

OAGS News – October 2021

OA golfers return to Somerset

This was our second visit to Burnham & Berrow, thanks to the excellent organisation of Guy Green who is a proud member of this fantastic golf course. In my opinion, it is one of England's best links courses with the most beautiful sea views towards the Welsh coastline – to be pedantic, the sea is actually the Bristol Channel.



Arriving on Tuesday 10th August in time for a maskless lunch were 8 OA golfers:

MJ Beavis	IR Eggleden	G Green	RD Hall
SC Lewis	ND Melvill	JDL Yule	PH Yule

It was a glorious day although for the first 9 holes there was a noticeable headwind – just a gentle breeze according to the locals! Undeterred by this, Neil Melvill played magnificently and had scored 19 points at the halfway stage. He became more human during the second 9 but still achieved a total of 33 points to win the day and 2 golf balls – no expense spared!

After a revitalising shower and a few drinks, we had an excellent 3-course dinner before retiring to the bar to reminisce about happy pre-Covid times. Having consumed the Club's last bottle of Kümmel, we retired to our rooms in the adjacent Dormy House for a well-deserved rest. There were some worries about local earth tremors but they turned out to be one of our number snoring heavily!

The Club provided an excellent breakfast. The tremors and also the wind (of the meteorological kind), had subsided so we made a second attempt at taming the golf course. This time it was foursomes, and whilst most of us made valiant efforts, Steve Lewis and Paul Yule were firmly in the lead with a massive score of 21 points at the turn. As ever, the course retaliated and the breeze reappeared but it didn't stop them achieving a total of 36 points to win 1st prize of 2 balls each – perhaps we need some sponsors!

The Hon Sec was rather shocked when presented with a bar bill which used most of the till roll but the overall cost of the Tour was, in fact, great value. Our thanks go to Guy and the staff of the Club who made us so welcome.

There is a plan to make Burnham & Berrow an annual event. More anon!

Triangular Match v Old Leysians and Old Millhillians

On a very pleasant in August, albeit with a cooling north easterly breeze, the 3 teams met for the (usually) annual Triangular battle at Porters Park, superbly organised by Martin Jeens who was sadly off games at the time.

The result, using the Stableford system, was a convincing win for Aldenham with 204 points ahead of The Leys with 178 and Mill Hill with 175.

Team:	JDL Yule	RJ Morris
	ND Melvill	IR Eggeden
	JE Cruickshank	IP Dowdeswell

The claret jug was presented to Martin Jeens. Here is the team photo with Martin but excluding Ian Dowdeswell.



The Halford Hewitt

The Halford Hewitt is one of Britain's most competitive golf tournaments, contested between teams of 10 former pupils from the schools which make up the membership of the Public Schools Golfing Society, and it is also one of the game's most convivial social gatherings, something which is entirely appropriate considering it was conceived during a lunch meeting at one of England's finest golf clubs. Teams knocked out in the 1st Round compete for the Plate.

It is normally played in early April at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal and Royal St Georges, Sandwich. The 2020 Tournament had to be cancelled and in 2021, it could not be played in April and was postponed until September. It was played at Royal Cinque Ports Deal and Princes, Sandwich. Match details are as follows:

9th September 2021

1st Round v Bedford at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

Result:	Lost 1½ - 3½	
Team:	BP Thrussell & JNB Wells	Lost 5&4
	RA Alter & DM Rawlinson	Won 2&1
	SGO Williams & JT Surridge	Lost 5&4
	MRF Deverell & AJ Thrussell	Lost 5&4
	WJ Kirby & J McAlpine	Halved

Halford Hewitt Plate

After an evening with an excellent dinner at the Rose in Deal (where most of the supporters stayed), Friday dawned bright but a little cool and breezy. We played much better...

10th September 2021

1st Round v King Edward's Birmingham at Royal St George's, Sandwich

Result:	Won 2½ - ½	
Team:	MRF Deverell & AJ Thrussell	Won 5&4
	WJ Kirby & J McAlpine	Halved
	SGO Williams & DM Rawlinson	Won 7&6

2nd Round v Trent at Royal St George's, Sandwich

Result:	Lost ½ - 2½	
Team :	MRF Deverell & AJ Thrussell	Halved
	WJ Kirby & J McAlpine	Lost 5&4
	SGO Williams & DM Rawlinson	Lost 5&4



As one of the keen OAGS supporters, it was a real pleasure to spend two evenings with the squad at the Rose in Deal. The atmosphere was one of great enjoyment with 20 OA golfers chatting away irrespective of age which ranged from the 20s to the high 70s. there were 9 of us altogether, 7 staying at the Rose, Neil Melvill at Dunkerleys and Stuart Summers who lives nearby anyway. Here are 6 Rose residents - with Steve Lewis and the President showing off their ability to be in 2 places at the same time! Thanks to Michael Beavis who was the other Rose resident and who took the video shot.



Grafton Morrish

On Sunday 16th May at Royal Ashdown Forest, We qualified for the Grafton Morrish Finals thanks to the efforts of Joel Bloomfield & John Surridge, Will Kirby & David Rawlinson plus Adam Thrussell & Nick Corbett

The Finals were played at Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk (Brancaster) starting on 1st October. Our results were:-

1st October 1st Round v Cheltenham at Brancaster

Result:	Won 2 - 1	
Team:	JT Surridge & JM Clemow	Won
	PJ Easby & G Green	Lost
	RA Alter & JA Bloomfield	Won

A good time was had by all and a fine pre match dinner at the Rose & Crown probably helped our victory against a very strong Cheltenham side.

1st October 2nd Round v Rugby at Brancaster

Result:	Lost 1 - 2	
Team:	JT Surridge & JM Clemow	Lost
	PJ Easby & G Green	Lost
	RA Alter & JA Bloomfield	Won

These athletic veterans played well but were outplayed by some very classy opposition - as it is a scratch competition, otherwise they would have been getting at least 15 shots!

In the 2nd round, we again played well but Surridge & Clemow lost on the 18th in a very tight match that had swung in Rugby's favour at the 10th when Rugby holed from a deep bunker to the right of the green and we 2 putted from the centre of the green - it was a cruel blow.

Rob Alter did a great job in organising the team in very difficult circumstances and he won both his matches with Joel! The records should note that Guy Green had driven all the way from Trevoise in Cornwall to partner Peter Easby, devotion to the OA cause if ever I saw it. Well done, everyone, and better luck in 2022.

Other OAGS Events

Most events have been held during 2021, much better than in 2020.

The Spring Meeting was sadly cancelled due to various restrictions in place in April and due to the ludicrous prices required by West Hill Golf Club. Also, the match against Old Berkhamstedians could not take place.

Here is a summary of the golfing activities so far in 2021:-

Match v Old Shirburnians

23rd May at Ashridge Result: Lost 3 - 5

Quadrangular Match

Aldenhamians, Fullerians, Haberdashers and Merchant Taylors

17th June at Porters Park

Result:	Fullerians	200 points
	Haberdashers	199
	Aldenham	191

Note: The format was Stableford points. Merchant Taylors were unable to play.

Match v School

19th June at Porters Park Result: Won 2½ - 1½

Match v Old Cholmeleians

17th July at Ashridge Result: Lost 3 - 5

Triangular Match v Old Leysians and Old Millhillians

24th August at Porters Park

Result*:	Aldenham	204 points
	The Leys	178
	Mill Hill	175

* Playing format Stableford

Match v Old Reptonians

8th September at Littlestone Result: Won 3 - 1

Summer Meeting

13th July at Ashridge

Results:

Ian Greig Trophy	JDL Yule	(69)
Scratch Prize	SC Percy	(78)
Stableford Prize	PH Yule	(39 pts)
Laurence Latter Trophy	JDL Yule & PJ Murphy	(20 pts)*

* 9 holes only

Autumn Meeting

23rd September at Burnham Beeches

Results:

OAGS Challenge Cup	MJ Beavis	(68)
Scratch Prize	MJ Beavis	(73)
Scott Barrett Challenge Cup	PH Yule	(37 pts)
MT Allen Challenge Cup	IP Dowdeswell & JE Cruickshank	(19 pts)*

* 9 holes only

Captain's Invitation Meeting

31 August at Huntercombe

Attendance: 27 (23 members and 4 guests)

Weather: Grey with occasional rain

Results:

am	(18 holes)	1 st	IP Dowdeswell	(39 points)
		2 nd	Fred Allen	(37 points)

pm (11 holes) Not serious but lots of fun!

Mini-Tour

10th and 11th August to Burnham & Berrow: The Tourers were:

MJ Beavis	MW Blake	G Green	RD Hall
SC Lewis	ND Melvill	FC Simeons	MR Weatherhead
I Wilson-Soppitt		JDL Yule	PH Yule

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European Tour (a separate report is being prepared)

6th October at Les Ormes Golf Club

Winners of the Prevost Salver: RD Hall and MW Blake (40 pts)

George Hewetson Tankard

Aggregate scratch prize won by JDL Yule (164)
Ashridge (82) and Burnham Beeches (80)

Warren Gamble Captains Cup

Aggregate medal prize won by JDL Yule (143)
Ashridge (72) and Burnham Beeches (69)

John Woodrow Cup

The President awarded the John Woodrow Cup to Guy Green in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Society for many years. Not only is he a regular at the Halford Hewitt whether as a player or as a supporter but he arranged a magnificent Mini-Tour to Burnham & Berrow in 2020 despite threats from the Government and the Coronavirus. He also arranged another Mini-Tour in 2021 at the same Club, this time with fewer restrictions and it is hoped it will become an annual event.

Here is Guy receiving the Cup during lunch at the Mellin.



Hanc Aldenham!

Eggers

October 2021