



# THE OO GOLFER

## Old Oundelian Golfing Society News

### OOGS Newsletter

This is the Winter edition of the OOGS Newsletter: hope you enjoy reading it. It features results from the Annual Weekend and other fixtures from the latter part of 2025.

### OO Sport

OOGS is 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., £20 inc postage.

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### Scratch Cup Winner!



Pictured above, James Simpson-Dent receives the Scratch Cup from President, Peter Pentecost at the OOGS Annual Weekend, 2025

In his debut OOGS event, James Simpson-Dent (Sc '20) led the field with an impressive gross score of 75. Only three others recorded scores in the 70s.

*Results and Report, on Page 2.*

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## The OOGS Annual Weekend, September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Luffenham Heath GC and The George Hotel

#### Report by Nick Copestick (Ldr '69)

Altogether 43 members took part in the weekend including eight 'young' members. Three Oundle pupils were able to play in the Friday afternoon foursomes and 29 of us sat down to the usual excellent dinner in the London Room at The George Hotel.

We were lucky with the weather again for both days, with mainly sunny conditions, but the occasional squally shower on the Saturday didn't spoil any golf. The difficulty of Luffenham is reflected in the slope-rating, so most of us received a generous playing handicap: just four gross scores in the 70s shows how tough it now is.

Many congratulations to James Simpson-Dent, playing Luffenham for the first time, who carded a very impressive 75 to win the Scratch Cup, while another first-timer and young player, Rory Potter (St A '24), picked up the Dove Stableford Cup with 38 points (77 gross). Other youngsters to feature on the podium were Thomas Kemp (L '24), James Wass (F '24), Tanveer Sira (L '21) and Freddie Shaw, a pupil.

There are nine trophies to be competed for altogether over the weekend, some specifically for us older combatants – great to see Nigel Hetherington, Ian Barlow and Bob Ellis among the winners too – while Nick Whalley (not an oldster!) shot 77 gross which landed him the Handicap Cup.

Here, we should thank Alastair Gordon-Stewart for taking on the restoration of a couple of our cups, which needed repair. This year, a 'ball-sweep' was introduced, allowing good quality golf balls to be awarded to the first three places in each individual competition.

Once again, our thanks go to Steve Carr for liaising with the club and Shane Dodd for organising our accommodation and dinner at the hotel and to President Peter Pentecost for collating the scores and presenting the prizes.

### Results of the OOGS 2025 Annual Weekend Competitions:

#### Friday September 12<sup>th</sup>

The Grocers' Handicap Foursomes:

1. John Crawley & Nigel Hetherington (37 points)
2. Richard Matthews & Freddie Shaw\* (36 points, on back 9)
3. Steve Carr & James Wass (36 points)

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

1. Ian Barlow & Thomas Kemp (9 points, on back 9)
2. Alastair Gordon-Stewart & Tanveer Sira (9 points)

\*pupil at Oundle School



## Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>

### Scratch Cup:

1. James Simpson-Dent (75)
2. Rory Potter (77, on back 9)
3. Nick Whalley (77)

### Handicap Cup (gross score minus 'playing' handicap):

1. Nick Whalley (net 67)
2. Rory Potter (net 68)
3. Nick Copestick (net 69)

### Dove Stableford Trophy:

1. Rory Potter (38 points)
2. Nick Copestick (37 points)
3. Nigel Hetherington, Bob Ellis (35 points)

### The Shaw/Boddington Trophy - Old Boys Cup (Over 55's):

1. Nick Copestick (net 69)
2. Nigel Hetherington (net 71)
3. Barry Peak (net 72, on back 9)

### The J Pounder Trophy (Over 65's):

1. Bob Ellis (35 points, on back 9)
2. Nigel Hetherington (35 points)
3. Mike Williams (34 points)

### The Boddington Trophy (Under 25's)

1. Rory Potter (38 points)
2. Thomas Kemp (35 points, on back 9)
3. James Simpson-Dent (35 points)

### The Copestick House Claret Jug for the 3 best combined stableford scores:

1. Crosby: Duncan Smith (31), Cavan Browne (34) & Nick Whalley (39), total 104 points
2. St. Anthony: Rory Potter (38), Robert Barrell (30) & Peter Pentecost (30). total 98 points
3. Laxton: Michael Outar (27), Will Butler (34), Thomas Kemp (35), total 96 points



**Saturday Prize Presentations**  
*Top left: Rory Potter (St A '24); Top left: Nick Copestick;  
Bottom left: Bob Ellis (D '65); Bottom right: Duncan Smith (C '71).*

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**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Tee** *Top right* Ed Dove, Steve Carr, Peter Pentecost *Top left* Nick Whalley Will Butler Joss Cheatle *Middle left* Rory Potter, Michael Williams, Tom Kemp; *Middle right* Hamish Gordon-Stewart, Raj Sira, Tan Sira; *Bottom left* Howard Young, James Simpson-Dent, Finn Carr; *Bottom right* Michael Outar, Tim Carsberg, James Aston

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## OOGS v Old Salopians

*Trentham GC, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, report by Nick Copestick*

Lovely weather and course conditions again for this August fixture with Shrewsbury. I was pleased to involve Steve Carr and Fred Domellof in our team in the hope of regaining the trophy, but with 5 home members, the opposition proved too good for us again. Obviously we missed Doddy, who was holidaying!

Pictured below from left to right, back row: Simon Mellard, Julian Mitchell, Rob Bennett (all OS), Steve Carr (OO), Chris Bullock and Will Painter (OS); front row: Nick Copestick, William Rice, Fred Domellof (OOs), Jonathan Mitchell (OS), Peter Pentecost and Bob Ellis (OOs).

Below: OOGS President presented the 2023 Coronation Plate to the Old Salopian Captain.



**Results** (Oundle names first):

### **Greensomes**

Peter Pentecost & Steve Carr v Will Painter & Jonathan Mitchell **2&1**

Nick Copestick & Fred Domellof v Rob Bennett & Julian Mitchell **3&2**

William Rice & Bob Ellis v Simon Mellard & Chris Bullock **2 up**

### **Fourball:**

Steve Carr & Nick Copestick **1 up** v Will Painter & Chris Bullock

Peter Pentecost & William Rice v Jonathan Mitchell & Rob Bennett **2&1**

Bob Ellis & Fred Domellof v Julian Mitchell & Simon Mellard **3&2**

### **Oundle 1 – 5 Shrewsbury**

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## Grafton Morrish Finals, October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

### *Royal West Norfolk GC & Hunstanton GC, report by Will Kendall (Captain)*

The draw gave Oundle a 'bye' into Round 2, with a comfortable 11:22 am start at Royal West Norfolk and thankfully, we took advantage against Christ's Hospital.

Trap 1, Richard Pentecost and Patrick Foster, were strong out of the gate and secured a 4&3 win.

Trap 3, Will Kendall and George Crawley, battled against tough opposition but succumbed, losing on 16. This left Pair 2 in the deciding match, which was tight all along, eventually finishing all square at the 18<sup>th</sup>. Thus, sudden death...

The opposition hit a moderate drive leaving 170 yards to the green, while Henry Fray smacked a long straight one to be in prime position, just 130 yards out. Partner Tom Goodley hit a quality approach onto the green to secure a par which the opposition were unable to match, clinching the tie for Oundle.

On Day 2 we moved to a very windy Hunstanton with a 9:40 am tee off against St George's Weybridge. Peter Pentecost subbed in for Patrick, who had work duties and played a quality match with son Richard, but alas lost 2 & 1. Trap 2 had another tight match battling back from 1 down with 3 to play to finish all square again. However, there were no deciding holes this time as Trap 3 had fallen 5&4, giving the opposition the 2 points they needed for victory.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Round vs Christ's Hospital, Royal West Norfolk**

Richard Pentecost and Patrick Foster WON 4&3

Henry Fray & Tom Goodley WON 19<sup>th</sup>

Will Kendall & George Crawley LOST 3&2



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Round vs St George's Weybridge, Hunstanton**

Richard Pentecost and Peter Pentecost LOST 2&1

Henry Fray & Tom Goodley HALVED

Will Kendall & George Crawley LOST 5&4

Pictures from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round courtesy of Steve Carr: top – Will Kendall driving at the 1<sup>st</sup>; below – Trap 1 shaking hands on 15<sup>th</sup>, Patrick is second from the left, Richard 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left.



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## OOGS at The Denham Bowl

*Denham GC, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

A marvellous day was had at this annual festival of 36 holes, scratch foursomes golf with the usual excellent lunch & wine at Denham. This year, there were 26-teams from golf clubs and societies up and down the country - we truly value our invitation.

After promising morning rounds from both pairs, a final total of 328 shots meant we finished nearer the bottom of the leaderboard than the top: 299 being the winning score by the Leatherjackets.

Will Kendall & George Crawley: 80 & 83

Richard Pentecost (Captain) & Tom Goodley: 80 & 85.

## OOGS at The Dick Watson Trophy

*Aldeburgh GC, October 12<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>*

**Report from Mark Dixon**

A slightly changed team presented itself to Aldeburgh for this year's Dick Watson. Two home players James Hickson and Mark Dixon were joined by Jonathan Simpson Dent for his second DW and Ed Dove making his first appearance. Also new, was the course, which has had extensive works over the last 18 months, with 3 new holes opened for play less than a month before the Dick Watson. James Hickson's generous hospitality once again was much appreciated by the team, and once again perhaps enjoyed too much! The team's performance in the four Stableford rounds on Saturday put us in a three-way tie with Winchester and Sherborne to decide places at the bottom end of the table. Thankfully we avoided the wooden spoon. Great fun had by all.



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## New Year Message from The President, 2026

Dear All,

As another year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Old Oundelian Golfers a very Happy New Year - who knows what 2026 will bring?

In 2025 -

- In the 'majors'
  - We are building towards success in the Halford Hewitt, just need to win more 50/50s
  - We qualified again for the Grafton Morrish Finals but after a great win in round 1, the load of carrying the father (sub) proved too heavy for the Holy Ghost in very strong winds(!) in round 2
  - We won the Bunny Millard again and the Burles Plate and had a reasonable run in the Mellin (beating Shrewsbury on the way)
- There was a pretty full calendar of fixtures last year, with successful matches in the North, South and Midlands - I note that invitations are beginning to arrive for the forthcoming season. I hope that all those who represented the OOGS in 2025 enjoyed themselves.
- We had an excellent turnout for the OOGS Weekend at Luffenham in September and discovered some new talented youngsters alongside the normal spectrum of talented oldies!
- Unfortunately, we lost a few from the OOGS – amongst them David Aston and Noel Stephens, who were in the only Oundle team to win the Grafton Morrish (1975). They each won The Mellin and The Burles, whilst Noel was the last survivor of the winning Halford Hewitt side of 1962; both were great supporters of OOGS over many years.

I would like to encourage you all to look past the rather grey damp weather we are experiencing at the moment to the warmth of the spring and summer months and to participate wherever possible in OOGS events throughout the year – please contact the match managers for any fixture that takes your fancy and I am sure you will be considered for selection.

I have been lucky enough to attend two Centenary celebrations of other Old Boys' Golfing Societies recently and a small group of us are beginning to turn our attention to our own Centenary in 2030. I promise to let you know what the plans are in plenty of time and I hope we can have a very special event.

Very best to all OOGS members

Peter Pentecost  
OOGS President

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## Noel Stephens (St A 1959)

It's sad to report that Noel Stephens died at the beginning of November 2025, aged 84. He hadn't been in top form for a while.

He was the last surviving player from the Oundle 1962 Halford Hewitt winning team and was one of the very few to win the 'Triple': winning The Mellin (over 55s) twice, 1994 & 2007; and The Grafton Morrish in 1975, the only Oundle win. He was also a Burles (over 65s) winner in 2014.

Altogether he played 42 times in the Hewitt, making his debut as an Oxford Blue in 1960. He had a very respectable win average of 67.9% which puts him near the very top of the OOGS all-time players' stats.

The President recalls: "He was a diamond. I played with him in his last Hewitt match in 1982, against Brewer and Mann (Harrow). I recall on the 12th I hit a bit of a duck hook off the tee and he then nearly hit the hut (way left of the green). I commented 'Ah, 2 hooks in a row' to which he responded, 'Yes but you had a better lie than I did!' We beat them, but he was never selected again unfortunately!"

Noel served on several R&A Committees including the Rules of Golf Committee and the Championship Committee. He also featured in the OO Rovers cricket for many years, with an equally impressive batting average!

His funeral drew many friends and colleagues from all his sporting arenas, with a huge send off at his home club, Worplesdon.



*The winning Oundle team in the Halford Hewitt Tournament (left to right): Back row—R. C. W. Banks, F. McL. Hayward, R. D. Christian, N. W. Roberts, J. H. Nicolson, D. E. F. Simons, J. G. Phillips, T. Illingsworth; Front row—N. M. Stephens, K. R. Frazier (Captain), C. E. Sutcliffe (President), J. K. Tullis, J. G. Shaw (Secretary)*

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## Minutes of OOGS Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 13th September 2025, 3:45 pm

### Luffenham Heath Golf Club

The meeting opened at 3:55pm

1. **Apologies** for absence

- apologies were received from: Fred Domellof, Simon Fitton, John Crawley, Nick Owles, Richard Ellis, Richard Harris, Richard Law, Roy Nicolson, Geoffrey Dove, Henry Fray, Robert Blackburn, Stevie Moore.

The President recognised the passing of David Aston, Nick Wilson and John Lord and suggested raising a glass to these three who had passed away in the last year.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

- these were accepted and approved unanimously.

3. **The President's Report**

- President thanked Steve Carr and Shane Dodd for their help in liaising with the club and hotel respectively and the Hon Sec for organising the weekend.

- He reported that OOGS is in good shape and acknowledged the work behind the scenes in organising members on the roll, on the golf course and in financial matters.

- On the golf course, the Hewitt team made an early exit to Bedford, but it is felt that it can compete with the best; it is a work in progress, with a good bunch of youngsters – there will be interesting times ahead. The Grafton Morrish team qualified for the finals. In the Mellin tournament, OOGS put up a good showing by all 3 teams, with the Mellin team beating Shrewsbury and reaching the semis, Burles team won the Plate after losing to Shrewsbury in the 1<sup>st</sup> round proper, Nick Owles and Patrick Fossett won the Bunny Millard. Steve Carr is taking over the running of OOGS at the Mellin from 2026. We put out a team for the Birkdale Bucket but could take more entries. In the Denham Bowl we were mid table at best. The Southern Meeting at Walton Heath was an excellent day, also at New Zealand against the Grocers, although we lost. Matches were held against the School at Oundle, Repton at Blackwell and against Shrewsbury at Trentham. We could only raise one pair in the Loretto Foursomes. In the North, two successful matches were held at Moortown but the match at Alwoodley did not go ahead; the game at Woking against Marlborough was not played; the Centenary Salver at Luffenham was cancelled by the club, due to lack of interest. We could not raise a team for the QE again.

The President raised the subject of the **OOGS Centenary in 2030** and proposed a sub-committee to meet and propose a format: Shane Dodd, Steve Carr, President, Hon Sec, Patrick Foster. Current thinking is that it will take place at the time of the annual weekend and that we will raise money to pay for extra costs.

4. **Secretary's Report** – Membership and Finance;

- there are 222 members on the OOGS database, with 123 paying the £40 subscription by direct debit via the GoCardless system.
- of the whole membership there are 29 Young Members (Under 24), four Honorary Members, while 11 members live abroad.
- 12 have joined the society in 2025, including 8 school leavers

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- income from subscriptions is approximately £6500, expenditure on entries to tournaments is around £3500, other expenditure goes towards subsidies to members who play in events, £350
- ancillary expenses, including trophy repair, £830
- we support the golf of young players to the tune of around £3000, with the help of a grant from the OO Club. Happily, the number of young members taking part in the annual weekend and other fixtures has grown recently.
- this year, a surplus will be made of around £1800, helping to make up for losses in 2022 and 2023.
- Hon Sec proposed that the Annual Subscription remains at £40 for 2026

## 5. OOGS Officers and Committee

- Proposals for the Officers, Captains and Match Secretaries, as follows:

**President:** P.R. Pentecost

### **Vice Presidents:**

R.C.W. Banks, K.F. Domellof, R.P. Ellis  
C.M.P. Bush, Dr. R.D. Townsend

**Hon. Secretary:** N.H.F. Copestick

### **Area Secretaries & Captains:**

**Halford Hewitt Captain:** R.J.C Harris

**Grafton Morrish Captain:** W.N.A. Kendall

**G.L. Mellin Tournament Captain:** J.S. Carr

**Q.E.C.S.T. Captain:** W.T.G. Butler

**Royal Wimbledon Putting:** J.D.S. Aston

**West Midlands Area:** N.S. Dodd

**Northern Area:** R.A. Blackburn

**Southern Area:** G. Beresford, J.D.S. Aston

**Southern Meeting:** E.A.W. Dove

**East Midlands Area:** N.H. Whalley

**Matches against Oundle School:** J.N. Cheatle

**Master in Charge of Golf at Oundle School:** J.P. Crawley

### **Elected Committee Members:**

N.A. Owles	S.J.I. Fitton	(Retire 2025)
J.S. Carr	S.D. Moore	(Retire 2026)
J.M.G. Eddy	H.J.C Fray	(Retire 2027)
B.T Peak	P.J. Foster	(Retire 2028)

Elected members Nick Owles & Simon Fitton retire by rotation: President thanked them for their work on the Committee.

Michael Outar and George Crawley were proposed to take their place – agreed unanimously.

## 6. AOB

- None

## 7. 2025 Results & Prize Giving

- See 2025 Results Sheet

The meeting concluded at 4:35 pm

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