



2024 Captain's Review for the Chronicle

September 2024

The highlight of the 2024 golf season has to be the summer outing at Bruntsfield in June where we shared the event with 25 pupils from EA to celebrate our school's bicentennial. We look forward to many future combined events as the links between our FP golf club and the school strengthen over the coming years. See more details below and a selection of photos on our website <https://www.edinburghhacciesgolf.com/gallery/>

The year started with Bruce Graham & John Lang coming through five rounds of knockout golf, ultimately defeating James Bryce & Gavin Morton in the final of the '**23/24 winter foursomes**'. See the website for full results.

We have a mix of elite foursomes scratch golf and social events in our calendar, designed to appeal to Academical golfers of all abilities. Many of the early season events though focus on preparing for the 4-day Halford Hewitt Cup (where 64 school 10-a-side FP teams meet on the Kent coast in April). The first of these is the annual 8-a-side match vs Merchistonians at Muirfield in February. We lost this game 4½-3½.

The next event each year is the 8-a-side **Scottish Wayfarers** (EA, Fettes, Loretto, Glenalmond, Merchiston & Strathallan) weekend at Elie in March where we play 72 holes in an intense weekend of competitive foursomes golf, with a lot of emphasis on catching up with friends. This year we ended up in 6th place with only a victory over Glenalmond and a halved match with Strathallan to show for our efforts.

At the **Halford Hewitt Cup** Hugo Rintoul (2023) made his first appearance, following his older brother Angus into the team. Hugo paired up with Joe Lockie to win their first round match 7&6 but sadly this wasn't enough to defeat Rugby School in the first round as the team lost 3-2 with the final game going down on the 19th.



Six of the team looking the part great in their new EA kit below. Photo from the practice rounds is (LtoR) Angus Rintoul, Nick Peoples, Hugo Rintoul, Paul Loudon, Jamie Simpson & Joe Lockie. The other four in the team were: David Simson, Doug Zuill, Steve Malcolm & Scott Bell.



The **Spring outing** at Muirfield in May: The Gold Medal was won by past Captain Mike MacPhee. Iain Smith came 2nd in the scratch and also just lost out to Donald Snodgrass in the Silver Medal (net) on a count-back.

The **Summer outing** (at Bruntsfield Links GS) was combined with the team event vs EA school for the Jock Younie Trophy this year to celebrate EA's bicentennial. The best 6 net stableford scores from each team resulted in a comprehensive victory for the school 242 pts to 228 pts. Hugo Rintoul won the scratch Jubilee Vase with an excellent 67 gross; Paul Loudon won the net Jubilee Rosebowl with a net 41 stableford points (gross 69).



After winning the individual **EA Club Championships** for the past two years, Angus Rintoul fell to Iain Smith in the first round this year. Iain had a tough draw as he then came up against Angus' brother Hugo in the semi finals losing on the last hole. The 2024 event is ongoing with Paul Loudon and Brian Hay-Smith in the other semi final, all three looking to win it for the first time.

Just like in 2023 it took us until August this year, and Jason Parrott's leadership again, to record our first team victory. He went one better this year, not only winning the annual 'social' match against Loretto 4-1 (with Mike Bennett, Mike Evans, Jamie Zegleman, Harry James, Lochie Prentice, Charles Robertson, James Lowe, James McFarlane & Paul Loudon) but also winning the Edinburgh Trophy (vs Watsons, Heriots & Stewarts-Melville). Team photo below.



LtoR: Angus Rintoul, Stuart Thyne, Paul Loudon, Lochie Prentice, Jason Parrott & Stuart Moffat (missed the photo).



Our final scratch team match of the year was the **Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup (QE)** at Royal Burgess in mid September. Another tough draw resulted in a first round loss to eventual winners Heriots. Paul Loudon & Hugo Rintoul, playing in the top game, were 2 under par when they shook hands losing to the current Lothians champion (Sam Hall) and his partner. On a positive note, 18 year-old Ewan Simson came down from his first week at St Andrews Uni to make his first appearance for the team. He's got a long way to go to emulate his father's 38 consecutive appearances in the Halford Hewitt team though.

The **Autumn outing** was held at Luffness New GC in early September. Your Captain won the Gold medal with a gross 74 and John Lang the Silver medal with a net 73.

The **Senior section** have two events each year: Scottish Wayfarers (SW) and Cyril Gray (half the schools that compete in the Halford Hewitt play as three pairs of foursomes over three days in the end of June at Worplesdon. This year we were beaten by Merchiston in the SW on the Sunday morning at Panmure and in the CG by Chigwell in the 2nd round.

Our **club dinner (Friday 29th November)** will be back at The Place again this year. Excellent Watsonian golfer, and not bad rugby player, Gavin Hastings will be toasting the club and Paul Loudon toasting the guests.

Thank you to the rest of my committee for helping organise our club over the two years of my Captaincy. Richard Summers (Hon Sec & Treasurer), Iain Lamond (Dinner organiser), Jamie Simpson (Hon Match Secretary), Jason Parrott (Social Match Captain), Nick Peoples (Under 35s) & Doug Zuill (Over 50s Captain). Please give our 2025 Captain, Iain Smith, your support by responding to emails quickly and making yourselves available for the many events and fixtures.

Colin McClung

EAGC Captain 2023-24

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