



OLD MARLBURIAN GOLFING SOCIETY

CAPTAINS'S NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

First of all, I should like to say what a great organisation the Old Marlburian Golfing Society is. It enables us to play with good company on some of the finest courses in the country and we are privileged to be part of this.

The highlight of my Captaincy this year was undoubtedly the Centenary Dinner at the RAC. Great organisation from our President James Hopper along with Robin Swan and Bob Percival produced a finely honed plan that worked to perfection. There were a number of excellent lunches involved in the planning stages! It was good to see the Master and her speech enthused us all. Incidentally the OMGS is actually the largest active group of Old Marlburians. 145 attended the dinner including 8 official guests from other clubs and 46 OMGS guests.

I understand we have the most extensive fixture list of any of the other public schools and it is vital to us to make sure this continues. There is a wide variety of fixtures and meetings in terms of days of the week and type of match and this does much to enhance the attraction of the Society.

What is important to understand and appreciate is that for this we rely heavily on our Match Managers. Their hard work and diligence ensure that matches are kept going and that we do not lose them, as once lost they are difficult to re-instate.

In 2022 we played 28 matches, held 5 meetings and took part in 11 tournaments.

OMGS had a stellar year in the competitions. David Niven and Elliott Matthews won the Alba Trophy at Woking whilst James Hopper and Martin Mercer won the over 75s Darwin Trophy. Both these victories are serious achievements in amateur golf. Not to be outdone, the team of Angus Murray, Jim Hewer, Jack Naylor & Tom Macfarlane won the Public Schools Putting!

In May the overall winner at Spring meeting at Royal Worlington was Mark Lee. The trophies for the Summer meeting at Woking were shared between Jamie Hawksfield, Hamish Greenwood, Adrian O'Loughlin, Mike Roden & Simon Hall. Jack Naylor once again triumphed in the Mixed Meeting at West Sussex, whilst at Deal in the Autumn meeting, Jon Brooke was the overall victor.

Whilst many of the matches are fiercely competitive, the enjoyment of taking part often exceeds the importance of the result!

What I find particularly encouraging for the future is that more younger OMs are now taking part, so there is no doubt that Bob Carrick's successful recruitment drive and our policy of subsidising the younger members is reaping its rewards. My message to the young is that without even belonging to a Club or playing regularly, we offer some very affordable golf on some great courses so do come along and if you enjoy it then next year bring a friend.

To illustrate our youth policy, two boys currently at Marlborough with a handicap amounting to +3 joined the OMGS team for the match against Royal Cinque Ports in February and excelled themselves.

We must show our appreciation to the late David Coe for his legacy to the society. I would ask others to consider repeating this generosity.

My thanks go to James Hopper, our President, William Wells the Secretary and Bob Percival for their advice and assistance. A particular mention of thanks goes to Malcolm Cornish for all the work he does for the Society behind the scenes, as well as acting treasurer and on managing the website. We are still looking for a volunteer to become Treasurer, a role that I am assured will take less than one hour a week!

Finally, and at risk of repeating myself, I would like to give my sincere thanks to the Match Managers who do all the work to make the Society so enjoyable for the rest of us.

Our best wishes to the Halford Hewitt team under the excellent management of Matt Mockridge who have been working hard recently and whose first match is at Royal St Georges on the afternoon of Thursday 30th March. Support will be welcome and you can follow their progress on the website.

If you wish to find out more about the OMGS then information is available on the website.

Please find a few photos celebrating the past, present and the future of OMGS.

Bernie Thomson, Captain

March 2023





