

HISTORY

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OLD PAULINE GOLFING SOCIETY

For many years, it was assumed that the date of the foundation of the Society was 1912, as it was in this year that trophies were donated and there were no records showing any competitions or activities from previous years. However in 1983, John Garcia did some detailed research and came across an entry in the 14 May 1909 issue of Golf Illustrated which showed that 1912 was not correct. It read as follows:-

“An Old Pauline Golfing Society has been formed. Mr R H de Montmorency, the international golfer, has been elected captain. Mr Horace G Castle, an old international and a winner of the St George’s Vase, and Mr Sydney Chesterton, the well known Mid-Surrey player, who is an ex-Amateur Champion of France, are included in the committee. The Society can already form a team of ‘plus’ men.”

Reymond de Montmorency played for England in 1908 & 1911 and was in the British team against America at Hoylake in 1921(which led to the founding of the Walker Cup in 1922).

He is shown to have had a handicap of +3 in 1907.

Horace Castle played for England in 1907/8 and had a handicap of +5 in 1907.

In 1902, he won the St George’s Challenge Cup which is a major amateur event over 36 holes, and this might be regarded as the finest achievement by an OP golfer. In 1959, this cup was won by Jack Nicklaus. There were four ‘Castles’ playing in the first round of the Bewshar Cup in 1913, but none of them appear in the records after the First World War.

We are in 2018, still playing for the Walker Cup and the Bewshar Bowl which were donated in 1913. Unfortunately, the High Master’s Challenge Cup was reported stolen in 1982.

In **representative matches**, entering as St Paul’s, we first entered the **Halford Hewitt** in 1932. The event having started in 1924, it is now played for by sixty-four schools. In the early days, our team was regarded as easy meat by the stronger sides. However when we beat Charterhouse in 1954, Bernard Darwin referred to us as “humble St Paul’s” in his account of the match in The Times. Happily the team is no longer humble and we are able to field a much stronger side. The best performance was in 1980 when we lost in the quarter-finals. We have also reached the third round in 1934, 1939, 1947, 1954, 1989, 2009 & 2017. Analysis of players performance since 1962, show that Hugh Roberts has played in the competition for forty-two years, played 61 matches and has won 56% of them, a great record.
