



Canterbury Golf Team of the Year Nomination

Harewood Golf Club – 2025 Woodward Cup Team

Harewood Golf Club is proud to nominate its 2025 Woodward Cup Team for the Canterbury Golf Team of the Year Award.

The 2025 season produced one of the most remarkable turnarounds in Canterbury interclub golf in recent years. In the space of just twelve months, a team that had finished seventh in the 2024 Woodward Cup competition transformed itself into champions, ending the club's 37-year wait for the Woodward Cup and creating a defining moment in Harewood Golf Club's history.

What makes this achievement truly exceptional is that it was not built through recruiting elite players from elsewhere. Six of the eight players returned from the previous season, with only two players promoted from within the club into the number seven and eight positions. This was a triumph of player development, commitment, trust and belief, a team that grew together, improved together and ultimately succeeded together.

Continuity became one of the team's greatest strengths. Across the season, the team contested 88 individual matches, with the eight squad members playing 85 of them. This remarkable consistency allowed strong partnerships, unwavering trust, and genuine camaraderie to develop, creating a team culture in which every player understood their role and contributed to the collective success.

The improvement in performance was extraordinary. After failing to defeat any of the eventual top four teams in 2024, Harewood went unbeaten against those same opponents in 2025, recording four victories and two draws, and also produced commanding wins over the remaining clubs. It was a season defined not by isolated brilliance, but by sustained excellence against the strongest competition in Canterbury.

The team's resilience was tested repeatedly. Entering the final round-robin match against the previously unbeaten competition leaders, Clearwater, Harewood needed at least a draw to keep its finals hopes alive. In one of the season's most dramatic encounters, six of the eight matches were decided on the final hole. Under immense pressure, Sam Watkinson calmly holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the last green to secure a halved match and earn the team draw they desperately needed.

Even then, the drama continued. Harewood finished level with Russley on competition points, individual match results and head-to-head record. Every recognised tiebreak had been exhausted before a coin toss ultimately determined the finalist. While fortune played its part at that final moment, Harewood had first earned the opportunity through months of outstanding golf and unwavering determination.

The reward was a semi-final against the unbeaten defending champions, Clearwater. Undaunted by the challenge, Harewood produced one of the biggest upsets of the competition, defeating the favourites 4.5-3.5 to book a place in the final.

The championship match against Christchurch Golf Club showcased the qualities that had defined the team's season. Harewood established control early, leading or square in every match after nine holes before securing a deserved 5-3 victory. Significantly, the three players who had suffered defeats in the semi-final all responded with emphatic wins in the final, an outstanding demonstration of resilience, character and the selfless team-first culture that existed throughout the squad.

Behind the players stood an outstanding leader in Team Manager Terry Coleman. Terry's calm leadership, meticulous organisation and unwavering belief created an environment in which every player felt valued and prepared to perform. His regular communication with club members also generated exceptional support throughout the season, with large numbers of Harewood members following the team's progress and creating an atmosphere that inspired the players during the finals campaign.

The team's success resonated far beyond the eight players who represented Harewood each week. Throughout the season, members increasingly rallied behind the team, following results, travelling to matches and creating a genuine sense of pride and excitement throughout the club. The finals campaign attracted unprecedented support, with members turning out in large numbers to encourage the players and celebrate their achievements. The team's humility in victory, respect for opponents, and willingness to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers, supporters, and fellow club members reflected the values of the game and reinforced the strong culture within Harewood Golf Club. **Their success has inspired players throughout the club, demonstrating what can be achieved through dedication, teamwork and belief, and has created renewed enthusiasm for representative golf and player development at every level.**

Winning the Woodward Cup for the first time since 1988 was an extraordinary achievement in itself. Doing so only one year after finishing seventh elevates this accomplishment to something truly special. The transformation was not driven by star signings or good fortune, but through the development of existing players, outstanding leadership, resilience under pressure and an unshakeable commitment to one another.

The 2025 Harewood Woodward Cup Team exemplified everything that great team sport represents. They improved collectively, embraced adversity, defeated the competition's strongest teams, inspired their club and achieved one of the most significant sporting successes in Harewood Golf Club's modern history.

For the scale of its improvement, the quality of its opposition, the resilience displayed throughout the season, the exemplary leadership and teamwork shown by every member of the squad, and the historic significance of ending a 37-year championship drought, the Harewood Golf Club 2025 Woodward Cup Team is an outstanding and worthy recipient of the Canterbury Golf Team of the Year Award.