

Richard Graves reports -

Halford Hewitt 2015 – Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Deal.

9th - 12th April 2015

Hewitt Squad: Gavin Cowell, Charlie Plunkett, Peter Watts, Richard Graves, Johnny Wybar, Lottie Whyman, Will Poole, Rob Atton, Matt Stolls, Jonny Newton, Andrew Towler, Hugh Curle and Mike Schneidau.

There were first appearances for Will Poole and Lottie Whyman, with Lottie becoming our first Lady Hewitt member.

We were blessed again by some fine weather during Hewitt week. Practice times were secured on both the Tuesday and Wednesday before the 1st Round proper on the Thursday. Deal was running firm with slick greens, so provided perfect links conditions.

However, on the afternoon of our 1st Round Match v Shrewsbury play was suspended due to heavy fog! Some were holding the French to blame due to poor air quality drifting over the Channel, yet only a few miles down the coast it was blazing sunshine and clear skies.

The Framlingham vs Shrewsbury Match was the final match of the day teeing off at 3.20pm but, by the time most matches had reached the turn, you could not make out which green to aim for, the fog having rolled in so thickly. At the time of play being suspended at around 5.00pm, we were up in two matches and down in three, so it was back to the Pegwell Bay Hotel that evening to assess our position.



We returned at 8.00am on the Friday morning when play resumed. Gavin and Charlie having been up in their match, were thrown some serious sub-par golf by their opponents over the closing holes and lost at the 17th. They had played some great golf, but just came up against a hot pairing on the morning. Richard and Peter did not have one of most productive days, yet behind us Lottie and Johnny were playing superbly and would have won their match comfortably. Perhaps the performance of the morning though came from Rob and Will who, having been in some trouble at close of play the night before, then proceeded to rattle off and win 5 of the next 7 holes, with Will draining a 40 foot putt on the 14th for birdie to go 2 up. Our anchor pair of Matt and Jonny came up against Shrewsbury's best pairing and came second.

The final result equated to Shrewsbury 4 - Framlingham 1, but we had to accept to halved matches when we were up in both. It was an exceptionally tight match and Gavin and Charlie's match proved pivotal.

Our Plate match was vs Glenalmond. We rotated the team to allow other members of the Squad to have a game, but went down 2-1.

The Hewitt draw had been unkind to us again with Shrewsbury having been past winners of the Tournament. That said, we have plenty to build on for 2016.

Patrick Spraggs also joined us and offered professional advice and the Squad would like to thank Andrew Wright, David Turnbull and Norman Porter for offering their support on the day. Thanks also to Andrew Towler who did another fantastic job arranging accommodation for everyone throughout the week.