

OGGS Newsletter : July 2026

I can't promise that this will be a regular event, but there has been lots going on in the Society over the last year and in the last few months in particular, so I thought an email to keep everyone updated on all the latest events and discussions would be helpful to Society Members.

I'll be covering recent OGGS events, some news of OG golfers' exploits and discussions from the AGM which was held at the Summer Meeting at Burnham & Berrow last month. There is quite a lot in here so please do read to the end. There are specific things that all members need to attend to and some exciting plans that we need your input on. As ever, get in touch with your thoughts, questions and suggestions - it's really important to get as much feedback as possible so please do take the time.

(Also, in the next couple of weeks, look out for the notice for our Autumn Meeting at Huntercombe on 15th September. This event is open to all and is our guest event, so please sign up and bring a fellow OG or non-OG along to this wonderful course.)

Thanks

Richard Kenyon
OGGS Society Manager

OGGS Summer Meeting & AGM 19th July 2026

The Summer Meeting at Mendip and Burnham & Berrow (B&BGC) was attended by 17 members over the two days with Richard Jones and two Downside golfers joining us at Mendip. The President's report will be out in the next Downside Monthly newsletter.

A major change this year was having dinner and accommodation at B&BGC which seemed to meet with pretty universal approval. Despite the threat of a severe hike in costs next year, we have negotiated the day's golf in 2027 for £175 which is broadly in line with other meetings. Our chances of keeping the costs at that sort of level beyond 2027 will, I suspect, depend on increasing our numbers. I can't stress enough how special a golf course it is and would urge you to get the date in your diaries early and make the effort to join us – it's definitely worth the trip! *The 2027 Summer Meeting will be held on 15th & 16th July 2027 (Open week).*

For anyone who wants the official minutes of the AGM, those are in the capable hands of the Hon Sec. The edited highlights are:

Roles: Michael Liddell was confirmed as Hon Sec, Richard Kenyon confirmed as Society Manager, Stephen Reeve-Tucker enters his final year as President, David Sheridan remains Membership Sec and David Lumley was welcomed as our new Treasurer after a mid-season transfer.

Subs: it was agreed that subs should rise to £40 per annum for 2027. We are very careful to keep our costs as tightly managed as possible but those costs have risen and subs have not been raised in a very long time. Please can I urge you all to change your standing orders from 1st January 2027 to reflect this increase? It would also be worth checking whether you have actually been paying subs at all! The more members we can get to pay this small amount every year, the less likely it is that we will need to raise them again in the near future.

Young Golfers Fund: As you will see from the Treasurer's report, members (and the St Gregory's Society) have been generous in getting this off the ground. The challenge now is to find those young golfers to make the most of it. Therefore, members decided that rather than discounting a day's golf, the society would pay the full cost of a day's golf for all members under 30 (while funds are available). If you are a young OG who hasn't attended one of our meetings or matches yet, please take advantage of the chance to play some seriously good golf courses for FREE!

Society finances update July 2026:

Cash at bank for OGGS £4,388

Cash at bank Young Golfers' Fund £4,253

Fixture list 2027: My intention is that we will have the 2027 Fixture List confirmed and circulated by October this year. It was agreed at the AGM that the Summer Meeting would move back to July (see above) and that the Spring Meeting at Denham would take place a week earlier (Thursday 6th May 2027). I would also like to suggest the following additions to the calendar for 2027:

- *Entry into the Public School Midlands Meeting.* This is held at Little Aston GC (near Birmingham) in the middle of June and they have a spot for us if we want to take it up. It is a handicap stableford foursomes inter-schools competition and would provide an alternative for those who don't live in London and the South-East. I have sounded out a few members and am confident we could raise the required team of 8. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know. Little Aston has the reputation of being one of the finest parkland courses in the UK.
- *OGGS Foursomes Knock-out Competition.* An in-house handicap knock-out competition drawn in March, played through the year with the final staged in October. I think this would be a great chance for members to host each other at their clubs. Our members are lucky enough to belong to some fantastic courses and I believe this would add something different to the OGGS offering from both a golfing and social point of view. Please let me know if you would like to take part. (You may know who you would like to partner with but I am happy to team people up if you get in touch individually.)

- *Tour.* A number of society members have floated this idea and I would like to hear from those of you who would be interested; October 2027 has been suggested as the first realistic date. We could book through a golf travel company but I have spoken to Andy Borg (in Malta) and Chris Manfield (Lyon) who have both kindly offered to help with logistics if members are keen on either of those locations. Please let me know your thoughts – Malta and the South of France have got to be nicer than the UK in October!

2026 fixtures to date:

Halford Hewitt

A somewhat humbling first round loss followed by a narrow defeat in the Plate. It is really important that we get our best golfers to this. Please book out the dates in your diaries early.

OGGS vs Worth (Royal Ashdown Forest – April)

A famous victory for the OGs (4.5-2.5), the highlight of which seems to have been a Worth player landing his ball in his playing partner's bag! Ask Grievson for details....

Spring Meeting (Denham – May)

A record turn-out of 26 OGs enjoyed a course in excellent condition and the usual superb lunch. Afternoon foursomes curtailed for some by the weather klaxon – almost like playing on the PGA Tour!

Singles – Div 1 : Alasdair Grievson (35 pts)

Singles – Div 2 : Tom Nicholson (32 pts)

Foursomes - Jeremy Kenyon and J-P Stalder (41 pts)

Grafton Morrish (Denham – May)

Sadly we didn't make it through to the finals again this year. It's a testing format and the standard is getting ever tougher. We've moved the Spring Meeting a week earlier for 2027 which we hope will help those who want to play both events but for whom the logistics have been difficult to date.

OGGS vs Piltdown (Piltdown – June)

OGs triumphed 3-1

Summer Meeting (Mendip/Burnham & Berrow – June)

Mendip winner – Jeremy Kenyon

B&B Foursomes – Stephen Reeve-Tucker & Alasdair Grievson

Scratch Cup – Alasdair Grievson,
Gregorian Bowl (Stableford Singles) - Jeremy Kenyon
Veterans' Trophy - Chris Thomas.

The Mellin (West Hill GC – June)

The Over 55s beat Felsted 2-1 in the first round but lost 2-1 to Cheltenham in the afternoon.

The Over 65s lost to Felsted in the first round of the main draw, beat Cheltenham in the Plate but ultimately lost to Aldenham in the plate semi-finals.

OG Golfers news:

Andy Borg (B91) is playing at Stirling Golf Club in the qualifying tournament for the British Senior Open in a couple of weeks' time. If he is successful, the Senior Open is being held at Gleneagles between 23rd – 26th July.

Niall Scott (S03) played in regional qualifying for the Open Championship at Minchinhampton GC in June. He will also be playing in the West of England Open Amateur Championship at Burnham & Berrow on 13th August.

The Society is delighted to welcome its newest recruits, Rosie Rooney and Rupert Tagent, who left Downside just a couple of weeks ago! Rosie is playing in the Stowe match at New Zealand in August and they are both attending the Young OGs event at Orchardleigh in early September.

(If you have any news about your own golfing exploits, please let me know. You may not think your Club Championship/Monthly Medal triumph is newsworthy but we'd love to share it with OGGS members!)