

PRESIDENTS WELCOME: Terry D welcomed everybody to the meeting and noted it was pleasing to see the accounts showed no red figures which must assume the accounts are in surplus. Knowing that Richard Norris [RN] was planning to stand down as Treasurer, TD thanked RN for all his hard work over the past 20 years as Treasurer of the OTGS.

PRESENT: Richard Willacy [RW] (Secretary), Terry Davidge [TD] (President), Richard Norris [RN] (Hon. Treas.), Mark Banham, Robert Mazur, Andrew Horne, Richard Parsons [RP], Ed Bradnock [EB], Greg Whalley [GW], Pete Whalley [PW] (Captain).

APOLOGIES: Jan Becker, Anthony Forester-Bennett [AFB] (OT President), David Morgan, David Jenkins, David Horne, David Murrell, Dave Higginson, Gary Hector, Matthew Pyke, Clive Large, Simon Hobbs, Phil Stickler.

MINUTES of the last meeting: The minutes from 2023 AGM were issued with this year's agenda and assumed read. The matters arising,

1. TD noted the OTA subsidy had rising again to an outstanding amount of £1700 and wondered whether we had been in contact with the OTA to chase the funds, RW said he would contact OTA treasurer and AFB and chase for payment. RW noted that this might be an issue as the OTGS might look to the OTA to help support golf at school and that this annual subsidy to the OTGS might get diverted to the Golf Foundation instead, to ensure we still keep receiving it. RW noted that he will contact the OTA to chase this debt and to confirm the OTA are still willing to pay.

**RW to contact the OTA re subsidy.**

FINANCE: RN informed the accounts are in a good state. RN also informed the members that the society had very recently received a premium bond win of £1000 which also helps the societies financial position. RN noted that the society has had to pay a premium of £1000 for the Halford Hewitt centenary celebrations. It was also appreciated that the scratch players contribute to the competition entry fees. RW added that last year the OTGS have been quite successful in the competitions like the Grafton Morrish where we qualified for the finals at Hunstanton/Brancaster which incurred further entry fees. Also last year the OTGS sponsored the Lee brothers at the Halford Hewitt who were new recruits from school leavers. GW observed that if we played badly then it's better for the society! TD noted that we pay for the pupils in the school match every year and for any old TS member under the age of 25. RN also noted that we received a donation from Richard Jowett in lieu of the 10-15 years he has been Hon Sec and not paid subscriptions. TD also informed the members that Clive Large had made a similar donation.

Accounts were proposed, seconded and approved.

#### MATCH REPORTS:

Reigate Heath (May 23)	Fairwater Cup - Rob Mazur (32 Pts), Vets Cup – Richard Willacy (19 Pts, 9 holes)
Grafton Morrish Q (May 23)	Qualified 89 Pts winning the group
Grafton Morrish Finals (Oct 23)	Bye 1 <sup>st</sup> Round, Lost 2 <sup>nd</sup> round to Nottingham 2.5 – 0.5
Cyril Gray (June 23)	Main - 1 <sup>st</sup> round lost to Merchiston 2.5 – 0.5, Plate - 1 <sup>st</sup> round lost to St Paul's 2.5 – 0.5
Rose Bowl (Oct 23)	Won Terry Davidge & David Taylor (44 Pts), 2 <sup>nd</sup> Richard Willacy & Clive Large (42 Pts)
Edward Harris Cup (Oct 23)	No team fielded as clashed with GM. Richard Parsons willing to take on organising
Swinley Forest (Mar 24)	A.M.: OT Winner – Mark Banham (38 Pts), P.M.: Greensomes Ed Bradnock & Murray Dron (41 Pts)
Brent Knoll Bowl:	1 <sup>st</sup> Round won Lloyds Bank GS 2-1 (Main Competition) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round Lost Wigorns 2-1 (Main Competition)
Halford Hewitt:	1 <sup>st</sup> Round Lost Greshams 3.5 – 1.5 1 <sup>st</sup> Round (Plate) Lost Berkhamsted 2 – 1
Thone Cup	GB Johnson Salver (best score by School pupil) - Finlay Pyke (41 Pts) Thone Cup won by Terry Davidge (38 Pts) OT's won the team competition versus the school

SCHOOL GOLF: TD updated the members with recent discussions with the school. TD noted that the school have now entered into the top 10 for Sport Schools in the country. TD also noted that golf is now a main sporting activity at TS and the school gets extra marks for each sport that is an option to play and which is available to a wider audience. TD then explained that we asked Liam to give us an update with school golf and its aspirations.

Liam Dempster school update email extract;

*Golf has continued to grow at TS and there are certainly more players at the school playing during the week and in their own time. We have beginners and intermediate players (boys and girls) choosing golf as their main games option throughout the year and receiving tuition at Oake Manor GC. I hope that this continues to be the case in future years and the imminent arrival of the simulator will certainly boost interest in the game and offer more scope for training and development. We are now looking forward to the annual house golf competition which takes place in June.*

*In terms of competitive golf, this season we have again been involved in a league with 5 local private schools and this has provided invaluable experience for some of our mid to high handicap golfers in match play events. We have competed well in these fixtures, and I look forward to using this as a tool to grow the game further at TS.*

*In October, we entered the West of England Public Schools Competition, held at Burnham and Berrow GC. Our team of 5 did excellently across the two days, narrowly losing in the semi-finals against a Marlborough College team who were much stronger than us on paper. We then tied the 3rd place play-off with Blundells.*

*We also entered the ISGA Matchplay competition and managed to completely exceed expectations by reaching the national finals. To do so, our team of 3 beat Plymouth College, Truro School and Sherborne in the regional competition. At the finals event in April, our three players found the strokeplay element very challenging but given their age (two in year 10 and one in year 9) I was very impressed by their resilience and determination to get through the 36 holes, and we ended up 16th nationally. This will provide a target to beat in future years.*

*Financial aspects relating to the OT Golf Foundation:*

*As requested, I have put together a few items below of how I foresee any OT Foundation money being spent in future and have tried as best as possible to identify costs, or at least an estimate of them.*

*Competition entries - depending on what I am allowed to enter, I foresee entry fees across the year for external competitions being in the region of £500 and, if we were to ever qualify for the national finals of the ISGA again, this would cost a minimum of £500, possibly rising depending on location of the event etc.*

*Green fees for league matches and external/internal competitions - I would foresee this being in the range of 2000-3000 pounds per annum depending on success rate. This would enable us to enter as many students as possible into fixtures and regional competitions such as the Somerset School Championship, which is an important event for TS as it contributes towards overall school sport rankings.*

*Kit - I would like to invest in some kit asap. Current wish list would include caps and beanies costing in the region of £20 each. I would also like to buy some personalised TS Towels to go on the bags of those playing in competition events. Some of this kit will be invoiced to parents and put back into the golf foundation. There is also scope for an improved inventory when it comes to clubs and balls available on the school site and so money being available for this would be much appreciated year on year.*

*To summarise, I envisage a sum of £4,000-£5,000 per annum being the ideal target for us to aim for in terms of the golf foundation.*

TD informed members that OTGS would look at ways we could potentially raise the funds requested by Liam to help fund golf at school.

RW updated the members that the simulator was still a live prospect but was being held up by planning as the school have bigger aspirations to move the international school on site where the old Jowett hockey pitch used to be, and this also involved planning. The planning of the simulator building was part of the total bigger picture planning application. It was hoped something would happen this year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Richard Willacy Hon. Sec. & Treasurer, Pete Whalley Captain, Terry Davidge President. It was then proposed and seconded that listed officials be re-elected.

AOB:

RN noted that he had heard past President of the OTGS, Wes Wyatt, was not well and proposed that we send him our best wishes. RN asked after Barry White, nobody knew, TD noted that he was going to a restaurant run by an old boy who was a friend of Barry's son and would ask after Barry when there.

**RW to send  
WW OTGS  
best wishes**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:30.