The **Queen** **Elizabeth** **Coronation** Schools Tournament 2017

## 22nd to 24th September

A great weekend was enjoyed by the Old St Beghians Golfing Society in Edinburgh at the Queen Elizabeth tournament.

As the incoming Captain of this event, my remit was to encourage the under 30’s to attend and as a pre-amble to attract more interest in attending the Halford Hewitt. I decided to promote the social side of the QE over the golf with Edinburgh and it’s 700 plus bars and many more restaurants as the main attraction.

Ten golfers turned up at the Braid Hills in Edinburgh to qualify for a place in the six person team.

A dry but blustery day, all golfers enjoyed the course and the spectacular views over Edinburgh and the Castle.

Rodney Atkinson battled over the tough hillside terrain and despite subtle protestations, was not last but was part of the four who tried but did not quite achieve the qualifying score of 23 points scratch stableford points! Tough course! Jack Foley-Barwise, Ben Wilson and Ethan Spedding were the other three missing out on a team place. Their participation was nonetheless much appreciated.

After the golf a great evening was had in Morningside. Fed and watered the team prepared well for a morning match against Royal High School.

The first match of top qualifying pair John Currie and Andy Crummey didn’t quite manage to maintain their qualifying form and went down early 5 & 4. This left the remaining two close matches of Andrew Goodwin and John Berry and anchor pairing of Tom Wright and Adrian Peckitt to battle for a win.

The anchor pair took an early lead and despite a fight back, St Bees, with some steady play in the middle of the game hung on for a fine victory, winning 3 & 2.

John Berry and Andy Goodwin were playing consistent golf while their opponents were playing poorly, but they always managed a ‘magic shot’ on each hole to keep themselves in the game. After six holes St Bees spectators could not believe the match was still all square. St Bees’s consistent golf being matched with unattractive and scrappy golf intermingled with brilliance. There are indeed many ways to achieve a score, and the middle pair of Royal High were demonstrating a wide and varied approach to achieve the same score as Goodwin and Berry. At times hysterical!

Standing on the 18th tee St Bees were still just one up on their opponents. It’s the deciding game. On a short par 4 hole Goodwin drove into the greenside bunker and once again they looked in charge. Royal High continued poorly hitting another poor tee shot. Their second went into the burn and after a penalty drop their fourth shot was still short of the St Bees ball in the bunker. Everyone was waiting for the ‘magic shot’! It didn’t arrive and the game was won and the match 2/1.

We celebrated in good style, in the West End of Edinburgh’s great City; maybe too much! However, wins have been in short supply for the OSBGS in recent years.

The early 8:48 start saw two reserves of Ben Wilson and Ethan Spedding taking the places of John Currie and Andrew Goodwin. The match was against past winners and formidable opponents, on home turf, Watsonians.

To cut the story short, St Bees were beaten by a strong Watson’s team 3/0. However, that result does not reflect the valiant efforts by each of the St Bees team made to take two matches to the 17th and despite an early bath for the front pair. With a little more composure it could just as easily been 2 -1 to St Bees… glad we stayed out until 2am!

Thank you to all attendees, great to see you all and make sure you attend the **Halford Hewitt**.

***Andrew Goodwin*** - Captain