

## QUEEN ELIZABETH 2015

The 63rd Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Tournament (QET) started on Saturday 19th September, after an excellent Pre-Tournament Dinner the night before. The weather was good and the course in excellent condition.

There were a few teams missing this year, all finding it harder and harder to raise a team. There seem to be many other golfing demands on players these days, but it is hoped that numbers will be back to their customary levels next year.

In the Top Half of the draw, Glasgow Academicals made steady progress, before winning a fine semi-final against George Heriots by 2 matches to 1. Surprisingly, the records show that Glasgow Academy had only won the Tournament once before, back in 2004. George Heriots were keen to add to their 3 previous victories, having progressed past Old Lorettonians, Old Glenalmond and Old Uppinghamians, but it was not to be.

In the Bottom Half, Old Fettesians had battled strongly against Old Oundellians, Glasgow High School (11 times winners) and Old Carthusians before meeting the fancied team of Stewarts Melville in the other semi-final. Stewarts Melville had seen off last year's winners (Lenzie Academy) in the quarter final before inflicting a 2.5 to .5 win over Old Fettesians – one of these games barely getting in to the second 9!

### THE FINAL

So, Stewarts Melville (or is it ESMS!) were trying to add to their previous 5 wins (last winning the Tournament in 2013) against Glasgow Academy, who wanted to add to their only other win in 2004. The Edinburgh/Glasgow affair could not have been closer, with Stewarts Melville winning the first game, but the other two games being all square after 18 holes. The rules dictate that each match must be played out to a victory. So, the two halved matches progressed up the 19th, but it did not take long to reach a result, as Stewarts Melville's second pair of Stuart MacLaren and David Donaldson combined to record a birdie, and a win, at the first extra hole.

The quality of The Tournament is such that it is no surprise that after an early start on Saturday morning, the Trophy was decided by the last match after extra holes early on Monday evening. Congratulations to Stewarts Melville on their 6th victory.

At the Prize Giving, our Captain, John Fraser, presented The Forgan Quaich to Glasgow Academy and the winning Trophy to Stewarts Melville. Their Captain, Kevin Cattenach (Bruntsfield) paid thanks to the Society for, yet again, putting another excellent tournament, much enjoyed by all. Special mention and thanks were given to the Green keeping staff and to all the backroom team for their contributions.

My particular thanks go to Douglas Morgan, who conducted all of the starting and photographic duties without the assistance of your Tournament Secretary, who dared to play in two rounds before (as Douglas would say) doing some work! My gratitude and thanks also go to both Donald Robertson and Tom Foggo for helping Douglas, as well as to Mark Russell for all his work behind the scenes.

A R (Sandy) Gray (Tournament Secretary).