

OLD HAMPTONIANS GOLFING SOCIETY

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2008 – Season Report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to report that the Society seems to be up and running with in excess of 70 members on the e-mail groups for circulation and over 30 having enjoyed at least once Society Meeting this year. It is also a pleasure to see many non-playing OH's that have joined us for a social dinner on a number of occasions. We have also been extremely fortunate to have had 2 lady golfers join us as well as a number of guests of members. The society with its golf and social dinners are open to all in the forthcoming 2009 season. To receive information of future meetings, result reports, etc., is very simple, just forward your email or postal contact details to me and meeting details will be sent to you on a regular basis. It is also important that we recognize the support and guidance from many past and present members that have provided support and guidance in reviving the society. Brief reports are;

Strawberry Hill GC – May. 21 golfers (including two ladies) enjoyed almost perfect conditions, and the school very kindly arranged Jiri who looks after much of the photography for The Lion, to attend. So the 1st Tee was an even more nervous affair than usual! My thanks to Mike Sinclair who put his mathematics skills to excellent use and provided me with a most comprehensive results sheet, he has got the job! So onto the results;

1 st Overall	Bob Nicholls (24)	37pts
2 nd Overall	Chris Baker (16)	35pts on count back from Pam Clarke
Best front 9	Gary Hide (13)	18pts on count back from 3 players
Best back 9	Nobby Clarke (9)	20pts

Nearest the Pin was Pete Carpenter and he duly sunk the putt for a birdie

Basingstoke GC – September. 10 intrepid golfers enjoyed one of the best days of the year with wall to wall sunshine and a course that was in splendid, but in challenging condition. With greens akin to Augusta, your approach needed to be precise and “below the hole”. This provided a real test for those present, none of whom had any prior experience of the course. The front 9 proved to be a little easier than the back as Basingstoke has its own “Amen Corner” starting at the 10th. And for some of us this is what it proved to be! Simon Lawrence (OH), Secretary at Basingstoke provided us all with a warm welcome as did many of the members. With food, a little drink and such fine company what more can you ask for. And the results;

1 st Overall	Geoff Kirk (11)	36pts
2 nd Overall	Brian Baker (11)	34pts

Given the degree of difficulty on the greens and the course playing long due to the fairway growth thanks to the indifferent summer we have had, I must commend the very good scores posted on the day.

Leatherhead GC – October. Yet another fine day! We were so lucky this year, given the erratic nature of the weather. A good turnout for what was the annual Rugby Club Tin Cup competition traditionally held during the day of the OHA Dinner. With the fine weather and a course that was in good condition, there really was no excuse for not scoring well, but.....golf can be a very frustrating game sometimes and we had just 6 cards returning 30 points plus out of the 15 present. There was one exception in the ability not to score, but more of that later. Perhaps it was the large lunch that sat heavily with many of us, who knows.

Indeed, my thanks must go to Leatherhead GC in providing seamless arrangements for the day, the food was excellent, the course good and all at a very reasonable rate. So on to the results;

1st Overall Matt Carmody (23) 39pts
2nd Overall Rob Ford (18) 34pts
Best Front 9 Paul Smith (20) 19pts
Best Back 9 Martin Read (13) 20pts
Team prize Rob Ford, Barry Sutton and Kevin Bell 79pts

Pre-competition banter was clearly questioning Matt's handicap as a member of Leatherhead and his "home advantage", which proved decisive. Matt now looks forward to a 2 shot cut as the winner and Rob Ford a single shot as second placed. Congratulations to them both and all the prize winners on the day. (The team prize was for the total of the best 2 scores for each hole)

Strawberry Hill GC – December. Christmas meeting to be played on the 11th December

Grafton Morrish Trophy. Delighted also to report that Sam Smith entered a team in the Grafton Morrish Trophy on our behalf, this is run by the Public Schools Old Boys Golf Association and is a scratch Foursomes event for 3 pairs. The team put together by Sam Smith included Omar Malik, Raza Malik, John Sadler, Richard Jenkins and Gerald Powell. They just missed out on qualifying for the finals, but are determined to do better next year. Thank you Sam for organizing and good luck for the 2009 competition.

Dates and Venues for 2009. The following dates have been confirmed with the clubs concerned and I would ask members to make notes in you 2009 diary as soon as possible.

February?	Social at The Pavilion
Thursday March 26 th	Effingham GC
Thursday April 23 rd	Fulwell GC School Match (still to be confirmed?)
Thursday May 14 th	Cuddington GC Match v Old Tiffs
Thursday 25 th June	Ashford Manor GC
Wednesday 9 th Sept	Bramley GC
Tuesday 13 th October	Maidenhead GC
December ?	Christmas Meeting venue to be agreed

My sincere thanks to all those that have assisted me so well in getting the Society back on its feet. Brian Fagents for his guidance as our outgoing secretary, Colin Jones as past Treasurer, Rob Ford for taking on the bank account 2nd signitary role and for his guidance on ensuring we have accounts for the Society, to Bryan Brown, Development Director at The School for his support through the OHAD Website, The Lion, etc., and but most importantly "THANK YOU" the members, because without your support we would not be where we are today. We look forward to doing battle with The School and Old Tiffs.

Finally, can I just mention that we may look at organizing a Social Evening at the Old Boys sometime late February. This will provide a forum for a very brief AGM just to endorse the way forward for the Society and report on the finances for the section. This will be followed with some light refreshments and maybe an inter-active game of golf?? More in the New Year.

Gary.