up was somewhat disrupted by Covid (again!) and other ailments. Official commitments prevented OO Club President, Guy Beresford (B '81), from coming down to play, but it was great to see Shane Dodd (Sn '74) out on the course again!

Peter Pentecost (St A '73) kindly took over Captain's duties, later delegating the lunch time presentation to Nick Owles (N '63), due to work demands.

The weather again wasn't too kind and it was Uppingham who managed the conditions and used their strokes more effectively and thus levelled up the series.

Nick Owles & Jeremy Monroe (G '73)
Peter Pentecost & Peter Edwards (Sc '73)
Al Gordon (C '69) & Roy Nicholson (St A '65)
Bob Ellis (D '65) & Robert Ringrose (St A '71)
James Aston (St A '92) & Shane Dodd



Nick Owles presenting the salver to
OU President, Alan Thomas.



OOGS Spring Meeting

Walton Heath GC

March 1st, 2023

Ed Dove (C '85)

1st March saw the 12th post millennium OOGS Southern Meeting, with an almost capacity turnout of 22 including several new faces. Golf was the usual format of foursomes and fourballs with lunch in between, albeit, with the challenge of clubhouse renovations around us.

The weather, food and company were excellent. The golf was challenging(!), although less so for the following:

Foursomes

Winners - Ed Barker (F '02) & Barney Ward (Ldr '08)

Runners up - Jason McCaldin (D '85) & James Hickson (F '90)

Singles Scratch

Winner - Henry Fray

Runner Up - Ed Dove

Singles Handicap

Winner - James Hickson

Runner Up - Roy Nicholson

Finally, it was with sadness and a smile that we were also able to raise a glass in memory of Tony Riley, one of the society's most decorated 'Southern' members, who had passed away a week or so earlier.

Postscript

We have now had over 40 OOGS members participate at Walton Heath over the past few years and I hope many get a chance to recognise a hole or two as they enjoy the coverage of the AIG Women's Open this August.

Next year's date: Thursday, 29th Feb 2024

Hopefully, see some old and new faces then.



OOGS @ The Birkdale Bucket

Woodhall Spa GC

Robert Blackburn (Sc '73)

An excellent three days of golf were enjoyed at Woodhall Spa Golf Club competing for the Birkdale Bucket. 55 golfers attended the event: the OOGS team comprised six members, organised by Robert Blackburn. Oundle finished a creditable fifth in the team event. Congratulations to new OOGS member, Steve Royle (G '77), who won the pairs competition (albeit with a non-OO!).



The OOGS players left to right are Robert Blackburn, Steve Royle, James Dracup (Sc '76), William Rice (Sn '79) and Nick Wilson (N '74). Michael Williams (N '69) not in picture.

OOGS v Old Bedfordians

Royal Worlington and Newmarket GC

Saturday March 18th, 2023

Sam Markillie (StA '66)

Roy Nicholson asked me to match manage the annual OO v Old Bedfordian fixture at Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club as he was on family duties in Singapore.

On a showery, overcast and breezy day we found ourselves one down before tee off with Richard Pentecost's car coming second in a contest with a deer close to home! As a result our 6th morning match had Brian Bowser successfully defeating the Bedford Foursome. We were also expecting the top two matches to be a Halford Hewitt practice outing, especially with Bertie Stocks representing us for the first time, but Bedford were only able to present one pairing, leading to a revised team sheet.

The morning foursomes resulted as follows:

1. Ed Dove & Bertie Stocks (F '17) 0 v Simon Blundell & Will Notley 1
2. Nick Owles & Henry Duncombe (B '96) 0 v Julian Ormerod & Tim Henderson 1
3. Duncan Smith (C '71) & Barry Peak (Sn '82) 1 v John Cartwright & Kevin Dunbar 0
4. Cavan Browne (C '66) & Alasdair Stuart (B '84) 0 v Chris Johnson & Andrew Rudkin 1
5. Sam Markillie & David Hutchinson (G '79) 1 v Jeremy Woodrow & Roger Dalzell 0
6. Brian Bowser (Sn '71) 1 v James Lawton & John Holroyd 0

Oundle 3

Bedford 3

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A very sociable lunch was taken with our opponents at which the OOs presented a suitable liquid gift to James Lawson the Bedford match manager who was retiring from the position after 25 years.

Due to the inclement weather and the fact that England were playing Ireland later in the day, it was agreed that a 9 hole match would take place.

1. Bertie Stocks & Henry Duncombe 1 v Simon Blundell & Tim Henderson 0
2. Ed Dove & Barry Peak 0 v Will Notley & Jeremy Woodrow 1
3. Duncan Smith & Nick Owles 0 v Julian Ormerod & Kevin Dunbar 1
4. David Hutchinson & Alasdair Stuart ½ v Chris Johnson & John Holroyd ½
5. Brian Bowser & Sam Markillie 0 v Andrew Rudkin & John Cartwright 1
6. Cavan Browne 1 v James Lawton 0

Oundle 3 ½

Bedford 1 ½

Overall a very hospitable and social day's golf enjoyed by both sides and next year's match under Roy's managership is eagerly awaited.



George Crawley (21), Churchill College

History

Oundle GC

Stymie 2021, 2022

Perhaps the most positive – a euphemism for talkative – member of the team, George has been a large part of CUGC since he came up in 2020. He has played for and captained the Stymies in his time here, and now adds a Golf Blue to three Rugby Fives half-Blues. A member of the committee at the Hawks' Club, George has GDBO blood cells running through his veins.

From the University Match Programme

OOGS Golf Blues

Very many congratulations to George Crawley (Lx '20), above, who gained his Golf Blue in March, playing against Oxford at Royal Dornoch GC. He won his singles match and becomes the 14th OOGS member to be awarded a Golf Blue since WW2.

Post War OOGS Golf Blues

(year first awarded)

1952	A.W. Riley C	1975	N.H.F. Copestick O
1952	A.D.M. Gorrie O	1976	P.R. Pentecost C
1961	R.D. Christian C	1976	J.R. Monroe O
1962	N.M. Stephens O	1979	A.J. Murley C
1962	D.E.F. Simons C	1988	I.M. Henderson O
1973	R.I. Willis C	2004	J.W.R. Rowe O
1974	C.J. Bartram C	2023	G.F. Crawley C

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Tony Riley (Ldr '47)

Members will be saddened to learn that Tony Riley passed away on Sunday 26th February at the age of 93.

A Cambridge Blue and Vice President of OOGS, Tony played in all the major Public School alumni scratch events for Oundle: nine matches in the Halford Hewitt, with a win-percentage better than 50%; in 1973 he was a member of the Grafton Morrish team that reached the final (losing to Pangbourne); in the 1980s he represented our Mellin (over 55s) team several times and in 2008, won the Bunny Millard (over 75s) with John Snow.

Nick Copestick recalls “In 1997, we were one short for the trial match at Denham and I called on Tony at the last minute. He thoroughly enjoyed the day and in the gathering gloom, sank the putt which won us the match – a rare event. Somebody remarked that this might be a good omen for the Hewitt.

A few weeks later, Tony was down at Deal faithfully supporting the team and witnessing our fabulous win.” (Pictured below, extreme left).

He was Secretary of Woking GC from 1979 to 1994; during his period of leadership he computerised the admin, put the finances on a surer footing and consolidated Woking as a home of amateur foursomes golf. He published the wonderful ‘Ramblings of a Woking Golfer’ and was made an Honorary Life Member.

A man of quality, with a twinkling sense of humour, he was one of life's characters and will be sadly missed.



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Official Opening of the Golf Simulator Studio for Oundle School

January 21st, 2023

The School arranged a fabulous spread of food and drink in the new Golf Suite for the official opening. Members of OOGS, staff, pupils and parents gathered in eager anticipation of the opening drive by Steve Carr, who had been so instrumental in getting the project off the ground and had liaised between the company and school - he even provided the photos which adorn the walls of the two simulators.

OOGS President, Nick Copestick, thanked OOGS donors and members, who, along with the OO Club, donated over £63,000 towards the equipment. He also paid tribute to the Bursar's Office who had helped develop the business plan, the Sports Centre staff and not least the Sports Department for wholly embracing the challenge. In return, Nick Beasant, Director of Sports, outlined the school's exciting plans for developing pupils' golf skills using this magnificent addition to sports facilities. He related the enthusiasm that has quickly spread throughout the pupils and teachers, along with visitors from the local community.



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(Above left) Steve Carr hitting the official opening drive, straight down the middle of the Old Course 1st fairway!
(Right) The onlookers showing their appreciation.

Upcoming Fixtures

- April 27th: match v The School, Oundle GC
- May 5th: Centenary Salver, Luffenham Heath GC
- May 12th: match v The Grocers' Company, New Zealand GC
- May 21st: Grafton Morrish Qualifying, Denham GC

Match List now available on OO Sport web pages

<https://www.oundleschool.org.uk/society/oo-club/oo-sport/>

Diary Date: Annual Weekend 2023

**September 29th and 30th
at Luffenham Heath GC
and The George Hotel, Stamford**