

# OE Golf Society

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*Captain's report by Chris Walker and Jo Grey*

**M**ore than 80 people are currently members of the Old Eastbournian Golf Society (OEGS) but we would most definitely welcome even more. Membership is open to all members of the Eastbournian Society: OEs, parents of former and current College pupils, and members of staff of the College.

Some of our fixtures are open only to actual OEs, namely the Halford Hewitt, Grafton Morrish, Cyril Gray (for the over 50s), Sussex Schools and the Public Schools Putting Competition. However we also organise a whole host of friendly matches against other schools, a Spring Meeting and an Autumn Meeting, all of which are open to any member of the OEGS. And these are open to golfers of all abilities.

Membership of the OEGS costs only £20 (or £5 if you are under 25 years old). You then pay only for the fixtures that you attend. And again, for anyone under 25, we almost always generously subsidise their golf from OEGS funds. Our contacts are either captain Jo Grey (mail@jggrey.com) or our secretary, David Burt (oegs.secretary@gmail.com). Jo Grey is also acting as the OEGS treasurer. We have set up a website, [www.oldeastbourniangolf.org.uk](http://www.oldeastbourniangolf.org.uk), and a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/groups/762739557127533/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/762739557127533/).



**The 2017 Halford Hewitt team, left to right: Richard Day, Paul Wickman, Ben Dawson, Angus Stewart, Adrian Sharpin, Ben Burrows, Grant Leonard, Geoff Campbell, Mark Stewart**

We play on many magnificent golf courses, at times paying well below the usual green fee rate. New for 2017 were: the Summer Meeting at Calcot Park, Reading, and a trip to Cornwall as part of the College's 150th anniversary celebrations. In 2018, new is a match against Brighton College at Chart Hills GC on Friday 15 June.

## Matches against other schools

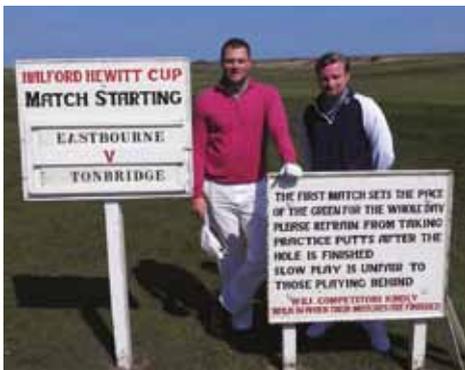
We played matches against Hurstpierpoint (at Walton Heath), Charterhouse Common Room (at West Surrey), King's Canterbury (at Rye), Tonbridge (at Royal Ashdown), Lancing (at West Hill), Uppingham (at North Hants) and Allhallows and Dover College (at West Surrey). Some of the results have been lost in the mists

of time but we definitely beat the Charterhouse Common Room, Tonbridge, Lancing and Uppingham.

## Halford Hewitt Tournament 2017

A team of nine OEs took on the might of Cranleigh over two rounds of 18 holes (playing foursomes except for one single) on 12 March at Royal St George's GC in preparation for the 2017 Halford Hewitt. And we did not disgrace ourselves, losing both the morning and afternoon sessions but in each case only by three matches to two. In previous years we have practised alone at Royal St George's but this new format was felt to be successful and will be repeated on 11 March 2018.

While not being able to repeat our 2016



Halford Hewitt, before the second round match: Adrian Sharpin and Geoff Campbell

victories in two rounds of the Halford Hewitt, our 2017 campaign was judged to be a success. We played a lot of golf and the weather was brilliant all week. There was practice at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club at Deal on the Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. We then played (and won) a friendly match against Framlingham at Prince's. In the first round of the Hewitt itself we beat Clifton (winners in 2010) by three matches to two, winning one match on the second extra hole and two others on the 18th. We then lost to Tonbridge (the holders) by four matches to one which came as no surprise. But at least we took one point off them.

The team comprised: Mark Stewart (School 1980-84), Ben Dawson (Powell 1986-89), Grant Leonard (School 1986-91), Richard Day (Gonville 1983-87), Paul Wickman (School 1969-73), Ben Burrows (Gonville 1975-79), Adrian Sharpin (Craig 1987-92), Geoff Campbell (Reeves 1998-2003), Angus Stewart (Craig 2003-08) and Chris Walker (School 1968-73). And we were extremely grateful for support from Brian Meaby (Powell 1949-53), Nigel Wheeler and David Stewart and also to Chris's wife Sally for cooking for the team.

The next Halford Hewitt takes place between 5 and 8 April 2018. Contact Chris Walker (01234 771536 or [chris@seiswise.com](mailto:chris@seiswise.com)) if you would like to be considered for the team.

## AGM plus golf

### Piltdown GC

The OEGS Annual General Meeting fixture was held on 23 April at the welcoming Piltdown GC for the second year in succession. There were nine players in all on a sunny afternoon with a cool breeze. The course was still undergoing some substantial improvements with one temporary green but noticeable progress had been made in the last year. The Merritt Cup was played for off scratch and was won by



The AGM at Piltdown GC, left to right: Chris Walker, Jo Grey, Anthony Ross, David Burt, Colin Farrant, Andrew Langlands, Mike Sands, John Maclean, Jay Lorton

Andrew Langlands (Wargrave 1979-84) with a modest 12 over par. College 150th Anniversary golf balls were given as prizes for the handicap Stableford competition. These were won by Andrew Langlands (3rd), David Stewart (2nd) and Jo Grey (1st, on count-back). Anthony Ross (Wargrave 1993-98) very kindly donated prizes for longest drive and nearest the pin which were won by Andrew Langlands and John Maclean (Powell 1958-62) respectively. Thank you to everyone who supported the AGM and golf and we hope to see more people at the next one at Royal Ashdown Forest GC on Sunday 6 May 2018.

## OEGS Spring Meeting

### Royal West Norfolk (Brancaster) GC

A few of the OE party played golf at Sheringham on the Friday but the main gathering was at Brancaster on Saturday 6 May. This consisted of friendly foursome matches in the morning and a few singles in the afternoon in preparation for the much more serious competition for the Robinson Salver on the Sunday. This involves a Stableford competition for foursome pairs and the victors turned out to be Brian Jay (Gonville 1955-59) and Chris Walker with 31 points, a single point ahead



The Spring Meeting at Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, left to right: Chris Walker, David Burt, Brian Jay

of Andrew Sherwood (Wargrave 1967-71) and Trevor Hardy (Gonville 1965-71). What was noteworthy was the fact that Chris played with hickory-shafted clubs, presumably just to experience an even greater challenge than Brancaster usually presents.

Our 2018 Spring Meeting will be held again at Royal West Norfolk on the weekend of 28 and 29 April. If you would like to play then contact Colin Farrant on 07887 771294 or [colinpgfarrant@live.co.uk](mailto:colinpgfarrant@live.co.uk).

### Grafton Morrish Tournament 2017

We did manage to qualify at Knole Park GC on 13 May for the 2017 Grafton Morrish Finals. Playing alongside our old foes Hurstpierpoint, Mark Justice (Wargrave 1990-95) and Chris Hampton (Gonville 2000-05) led the charge with Mark hitting a great tee shot at the opening par 3 for an easy par to settle the nerves. Mark and Chris eventually returned 29 points. The second pair of Adrian Sharpin and Ben Dawson scored 25 points and Jay Lorton (Powell 1978-83) and Tim Mote (School 1983-88) contributed a respectable score of 20. Our total of 74 sealed the final automatic qualifying spot ahead of Hurstpierpoint! A great effort by the whole team.

The six players representing Eastbourne in the 2017 Grafton Morrish finals at Hunstanton

between 28 and 30 September were: Chris Walker, Mark Justice, Ben Burrows, Grant Leonard, Andrew Sherwood and Mark Simpson (Wargrave 1978-82). We all played an afternoon practice round at Hunstanton Golf Club on Thursday 28 September before taking on the night of Epsom in the first round of the main competition. The two Marks led off and had a very close game but lost on the 17th green. Ben and Andrew followed but lost much further out, on the 13th green. Grant and Chris put up a really good fight against a very experienced Epsom pair, won the 17th hole to get back to all square and there accepted a half from Epsom since the overall match was over and Epsom had to play again that afternoon. Epsom were one of the strongest teams in the competition and indeed did go on to win in the final on the Sunday afternoon (thereby completing a Halford Hewitt/Grafton Morrish double in 2017).

On the Friday afternoon Chris, Mark Justice, Ben and Grant went across to Brancaster for another practice round in preparation for the Plate Competition there on the Saturday morning. This is in the form of a scratch foursomes Stableford competition with the total number of points counting. We came in with 78 (25, 26 and 27) which was no disgrace but not sufficiently high to get us into the top four and thereby eligible for the Committee Cup (knockout) back at Hunstanton on the Sunday. All of the OEs had an excellent time and we thank the OEGS for their financial support and George Eve (Pennell 1950-55) for arranging our accommodation and cooking us breakfast on both days.

Team captain Chris Hampton (07866 847367, [champton@and.digital](mailto:champton@and.digital)) would love to hear from single-figure OE golfers ready for our next attempt at qualifying on 12 May 2018 at Knole Park.

## OEs v the College

### Royal Eastbourne GC

18 May 2017 - Due to ghastly wet weather the match was abandoned after nine holes but it was noted that the College fielded some very capable junior players. We shall next be playing the College on Thursday 17 May 2018 (contact Brian Jay, 07774 690777, email: [brianmjay2@gmail.com](mailto:brianmjay2@gmail.com)).

## Cyril Gray Tournament

### Worplesdon GC

The 2017 Cyril Gray Tournament at Worplesdon GC on 22 and 23 June proved to be quite challenging but we still want to thank those OEs who did turn out for the team. It was particularly good to have Philip Hanbury (Blackwater 1977-82) who was completely new to OE golf. In the first round of the tournament proper we lost by three matches to nil against Blundells who went on to reach the semi-finals. The only notable performance came from Jo Grey and Ben Burrows who from seven down with seven to play ended up only losing by 2 & 1. In the first round of the Plate we went down by a similar score to Merchiston. Brian Jay had by then come in for Philip Hanbury. Our other team members were Stephen Yorke (Blackwater 1977-81), Anthony Eden (Gonville 1949-53) and Chris Walker.

The next Cyril Gray is on 21 to 23 June 2018.

If you are over 50 and a single-figure golfer, then please do get in touch with Chris Walker on 01234 771536, email [chris@seiswise.com](mailto:chris@seiswise.com).

**OEGS Summer Meeting  
Calcot Park GC**

4 June 2017 – This was a post-lunch Stableford competition made up of two groups of three - Jo Grey, Colin Farrant (Gonville 1969–74) and Richard Day, followed by David Dunn (Powell 1968-73), John Maclean and Will Thornton. Pleasant but slightly blustery weather combined with very undulating greens, provided a stern test, which was reflected in the winning score of 28 points by Jo Grey (off 16 handicap). Prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive were won by David Dunn and Richard Day. This was an excellent parkland course (designed by Harry Colt) in superb condition, offering great golf for all handicaps and just an hour's drive west of London.

**Match v Tonbridge  
Royal Ashdown Forest GC**

16 July 2017 – After some last minute rallying, both Eastbourne and Tonbridge assembled midday at Royal Ashdown Forest GC for our 12-a-side annual fixture. We all enjoyed a very good lunch and started at 2.00pm, this year playing four ball better ball match play for 1 point and 1/4 on the bye. The course appeared empty but for us and was in excellent condition. The weather was mostly overcast, warm and very humid, which left most of us feeling very dehydrated by the end but this was put right in the bar afterwards. We had a cracking team and, in Ben Burrows' inaugural year as match manager, we recorded a splendid victory: Eastbourne 4 1/4 points to Tonbridge 2 1/2 points. A victory in Eastbourne/Tonbridge sports fixtures is a very rare occurrence.

**Match v Lancing  
West Hill GC**

24 July 2017 - OE dominance in this annual match against Lancing at West Hill continued with a fine 4-1 victory. A decent lunch on arrival was made even better with news that the West Hill staff had found the missing Lanbourne trophy in the club's vaults (after a four-year absence). Playing a greensome format, David Burt and Will Thornton lost by 2&1 but Grant Leonard and Richard Day, playing some good golf (seven over gross on the day), won by two holes up. Tony Dunn and Anthony Eden obliterated a shell-shocked

Lancing pair 7&6 and Jo Grey and David Wells (Powell 1966–70) came in winners by 4&3. The Lancing captain, nursing a well-needed drink stated 'That was some of the best ball striking I have ever seen a 16-handicapper (David Wells) play.' Playing as our reliable solitary anchor, Ben Burrows won by 2&1. A great effort by all of the OE players.

**OEGS Autumn Meeting  
Cooden Beach GC**

9 September 2017 – The meeting consisted of an 18-hole Stableford competition for the Cawston Cup played from the yellow tees with full handicap allowance. The weather was fine

setting for the 14th Sussex Schools match between Lancing, Hurstpierpoint, Brighton and Eastbourne. The event consists of two rounds of scratch foursomes and the course was again presented in excellent condition with lovely, true running greens. Unfortunately the only points in the morning came from Chris Walker and Tim Mote who managed a very convincing win over the Hurstpierpoint second pairing. At lunch, Hurstpierpoint and Brighton were joint leaders with all to play for in the afternoon. However, for the second year running, Lancing had a near perfect afternoon, not losing any of their matches, and they managed to catch Brighton with the same number of points.



The match against Hurstpierpoint at Walton Heath, with left to right (Old Hurst Johnnies marked with [H]): Richard Day, Mark Justice, [H], Mark Winstanley, [H], Paul Wickman, Jeremy Miller, Grant Leonard, [H], [H], [H]

but the course was playing long after recent heavy rains. The competition was won with 37 points by Tony Dunn who scored on every hole. Cooden Beach members Jay Lorton and Andrew Langlands tied for second place on 35 points. Breakfast prior to the golf was plentiful and most of the players stayed on for one or more drinks after their rounds. The single-round format found favour with the majority of the participants.

The 2018 Autumn Meeting will be held at Cooden Beach GC on 15 September. For further details contact Andrew Langlands, email: [andrew.langlands@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:andrew.langlands@thomsonreuters.com), or 07990 568446.

**2017 Sussex Schools Challenge  
West Sussex GC**

24 September 2017 – Another beautiful September day at West Sussex GC was the

The Eastbourne first pair of Mark Stewart and Adrian Sharpin managed a half but this was our only success in the afternoon and we ended up in fourth place. The winning team was decided by a 'putt off' which was eventually won by Lancing who thus claimed top spot for the second year running. The OE team consisted of: Adrian Sharpin, Mark Stewart, Chris Walker, Tim Mote, Paul Wickman and Ben Burrows.

**College 150th anniversary OEGS trip to Cornwall**

As part of the OEGS's way of recognising the College's 150th anniversary, 19 golfers and five wives descended on Cornwall between Sunday 17 and Thursday 21 September on a first-ever 'mini-tour', led by captain Jo Grey. Rented accommodation was pre-arranged, with many people staying in a converted farmhouse cluster in Trebetherwick where David Stewart kindly hosted an opening Eastbourne Society drinks party on the Sunday before a rowdy dinner at The Mariners in Rock. Monday afternoon saw the first round of golf at a sunny St Enodoc GC followed by dinner in Padstow at Rojano's. Tuesday saw another sunny afternoon's golf, this time at Trevoze GC plus dinner at The Waterfront in Polzeath. Wednesday's golf was back at St Enodoc in testing wet and windy conditions and then, for the many who stayed on, a delightful dinner at the St Tudy Inn near Bodmin. There was some impressive golf played with Stephen Yorke and David Stewart setting the pace and each winning a clutch of prizes. Everybody who attended and made the outing such a success are to be warmly applauded. Thoughts are being given to possible future trips.



The trip to Cornwall, left to right, front: Patrick Crowley, David Bell, Miles Quitmann, Mark Stevenson, Brian Jay, Jo Grey, David Wells, Tony Dunn, Patrick Hole, David Dunn, Philip Hanbury; back: Martin Hole, Stephen Yorke, Johnny Payne, Jay Lorton, David Stewart, George Eve, David Burt; missing: Peter Jamieson