

Dear OJ Golfer

It's the time of year again to bring members up to date with what has been going on in another year of OJGS golf. As ever it's probably best to start on the playing side and conclude with some important points on matters of administration.

### **Matches 2019**

As has become usual in recent years, the first encounter of the season was against the School at Effingham GC. Andrew Wildey was match manager, having taken over from Humfrey Malins. After an exciting win for the School last year, this year's encounter was equally exciting with the last OJ pair narrowly winning on the 18th green to make the overall result a halved match. Our thanks are due to William Marshall, the Master i/c golf at St John's, and as usual to Trevor Lonsdale, Effingham member and until recently St John's parent, for making the arrangements with the Club.

The game against the Bar GS at New Zealand came next with the Bar side being managed for the last time by our own Paul Norris. Paul had managed the opposition side since the OJGS was first established and we are very grateful for all his help and support over that time. However, the OJ team, managed by Richard Vosser, was in no mood for fond farewells and the OJs won the match in good style. Fortunately Paul has found a worthy successor, to take over from him who has been a regular opponent in the match for a number of years.

In view of the uncertainty over the future of the fixture against the O Epsomians it was good to know their Society would be disappointed if the match were not to continue. A new match manager was keen to take it on and his good friend Andrew Wildey, who had acted as a sort of go between in getting the fixture restored, agreed to manage the OJ side. The match was played at Effingham GC on a Saturday in early July and consisted of a light lunch followed by a fourball match in the afternoon. It was a good match ending in a slightly flattering win for the OJs. We hope the fixture is now re-established.

The last match of the season against the O Alwynians was played at New Zealand. Sadly Barry Smart, our match manager, had difficulty in raising a full side for what from experience is a popular match. The O Alwynians were understanding of our problem and cooperated in making for a very enjoyable day with the match ending as a half. We must ensure without fail that we get better support next year.

### **Grafton Morrish 2019**

One of the Society's main objectives each year is to put up a strong performance in the Grafton Morrish Qualifier at Royal Wimbledon. As this is a scratch competition it means that we must get out our best six low handicap golfers to give ourselves any realistic chance of making the grade. In our relatively short time as members of the Grafton Morrish Association (formerly the Public School Old Boys Golfing Association) we have qualified twice for the finals, narrowly 1 missed more than once, and generally acquitted ourselves well when competing against so many strong golfing schools.

Team availability this year was a real headache for Stuart Hibbert our captain. The team of six is usually drawn from a pool of about 12 players with the lowest single figure handicaps. It is hoped they all keep the date free in their diaries. This year, however, only three of that number were available, the remainder were either on holiday or had other golfing commitments. The problem

then of finding suitable replacements becomes difficult. We are very grateful to those who stepped in which meant we actually managed to field the necessary six players. Those regulars who played were Stuart Hibbert, Andrew Wildey and Peter Richardson and those who kindly stepped in were Jignesh Patel, Pascal Sedgwick and Charlie Bradwell.

As a team they gave it their all but playing stableford foursomes off scratch was a mountain to climb. Interestingly the scoring at Royal Wimbledon this year was better than I can recall. Even if we had had our strongest team available it was quite likely we would not have scored well enough to qualify – some big schools, including Eton, Westminster, Dulwich, St Pauls and K.C.S. Wimbledon, all failed to make the cut!

### **Society Day at Tyrrells Wood GC**

After last year's postponement due to a clash with the final day of the Ryder Cup, Tyrrells Wood found us a suitable Sunday in June to hold the event. The format was lunch followed by fourball groups playing in pairs with the better ball stableford score of each pair to count. Sixteen players participated. Among those playing we were pleased to welcome Alex Kearney as a guest player. She had recently joined the School as a Director of External Relations.

It was a successful day though disappointing not to attract a slightly bigger field. The Club gave us an excellent lunch and there was some impressive golf played afterwards. The eventual winners, Andrew Wildey and David Pettman, came in with an excellent 48 points with Pascal Sedgwick and Dom Higgitt finishing as runners up with 47 points.

Our thanks to Andrew Worboys, our Tyrrells Wood member, for helping make arrangements with the Club, and to Andrew Wildey for his efforts in encouraging members to play.

**You may want to be reminded that more detailed reports of the matches and Society Day and who participated are available in the Golfing Society's Section of the School website.**

### **Fixture List 2020**

Date	Day	Match/Event	Venue	Match Manager
23 Apr	Thur	The School	Effingham GC	Dom Higgitt/Andrew Wildey
10 May	Sun	Grafton Morrish	Royal Wimbledon GC	Stuart Hibbert
16 May	Sat	Bar GS	New Zealand GC	Richard Vosser
7 Jun	Sun	OJGS Society Day	Tyrrells Wood GC	Andrew Worboys
18 July	Sun	O Epsomians	Effingham GC	Andrew Wildey
12 Sept	Sat	O Alleynians	New Zealand GC	Barry Smart
8-11 Oct	Thur	Grafton Morrish Finals	Royal West Norfolk GC & Hunstanton GC	Stuart Hibbert (if we qualify!)

As you will see, the new List is very much the same as last year's. As much as we would like to try and increase the number of matches played we would need to be clear that we can raise the playing support necessary to fulfill additional commitments. No year is easy and 2019 was no exception and against that background we are wary about being too ambitious. We welcome Dom Higgitt as the new Match Manager of the match against the School.

Looking ahead to 2020 we once again encourage all members to support our match managers. All our matches are fun and to be enjoyed. **Please don't wait to be asked just apply to match managers because they will be more than pleased to hear from you.**

We continue to be very fortunate to receive financial support from the School to help towards meeting the heavy costs of playing our matches at weekends. You will see under **Membership** below the changes which the Committee is now proposing in order to encourage our younger golfers to play and to support them to a greater degree in meeting these costs.

### **Membership**

Our records indicate that we have some 90 OJ golfers recorded on the database though it transpires that some of this number are not paid up members. For the future the Committee is concerned that only members who have paid their annual subscription (currently a basic £20 a year or for students just £5 a year) should be entitled to play and receive the School subsidy when playing in matches or on Society Day. It will be necessary from now on for all members to have paid their subscription beforehand. We will be asking Match Managers to confirm that this has been done.

It has also been agreed that those aged 30 or under playing in a fixture will have their contributions to the day's cost capped at £40 with the school subsidy covering the balance. For those members over the age of 30 the match subsidy will continue to be paid at the set rate.

**For information on how to pay subscriptions please refer to the front of the Email covering this Newsletter.**

### **Communications**

With the help of Alex Kearney in the School's Development Office, Andrew Wildey has been looking at ways the Society can improve its communication with members. Progress so far is outlined below.

2019 saw the introduction of our Decade Leader project. We have successfully updated our List of OJ Golfing Contacts with School leaving years which enables us to filter members by leaving year decade.

We are now looking for "Decade Leaders" to help us keep in touch with those members in their decade. This will help us recruit new members and find players for fixtures/events. We hope too it will provide a more personal touch than a mass Email.

Probable Decade Leaders proposed are - David Scrivens (1950/60s), David Glasscock (1970/80s), Andrew Wildey (1990s), Richard Warren (2000s), Dom Higgitt (2010/20s).

Work with the Development Office aims to improve the website content relating to match reports, links to social media and up to date summary information. 2020 will see us being more active in managing/updating our Twitter, Instagram, Facebook posts/feeds for OJGS related news. Many thanks to Dom Higgitt for helping us get this off the ground.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Those members receiving this Email who engage in such social media affairs, please like/follow/post on our social media platforms shown below. You never know this might help us gain more interest from fellow golfing OJs!

<https://www.facebook.com/ojgolfersociety>

<https://www.instagram.com/ojgolfersociety>

[https://twitter.com/golf\\_oj](https://twitter.com/golf_oj)

These are small steps towards improving our communication with Society members. This will give us all the opportunity to support more fixtures and events.

### **Data Protection (GDPR)**

We remain grateful to Andrew Wildey for managing and improving our database. The information on the database continues to be available only to those who have a legitimate interest in the organization of OJ golf and not for any other purpose.

If there have been any changes to your basic contact details please remember to let Andrew Wildey know – [intothewildeyness@gmail.com](mailto:intothewildeyness@gmail.com)

### **And Finally**

My thanks to the Committee and Match Managers for their support and also to the Development Office for all their help in particular with the current drive to improve our communications. I hope 2020 will show the benefits.

With best wishes for a very enjoyable and successful New Year

Yours sincerely

**David Scrivens**

(Chairman OJGS)