



Old Tauntonian Golfing Society

Hon Secretary: Richard Willacy (OTGS)

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Dear OT Golfers,

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

The minutes of the last AGM, which was held at Reigate Heath GC in May 2023, can be accessed via the OTGS website <https://www.oldtauntoniangs.org/golf/>.

2023 all fixtures took place with varying numbers of players, however, unfortunately the meeting at St George's Hill GC was cancelled, with only two SGHGC members numbers were restricted to six guests over the weekend. The logical alternative is to consider society prices and a weekday meeting but I suspect the cost would put a few people off. Other options are currently being considered to replace the SGH meeting. We had another fantastic turnout at Swinley despite having to reduce numbers, thanks to David Murrell for organising and sponsoring this meeting. Thone Cup and School match at T&PGC – the match against the OTGS was narrowly won by OTGS. The Silver Salver was won by young Finlay Pyke with dad, Matthew Pyke, winning the Thone Cup. At Reigate Heath GC in May, 17 attended for the AGM, lunch and golf playing for various prizes including the Fairwater Cup and Vets Cup, which was won by Rob Mazur and Richard Willacy respectively. The OT Rose Bowl was played at Oake Manor GC on Sunday 1st October. Although numbers were rather down this year- possibly the Ryder Cup was a better attraction! – all who attended enjoyed the event in the fine weather. The Rose Bowl was won, not for the first time, by our revered OTGS President, Terry Davidge, who was partnered by David Taylor with a score of 44 points.

In the scratch competitions: Brent Knoll Bowl OTGS lost to the RAF 3-0 in the main competition and lost to Epsom 2-1 in the Plate, tough draw! In the Halford Hewitt – OTGS made it to the 2nd round of the main competition for the 3rd year running beating Chigwell 3-2 only to lose to Eton 4.5-0.5. In the Cyril Gray, held at Worplesdon GC, OTGS lost to Merchiston 2.5-0.5 and St Pauls 2.5-0.5 in the Plate. Having won the Grafton Morrish group qualifier with 89 points OTGS travelled to Brancaster early October for the Finals. Unfortunately, we met our match against Nottingham and lost 2.5-0.5 with some close matches.

School golf: Liam Dempster school update; *Golf being offered as a games option all year round to those in Years 11-13 currently. Was at Pickering for first two terms and has been at Oake Manor this term. 12 students per term, mostly beginners. Lots of interest from students in Year 9 and below, so hopeful for some real talent in the next few years. Entered ISGA Knockout this year. Beat Blundells in first round and lost to Sherborne in second round. Playing in a 6-team league of schools in South-West currently, with friendly fixtures being added to the calendar against schools such as Kings Bruton. Will be involved in the league next year and this might grow in size. House Golf Competition to take place later this term, to play for trophies to be*



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given out at commemoration. Will be entering Burnham and Berrow West of England Comp again next year. Also, will enter ISGA knockout again.

School golf simulator update. It was planned to have the simulator up and running for the beginning of the 2023/24 academic term, however, planning permission has delayed its progress. It has been agreed to name the facility the 'Westy' and when completed we hope many OTGS members will be able to attend the opening.

Our finances remain secure thanks to the guiding hand of Richard Norris. Players selected for the scratch competitions have been contributing 50% of the entry fee which has helped the OTGS finances. There is no compulsory subscription to the OTGS, and we now have around 17 regular donors, but to keep our fixtures going and more to point to help sponsor young OT golfers we need to maintain or increase our subscription income. The default amount is £25 pa but some members pay more or less, this is only 50p a week! If you feel so moved, please send a donation/subscription to the Treasurer Richard Norris at 26 Sutton Court, Chiswick, London W4 3JE or (preferably) by BACS or STANDING ORDER to sort code 60-10-07, a/c 33210896 with your name as a reference.

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 2024

Society Meetings (all welcome)

12/3/24	(Tu)	Invitational Meeting	Swinley Forest	David Murrell
28/4/24	(Su)	Thone Cup & OTGS vs TS	Taunton & Pickeridge	Hugh Todd/Clive Large
17/5/24	(Fr)	AGM & OTGS Scratch/Vet Cup	Reigate Heath GC	Richard Willacy
29/09/24	(Su)	Rose Bowl	Oake Manor GC	Hugh Todd

Scratch Competitions (Bona fide OTs only)

5-7/04/24	(F-S)	Brent Knoll Bowl (Fri Practice)*	Burnham & Berrow GC	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
09/4-14/4/24	(T-S)	Halford Hewitt (Tues/Weds Practice)*	Deal/Sandwich	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
19/05/24	(Su)	Grafton Morrish Qualifier	Worplesdon	Pete Whalley/RWillacy
25-28/06/24	(T-F)	Cyril Gray (over 50s, Tues Practice)*	Worplesdon	David Morgan
26-29/09/24	(TH-S)	Grafton Morrish Finals (Thurs Practice)*	Hunstanton/Brancaster	Pete Whalley/RWillacy



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With all good wishes for 2024,

Richard Willacy