

Old Johnian Golfing Society Annual Newsletter December 2018

Dear OJ Golfer

I make no apologies that this short Newsletter tends to follow the same format each year. However, I hope it does what is intended of it which is to bring members up to date with how the Society has fared together with any matters of interest.

Matches 2018

As usual the season started in April with the match against the School at Effingham. It was a particularly good encounter this year, not just because the OJs won and thereby reversed last year's result, but also because of the impressive standard of golf played by both sides. We are fortunate to have established Effingham as a home for the match not only because we are well looked after but also because the Club is very supportive of junior golf.

The other matches played were against the Bar GS at New Zealand, and against the O Almeynians (our oldest fixture) at Royal Ashdown Forest. Richard Vosser who was managing the Bar match for the first time did well to register a win 4.5-2.5. Unfortunately both sides had difficulty raising their teams that particular day as the date clashed with not only the Cup Final but also the Royal Wedding. Barry Smart got together a good side to play the O Almeynians but the team was up against strong opposition and went down 3-1. As it was such a warm day it was decided the match should be decided over the morning round only with golf optional after lunch.

May I remind you that more detailed reports of our matches and who played in them are available in the Golfing Society Section of [The School website](#).

Grafton Morrish 2018

After the tantalisingly close failure to qualify (by a single point) for the finals in 2017 our team was in positive mood for this year's qualifying round at Royal Wimbledon. However, with arguably a slightly stronger team on this occasion, our three pairs found the course rather more difficult than last year, in particular the speed of the greens, and an aggregate score of 69 scratch stableford points (playing foursomes) missed qualifying by some six points.

As ever this competition remains one of the Society's main focal points during the season and under the captaincy of Stuart Hibbert there is real keenness to do well. However, to offer some perspective, the level of competition is high and we are up against a lot of very strong golfing schools not least in our qualifying group at Royal Wimbledon. Our team has done well to have qualified for the finals twice since the OJGS came into being in 2006.

Fixtures 2018

As you may appreciate 2018 has not been the easiest of years for the Society and the Committee is very conscious that the reduction in the usual number of fixtures available to members during the season was unfortunately curtailed. The reasons for this have been largely outside our control.

Two of our original fixtures had to be cancelled. First the O Epsomians match because our opponents could not raise a side; and secondly the O Cranleighans who were unable to find a new match manager to take over from the previous incumbent. And finally the much awaited Society Day, due to be held at Tyrrells Wood for the first time, had to be cancelled.

Unknowingly, when the date was first arranged a year earlier it turned out to coincide with the last day of the Ryder Cup and was going to have a serious impact on members' availability.

Fixture List 2019

Date	Day	Match/Event	Venue	Match Manager	Contact No
23 rd Apr	Tue	The School	Effingham GC	Andrew Wildey	07966 159829
12 th May	Sun	Grafton Morrish Qualifier	Royal Wimbledon GC	Stuart Hibbert	07799 362842
18 th May	Sat	Bar GS	New Zealand GC	Richard Vosser	07966 899437
9 th Jun	Sun	OJGS Society Day	Tyrrells Wood GC	Andrew Worboys Andrew Wildey	07901 515150 07966 159829
14 th Sept	Sat	O Alleynians	New Zealand	Barry Smart	01243 763043
3-6 th Oct	Thur	Grafton Morrish Finals*	Royal West Norfolk GC and Hunstanton GC	Stuart Hibbert	07799 362842

* Qualification required on 12th May

As you will see the Society Day has been rearranged for a date in June next year, but it has been decided that the Cranleighan and Epsomian fixtures will not be taking place for the time being. At present we are in contact with the O Hurstjohnians and O Whitgiftians, two other traditional school sporting opponents of St John's, to see whether they would be interested in principle in having matches with the OJGS. They are both much bigger societies than ours and have busy fixture lists. It is not clear whether it will be possible to arrange anything for 2019 bearing in mind the need to find a suitable venue for each match. We will keep members informed of what materialises as soon as it is clear.

Apart from the loss of the Epsomian and Cranleighan matches, there are other changes to the Fixture List. Humfrey Malins has retired after a number of years from managing the match against the School. We are grateful to Humfrey for his help and support and thank Andrew Wildey for agreeing to take over from him.

The O Alleynian match, played at Royal Ashdown Forest last year, will return to New Zealand GC as planned but in September rather than July.

As ever we are very keen to encourage members to be more proactive, so I urge you to make a note of the dates and to help match managers by applying for games you would like to play in. Worth mentioning here that we are fortunate some of the expensive green fee costs of

playing in these matches at weekends have been subsidised through financial support we receive from the School.

Membership

Our database still stands at some 70 members but a good many are not as active as we would wish. If only we could encourage more members to play in matches it would give us the incentive to try and build more matches into our fixture list.

Data Protection (GDPR) Policy

Our database which consists essentially of members' names, Email addresses and in most cases telephone numbers, is managed for the Committee by Andrew Wildey. Information held on the database is only made available to Committee members and Match Managers to enable them to contact members on matters of legitimate interest connected with organising OJ golf. We are of the opinion that since members have given the Society their E mail addresses etc, as part of on-going membership, this makes the Society GDPR compliant.

The Committee and Match Managers are fully aware that the data they have available to them must be retained securely and not shared outside the OJGS.

If there have been any changes to your basic contact details, please remember to let Andrew Wildey (intothewildeyness@gmail.com) know to enable him to update the database.

Committee

The membership of the Committee remains unchanged – David Scrivens (Chairman), Barry Smart (Treasurer), David Glasscock (Membership), Andrew Wildey (Database), Stuart Hibbert (Grafton Morrish) and Andrew Worboys (Society Day). My thanks go to them for all their support.

The Committee remains very grateful to the Development Office for its administrative support and also to the School for its financial assistance, to help subsidise the heavy cost of green fees, which we hope will continue to be available.

And Most Importantly

I trust that 2019 will be a much more settled year for the Society and that we will be able to achieve some important rebuilding and stabilisation of our fixture list for the future.

I wish you all the best for the New Year

Yours sincerely

David Scrivens
(Chairman OJGS)