



OU Golfing Society 2024 Season Highlights

While planning for the OUGS centenary celebrations in 2025 has taken centre stage, 2024 has been a good warm-up, with lots of competitive fun in our area meetings, matches against other schools' alumni and Eagles events. We have welcomed more ladies to our society and our Eagles (under-35) membership continues to expand - lots more of both, please.

Our scratch teams did well in the Hewitt centenary year and qualified for the Grafton Morrish Finals, while Uppingham had a notable win in the West Midlands Public Schools event at Little Aston.

Captain's Meeting & AGM 2024

Richard Bernhard's (B 64) Captain's Meeting and the **2024 AGM** of the society were held at St Pierre Country Club in Chepstow over the weekend of 13th to 15th September. The Old Course, where we played our golf, has hosted many championship events over the years, including the Solheim Cup back in 1996, so it presented a suitable challenge to all. Furthermore, the hotel, once a magnificent Victorian country pile on the banks of the Severn estuary with a listed 16th century gatehouse, catered for our non-golf requirements. Captain Bernhard and Secretary **Tom Hayes (SH 72)** had organised everything meticulously for a successful weekend, much enjoyed by the 33 OUGS members and their 13 partners who attended the meeting.

On the Saturday, the Acorn Trophy for the best stableford score was won by **Roderick Rhodes (HF 68)**, the Lee Tankard for the best gross score was won by **Simon Moffatt (H 74)**. Other prize-winners were **David (Angus) Stewart (H 68)**, **Martyn Lindrea (F 54)**, **Chris Clarke (SH 66)**, **Brian Moeller (B 55)** and **Tim Dickson (SH 67)**. The Rutland Tankard for outstanding service to the society over the year was awarded to **Alan Thomas (H 62)**. On Sunday, the Christopherson Rosebowls were won by **David Downes (L 59)** and **Chris Clarke (SH 66)**.



Richard Bernhard presenting Scott Graham Putting Cup to Tim Dickson



Richard Bernhard presenting Acorn Trophy to Simon Moffatt

At the AGM, **Tim Dickson (SH 67)** was confirmed as Captain for 2025, and **Alastair Fisher (WD 65)** was elected Vice-Captain. **Chris Gotla (H 68)** was elected as our next President and **Roderick Rhodes (HF 68)** was elected as Secretary, while **Mike Ingham (M 66)** and **Stuart Lloyd (WD 74)** were confirmed as Treasurer and Tournament Secretary respectively.

Tim's Captain's Meeting will be held at Aldeburgh Golf Club on the Suffolk coast over the weekend of 17th to 19th October 2025. Founded in 1884, Aldeburgh is one of the oldest heathland courses in UK, with views over the River Alde and glimpses of the North Sea. It was also almost certainly the first golf club in the world where men and women had equal membership and golfing rights. For non-golfing partners, the town of Aldeburgh is a delight with a great cultural history, from Benjamin Britten's Red House to Maggie Hambling's Scallop, and several excellent restaurants for the foodies.

Public School Alumni Tournaments

Halford Hewitt: 2024 was the centenary year of this 64-school blue-riband scratch team foursomes competition. The OU team comprised of **Sam Debenham (C 90)**, **Eddie Allingham (H 81)**, **Henry Short (Hf 07)**, **Archie Warman (M 06)**, **Ewen Wilson (M 85)**, **Damian Pitts (Hf 91)**, **Duncan Wood (LH 98)**, **James Gunton (SH 97)**, **Charles Petrie (SH 13)** and **Ollie Worrall (Hf 12)**, with **Stuart Lloyd (WD 74)** as non-playing Captain.



Halford Hewitt team in Royal Cinque Ports Clubhouse.

L to R: Duncan Wood, Henry Short, Sam Debenham, Ewen Wilson, Eddie Allingham, Damian Pitts, Ollie Worrall, Charles Petrie, Archie Warman and James Gunton

We played in the Royal St Georges half of the draw on 11 & 12 April, beating Blundells 3½ :1½ in the first round. Then, to much applause from all and to the relief of the other schools still competing, we beat 3-times winners Loretto 3:2 in the second round. On the Saturday at Royal Cinque Ports the team won 3½:1½ against Wellington in the morning but lost to Tonbridge 2:3 in the quarter final that afternoon. The 2024 winners were Eton.

Bernard Darwin: At Woking GC in July our over-55 scratch team, comprising **Stuart Lloyd (WD 74)**, **Mark Proffit (H 76)**, **Eddie Allingham (H 81)**, **Simon Moffatt (H 74)**, **David (Angus) Stewart (H 68)** and **Jonathan Horler (H 70)**, were beaten 1:2 by Marlborough in the first round. Charterhouse won the event for the second year in succession.

In the Senior Darwin (over-65) our team of **Lloyd Wigglesworth (C 72)**, **Nick Freeman (L 70)**, **David Pattrick (F 65)**, **Jeremy Cooke (WB 67)**, **Angus Stewart (H 68)** and **Chris Gotla (H 68)** got their own back by beating Marlborough 2½:½ in round 1 but then lost to Malvern 1:2 in the second. It was notable that Malvern had a team of 6 players, all with handicaps of 3 or better, so it was no surprise that they went on to win the competition comfortably.

Charterhouse won the Veterans (over-75s) scratch competition.

Grafton Morrish: The OU team qualified second of the East Midlands league at Gog Magog GC back in April with 89 points. The first day of the Finals at Hunstanton in September were played in winds gusting 50mph. In such unpredictable conditions the team, comprising **Damian Pitts (Hf 91)** & **Ewen Wilson (M 85)**, **Eddie Allingham (H 81)** & **Henry Short (Hf 07)** and **James Gunton (SH 97)** & **Duncan Wood (LH 98)**, were unfortunately knocked out by Kings Wimbledon. The eventual winners were Loretto.

Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy: Our team of **Sam Debenham (C 90)**, **Eddie Allingham (H 81)**, **Henry Short (Hf 07)**, **Duncan Wood (LH 98)**, **Tom Kennedy (B 06)** and **Rowan Northcott (B 05)**, had a commendable 2/1 win over Watsonians in the first round at Royal Burgess in September but then ran into eventual finalists, Glasgow High in the second round, losing 1/2. The winners were George Heriot.

Silver Tassie: Uppingham's team of two pairs finished middle of the pack with 68 points in this Ladies competition at The Berkshire GC, which was won by Loretto. **Sally Richards (Fd 04)** had a 2 on the tough Blue course par 3 13th hole.



Our team won the M K Foster Challenge Cup (the main trophy) at the **Midland Public Schools** meeting at Little Aston.

*Midlands Public Schools winning team
L to R: John Hudson, Brian Cooke, Nick Freeman, Nick Mitchell, Eddie Allingham, David Downes, Mark Laycock & Jeremy Cooke outside the Little Aston clubhouse.*

At the Northern Public Schools meeting at Woodhall Spa, Uppingham came fourth in the Birkdale Bucket (team prize), which was won by Pocklington.

Area Meetings & Matches

The OUGS Merseyside Meeting was held in April at Formby this year and was won by **Henry Hughes (M 06)** with 35 points from **David Arthur (SH 63)** and **Andrew Renison (F 54)**, both with 32 points.

The West Midlands & Spring meeting in May at Little Aston saw **John Hudson (WB 65)** win with 35 points from **Freddie Beharrell (Fgh 12)** with 32 points.

The London Area Meeting in September at Piltdown was abandoned due to torrential rain, thunder and lightning.

At their many matches around the country, OUGS teams registered wins over the alumni of Westminster, St Pauls, Sedbergh (twice), The Leys and Rugby, and also won the match against the Piltdown GC team.

There were losses against Oundle (twice), Repton, Uppingham Rovers, Giggleswick, Nottingham, Ampleforth and Eastbourne. Our scheduled matches had to be cancelled against Old Alleynians (bad weather) and Loretto (they could not raise a team). The match against the School had to be postponed and will be played in April 2025.

During the St Pauls match at Denham, in his first outing for OUGS, **Alasdair Coutts-Wood (WD 96)** registered a hole-in-one.



Alasdair Coutts-Wood & Richard Bernhard holding the Aviator Trophy

OUGS Eagles

The Princes meeting in February was another enjoyable weekend away for 24 OU golfers from our under-35 Eagles group. The social side of this fixture is at least as important as the golf, as indicated by the photo alongside from the Lodge on the Saturday evening.



Out on the course, **Duncan Wood (LH 98)** played especially well and in doing so secured his place in the Hewitt team 2 months later.

At New Zealand GC in March a combined OU and Old London University team beat Old Peterites. At the Royal Wimbledon meeting in July the Eagle Trophy was won by **Edmund Northcott (B 03)**. The match against Old Cheltonians had to be cancelled.

OUGS membership

If you are an OU golfer, whatever your handicap, Hon Sec, Roderick Rhodes (Hf 68), would love to hear from you either by telephone on 01423 864646 or 07552 791691 or by email to roderick.rhodes1@gmail.com. Membership for 2025 is only £10pa (£nil if you are still under 25) and our extensive fixture list will contain events at great venues to suit you.

For further information about joining the **OUGS Eagles** please contact Duncan Wood on 07979 361263 or duncan.wood@ingenuitylondon.com