

## Dick Watson Trophy 2019

Framlingham defended the Dick Watson trophy in style at Aldeburgh Golf Club, winning for the fourth consecutive year. This unprecedented run just shows how far the Old Framlinghamian Golf Society, and specifically the first team, has developed over the last few years. A strong squad has allowed a change of personnel when players have been unavailable, but Hugh Curle, Matt Low and Captain, Jonny Newton have been stalwarts and played in the last three wins. Lottie Whyman has been the latest addition and deserves full credit for playing off the white tees and holding her own against strong opposition. She has been a fantastic addition to the Dick Watson team and with Hugh Curle, who was excellent all weekend, they were the leading lights of the team this year.

On a weekend of gales and rain squalls, Framlingham were leading at lunch on the first day with 62 Stableford points. Hugh and Matt contributed 33 points while playing with Stowe, and Lottie and Jonny scored 29 playing with an experienced Bradfield side, whom we beat in the 2017 final. The afternoon saw further rain, but a brilliant 35 points from Matt and Lottie and a solid 31 points from Hugh and Jonny saw us reaching the final for the fourth year running.

The scores were much closer this year with Eton finishing top and, after a nervy last hour in the bar as Framlingham waited for all results to come in, they were able to celebrate reaching another final, this time against the confident Eton team. In between finishing the afternoon round and an entertaining dinner at the club, the Captain popped out to celebrate at last year's winning team player James Blyth's newest son Rupert's christening party. James was disappointed not to be playing, but the captain reiterated that he is unlikely to return as Lottie has taken his place and is much better than him!

The final was a tense affair and the youthful Eton team played and acted as though they meant business. Matt and Jonny came up against the Fox brothers first up and had to give 7 shots. They lost by 3 holes, mainly due to several very short putts being missed by the Captain! Matt was solid and winning the 18<sup>th</sup> was crucial, but they were beaten by a more consistent pair. The plaudits must go to Lottie and Hugh, who, giving 4 shots, got to 5 up just after the turn and never looked like losing. David Wybar followed their back nine holes and said that they played superbly and, although Eton fought back, they never looked like losing. Eton did manage to get to the last green and had a long putt to send the game into a sudden death play-off down the first hole, but it lipped out and we had won the match by 4 holes. It was a very tense finish for the supporters watching, but well done to Lottie and Hugh. The overall result of the final was a win by 1 hole!

As Captain I am very proud of winning four years on the bounce. It's a brilliant achievement and one I doubt will ever be beaten. Each year the 15 or so schools who play better and better want to knock us off our winning perch. All the players have played their part and represented Framlingham brightly on the course and in the bar. We are already looking forward to next year and defending our title.

Jonny Newton  
OFGS First Team Captain

The winning team Left to Right : Hugh Curle, Lottie Whyman, Jonny Newton and Matt Low

