



The Old Altrinchamian Golf Society



Vintage Deux Mille et Dix

Old Alts v. The School 18th June 2010 – The Marlborough Trophy

Tail between legs

The season's opener, the curtain-raiser, the Alpha moment.. Old Alts were obliterated.

All the fatuous football punditry applies. They were well organised. They were leaner and fitter. They had greater depth on the bench.

Although the final score eludes me at this moment, I'm sure Mr Meakin, the School side's new organiser will inform you if you mention your affiliation to this Society. In fact, Mr Meakin had a lot to answer for. His team wore colours. Every boy was clad in AGS green, every shirt was tucked in, every hair was Brylcreemed down. I had not given a thought to the fact that my hand-picked team of children of the 40's and 50's would require a lecture on appearance. I had pre-supposed that shoes would be polished. It would appear that the discipline and orderliness of years gone by had given way to something more slapdash. Tasteless polo shirts and rain-soaked baseball caps dug from the bottom of the golf bag. D minus, gentlemen.

Our organiser also avoided commendation, having brought the match forward by 3hrs to accommodate his team's wishes to watch a glorious performance for the England Football Team against Algeria in the World Cup that evening (0-0). A chaotic first tee saw century-old alliances ripped apart in favour of fashionable, ad-hoc partnerships. It did not work and our boys took a hell of a beating.

We congratulate the Boys on their resounding victory and remind them that *The Marlborough Trophy*, rather like *The Ashes*, is only ever 'on loan'.

Old Alts v. The World 7th July 2010 – The Inter-Old Boys Trophy

Back with a swagger

Twelve Old Alts took the field at Bramhall GC to represent their school against inferior seats of education including; Kings Mac (*Maxonians*), Cheadle Hulme (*Old Waconians*), Stockport GS (*Old Stops*) Stockport HS (*Stoconians*), William Hulme (*Old Hulmeians*) and Manchester GS (*Old Mancunians*).

With 6 scores to count from a mere 12 entries, Old Alts were left feeling like the other teams are playing 'from the Ladies tee' with Maxonians any 6 from 18 entries and Old Stops any 6 from 30+.

But this is sport. Glorious, unpredictable sport.

Contributions from Leonard, Battman, Harrison, Meakin, Stockton and Shaw at an average of just under 35 Stableford points each secured a fine 3rd place, a single point short of 2nd and a trifling 1 point a man fewer than eventual winners Old Maxonians. Mr John Shaw's personal contribution of 38 points deservedly earned him a bottle of Chateau Mouton-Rothschild. Mr Paul Stockton also received a prize for a Hole-in-One, a bar bill of £107.00.

Old Alt v. Old Alt 9th September 2010 – The 21st Annual Old Alts Society Day

Old friends and sleepless nights

We've all had that dream.

The one where you co-ordinate a Golf Society Day and no one turns up. The telephone starts ringing at 8am with excuses ranging from sick pets to metatarsal injuries. Thankfully, my preoccupations were erroneous. After weeks of temperamental weather, a glorious late-summer's day greeted arrivals at Ringway GC that morning. Our Official Starter set each three-ball off at short intervals following compulsory group photographs. Peter Morton blessed each group.



R-L Our ceremonial Starter – Peter Morton – Paul Stockton

I first played this event 5 years ago at Styal GC. From the first tee to the last drink, I had been made spectacularly welcome by the Old Boys, very few (or perhaps none) of whom had gone to school with me. The warmth and hospitality bestowed upon me seemed quite at odds with my standing in the group as a new face. But that was just it. I was an equal. We'd all sat in the same classrooms, exercised in the same gymnasium, walked in each other's footsteps down Marlborough Road. We had all spent our most formative years in an institution with an ethos that we each continue to carry with us today. The Golf Society was an extension of that fellowship.

So, the golf was played, the cards returned and we gathered to dine together and toast our winners. Mr Ian Bell, our undisputed wooden spoon champion, proposed a delightful toast to the school on behalf of the Old Boys. The prize presentation followed.

Longest drive was taken by the wily fox, Mr John Shaw. Nearest the Pin's were collected by Mr Scott Meakin (4ft) and Mr Ray Jackson (4 inches). Nobody begrudged Ray a prize (a framed picture of the Hole he nearly aced) after a breathtaking round-trip of 502 miles to take part. The inaugural Guest Prize was won by Mr Bob Dickenson and the Trophy was named in his honour, in perpetuity. Mr Meakin once again graced the rostrum to collect his share of the Team Prize won conjointly by Scott, Mr Roy Harrison and Mr Anthony Perrett. And so to the Charles Laver. This exquisite trophy was salvaged from a less dignified existence by my predecessor, Mr GM Gittins and it is a fine prize with which to crown the annual winner. The envelope was opened to reveal that finally, one of our most talented golfing members had finally broken his Old Alts duck.

Mr John Shaw had claimed his first Laver with a fine score of 36 points.



John Shaw (right) receives the Charles Laver Trophy

Following the presentation of prizes, the Old Alts held a second presentation, that to honour its most recognisable face and a man to which we all owe the existence of the Golfing Society itself, Mr GM Gittins. Mike or Geoff as you may know him was presented with an Old Alts blazer in recognition of his longstanding service to the Society. As Peter Morton helped GM into his commemorative jacket, the parallels with the *US Masters* Butler cabin ceremony were all too obvious. Such a pity it was then that whilst the arms and shoulders fitted neatly, the blazer could not quite cover GM's midriff.



GM Gittins receives his Old Alts blazer from PF Morton



Mr Gittins' attempts to fasten the blazer

Finally, Peter Morton rose to give an extremely dry recollection of Master/Schoolboy quotes that cannot be repeated here.

I look forward to reporting to you again in 12 months time on the antics of the Old Alts Golf Society.