

OAGS News – April 2023

HALFORD HEWITT 2023

The playing squad stayed at the Clarendon Hotel on the sea front whilst the supporters again booked all the rooms at the Rose in the High Street. Everyone met for drinks at the King's Head – as is customary – and then on to dinner on Wednesday and Thursday at the Rose where we had the whole restaurant to ourselves. The quality of the food was as good as ever and not much was left, as can be seen from the photos below!



The team was in positive mood...



...the supporters had just been told that there was only 1 bottle left of the smooth and succulent sangiovese Italian wine. Che peccato!
Lewis and Melvill were a shadow of their usual ebullient selves!

Thursday 30th March 2023
1st Round v Stonyhurst at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

Result:	Lost 1½ - 3½	
Team:	MJ Beavis & JT Surridge	Lost
	RA Alter & DM Rawlinson	Halved
	AJ Thrussell & BP Thrussell	Lost
	DM Andrews & WJ Kirby	Won
	NJM Corbett & JNB Wells	Lost

This year, we were drawn against Stonyhurst. Arran Kanth had hoped to join the playing squad but the logistics of flying to the UK proved too complex due to his golf commitments at his US University. We were also sorry that Joel Bloomfield was unable to play. However, we were delighted to see Rob Alter back in the team to resume the solid Alter/Rawlinson partnership.

As always, the fine weather enjoyed inland never quite stretches to the Kent coast and so it was a very blustery scene that greeted us on Thursday morning.

Stonyhurst are not one of the top Hewitt teams but their recent form has been better than ours and we struggled to keep up during the opening holes. Even our most successful pair, Robert Alter and David Rawlinson, could only halve their match but Will Kirby and Dan Andrews played well and won on the 16th green.

Michael Beavis and James Surridge could not find their form and the Thrussell brothers, Team Captain Adam and OAGS Vice-Captain Ben, suffered from a slow start. Our fifth pair, Nick Corbett and Jamie Wells, also met some tough opposition and fought really hard. Their sterling efforts looked as if they might be rewarded but Stonyhurst were resilient and settled the match with a good putt on the 17th green.

It was a disappointing result for everyone but the standard of golf in the Hewitt has improved significantly over the last 15 years. Loretto, who won the Cup in 2022 and again in 2023, had a combined handicap (across all 10 players) of +20 and +25 respectively. Awesome or what?

Halford Hewitt Plate

Friday, 31st March 2023
1st Round v Wellington at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

Result:	Lost 0 - 3	
Team:	AJ Thrussell & BP Thrussell	
	DM Andrews & WJ Kirby	
	NJM Corbett & DM Rawlinson	

The weather on Friday morning at Prince's can only be described as unpleasant and we were facing not only high winds and squally showers but also a 6-man Wellington team whose combined handicaps were +10! After 5 holes, our 3 pairs could not match them and an early bath seemed inevitable. Aldenhamians never give up, of course, and it is to their eternal credit that they kept the matches alive until the 14th and 15th holes.

Peter Kenyon Bowl

Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at Prince's, Sandwich

Many of the stalwarts who support the Hewitt team arrive in Deal on Tuesday in the late afternoon. Most will have spent the day at Rye playing golf and, more importantly, preparing for the next few days with a good Rye lunch. On the next day, whilst the "squad" are playing a practice round at Deal, the supporters can play at Prince's in the Peter Kenyon Bowl competition. We entered 3 pairs but it is sad to report that none of the scores featured on the leaderboard.

OAGS Spring Meeting

Thursday, 20th April 2023 at Denham

Not long after the Halford Hewitt, 18 OA golfers arrived at Denham for the annual Spring Meeting and we were greeted by a Denham member - none other than James Fowler - and it was a pleasure to see him. The course was in good condition with some tricky greens and scoring was not high. Nevertheless, it didn't worry the undaunted Jack Cruickshank who recorded a net 69 to win the Spring Challenge Cup by 5 clear shots.

It was great to see 5 of the Halford Hewitt team there, Adam and Ben Thrussell, David "Trawler" Rawlinson, Nick Corbett and Jamie Wells. There were 3 gross scores of 82 each and another of 83 - well played, guys. Captain Trawler, on completion of his year, handed over the reins, as well as the Bat Fives Cup, to Ben Thrussell whose Vice-Captain for 2023 will be Jamie Wells.

The Denham lunch is legendary and we were delighted to be joined by one of our Vice-Presidents, Robin Chaventré. Martin Jeens was also lunching as sadly he is currently "off games" but he kindly insisted on treating us to some splendid wine which we all enjoyed immensely. Many thanks, Martin! We look forward to seeing you back on the course soon.

After lunch, and somewhat later than our allotted tee times, 8 of us (4 pairs) found the energy to play 9 holes of foursomes for the President's Cup. Two scores of 16 points and one of 15 were posted so it was closely fought. VAR and an adjudicator were needed and the decision rested on scores for the 18th hole. Ian Dowdeswell and Paul Yule were declared the winners. Well done, boys!

Match v Old Berkhamstedians

13 April at Harewood Downs

Result:	Halved	2 - 2	
OAGS Team:	MJ Beavis & SC Percy		Lost 1 down
	JDL Yule & PH Yule		Won 5&4
	RD Hall & JE Cruickshank		Won 2 up
	ND Melvill & CJ Thwaites		Lost 1 down

...and finally, good luck to the Grafton Morrish team as they battle for a place in the Finals to be held in October at Hunstanton/Brancaster.

**Ian Eggleton
Hon Secretary**

April 2023

