

OAGS North West Tour 2019 30th July - 2nd August.

The Tour was looking forward to having the Society's Captain to lead us this year, but an unfortunate accident whilst fishing in Iceland prohibited his attendance. We wish Alex Cuppage well and hope he may be able to be with us in 2020.

Match v Old Uppinghamians for The China Cup

Lord Stafford captained the team and led it through thunder and lightning to complete his match over 18 holes. The other matches left the course for a short time and played about 12 holes each. This year we were indebted to Caldy Golf Club, and in particular the Lady Captain, who kindly allowed the match to be played at Caldy on "Ladies Day" as Delamere, the usual venue, was not able to accommodate the match this year. Lord Stafford entertained with his speech at dinner where the result was declared as a draw, indeed all matches were drawn!

Match Drawn.

Match v Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club for The Lytham Quaich

Russell Haymen again kindly invited us to his home, The Old Dormie House where the Society was formed, where there was a champagne reception with the Lytham members before an excellent luncheon in the Club Dining Room. The Society is indebted to Simon Coupe who kindly organises this fixture and who was able to arrange the match just three days after the Seniors Open Championship had been played on the magnificent Links. Ampleforth put up it's best performance in recent years but narrowly missed having its name engraved on the Trophy for the first time. Ampleforth returned to Michael and Annabel Barton's home in Heswall for supper and for the only chance during the Tour to be together without opponents.

Match lost 3½ - 2½.

Match v Caldy Golf Club

It was a glorious day, quite different from when the Society played Uppingham two days earlier, and the course was in excellent condition. Caldy will shortly be a Regional Qualifier course for the Open Championship and is a joy to play. Robin Andrews captained the side and despite the distraction of an Ashes Test Match taking place elsewhere he led the team with distinction and spoke graciously at the dinner. Caldy put out a fearsome team and they were too powerful for Ampleforth.

Caldy won 6 – 1

Match v Royal Liverpool Golf Club for the Wirral Decanter

Another beautiful day and the Society were captained by Anthony Carroll. His second pair were the Halford Hewitt boys Mark Whittaker and Hugh Jackson, and the Society put out a strong team. The Walker Cup would be played over the historic links a month later and the course was playing well. The superb dinner this year was in the Club Room and attached is a photograph of the occasion. Our match captain spoke with wit and humour.

Ampleforth won 7 – 3



Conclusion

A big thank you to all who participated with such good humour, to Kevin Garrett and Annabel Barton for hosting a number of Amplefordians, to Fr Felix for being with us and keeping the Monastic connection, to Francis Stafford, Robin Andrews, and Anthony Carroll for being Match Captains and for their eloquence at their respective dinners which followed the matches, and to the Secretary Nick North and Treasurer Hugh Jackson for lending gravitas to the proceedings.

Participants: *Robin Andrews (O61), Michael Barton (T64), Richard Beatty (T81), Phillip Biggs (A66), Anthony Carroll (E76), David de Chazal (O66), Kevin Garrett (D64), Charles Jackson (C58), Hugh Jackson (T95), Trevor Leary (Downside), Marcus Moore (C75), Timothy Myles (B71), Jeremy Mounsey (H72), Nicholas North (O61), Finbarr O'Connor (B77), Joe Pinnington (Belmont), Francis Stafford (C72), Felix Stephens (H61), Donald Sutherland (E50), Peter Thomasson (J69), Mike Tibbatts (E66), Mark Webber (B76), Mark Whittaker (J86)*

Note for the diary - the 2020 Tour dates:

Tuesday 28th July – v Uppingham at Delamere Forest Golf Club, near Chester.

Wednesday 29st July – v Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club at Lytham.

Thursday 30th July – v Caldy Golf Club at Caldy.

Friday 31st July – v Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake.