

## Halford Hewitt 2022

The Halford Hewitt returned to its customary April date at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal. Framlingham progressed successfully again to the second round for the third consecutive year. Although beaten by a strong Cranleigh team in the second round, Framlingham is slowly learning how to win at the Hewitt.

What would have been our strongest ever side in 2022, soon became a similar team to that of previous years. Patrick Spraggs, who would have been one of the best players in the tournament, returned to the USA for visa commitments weeks before the tournament as he is due to marry and live in the USA later this year. Lottie Whyman who practised with the squad on the Tuesday, succumbed to Covid and we called on Hugh Curle, our travelling reserve, to step in.

Most of the playing squad practised for at least 2 days before our Friday match against Wrekin, who were placed 10 places above Framlingham in the Hewitt Anderson rankings. It was a comfortable 3.5 v 1.5 winning score line, with a convincing win for John Wybar and Richard Graves 7/6, and wins for Harry Bush and Harvey Finbow 3/2 and Rob Atton and Peter Watts 5/4. Jonny Newton and Archie Winter were leading by 2 holes when the match was won. Watts, coming out of retirement, proved that he is still one of the best, playing with his old partner, Atton. I expect they have the best Framlingham record ever.

In the second round Cranleigh, who are placed 18<sup>th</sup> in the Anderson rankings, proved too good for Framlingham who are placed 47<sup>th</sup>. We lost 4.5 – 0.5 with Newton and Winter again taking a half when they were well up and due to win.

On a positive note, Joanne Milton contacted the OFGS to ask if her father, Ian Marsh, could come to support. Her uncle, Neville Marsh, had passed on our contact details and even offered to host a gathering in Deal the night before we played. We will certainly take up that offer in the years to come, but a quiet night was had in preparation for 36 holes the next day.

Ian, who must be in his 80's, walked most of the course in the morning and was invited for lunch with Jonny Newton, the Captain, and Richard Graves after our successful win on Friday morning. It was great to have some support and we go again next year. We will keep trying to unearth quality players and the feeling in the group is that we are close to a run in the Hewitt.

*Pictured are Archie Winter on the left and Jonny Newton*

