



OE GOLF SOCIETY

Chris Walker writes:

The 2021 programme for the Old Eastbournian Golf Society (OEGS) suffered only a few changes due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. The main scratch team tournaments in which we play – namely the Halford Hewitt, Grafton Morrish and Cyril Gray – did take place, albeit the Halford Hewitt was played in September rather than in the Spring. Our first event was the match against Hurstpierpoint on 22 April. We did not hold our usual Spring Meeting in Norfolk but the remainder of our programme looked much the same as usual.

Further national lockdowns and restrictions permitting, we hope to run our normal programme of events in 2022 when we will again be playing some of the top golf courses in the South of England. Additionally we shall be organising a new singles matchplay event with the early rounds played at members' home clubs plus the semi-finals and final at a prestigious course close to London.

Membership of the OEGS is open to all members of the Eastbournian Society – ie. OEs and also parents of former and current College pupils and members of staff of the College.

Some of our fixtures are only open to actual OEs. However we also organise a whole host of friendly matches against other schools, a Spring

Meeting and a Summer 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 £25 (or £5 if you are under 25 years old). You then only pay for the fixtures that you attend. And again, for anyone under 25, we almost always generously subsidise their golf from OEGS funds. We play on many magnificent golf courses, at times paying well below the usual green fee rate.

Contacts

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Richard Day (Gonville 1982-87)

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Richard Day passed away peacefully on 6 April 2021, aged 51, after a short but valiant battle with cancer. Richard's life will be covered in greater detail elsewhere in this magazine but we would like to remember him as a key member of the OEGS, a committee member, who played regularly at Rye and also for our Halford Hewitt side.

Matches against other school teams

Our first fixture as Covid-19 restrictions lifted was against Hurstpierpoint on the Old Course at Walton Heath on 22 April. This match has been played every year since 1993 with the exception of 2020. Rob McCowen, Hurstpierpoint's President, scored a hole-in-one at the 7th which resulted in a generous supply of champagne at the dinner that followed the golf. The match ended in a draw and so Eastbourne retained the Sussex 2-iron Trophy, having won it in 2019.

On 4 July we played against King's Canterbury at Rye and over two rounds of foursomes we emerged very comfortable winners by 8 matches to 2. Our team included Richard Lock and his son Toby, who left the College this year. Toby, playing off scratch, has now started a US golf scholarship in Fort Lauderdale.

Our match against Tonbridge at West Sussex on 18 July showed how an Eastbourne team can respond to adversity. 4-1 down at lunch and having been reminded that the losers pay the wine bill, we staged a wonderful recovery in the afternoon and the match ended up as a draw. Against Uppingham at North Hants on 4 August, ably organised by Jo Grey, and after a magnificent lunch, we won by 3 matches to 2.



The majority of the OE team at North Hants: David Barwell, Piers Manktelow, Tony Dunn, Mark Winstanley, Chris Walker, Patricia Seath, John Maclean and Colin Farrant

The Sussex Schools tournament at West Sussex on 19 September involved six-a-side teams from Eastbourne, Lancing, Hurstpierpoint and Brighton playing two sets of 18-hole foursomes off scratch. Ben Burrows and Adam Walker won both of their matches. With 2 points for a win and 1 for a half, the final result was: Lancing 7, Eastbourne and Brighton 6 and Hurstpierpoint 4.

We turned out again against Lancing at West Surrey on 22 September but lost all three fourball matches by the narrowest of margins, namely one down. Against Allhallows and Dover College at West Surrey on 11 October, The Old Dovorians won and we came third but Paul Wickman did win prizes for nearest the pin on the 12th and for the highest Stableford score out of the 24 players.

Match against the College



The College and OE teams plus Emma Garrett at Royal Eastbourne GC

Despite the promise of high winds and rain, eight 'experienced' members of the OEGS assembled at Royal Eastbourne on 20 May to take on the boys of Eastbourne College. The result was a 2-2 tie in a thoroughly enjoyable foursomes match.

Chris Walker and Tony Dunn went out first and secured a 5&4 victory over Toby Lock and George Pepper (thanks to their receiving 8 shots from the boys with their combined handicap of 2). Our second pairing of Tony Riddick and Iryna Photiou ran out winners by 6&5 against Brin and Sam who had not recently played much golf because of exams. Ian Henley and Colin Farrant lost by 2&1 to Rupert and Yanni whilst Peter Henley and Patricia Seath were outsmarted, also by 2&1, by Alex (Iryna's son) and Gus (who had to arrive on the 1st tee straight from an exam).

Our thanks to Alex Roberts, the master in charge of golf at the College, for organising this most enjoyable match.

Match against the College Common Room

We have long wanted a golf match between the Eastbourne College Common Room team and the OEGS and thanks to the respective team managers, Ian Sands and Ian Henley, we managed to play the first such match at Royal Eastbourne on 30 May. Representing the Common Room in this fourball Stableford match were Ian Sands, Matt McVeigh, Oli Marlow, Mark Turnbull, Chris Howe, Dr David Price, Adrian Ashby and Dan Fathers.

Without going into the details, the final result was a 2.5 to 2.5 draw but this was only achieved when new OEGS player Claire Patterson-Snell holed a 30-foot par putt on the last green to claim victory for her pair. We plan to repeat this fixture in 2022 and look forward to welcoming other OEGS members to play in it.

Scratch team competitions

On 8 May at Knole Park Golf Club we kicked off our 2021 campaign in scratch team events by successfully qualifying for the finals of the **Grafton Morrish** in Norfolk in October. In blustery and challenging conditions our team consisted of Mark Justice, David Barwell, Adrian Sharpin, Ben Dawson, Tim Mote and Chris Hampton. Scoring was extremely difficult on the quick greens and tight fairways but our total of 75 points was more than enough to qualify in second spot behind King's Canterbury.

The **Public Schools Putting Competition** took place at Royal Wimbledon on 9 June. Mark Justice, Adrian Sharpin and Ben Dawson made up our team of three. The putting green at RWGC is beautiful: vast, undulating, quick and very true.

Solid performances by all three enabled Eastbourne to avoid the ignominy of relegation but not qualification for the final the following week.

Our outstanding team performance of 2021 undoubtedly came in the **Cyril Gray Tournament** (for the over 50s) in late June at Worpleston. The Eastbourne team consisted of Mark Winstanley, Patrick Hole (replaced by Jay Lorton after the first day), David Barwell, Chris Walker, Paul Wickman and Ben Burrows.

We lost in the first round of the main Cyril Gray Tournament to Taunton, despite David and Chris winning their match on the 19th. But we then went on to reach the final of the Plate competition (which is also a scratch foursomes matchplay event involving three pairs). In the Plate we beat Epsom, Gresham's and Dulwich before losing to Watson's in the final.

Edinburgh Academy won the main event, beating Rossall in the final, so it was a clean sweep for schools from Edinburgh. It was great to still be playing on the Saturday afternoon, something that we have only experienced once before, in 1984 (also in the final of the Plate).



The 2021 Eastbourne Cyril Gray Team: Jay Lorton, David Barwell, Mark Winstanley, Chris Walker, Paul Wickman and Ben Burrows.

The 2021 **Halford Hewitt**, postponed from April until early September because of the Covid pandemic, was played in the most glorious weather. And the three golf courses involved – Deal, Prince's and Royal St. George's – were all in wonderful condition with extremely challenging rough.

The Eastbourne team of 10 in the main competition, playing at Prince's, came up against the might of Eton (for the first time ever in the history of the Hewitt). Overall they were too strong for us, winning by 4.5 matches to 0.5. The halved match came courtesy of our first pair of Peter Walker and Ben Dawson who birdied the last hole to achieve such a result.

In the first round of the Plate, played on this unique occasion at Royal St. George's, our team of six lost 2-1 against Lancing. Peter and Ben were once again our heroes winning by 4&2.



The 2021 Eastbourne Halford Hewitt team (plus guests Christine Todd and David Stewart) in training for their match against Eton

Adrian Sharpin captained the team. The other team members were: Adam Walker, David Barwell, Tim Mote, Charlie Oakley, Geoff Campbell, Angus Stewart and Will Hylton. Loretto won the Hewitt with an extremely strong team and Epsom the Plate beating Hurstpierpoint in the final.

In the finals of the **Grafton Morrish** in early October we took on Bedford School in the first round early on the Friday morning at Hunstanton. Adrian Sharpin and Jack Hughes won handsomely by 5&4 but late substitutes Chris Walker and Andrew Sherwood lost by 5&3. The third match

involving Tim Mote and Ben Dawson went to the last green but a birdie there by Bedford secured them the victory.

We played at Sheringham on the Friday afternoon thanks to Andrew Sherwood and friend signing us in. And on the Saturday morning at Brancaster in pretty challenging weather conditions we played in the Plate but came well down the field with our three Stableford scores. Millfield won the main competition, beating Malvern in the final.

Once again we had a most enjoyable time and it was particularly good to have new boy Jack

Hughes along and be able to introduce him to three of the top golf courses in Norfolk.

Postscript

OEs Ben Burrows and Chris Walker were members of the European team in the British Golf Collectors Society's biennial Hickory Grail match against the USA which was played at St. Andrews in late October 2021. Ben scored an excellent 2.5 points out of 3 which helped no end in delivering a 15 to 13 point victory for Europe.

2022 fixtures

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday 13 March | Halford Hewitt (practice day) | Royal St George's GC, Kent |
| Wednesday 6 April (practice) | Halford Hewitt | Royal St George's / Royal Cinque Ports GCs, Kent |
| Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April | | |
| Thursday 21 April | Match v Hurstpierpoint | Walton Heath GC, Surrey |
| Friday 29 April | Norfolk Tour | Hunstanton GC |
| Saturday 30 April | | Royal West Norfolk GC, Brancaster |
| Sunday 1 May | | Sheringham GC |
| Saturday 7 May | Grafton Morrish South East qualifying event | Knole Park GC, Kent |
| Thursday 19 May | Match v The College | Royal Eastbourne GC |
| Sunday 5 June | Match v EC Common Room | Royal Eastbourne GC |
| Tuesday 7 June (Qualifier) | Schools Putting Tournament | Royal Wimbledon GC |
| Thursday 16 June (Final) | | |
| Friday 17 June | Match v Brighton | Rye GC, East Sussex |
| Wednesday 22 June (practice) | Cyril Gray Tournament | Worplesdon GC, Surrey |
| Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 June | | |
| Sunday 3 July | Match v Kings Canterbury | Rye GC, East Sussex |
| Sunday 17 July | Match v Tonbridge | West Sussex GC, Pulborough |
| Wednesday 27 July | Match v Uppingham | North Hants GC, Fleet, Hampshire |
| Sunday 21 August | Summer Meeting | Cooden Beach GC, East Sussex |
| Tuesday 23 August | Match v Lancing | West Surrey GC, Milford, Surrey |
| Sunday 18 September | Sussex Schools | West Sussex GC, Pulborough |
| Thursday 6 October (practice) | Grafton Morrish Finals | Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk, Brancaster GCs |
| Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October | | |
| Thursday 13 October | Triangular match v Allhallows & Dover College | West Surrey GC, Milford, Surrey |

Additionally we shall be organising a new singles matchplay event with the early rounds played at members' home clubs plus the semi-finals and final at a prestigious course close to London. For full details of each event refer to the Fixtures tab on our website <https://oegolf.uk>.

THE FOUNDATION GOLF CHALLENGE

Thursday 7 July, Royal Eastbourne Golf Club



Raising funds for the Peter Bibby Award, which provides bursary funding for a place at the College for a talented local cricketer. The event is open to OEs, parents, staff, pupils, local businesses and other supporters of the College.

- a team event for four golfers of any standard
- snack on arrival
- goody bag
- 18 holes of golf on the Devonshire Course
- three-course dinner in the club house
- charity auction

Please contact Helen Medlycott on 01323 452316 or HCMedlycott@eastbourne-college.co.uk to book your place(s) or if you would like to donate a prize or auction item