



THE OO GOLFER

Old Oundelian Golfing Society News

OOGS Newsletter

This is the final edition of the OOGS Newsletter for 2023: hope you enjoy reading it. It features a message from new President, Peter Pentecost, results from the Annual Weekend, two new match reports and a look into next year's fixtures.

OO Sport

OOGS is now featured on the OO Sport webpages; click [here](#) to see details.

OOGS Clothing

A reminder of the range of Glenmuir OOGS clothing which can be ordered direct: click [here](#)

OOGS ties are available on request from the Hon Sec.

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The President writes...

Hello OO golfers,

I am writing to you all as the incoming President of the Old Oundelian Golfing Society (OOGS). For those of you who have read the Old Oundelian, which you will have recently received through the post, you will note that the OOGS is alive, well and has been thriving under the stewardship of the previous President and Secretary; I refer, of course, to Nick Copestick (Ldr '69) and James Aston (St A '92) respectively.

We now have more OOGS members and, more importantly, more paying the right subscription thanks to the work of the previous President; we also have much more join up between the northern members and the southern members of the OOGS, thanks in no small part to James Aston participating in a number of events across the country.

We now also have at the School a wonderful Golf Simulator Studio, thanks to the work of the previous President and Steve Carr (S '84), the immediate past Captain of the Halford Hewitt side; between them they cajoled the school into finding a suitable room, sourced the state of the art equipment and extracted sufficient support from the OOGS membership, which, along with a sizeable financial injection from the OO Club, made it possible to afford a ~£100k facility that the pupils (and staff) now use frequently, as I am told by the new Master in Charge of golf – John Crawley.

We have 'found' a number of good golfers and, I hope they will forgive me saying, coming to the OOGS later in life; they have represented their Alma Mater in 'old school' events such as the Mellin Salver for over 55s and we have been able to cross pollinate talent in the North with other national 'old school' events such as the Midland Public Schools at Little Aston.

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None of this would have been possible without the sterling efforts of the previous President and Secretary.

- *James Aston* has stood down as Secretary after some 8 years of undertaking the duties and we honoured him with the presentation of a silver wine coaster at the annual meeting. Thank you, James, for all your work over the last 8 years.
- *Nick Copestick*, whilst wanting to step aside as President, wishes to continue to do his outstanding job with the membership and will take over as Secretary – a post he has held before, some time ago. I am delighted that he is taking on this role and will continue to be at the heart of the OGS.

For my part, I shall endeavour to attend as many events in the year as possible. I give all Match Managers fair warning that I shall be applying to attend any event that I am able to – other commitments allowing, on the condition that I would not want to displace a regular participant in any OGS event.

As stated above – we are in exceptionally good health; we had an excellent turn out for both the Friday and Saturday of the annual weekend, punctuated by an excellent suitably rowdy dinner at the George – which I am pleased to report sports an excellent wine list. Please bring your pals next Year.

I wish you all a good golfing Autumn and look forward to meeting many of you next year.

Peter Pentecost (St A '73)

The OGS Annual Weekend, September 29th & 30th 2023

Luffenham Heath GC

The third year of the 'new' format for the Annual Weekend saw 34 members taking part, including seven new members, plus four Oundle pupils along with newly appointed Master in charge of Golf, John Crawley (Hon OO). Starting on Friday afternoon with a round of foursomes, followed by dinner at The George, then the individual competitions on the Saturday morning – this new arrangement seems to have enabled a few more people to attend.



Left, Halford Hewitt Captain Richard (Bomber) Harris (F '91) receiving the Scratch Cup from President Peter Pentecost.

Many thanks to outgoing Hon Sec James, for organising the weekend, the golf and the meetings; to Steve Carr and Shane Dodd (Sn '74) for their help in setting up the event, and to President Peter Pentecost for scoring and presenting the prizes. NB The dates for 2024 are 13th & 14th September; so hopefully some school leavers & university students will be able to attend before their term starts.

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Results of the OOGS Annual Weekend 2023 Competitions:

Friday September 29th

The Grocers Foursomes:

- 1st: John Crawley & Barney Ward (Ldr '08) (34 points, on countback)
- 2nd: James Aston & Will Connellan (Lx '18) (34)

Hughes Salvagers (best scores on the Par 3s):

- 1st: Andrew Lightowler (Lx '97) & Megan Smedley (Hon 00) (12 points)
- 2nd: James Aston & Will Connellan (9 points)

Saturday September 30th

Scratch Cup:

- 1st: Richard Harris (78)
- 2nd: Henry Duncombe (B '96) (79)

Handicap Cup:

- 1st: Will Connellan (net 70)
- 2nd: Jason McCaldin (D '85) (net 72)

The Dove Stableford Trophy:

- 1st: Jason McCaldin (35 points on countback)
- 2nd: William Rice (Sn '79) (35 points)

The Old Boys Trophy (55+):

- 1st: William Rice (net 72)
- 2nd: Nick Owles (N '63) (net 77)

The Pounder Trophy (65+)

- 1st: Nick Owles (34 points)
- 2nd: Duncan Smith (C '71) (30 points)

The Boddington Trophy (Under 25's)

- 1st: Will Connellan (79)

The Copestick House Claret Jug:

- 1st: St. Anthony (65 points) Roy Nicholson (St A '65) + Peter Pentecost
- 2nd equal: Crosby and Sidney (65 on countback)



Trophy Presentations: top left, Jason McAldin (Dove Stableford); middle, Barney Ward (Grocers’); top right, William Rice (Old Boys) bottom left, Will Connellan (Boddington & Best Net); bottom right, Nick Owles (Pounder).



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OOGS v Old Salopians

Trentham GC, August 11th, 2023, report by Nick Copestick

I was delighted to be able to arrange this new fixture at my home club, where there are a good number of convivial and charming Old Salopians. We have started small, with six per side, thus keeping the costs low and our team are all conveniently Midland-ish based. A perhaps unusual format was decided upon for this first match: 9 holes greensomes, followed by an excellent lunch and fourball-better-ball in the afternoon.

During a rainy spell of weather we had a respite, with some sun and warmth, and the course was in fabulous condition. At lunch, Oundle led 2-1. Shrewsbury were obviously hoping that an inaugural speech from their new President, Will Painter would inspire them to victory; indeed, after the first two afternoon matches, there was still only one point in it.

However, in the final game, William Rice's wonderful second shot at the par five 18th, (the green is right outside the clubhouse), rested less than 20ft from the hole and he comfortably secured the overall win 4-2.

The trophy, a bone china plate made in Stoke on Trent to mark the 2023 Coronation, now rests in Oundle's hands and will hopefully be contested for again in the future: next year's repeat is scheduled for August 16th, format to be foursomes at the President's request!



Results Greensomes (Oundle names first):

Peter Pentecost & William Rice **3&2** v Simon Mellard & Simon Jenkins

Nick Copestick & Shane Dodd **2&1** v Julian Mitchell & Will Painter

Duncan Smith & Bob Ellis v Jonathan Mitchell & Peter Eaves **2&1**

Fourball:

Peter Pentecost & Nick Copestick **3&2** v Will Painter & Jonathan Mitchell

Duncan Smith & Shane Dodd v Simon Mellard & Peter Eaves **6&4**

Bob Ellis & William Rice **18th** v Julian Mitchell & Simon Jenkins

Pictured above: left – the participants; right – Jonathan Mitchell presents the plate to Nick Copestick.

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OOGS v Old Epsomians

On a day that brought what can only be described as oppressive heat, Oundle and Epsom golf societies came together at **Tandridge Golf Club on September 7th** for 36 holes of golf and a 3-course carvery. Despite the heat both societies appeared to enjoy the day with everyone at some point commenting on how wonderful the condition of the course and lunch were - Tandridge pudding with custard in 33°C heat may have been a mistake however!

The day kicked off with foursomes match play: unfortunately Epsom struggled to raise a side, so Oundle donated a pair, Barney Ward and James Aston, out of the goodness of our hearts - what were we thinking...they powered through to win their match for Epsom on the 18th hole!! Tom Goodley (G '99) and Henry Fray (G '08) went on to lose, 1 down to Adam Maurice, a proper golfer who had his driver on a 'frozen rope' all day. Richard Harris and Stuart Rowland were victorious, winning 2&1 against the mighty Hugh Maurice and Matt Chasey...it's worth noting that Hugh is a collector of golf memberships - Berkshire, West Hill, Walton Heath, Reigate Heath, St Enedoc, and in the words of his son, Adam, "he might be the only person in the world who makes each membership value for money" ...so this win was no small undertaking. Christian Thompson (Sc '08) and new OOGS member Harry Millington (S '08) managed to squeeze a half out of their game.

For those that have been adding up, this left the score 2-1 to Epsom - leaving Oundle to pick up the wine tab for lunch. Fortunately for us, our guardian angel, past Tandridge Captain Geoffrey Dove (C '52) stepped in and took care of this.

Now - onto the afternoon - the heat really had set in by this stage and we had a few who were understandably only keen for 9 holes, but the rest donned our bucket hats after an emergency purchase from the pro shop and soldiered on. The format for the afternoon was singles stableford on full handicap, playing for the Champagne Bucket that had been engraved with both the Oundle and Epsom crests for the occasion. The scoring was remarkably good with two players scoring better than their handicap, and the rest in reasonable step with theirs. Stuart Rowland came 3rd with 34 points on countback with one of our two OOGS debutants, Tom Lushington (Sc '94). In 2nd place was Barney Ward with 37 points...Barney is a serial winner of the Negretti cigarette box at the Southern meeting and had set his sights on this champagne bucket from the outset. However, the winner came in with 41 points, a Tandridge member who shot his personal best gross 67, myself, **Henry Fray**.

This was a great day and a fixture we hope to become a staple, in demand match for many years to come.



Pictured left: Bomber on Tandridge's iconic 14th tee. Right: Tom G and Henry enjoying the shade!



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OOGS at The Denham Bowl

September 2nd 2023

Pictured right: Richard Pentecost (St A '05) strikes an impressive pose on the 1st Tee at Denham. Completing the OOGS team at this splendid annual invitational event were Ed Dove (C '85), Will Butler (Lx '08) and Jack Ireson (Lx '15).



Hole In One!



Many congratulations to Steve Carr for holing in one at the 5th on his home course, Luffenham Heath GC (he's currently the club Captain too!) in a match against Little Aston GC. Mark (Nelson) Eddy (St. A '04) was one of his opponents on the day and holed his second shot for an eagle on the 10th!!

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Notice Of Increase To The Annual OOGS Subscription

Having held the annual sub at £30 for over 20 years, the Committee has agreed that it is now time that we should ask for an increase of £10 to cover the ever-rising costs of our golfing activities. At the recent meeting, there was also a resolution to change the payment method from Bank Standing Order to Direct Debit. There is no need for you to do anything at this time – however, you will receive an email in the coming weeks giving full instructions on how to effect this change.

Preview of Fixtures, 2024

January 10 th	Halford Hewitt Draw and Centenary Dinner
February 17 th -18 th	Halford Hewitt Trial, Prince's GC
February 29 th	OOGS Southern Meeting, Walton Heath GC
March 18 th	Match v Old Bedfordians, Royal Worlington GC
April 10 th	Match v Old Uppinghamians, Rye GC
April 11 th	Halford Hewitt First Round
May 3 rd	Centenary Salver, Luffenham Heath GC
May 10 th	Match v Grocers' Co, New Zealand GC
May 19 th	Grafton Morrish Qualifying, Denham GC
June 19 th	Public Schools Midland Meeting, Little Aston GC
June 26 th -28 th	Mellin Meeting, West Hill GC
Sept 4 th	Match v Old Marlburians, Woking GC
Sept 13 th & 14 th	OOGS Annual Weekend, Luffenham Heath GC and George Hotel
Sept 27 th -29 th	Grafton Morrish Finals
Sept 27 th -30 th	QECST, Royal Burgess GC

Other fixtures & events to be confirmed: full list will be distributed in January.