



THE OO GOLFER

Old Oundelian Golfing Society News

OOGS Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter of 2025. It's been a very busy year already and there's plenty more to come, including the Annual Weekend at Luffenham – details attached with this mailing.

OOGS Clothing

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

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The Halford Hewitt 2025

1st Round: Oundle 1 – 4 Bedford



Angus Lang (F '09) and Andy Lightowler (Lx '97) after their impressive win, sadly Oundle's only point against Bedford.

Full report inside...

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The Halford Hewitt Campaign 2025

Halford Hewitt Trial, February 8th & 9th, 2025 at Prince's GC

Twelve players competed over two days at Prince's, including newcomers to the HH elite environment: Simon Hicks (Lx '07), Oscar Ayton (G '19) and Will Elvin (Lx '10). Captain 'Bomber' Harris (F '91) had decided that the two best scorers would earn themselves a place in the squad to travel to the Hewitt in April. As it happened, after a bright Saturday weatherwise, Sunday was grim so only nine holes were played. The successful duo who qualified by right were Andrew Lightowler and George Crawley (Lx '20).

Match v Denham GC, March 1st, 2025

For over thirty years, the match at Denham has been a useful warm up for the Hewitt squad, as well as a most enjoyable event at a very congenial club, plus a chance for the skipper to test pairings. An added incentive is the tradition to play for the wine at lunch, not an inconsiderable sum! For a few years now, the club members have been too strong over their own course, so the overall halved match was a great result in terms of morale and cash!

DENHAM GOLF CLUB					
DENHAM v OLD OUNDELIANS G S					
AT: DENHAM			DATE: Saturday 1 March 2025		
Denham		WIN HALF LOST	OOGS		WIN HALF LOST
MORNING RESULTS					
Matt McGroary & Rabbo	0		Steve Carr & [redacted]	1	
Ian Hodgson & Ben Crane	1		Sam Stocks & James Aitton	0	
Max Sternberg & James Shaw	1		Pat Foster & [redacted]	0	
Landon Butterick & Phil Ellis	0		Richard Pentecost & Oscar Ayton	1	
Ken Macleod & Sean Brew	1/2		George Crawley & Bomber Harris	1/2	
Sandy Byrne & Andrew McFavish			Henry Fry & Peter Pentecost	1	
TOTAL		2 1/2	TOTAL		3 1/2
AFTERNOON RESULTS					
Mark Millington & Scott Stone	0		Pat Fisher & Anthony Tebbelast	1	
Andrew McFavish & Phil Ellis	1		Sam Stone & Steve Carr	0	
David Robinson & Ben Crane	0		Oliver Hughes & George Coulson	1	
Landon Butterick & Max Sternberg	1		Simon Hicks & James Aitton	0	
Sandy Byrne & James Shaw	1		Pat Tebbelast & Alexander Stewart	1/2	
TOTAL		3	TOTAL		3 1/2
RESULT: DRAW		BEAT:		BY: MATCHES TO:	

A strong Oundle squad, containing four players with plus handicaps and two others off or near scratch, travelled to the Kent coast with high expectations of achieving a good run this year, following two narrow losses in previous tournaments against formidable opponents. The first-round match against Bedford (finalists in 2024) was anticipated to be competitive, but winnable.

Tuesday's practice took place under glorious sunshine, although an unusual northerly wind added a unique challenge and the recent dry weather had minimized rough conditions on the course. That evening, the team gathered with supporters at Luigi's in Sandwich, enjoying the camaraderie and excellent food.

Wednesday brought colder temperatures, testing the blood flow of the non-playing Captain! Despite the chill, the team's anticipation was palpable as they sharpened their focus during another day of practice. With the weather remaining favourable and the northerly wind manageable, the course presented enough challenges to keep the players engaged.

Quality golf and lunch at Royal St George's followed, leading to the difficult decision of selecting the final 10 players for the first round from the squad of 12. Over a curry dinner at the headquarters, Jack Ireson (Lx '15) and Will Kendall (S '02) were announced as the two unfortunate players to miss out.

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Halford Hewitt 1st Round v Bedford, Royal Cinque Ports GC, Thursday April 10th, 2025

Thursday's match against Bedford began well, with Oundle slightly ahead for most of the game, although never able to decisively pull away. Ultimately, Bedford were more consistent, holing crucial putts and gradually taking control.

In match one, Tris Tusa (S '13) and Sam Stocks (Ldr '15) performed well and led for most of the game. However, they were pegged back towards the end and eventually defeated on the 20th hole after just missing the green. Richard Pentecost (St A '05) and Patrick Foster (St A '05), playing in match two, did not perform to their usual high standards and lost 2 & 1 in a match they would typically expect to win.

Andy Lightowler and Angus Lang delivered an outstanding performance in match three, winning comfortably 5 & 4. Lang showcased his long-hitting prowess while Lightowler remained steady throughout.



Steve driving at the 2nd

In match four, Steve Carr (S '84) and Tom Goodley (G '99) faced a strong pairing and, despite a significant comeback that put them 1 up after 17, they ultimately lost on the 19th hole.

Henry Fray (G '08) and George Crawley played steadily in match five and should have edged ahead on the 14th but a 2-hole swing there left them with much to do, eventually losing on 17.

HALFORD HEWITT		Royal Cinque Ports Golf		FIRST ROUND	
MATCH No. 11		Thursday 10 April 2025		13:35	
OUNDLE		v	BEDFORD		
1	TEP Tusa	0	CG Beesley	20th	1
	SGM Stocks		TJ Martin		
2	RT Pentecost	0	L Dinmore	2&1	1
	PJ Foster		IAA Pratt		
3	AJ Lightowler	5&4	TA Langley-Poole		0
	AW Lang	1	HSN Wetton		
4	JS Carr	0	GP Wilson	19th	1
	TWE Goodley		WH Notley		
5	HCJ Fray	0	HJ Wilson	2&1	1
	GF Crawley		SM Wren		
RESULT					

The 4-1 loss did not reflect how closely contested the matches were. The team's exceptional effort contributed to their continuous learning and development, reinforcing the belief that a breakthrough victory is imminent.



That evening, at the traditional dinner at Royal St George's, Peter Pentecost was presented with an Imperial bottle of his favourite Margaux, a gift organised by Shane Dodd (Sn '74) with contributions from many past and present players, to mark his 70th birthday and to thank him for his huge generosity over so many years at so many lunches and dinners. Along with Nick Copestick (Ldr '69), and Nick Owles (N '63) they were also honoured for their contributions to the OOGS Halford Hewitt team, commemorating 50 years since their debuts.

On Friday morning, a team of six headed to Princes' GC to compete against Trent in the Plate. Regrettably, another close match resulted in a loss, with Tusa and Stocks again narrowly defeated in extra holes after Foster and Lang secured a win while Crawley and Ireson experienced a loss.



L-R above with wine: Copestick, Pentecost, Dodd, Owles



Watching at the 1st green, 4 past winners and a caddy, Owles, Dodd, Domellof, Eddy, Pentecost

Again, we were very grateful for the support and refreshments from the regular gang: President Peter Pentecost, Hon Sec Nick Copestick, Nick Owles, Fred Domellof (F '76), Shane Dodd, Ed Dove (C '85), James Aston (St A '92) John Crawley (Oundle mic Golf) and newcomers to spectating, Mark Eddy (St A '84), Mark Dixon (Sn '85), Tony Murley (G '76) and Arthur Thomson (St A '17).

Report by Richard Harris, Captain

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OOGS Southern Meeting

Walton Heath GC

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

Report by Ed Dove

A lovely day was had at Walton Heath GC for the **OOGS Southern Meeting**, February 27th, 2025 - beautiful weather and not a drop of rain this time!! 15 members in total turned out, including two rookies, Will Massey (B '82) and Bruce Aitken (Sn '88).

George Johnson (C '04) & Henry Duncombe (B '96) won the Negretti Cigarette Box in the morning, 1up to par. In the afternoon, Ed Dove, the organiser, took the Scratch Salver with a creditable 78, while Mark Dixon won the Nicholson Handicap Cup with 37pts.

OOGS at the OO Multi Sports Weekend

Oundle School Golf Studio

Saturday March 1st, 2025

Report from Simon Fitton (Lx '97)

An early evening well spent in The Acre playing the match on the golf simulators. Hosted extremely well by John Crawley, who stayed throughout, and it was great to hear from him how well used the facility is and I agree with him that the growth from the younger years has begun, which will translate into lower handicap golfers over the next few years. The two players I played against certainly have got the potential to make the HH side in the coming years.

We played scratch foursomes (with Sunningdale rules) over the Old Course and we managed to adapt to the putting relatively quickly! The matches took around 90 minutes so it was the ideal format especially for the time of day.

Match Results::

Simon Fitton & Tim Carsberg (Lx '06) won 3&2 against Charles Todd and Freddie Shaw.

Richard Ellis (Sn '86) & Alastair Gordon-Stewart (F '90) lost 2&1 to Henry Farmer & Kit Denison-Smith

Match tied 1-1. OOs won on the 2nd playoff hole with a solid par on the 1st hole to take the win!

OOs L-R: Carsberg, Fitton,
Ellis, Gordon-Stewart



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OOGS v Old Uppinghamians

Rye Golf Club,

Wednesday April 9th, 2025

This match is foursomes, off handicap, played on the wonderful Rye Old Course, for the Copestick/Gotla Salver, initiated in 2007.

The weather this year was cold but dry with a northerly breeze obviously not favouring our side, which went down to Uppingham by a total of three holes overall. **Results:**

Peter Pentecost & Ed Dove 1 up

Jeremy Monroe (G '73) & John Crawley 7 up

William King (C '66) & Arthur Thomson 4 down

James Aston & Jason McCaldin (D '85) 3 down

Mark Dixon & Al Gordon (C '69) 1 down

Fred Domellof & Shane Dodd 3 down

OOGS v Oundle School

Oundle GC

Saturday April 26th, 2025

Report by Nick Cheatle (G '63)

At the **OOGS match v Oundle School on Saturday April 26th** the Oundle GC course was again in excellent condition, and everyone reported it was good to play. Once again, we played a variety of Sunningdale greensome with shots being given to the opponents who became two down. This took virtually all matches to the 18th but in most cases left the OOs in front.

Simon Fitton and Roy Nicholson (St A '65) led the charge with a 2&1 victory- Duncan Smith and Joss Cheatle (G '00) closed with a half and John Crawley with Shane Dodd finished 2 up. Al Gordon Stewart and Peter Liston (Hon OO) closed 2&1 and Megan Smedley (Hon OO) and Peter Fox- Andrews (N '64) cruised home with a large victory. The school won the last match with a magnificent birdie on the 18th against Roger Tacq (Lx '69) and Ollie Cruise (Lx '24).

The Final Result was $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in our favour.

OOGS v The Grocers' Company

New Zealand GC

May 9th, 2025

Report by Guy Beresford (B '81)

Another excellent day was had at the wonderful New Zealand Golf Club with our friends the Grocers on **May 9th, 2025**. The OOGS team travelled from far and wide to be there and were rewarded with a course in excellent condition, splendid weather and charming opponents.

However, sad (and slightly unexpected) to report a defeat for OOGS by $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$.

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Our first three pairs: Bill Quantrill (St A '83) & Chris Coleman (St A '82), Shane Dodd & Al Stuart (B '84), and Peter Edwards (Sc '73) & William Butler (Lx '08), were all defeated, leaving a comfortable consolation win for Peter Pentecost & Roy Nicholson, and a half for Jonny Andrews & James Aston, who had kindly abandoned the normal handicap system at the request of their wily opponents and ended up giving a lot more shots than would have been the case. It was good to see Will Carpmael, OO, playing for the Grocers and also Richard Knight, son of former Oundle Headmaster, Dick Knight, and brother of Oundle Rovers stalwart John.

After the usual memorable lunch, pairs were mixed up in the afternoon, playing stableford foursomes for the Knight Salvagers (donated by Peter Knight, OO and I believe no relation to the aforementioned Knight family). These were won by Shane Dodd & Charlie McAndrew with a very creditable 36 points, narrowly pipping Jonny Andrews & Bill Quantrill on 35.

This was the first time we had not won the trophy in at least five years, but our hosts were as gracious in victory as in previous years in defeat and we are all looking forward to returning on Friday 8th May 2026.

Grafton Morrish Qualifying Round

Denham GC

Sunday, May 18th, 2025

Our qualifying round for the **Grafton Morrish** took place on Sunday May 18th at Denham GC. A total of 80 points put us in 4th position out of 15 and secured a place in the Finals, where we have been drawn to play Christ's Hospital at 11:20 am on Friday October 3rd at Royal West Norfolk GC, Brancaster.

Oundle qualifying scores (scratch stableford):

Will Kendall (Captain) & George Crawley, 29

Richard Pentecost & Patrick Foster, 23

Henry Fray & Tom Goodley, 28

OOGS v Old Reptonians

Blackwell GC

Friday, May 23rd 2025

The match v **Old Reptonians at Blackwell GC on May 23rd 2025**, gained a happy reverse of last year's result. With the President otherwise occupied as a guest at the Old Uppinghamians' Centenary, Nick Copestick managed the team and with careful selection of pairings, the matches, officially off handicap, more or less turned out as level foursomes games. **Match results:**

am

Nick Copestick & Bob Ellis *halved*

James Aston & Duncan Smith *lost 2&1*

Patrick Foster & Shane Dodd *won at 9th*

Michael Outar (F '06) & Peter Fox-Andrews *won 3&2*

At lunch: Oundle 2 Repton 1 with 1 halved

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pm

Nick Copestick & Shane Dodd *lost 3&2*

James Aston & Bob Ellis *won 5&4*

Patrick Foster & Michael Outar *halved*

Duncan Smith & Peter Fox-Andrews *won at 18th*

Afternoon: Oundle 2 Repton 1 with 1 halved

Final Score: Oundle 5 Repton 3



View of Blackwell's 9th green from the mandatory stud bar.

OOGS at the Midland Public Schools' Meeting

Little Aston GC

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025

The match manager for OOGS at **the Midland Public Schools' Meeting at Little Aston GC on June 18th, 2025**, Shane Dodd, admitted afterwards that he probably should not have taken part as he had contracted Shingles the week before and was clearly not feeling well. However, his indomitable spirit and joyful enthusiasm carried him through the day.

In the main event, the MK Foster Schools' Cup, Oundle was tied in 3rd behind the winners Repton and 2nd placed Wrekin, with 98 points from our best three pairs. In 5th place out of 37 pairs with 37 pts were Nigel Hetherington (F '65)) with debutant Michael Outar. In 14th place on 32 points were Tim Carsberg paired with William Rice (Sn '79). Bob Ellis and Peter Pentecost came in with 29 points, while Captain Shane and Nick Copestick, understandably struggled with 20 points.

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As to the afternoon, clearly OO's are not as robust at lunchtime drinking as we used to be: scores for 15 holes: William & Nigel - 24 pts, Nick & Michael - 23 pts, Tim & Bob - 22 pts, Peter & Peter - 21 pts

It was great to have John Frazier (D '59) visit for lunch and wine!



Above, at Little Aston, L – R: Pentecost, Dodd, Copestick, Ellis, Hetherington, Outar, Carsberg, Rice.

OOGS at The Mellin tournament

West Hill GC

Wednesday June 25th – Friday 27th 2025

Report by Peter Pentecost

Old Oundelians are fortunate to have such strength in depth for the **Mellin Tournament at West Hill GC, June 25th – 27th 2025**, that when misfortune strikes, or the organiser forgets to invite someone, there are reserves that can be relied upon to support the Alma Mater. This year, serial winner Robert Barrell (St A '61), had a calf injury, Ed Dove had a school Inspection and William Rice was mistakenly omitted from the invitation list!

We were blessed to have Jeremy Monroe and Michael Beamish (Sc '75) back in the first pair of the Buries (Over 65s); Peter Edwards stepped into the Mellin team (Over 55s) in place of Ed Dove and Fred Domellof stepped into the Friday line up as we were always going to be one short for the Mellin if we progressed to the Friday.

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So to arms – Burles first and with Duncan Smith recovering from a bad back, Peter Pentecost played with Nick Copestick; this proved to be another mistake by the organiser as they were defeated heavily by Shrewsbury’s second pair and with Beamish and Monroe also being beaten on the 17th we were consigned to the Plate. Duncan was back for the Burles Plate and normal service was restored with the 2 Oundle pairs sweeping all before them with two big wins against Mill Hill and Cranleigh and then a more closely fought final against Cheltenham, Nick Copestick clinching victory with a 20 footer at the last (still got it) to lift the Plate trophy, Monroe and Beamish also having won at the top (so no sudden death this year) – a great recovery from a poor start!



Burles Plate winners above, L-R: Beamish, Monroe, Copestick, Smith

In the Bunny Millard (Over 75s), super-sub-Patrick Fossett (B ’65), stepped up to play with Nick Owles (N ’63) in Oundle 1 and we had a new recruit in Bob Ellis (dubbed the ‘oldest virgin’ at 78) to play with Nigel Hetherington in Oundle 2. The omens we not good after Oundle 1’s opening shot and when they amassed only 19 points, but this turned out to be good enough for second place in the Stableford (John Beer Salver) behind Shrewsbury and so we were through to the semi-final. Owles and Fossett got into their stride beating Forest and then went on to beat the old enemy Shrewsbury in the final, Owles holing from 10 feet up the hill to great cheers of delight!

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Owles (left) and Fossett before the final and below, with the Bunny Millard Trophy



In the Mellin, Steve Carr and Andrew McAuliffe (Sc '83) led off against Shrewsbury and had a very close game all the way to the eighteenth. Pair 2 (Barry Peak and Peter Edwards) recovered after a shaky start and eventually ran out winners on the 16th while Pair 3 (Mark Eddy and Peter Pentecost) battled through also to win on the 16th enabling Pair 1 to negotiate a half from one down.

In the afternoon 2nd Round all three pairs played well against Mill Hill and when Carr & McAuliffe and Peak & Edwards had both won easily Eddy & Pentecost had to record a half from dormy 5 up and about to win the 14th (c'est la vie – it happened to Copestick and Smith in the Burles too).

In the Semi Final against Haileybury (a repeat of last year's final), Fred Domellof stepped into trap 3 as Peter Pentecost had to be elsewhere that day. Carr & McAuliffe succumbed again to Haileybury's top pair in a dogged contest and when trap 2 lost on the 15th that should have been the end of the story, but it was then discovered that Haileybury had mistakenly played the wrong ball on the 14th. The rules are clear that the mistake has to be recognised before the next hole is started and the situation therefore remained unchanged by any penalty. It was a most unfortunate end to the encounter, but it is believed to have been an innocent mistake. Trap 3 therefore halved.

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We enjoyed the normal camaraderie of the Al fresco Chinese in a garden in Esher with copious refreshment supplied from various cellars and the traditional dinner with the Old Lorettonians in a local pub (though we would like to go back to Worplesdon next year if someone can make sure that there is no clash with the Cyril Gray). What makes it such a special week is the engagement from all the players from all points of the compass and the support we enjoy either walking around or caddying, namely Doody (Shane Dodd - on Codamol), Hethers (Nigel Hetherington), Little Aston (James), Mad Swede (Fred Domellof) and this year - the oldest virgin (Bob Ellis).

Mellin Tournament, Oundle Results:

Bunny Millard Semi Final v Forest

- Owles & Fosset Won 3&2

Bunny Millard Final v Shrewsbury

- Owles & Fosset Won 1 hole

Peter Burles 1st Round v Shrewsbury

- Beamish & Monroe Lost 2&1
- Copestick & Pentecost Lost 6&5

Peter Burles Plate v Mill Hill

- Beamish & Monroe Won 4&3
- Copestick & Smith Halved

Peter Burles Plate Semi Final v Cranleigh

- Beamish & Monroe Won 7&6
- Copestick & Smith Halved

Peter Burles Plate Final v Cheltenham

- Beamish & Monroe Halved
- Copestick & Smith 1 up

G.L. Mellin Salver 1st Round v Shrewsbury

- Carr & McAuliffe Halved
- Peak & Edwards Won 3&2
- Eddy & Pentecost Won 3&2

G.L. Mellin Salver 2nd Round v Mill Hill

- Carr & McAuliffe Won 7&6
- Peak & Edwards Won 4&3
- Eddy & Pentecost Halved

G.L. Mellin Salver Semi Final v Haileybury

- Carr & McAuliffe Lost 1 hole
- Peak & Edwards Lost 4&3
- Eddy & Domellof Halved

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Ed. writes: After nine years of brilliantly organising three senior age groups of OO golfers on and off the course, Peter is stepping down and handing over to Steve Carr who will take over next year.

Mellin pairs before the semi-final, below, left to right:
1) Carr & McAuliffe with the President, 2) Edwards & Peak, 3) Domellof & Eddy



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David Aston (St A, 1955) OOGS Vice-President

'A Golfer's Life'; eulogy delivered by President Peter Pentecost at David's funeral, May 2nd, 2025.

David was a quality golfer for many years. It was quite a robust swing – there was a lot of vigour and quite a few moving parts, but by and large they all returned to roughly the right place at impact and he was a doughty competitor. As a consequence of his difficulty in seeing where the ball had gone, he was possibly a better foursomes player, but his handicap reached 1 at his most proficient - and that's when 1 really meant it!



Member, Captain and President at Blackwell Golf Club and a member of the Wigorns golfing society for many many years, David continued to play regularly into his 80s and, having made time to teach his two sons, William and James the sport, he was latterly enjoying seeing his grandsons learning the game.

I have it on very good authority that David's best round at Blackwell was after a monumental night out and no sleep. As I understand it, he got in at 3:00 am from a dinner and Bridge party and as he had an 8:30 am start time at Blackwell, he decided not to go to sleep but instead had a leisurely soak in a bath; he went to the club arriving at 8:00 am for a sharpener, quick putt and off the 10th tee (2 tee start). His first shot disappeared over the railway line, but he went on to record a 1 under par 69, following the re-load - what a great last 17 holes.

He was a member of OOGS for over 60 years and a member of the only Oundle team to win the Grafton Morrish, in 1975. He played in the tournament from 1968-1986, a total of 30 matches and won 3 times in the winning 1975 team, with Noel Stephens, his most frequent partner.

Oundle 1975 Grafton Morrish winning team: back row – Brian Cartledge, David Aston, Noel Stephens; front – Martin Vincent, Robert Barrell, Roger Christian



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The story goes that on one foggy morning the OOGS were playing some 'lesser' school who rarely qualified, so they had never played the Royal West Norfolk before. David and oppo strode down the first fairway and arrived at their respective balls after two good drives from partners. Oppo to play first. Not only could David not see a thing – no-one could. After David had played his shot, they moved up the fairway. David couldn't help noticing that the opposition were veering to the right and ultimately towards the 17th green. As he got closer and close enough to see, he noticed a ball 8 feet from the flag. His comment was to the point – "great shot – wrong green"!

He later took on the organisation of the OOGS entry for the Grafton Morrish, helping Robert Barrell the skipper. I remember receiving the call from David – would I like to play in the GM qualifying at Woodhall Spa? I replied in the affirmative and duly turned up at Woodhall and was introduced to the rest of the team – 'this is Barrell, Cartledge, Vincent and Stephens' said David – all surnames, as was David's style. As a team we scored 102 points that day, so we managed to qualify and David then invited me to the GM weekend in Norfolk. I had no idea what to expect and on the first evening, having driven them all back from the pub in David's 3.5 litre SD1 Rover, I found myself quite a few quid down, playing poker; indeed quite a few quid down to David. After a sleepless night wondering how I was ever going to settle the debt, the following morning he simply said – 'no need to pay - lesson learned'. I have never played poker since. What a generous and clever gesture.

He followed that duty at the GM by being Halford Hewitt Hon Secretary for his good friend and Captain, Roger Christian. David played in just 11 matches in the Halford Hewitt, the premier Public Schools' event, winning five matches and halving two. In his debut in 1965 he kicked off with a 6&5 win over The Leys, with PH Moore. Work demands prevented him playing again until 1985, when, in the foulest of weather, he and Gordon MacDonald were the only winners against Wellington, with a 6&5 victory. In what turned out to be his final match in 1995, he was brought in as a sub in the 3rd round for Richard (Bomber) Harris (who had been called away to play some Rugby); David partnered Tony (Burly) Murley against messers Dimpfl & Rotheroe from Stowe; unfortunately, but unsurprisingly as the two Charlies were very good, they lost 4&3.

He maintained a keen interest in all things Hewitt, travelling to Kent to cheer the team on for many years and when health prevented travel would telephone for daily (or hourly!) updates. Being a technophobe, David was unable to benefit from WhatsApp, the methodology used universally in recent times to provide a running commentary, so one had to skulk around the shelters at Deal to provide a sneaky update by phone – there was always a friendly chuckle at the end of the phone, normally followed by some uncomplimentary remark admonishing x or y for three putting or some other misdemeanour!

In 1997, Nick Copestick's car-phone was put to good use, calling David on the way home after the winning match against Harrow. He wanted a blow-by-blow account of the semi final against Watsons and the final; this lasted all the way to Junction 15 of the M6. David later organised our huge celebratory dinner at Grocers' Hall.

The schools' Seniors competitions give golfers another chance to shine, and David enjoyed playing for OOGS in the Mellin tournament (over 55s) for 9 years from 1988 -2006 in 18 matches and was a member of the winning 1995 team. He also won the Burles (over 65s) in

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2013, playing for 9 years from 2002 – 2013 with a 64% success rate. He featured in the Bunny Millard for the over 75s up to 2019.

He continued to attend the Senior competitions for many years through a combination of train, James, as his South East chauffeur and, on quite a few occasions, I would be his chauffeur back to the West Midlands. He was always a great companion in the passenger seat – clearly he couldn't see a thing as he was calm, loquacious and always surprised that we reached the destination ahead of the e.t.a., having already called his onward driver to alert them to earlier timing. Little did he know!

David was a Committee member and match organiser for OOGS for many years and a generous benefactor donating money used to support younger players. As our senior Vice President in latter years, he was able to offer his wide golfing experience and he kept a critical eye on the financial accounts.

So – David was a kind, generous and encouraging member of the OOGS, but he was also considerate. He started the St Anthony house GS – hosted by the Aston family for several years at Blackwell. David never won the event, being pipped on one occasion on a count back by a young whippersnapper who scored a 2 on the par 4 17th – a drive and a putt; David was magnanimous in defeat declaring - 'Good news for the Hewitt team'. The inaugural StAGS event had been scheduled on May 18th; we received a letter shortly afterwards indicating that the date had moved due to a 'diary clash'. I learned several weeks later David had received a call from Mrs P – David revealed that Mrs P had requested 'any other weekend, but please not that one' – Rachel was sure that it would always conflict with our wedding anniversary arrangements and to David's credit this was the 'diary clash' – thank you David.

He was a larger-than-life character – never more so that at a golf event where he was clearly extremely comfortable. He lit up the room with that infectious chuckle and I am delighted that he attended the first OOGS match for many a year against the Old Reptonians GS at Blackwell last year. I also recall the occasion of the 125th celebrations at Blackwell – we were having champagne on the first tee before dinner – and there was David – talking to Peter Dawson the then CEO of the R&A. I may be wrong, but given the animated nature of the discussion I am pretty sure he was telling Peter how to run the R&A. No change there then.

Recently, I visited David in hospital after his stroke. He wanted to know how the match against Denham had gone, who had won the Southern meeting at Walton Heath, team selection for the Halford Hewitt and then, can you believe it, he wanted to know whether they were any good! This is always a difficult question to answer – again a typical trait of David and a sign that whilst the body was failing, the brain was still in gear, and he still had a sharpness of wit and challenge. That is a good phrase for David – full of challenge and I for one shall miss his challenge, as I am sure many of us will. God bless you, David and after an eventful round may you now rest in peace in the eternal 19th hole.



Nick Wilson (N '74)

Nick was born on Sunday 13th April, 1958 to parents Alan and Joan. That month Perry Como's 'Magic Moments' was riding high as no 1 in the UK hit parade, and work commenced on the construction of the M1 motorway. His parents were academics, with Alan at Huddersfield Technical College, and Joan teaching in Halifax. Nick had a younger brother, James.

Winner at the Birkdale Bucket in 2020



Nick was a bright child, initially attending St David's Preparatory School before moving on to Oundle. With his parents benefitting from long school holidays, summers were spent touring in their caravan, frequently going to France.

Nick was very sporty, joining Fixby Golf Club in 1969: golf was to become a lifelong passion, winning 5 honours board majors, 2 Livingston Bowls, a Holliday Shield with Jonny Heyes, a Mixed Foursomes partnered with Melody and a Williams Victory Prize.

His golfing abilities seemed to improve with the years, attaining a handicap of 5 and helping the OOGS capture the Mellin Salver at West Hill in 2023. He was also a regular attender of the Birkdale Bucket each March, recording the highest ever score of 43 points in 2020 and appearing in his Old Boy's blazer which he carried off in style.

He did however have many other sporting interests, including football where he joined Huddersfield Amateurs, tennis at the Grove on Heaton Road, and a little-known sortie into Rugby League with the Fartown juniors.

After leaving Oundle he completed his A levels at Huddersfield Tech, with his father helping out. Whilst he was initially interested in studying Sociology, his father persuaded him that Law was a better bet, not least because he was likely to earn more. Nick duly embarked on his successful business career, studying law at Sheffield University and then Guildford Law School. He then went to Owen & Briggs to do his articles but soon lost interest and joined Boss recruitment in Market Place.

Nick moved to London to seek his fortune, working for the Law Society initially. He then joined Amhurst, Brown, Colombotti in St James's, where he worked with Lord Lucan's daughter, Frances, and was so successful, that whilst not actually fully qualified as a solicitor, he was earning more than all his qualified colleagues. Suitably embarrassed, he knuckled down, passing his remaining exams and duly qualified in 1989.

Nick moved back up north to take up a role with the National Provincial Building Society in Bradford, followed by Travelers Insurance in Leeds, where he became a pioneer in the then unusual concept of working from home, something which Nick was to develop into an art form!

OOGS President Peter Pentecost (St A '73) peter.pentecost@btopenworld.com

OOGS Hon Sec Nick Copestick (Ldr '69) nick.copestick@mac.com



He married Judith McDermott in 1986 and whilst the marriage did not endure, they remained on good terms. His last major work position was with the leading Law Firm, Weightmans from 2013. He had carved out a niche role in auditing negligence and his services were much sought after.

Nick did a lot of checking out of hotels during his life. Whether it was discovery trips to Peru, Ecuador, India, Egypt, Cambodia, Thailand and South Africa or the plethora of golfing tours with his chums. With his easy manner he was never short of friends and admirers. Generous by nature, he could light up any social gathering and he was always in search of fine food and wine, usually spending more on the latter.

He eventually retired in 2019 leaving more time to really enjoy himself. He won the inaugural Huddersfield Examiner Golf knockout competition to go to Mallorca and continued to support the event for many years, making new friends, particularly from Meltham Golf Club.

When Nick became ill, he typically continued with life, never bleating or complaining of his predicament. One glorious August afternoon, whilst he was installed at Calderdale Hospital, connected to a plethora of monitors by a variety of wires and tubes, he decided enough was enough. He booked an Uber, carefully unhooked himself from his machinery, dressed himself and surreptitiously crept out of the ward in a scene reminiscent of 'Carry on Matron.' 20 minutes later, he was enjoying a restorative pint of Golden Best on the Terrace at Fixby Golf Club, to the standing ovation of the members present. He returned after an hour or so and none of the nurses were any the wiser.

Nick passed away peacefully on the morning of 5th December 2024 in the care of Overgate Hospice, leaving one daughter, Sadie and two grandchildren.



OOGS Ties



OOGS ties are available by post from the Hon Sec. From left to right above: Green Society tie £20 plus postage, Blue tie (for Halford Hewitt players) £20 plus postage. There are also matching Green and Blue bow-ties at £10 each plus postage. There are around 25 old style ties in stock with shields on green background, above right, which are selling at £10 plus postage. Please email your requirements to nick.copestick@mac.com

OOGS Annual Weekend 2025

September 12th and 13th at Luffenham Heath GC

and The George Hotel, Stamford

ONLY A FEW PLACES REMAINING *Please book through Hon Sec.*

Notice is hereby given that the AGM 2025 of OOGS will take place in the Luffenham Heath clubhouse on Saturday September 13th at 3:30 pm.

OOGS President Peter Pentecost (St A '73) peter.pentecost@bopenworld.com

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