

Old Tauntonian Golfing Society

Jan 2019

Hon Secretaries: Richard Jowett (OTGS) and Gill Jowett (Western Branch)

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Dear OT Golfers,

A very Happy New Year to you all. Can I say at the outset if you would prefer not to receive correspondence from the OTGS please do let me know. Unwanted emails are such an irritant.

I start with some sad news. On November 17th Gordon Brigg died, a long time member of the OTGS and well known to some of you.

At the AGM held at St George's Hill we saw an attendance of 15, quite the largest number since 1978! This has encouraged us to repeat having the AGM again at this venue next year (together with the Fairwater Cup, the Veterans Cup and the OT Championship). Also a record this year was the number of participants, 40, at the Swinley Forest meeting thanks largely to the recruiting efforts of David Murrell. We should also recognize and thank him for the very generous personal financial support he gives to this event.

Our finances are well managed, as ever, by Richard Norris but it would help us to afford the considerable cost of entering events (>£1300pa) were more of you to subscribe, (£25 to Richard at 26 Sutton Court, Chiswick, London W4 3JE would be really appreciated). Many thanks to those of you who did so last year.

Now following our optimism of 2018 I have to report very unwelcome news from the School. There is no golf taking place in the Senior School with no teacher able or willing to be in charge of the activity. No competitions have been entered this year, there was no House golf for the first time in at least 20 years and no pupils joined in the Rose Bowl (a free event for them). The school withdrew at the last moment from the West of England Public Schools Championships at Burnham in 2017 but still got invited in 2018. This offer was not taken up so probably we will not get invited again. All this in spite of the very best efforts of Terry Davidge, our President, and Richard Willacy, our Captain, who have spoken both to the Headmaster and Hayley Mortimore the Director of Co-Curricular with little effect. They offered to supply TS with a Skytrack golf system with Peter Whalley (OT) willing to supervise weekly, but this too has not been taken up mainly due to a lack of a focal point at the school. The corporate golf membership at Taunton and Pickeridge seems to have dried up as have T+P lessons in the Senior School. The OTGS 'golf centre' on Lovers has not been used by the Senior School. However, Chris Coleman in the Prep School is making good use of the funds and equipment donated by you, the OTGS, and the pupils there have regular coaching from Simon Stevenson at T+P GC. Should you feel upset and therefore so inclined you might choose to write to the Headmaster, Lee Glaser, expressing your disappointment (nothing more please).

Below are details for this year's events; I really hope that you will be able to play in some of them. Don't wait to be asked; and if you know of any OT golfer who is not on the OTGS radar or has now just taken up golf please introduce them to the society and get them to play in some of the meetings. Just contact the Match Managers shown below.

EVENTS 2019

Society Meetings (all welcome)

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| 05 March 2019 | Invitational meeting | Swinley Forest | David Murrell |
| 05 May 2019 | Thone Cup and OTGS v TS | Taunton & Pickeridge | Hugh Todd |
| 12 May 2019 | Fairwater Cup/AGM/OTGS Championships | St George's Hill GC | Richard Willacy |
| 25 June 2019 | Old Honitonians | Oake Manor | Richard Jowett |
| 29 Sept 2019 | Rose Bowl | Oake Manor | Hugh Todd |

Scratch Competitions (Bona fide OTs only)

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 29-31 March 2019 | Brent Knoll Bowl | Burnham & Berrow | Richard Willacy |
| 9-14 April 2019 | Halford Hewitt | Deal/Sandwich | Richard Willacy |
| 19 May 2019 | Grafton Morrish Qualifier | North Hants | Richard Willacy |
| 26-29 June 2019 | Cyril Gray (Over 50's) | Worplesdon | David Morgan |
| 3-6 October 2019 | Grafton Morrish Final | Hunstanton/Brancaster | Richard Willacy |

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With all good wishes for 2019,

Richard Jowett