

Halford Hewitt 2021

This year's Halford Hewitt, delayed from April by Covid-19, was played in early September for the first time in its history.

Framlingham enjoyed another first round win under Captain Jonny Newton when they played City of London. It was a nearly a full strength team, with only Archie Winter being absent as he could not get time off from his placement at a private school. We were drawn early on the Thursday morning at Royal Cinque Ports with kind weather, although a firm but unusual easterly breeze. Support from Andy Towler, Andrew Wright and his wife, Margaret, was much appreciated and the team never looked losing the match and the final score of 3 ½ - 1 ½ does not show our dominance.

Jonny Newton and Rob Atton could have walked off with a ½ point with 3 holes to play but wanted to end what was a very competitive match, which they lost on the 17th hole, needing a birdie to take it down the 18th. Harry Bush and Gavin Cowell were very strong and John Wybar and Lottie Whyman won easily. Richard Graves and Hugh Curle, the elder statesmen in the team, cruised through the last match.

We were unlucky to draw Ampleforth, who were losing finalists for the last 3 years. They had a strong team and, although we were level with them after 9 holes in most matches, their experience and guile won through. Newton and Atton were the only pair to win a match and, at 4-1, we were truly beaten.

Lottie was the star of the week. She had been recovering from Long Covid during the summer and had gradually worked her way up to 18 holes only a few weeks before. Solid in all parts of her game, Vice Captain and talisman John Wybar said she was outstanding to play with. Ben Slaven was our reserve who travelled with the squad and played some excellent golf in the warm up days. He is one for the future, for sure to complement Harvey Finbow who was solid all week, and Jake Swinburn. They are all in their early 20's so have a great future ahead of them.

With only 6 months to go before the next Hewitt, the squad, with a favourable draw next year, could go a long way. Next year we will be blessed with Pat Spraggs who has returned to amateur status after being a professional, and, with a current handicap of +4, will bolster the team with his excellent golf. Winter will also be available at Easter, making this potentially the strongest Hewitt team in Framlingham's history.

What is clear is the excellent team spirit in the squad and this will put us in good stead for years to come. Everyone plays a part in the squad and I am really proud of each and everyone. With the continued support from the OFGS, my aim is to build a strong, youthful/experienced and competitive side to compete in all competitions we enter.

Jonny Newton

L-R Rob Atton and Jonny Newton victorious in the second round!



L-R Putting at Royal St George's GC



L-R Lottie Whyman, Andy Towler, Rob Atton, Hugh Curle, Richard Graves, Ben Slaven, Harvey Finbow, Gavin Cowell, Jake Swinburn (nearest camera)



L-R Harvey Finbow, Hugh Curle, Ben Slaven



L-R Ben Slaven, Jake Swinburn, Rob Atton, Gavin Cowell (seated), Hugh Curle, Harvey Finbow, Lottie Whyman, Richard Graves

