

Dick Watson Trophy 2016

The Dick Watson Trophy is an old boy inter-school foursome competition played for by fifteen teams over an October weekend at Aldeburgh Golf Club.

Jonny Newton and Mike Schneidau scored 32.5 points playing with Eton on Saturday morning in blustery and wet conditions. The highlight of their round, and the biggest cheer of the day, occurred when Mike scored a hole in one on the tricky, short par 3 fourth hole. With over 60 players playing on the day, it was an expensive shot!

John Wybar and Matt Low scored 33.5 points playing with Radley, which put Framlingham in 2nd position at lunch knowing that they must be first or second at the end of the day to reach the final. In the afternoon Jonny and Matt scored 34 points playing with Bradfield; Bradfield had knocked out Framlingham in this year's Halford Hewitt and it looked as though they enjoyed beating them convincingly on home soil.

John and Mike scored 36 points in the afternoon playing with a strong Winchester side who were playing for top spot. This was a great performance by John in scoring well again in wet and windy conditions and this result put Framlingham on top of the day's play with a place in the final on Sunday morning. The traditional dinner at the club was attended by all the teams, with several speeches and various betting on the outcome of the Sunday Dinner matches that were drawn that evening.

A late night was followed by an early start on Sunday. However, the final was played in better conditions with less wind. The format now changed to match play, 18 holes played to a finish, with Jonny and John giving 5 strokes to a strong Winchester pair. Jonny and John went one up after the 1st hole and held this lead until the 9th hole. Matt and Mike played well in their match and kept it to one down at the halfway point after some excellent golf by the Winchester pair.

It stayed tight for the rest of the match and impressively Matt and Mike pulled it back from 4 down on the 15th, to 2 down on the 18th tee. They won the 18th to lose their match 1 down. Jonny and John got to 4 up on the 15th, but lost the 16th, before halving the 17th after John went very close with his tee shot; only a miraculous up and down from the greenside bunker kept the match going. They were now 3 up, an aggregate of 2 clear holes ahead of Winchester, as Jonny and John teed off on the 18th. A half was agreed on the fairway and Framlingham had won the Trophy by 1 hole!

It was a fantastic achievement by the team; John Wybar had the top score over the weekend, Mike had the first hole in one in the tournament's history and Matt Low had his first outing for the first team. Matt will be a force in future Halford Hewitt teams and our Halford future looks bright with a strong schoolboy team being coached by Dougal Lyon waiting in the wings.

Pictured below left to right are Mike Schneidau, John Wybar, Jonny Newton and Matt Low



Report by by David Wybar, organiser of the tournament

I attach the results from this year's tournament and thank all those who brought teams

While I appreciate the kind remarks about my organisation of the event, it wouldn't work at all without the support of all of you with many of you being very generous in hosting your teams over the weekend

After a very wet morning on Saturday, Winchester led Framlingham by 3 points with Stowe a further 2 points back. In the afternoon, the order was reversed - Stowe faltered on the back nine after a good start and Radley's terrific score brought them up to 3rd place after a poor morning

The matches on Sunday morning were nearly all very tight with the final decided in Framlingham's favour by the narrowest of margins - not able to say the final green as hands were shaken a little earlier on the 18th hole!

Winners

Framlingham (Matt Low, Jonny Newton, Mike Schneidau & John Wybar)

Runners up

Winchester (James Dinwiddy, Tristan Hanson, Ed Matthews & Tim Rowan-Robinson)

Saturday prizes for best stableford scores

a.m. Stowe (Ian Bendell & Jeremy Scowsill) - 36.5 points
(Dinwiddy/Hanson scored 37 points after finishing 4, 3, 3 but were not eligible for two prizes)

p.m. Radley (Rob Goldsmith & Hugh Wolley) - 39.5 points

Next year's dates - 14th/15th October 2017

