



## Old Tauntonian Golfing Society

Hon Secretary: Richard Willacy (OTGS)

Wraymead, 158 Croydon Road, Reigate, RH2 0NG 07712 937017

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Email: [richard.willacy@gmail.com](mailto:richard.willacy@gmail.com)

Dear OT Golfers,

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. If you haven't read the minutes of the last AGM, which was held at Reigate Heath GC in August last year (a copy can be read off the OTGS website [www.oldtauntoniangs.org](http://www.oldtauntoniangs.org)) you will notice Richard Jowett has stepped down as secretary and I have taken up the reins. In so doing I have stepped down as Captain and handed over that responsibility to the very capable Peter Whalley. I huge thank you goes out to Richard J for the many years he has been the backbone of this society. In November last year Terry kindly hosted a small gathering and lunch so that we could present Richard J with a collage of Le Touquet, which both he and Gill enjoy and attended for many years (always the few days before the Halford Hewitt week) with golfing stalwarts of the OTGS.

2022 was a normal year for fixtures uninterrupted by covid etc! We had a fantastic turnout at Swinley, thanks to David Murrell, so much so that we will have to adhere to maximum numbers stipulated by Swinley this year. In the Hewitt, the team made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the main competition having beaten three times finalists Ampleforth, to the surprise of many, only to be defeated by Malvern. Unfortunately, OTGS performance in the Brent Knoll Bowl, Grafton Morris qualifier and Cyril Gray was below par! The local West events in 2022 were again well attended, thanks to Hugh Todd.

Golf at the school appears to be moving out of the doldrums. Driven by Liam Dempster his key points are; *TS have entered a league with 5 other local independent schools, which was a great success last year and is due to be run again this coming season. Handicap matches which allow us to engage more golfers. Other entries for the coming season are the HMC Foursomes and the ISGA Matchplay competitions. We have been invited back to the Burnham and Berrow competition this year. Golf is now an option in the main games programme at school for pupils in Years 11-13. We are also looking at putting it into a programme for those in Years 9+10 this year. Plans are in place for a golf simulator to be built at school this coming year, subject to planning permission and other necessary details going through.* So, this is great news.

Once again, we held the OTGS AGM at the Reigate Heath GC meeting and for those who couldn't attend in person we had Zoom. As mentioned above the minutes are on the website, all the officials were re-elected again except Secretary and Captain.

Our finances remain secure thanks to the guiding hand of Richard Norris. However, with the ever increasing cost of entering the scratch competitions we have started to ask those selected to contribute to at least 50% of the costs. This still represents great value given the courses we play. There is no compulsory subscription to the OTGS, and we now have around 20 regular donors, hopefully, we can improve on this over the coming year. If you feel so moved, please



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send a donation/subscription to the Treasurer Richard Norris at 26 Sutton Court, Chiswick, London W4 3JE or by BACS to sort code 60-10-07, a/c 33210896.

Lastly, I am sure many of you will know, but Iain (Westy) Westwater finally lost his battle to cancer on the 30 October 2022. Iain never gave up and continued to play golf as much as he could up to the end, so much so that he died at St George's Hill Golf Club about to start a round. Iain started playing for OTGS, I believe at the Hewitt, 1984 and every year since then he has been involved with OTGS. Iain was key in securing the final point against Ampleforth for Taunton in the HH last year despite his physical weakness. Iain will be missed BUT he would want us to continue playing, having fun and enjoyment out of this silly game!

Below are the details of this year's events. Please don't wait to be asked to take part; we hope that you will enjoy playing in some of them. Just contact the Match Manager, details below. Finally, if you know of OT golfers who are not on the OTGS radar or have just taken up golf please put them in touch with me. Also, checkout the OTGS website, I tried to keep everybody informed and updated using this medium.

### EVENTS 2023

#### **Society Meetings (all welcome)**

14/3/23	(Tu)	Invitational Meeting	Swinley Forest	David Murrell
30/4/23	(Su)	Thone Cup & OTGS vs TS	Taunton & Pickeridge	Hugh Todd/Clive Large
12/5/23 (P)	(Fr)	AGM & OTGS Scratch/Vet Cup	Reigate Heath GC	Richard Willacy
3/9/23 (P)	(Su)	Fairwater Cup	St George's Hill GC	RWillacy/Clive Large
1/10/23	(Su)	Rose Bowl	Oake Manor GC	Hugh Todd

#### **Scratch Competitions (Bona fide OTs only)**

24-26/03/23	(F-S)	Brent Knoll Bowl (Fri Practice)*	Burnham & Berrow GC	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
28/3-2/4/23	(T-S)	Halford Hewitt (Tues/Weds Pracice)*	Deal/Sandwich	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
21/05/23	(Su)	Grafton Morrish Qualifier	Worplesdon	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
20-23/06/23	(T-F)	Cyril Gray (over 50s, Tues Practice)*	Worplesdon	David Morgan
5-8/10/23	(TH-S)	Grafton Morrish Finals (Thurs Practice)*	Hunstanton/Brancaster	Pete Whalley/RWillacy

(P) To be confirmed with Club



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### **Match Managers**

Pete Whalley (Captain)

(M) 07814 031463

[whalleyp@gmail.com](mailto:whalleyp@gmail.com)

Richard Willacy (Secretary), Wraymead, 158 Croydon Rd., Reigate, RH2 0NG

(M) 07712 937017

(H) 01737 248535

[richard.willacy@gmail.com](mailto:richard.willacy@gmail.com)

David Murrell, Ashley Court, 20a Ashley Rise, Walton on Thames KT12 1ND

(M) 07710 962148

(H) 01932 254491

[davidmurrell2015@gmail.com](mailto:davidmurrell2015@gmail.com)

David Morgan, Silver Birch, Meadow Bank, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6SW

(M) 07771 561697

(H) 01483 284540

[david@davidjmorgan.co.uk](mailto:david@davidjmorgan.co.uk)

Clive Large, 11 Copper Beeches, Taunton TA1 5HS

(H) 01823 325846

[clive.large@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:clive.large@tauntonschool.co.uk)

Hugh Todd, Lonsdale House, Church Lane, Enmore, Bridgwater, TA5 2DU

(H) 01278 671880

[h.todd71@btinternet.com](mailto:h.todd71@btinternet.com)

With all good wishes for 2023,

Richard Willacy