



Club News

The fun place to play!

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www.oundlegolfclub.com
01832 273267
office@oundlegolfclub.com

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Chairperson's Report



Dear Members

Well, as I write this report we have been open for 4 weeks hitting the ground running in that first manic Bank Holiday week. Michael and Jordan in the Pro Shop certainly experienced a steep learning curve but have coped remarkably well. The weather has been fantastic on the whole apart from a cold wind earlier in April and the course looks great. What is not to love?

Memberships and Visitors

Since re-opening we have had:

- Renewal of membership due at the end of March at about 97% - the highest renewal rate for years!
- The following new members: 8 Full ,7 Intermediate, 4 Eagle, 21 Birdie, 4 Oundle School and 17 Juniors – may I welcome them all to OGC and wish their playing experience here to be a happy one.
- More Society bookings – remember this is much needed income for us all.
- A pleasing number of visitors



Halfway House Hours

Mon 8 - 1
Tues - closed
Wed - 8 - 1
Thurs - closed
Fri - 8 - 1
Sat - 8 - 2
Sun - 8 - 2

Clubhouse Takeaway

Open Daily
Don't forget our
Cake of the Day!



Chairperson's Report cont....

BRS Booking

When you book through BRS and reserve your playing slot, if you then find that you cannot play at that time, please will you cancel the booking as soon as you can and free the slot up for another member or a visitor. We have had several instances where this has not happened recently and the slot has been unused.

Catering

I hope you have enjoyed having the Half-Way House open? We are hoping to open this for more hours, but this is dependent on recruiting some new staff.

It has been great to be able to sit out on the balcony for drinks and snacks since April 12th – isn't it lovely to begin socialising with everyone again – it makes you feel almost normal!

Well done to Jemma and Tony for their hard work behind the scenes preparing our catering service to members. Also thank you to the Tuesday volunteers who are also repairing and painting the spiral staircase and the balcony railings to smarten it all up.

Care of the Course

Now that golf has started again in earnest we are coming across the usual divots and pitch marks not repaired. It would be very easy to blame visitors for these, but members are possibly also guilty at times. There is a leaflet on the website that explains how to do these repairs and a poster in the Proshop Reception too. This also mentions where you may not take trolleys or buggies - such as onto a tee area and close to the fringe of the greens. Please help us to look after our lovely course.



to download our course maintenance guide.

Concerns/Suggestions

Can I remind you that if you have a concern, a query or even a good suggestion to offer that it is done through the right channels please:

- To do with the business – Veronica Lyon (Chairperson)
- To do with golf – your appropriate Captain – Garry Asbery, Sue Brown or Phil Churchward
- To do with the course – John Homer (Course Manager) and Daniel James (Head Greenkeeper)
- To do with bar and catering - Tony Shillcock (House Manager) and Jemma Rout (Bar Manager)

These can be directed thorough the office if you do not know the direct contact details. They will be passed on to the right person for attention. Thank you.

Chairperson's Report cont....

Grants

I spoke in the last newsletter about the improvements we have made due to successful grant applications. So far these applications, by nature of the criteria we have to meet have been quite restricting as to what we can buy. We are looking into other grants, but if anyone knows of somewhere new we can apply to, please let me know. In particular we would like to make improvements to the bridges, paths and bunkers on the course.

Lockers

We do have some spare lockers in the men's changing room that are available for annual hire.

Large lockers £50, Small lockers £25, Both lockers £65

Please let the office know if you are interested

Marshalls

Now we are coming into the lovely light summer evenings there is a risk of non-members abusing the course after the Proshop Reception is closed. Also, it would be great to have marshalls out on the course during busy times - especially at weekends. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with any marshalling now and again, please speak to Mike Thompson who is co-ordinating the task force. Many thanks to Mike for volunteering to do this.

Vacancies at Oundle Golf Club

Following an email last week - a reminder that we are seeking the following:

- An Administrator/Office Manager – 20 hours
- A Cook – part time
- A HR Advisor – voluntary post

If you know of anyone who may be interested please let us know.

Call-Out in Emergencies

We need a person to act as a second emergency call-out person in case of intruders on the site. The first person is Charlie Underwood but we do need a 'deputy' in case Charlie is unavailable. Ideally this person will live locally and be able to get to the Club quickly. If anyone is willing to take on this task we would be grateful. You would be paid per call-out.

Users of the Buggy Shed

Please, at all times will you make sure that the buggy shed is locked after you have taken out or put away your buggy or trolley. Your insurance will be invalidated if the shed is left unlocked at any time. It will only be valid if the shed is actually broken into.



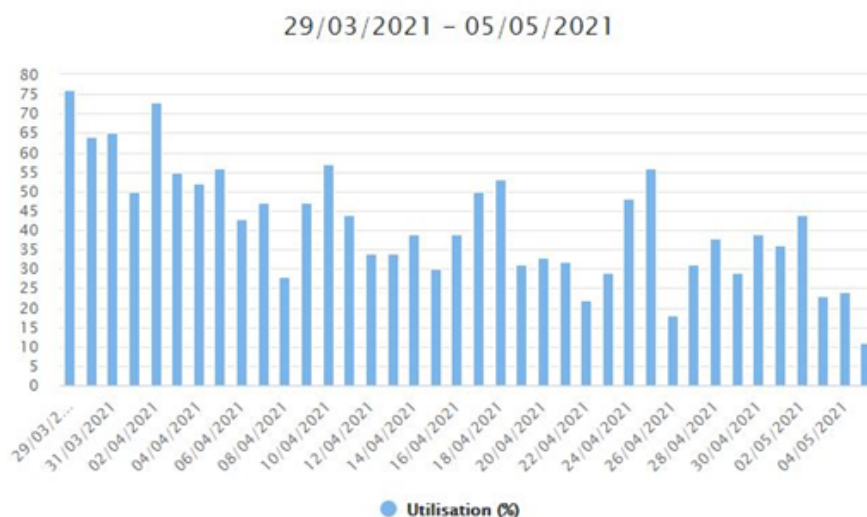


Captain's Report

Where to start!

The last month has been crazy, it's been hectic, but most of all, it's been enjoyable. We're back on the course, we're back on the terrace and very soon we'll be back in the bar. I said in my newsletter last month that I'd missed golf enormously. That was true. What I didn't realise, until I was sitting on the terrace having a beer with others who'd just come in, how much I'd missed the simple pleasure of swapping stories, exchanging anecdotes and generally exchanging friendly banter with the guys. I think I said to Mark Nicholson "This is what it's all about".

I don't want to bang on about how busy we were, how many visitors and societies we had, etc. You know all that – you were there! I have however had a look at the stats and during the first 5 days of opening we only had 27 free tee slots all of which were right of the beginning (0700) or end (1730) of the day. Fifteen of those were on the Thursday which was still the quietest day. Since then it has, as expected, quietened down but the course is still busier than it has been for a few years. The chart below shows Tee Utilisation over the period based on roughly 66 tee slots a day.



So, a lot of golf was played by a lot of people. The banter mentioned above generally involved who had come back from lockdown having benefited from a break (i.e. playing well) and those who had managed to lose their mojo whilst sitting at home growing their hair. We had a few competitions last month allowing us to strut our stuff but, who had the most stuff to strut?

Competition	Winner(s)	Second	Third
Easter Pairs Stableford	Guy Bolsover Jack Bolsover	Paul Spicer Malcolm Taylor	Graeme Eadie Stephen Holmes
April Stableford (Div 1)	John Crawley	Guy Bolsover	David Jack
April Stableford (Div 2)	Paul Pateman	Malcolm Taylor	Gregory Southwell
Ellis Family Salver	Chris Swan Liz Swan	Paul Pateman Kim Pateman	Paul Wright Christine Wright
April Medal (Div 1)	Eddy Lawson	Charlie Fowler	Grant McRobbie
April Medal (Div 2)	Shaun Bruce	Ian Coleman	Tony Shillcock

A few of the usual suspects in the list but good to see a few new names and to see El Presidente in the winnings!

Captain's Report cont....

In other golf news we've played 1 Hollingsworth match against Cold Ashby away. Unfortunately we lost 4-1. Let's hope May is kinder to us! The Scratch and Handicap teams will be getting going over the next month or so.

I think we can all agree that we've had a good first month back. Lots of sunny days although the bitingly cold winds and early morning frosts have made sure we all kept well wrapped up. This has been good for golf but not quite so good for the course. The delay to the growing season has had a knock on effect causing some people to criticise the bobbling on the greens and the apparent permanent nature of divots on the fairways. The Greenkeepers are, as always doing a fantastic job and have started treating the greens to bring them back to their usual pristine condition. The approach of warmer weather should also see fairways growing and improving. However, we won't get greens and fairways to the standard we want and expect without us doing some of the work!

We can't always blame visitors for not replacing divots and not repairing pitch marks. I've seen, as have many others I talk to, members walking away from an approach shot with no regard for the clump of earth they've sent 15 feet away. We've also arrived at greens where fresh pitch marks are evident before visitors have been allowed on the course. I'll admit to being guilty occasionally of striding away after a good approach shot eager to get to the green but I hope that one of my playing partners will point out my mistake. So please:

- Replace divots and help your playing partners curb their enthusiasm to get to the next shot or putt.
- Look for your pitch mark, repair it and if possible, look for any others that have been left unattended.

We know it makes sense so let's make sure we give it some extra focus
That's enough of that so, on to what's coming up in May.

Business as Usual

• Board Competitions	Sunday 2 nd May	Dawson Trophy
	Saturday 15 th May	Presidents Cup
• Club Knockouts	Monday 3 rd May	Saxby Cup Draw
		J&B Trophy Draw
		(Sheets will be posted in the Men's Changing Room entrance)
	Monday 17 th May	Glapthorne Salvers Draw
		(Sheet will be posted on the Mixed Golf section in the Pro=shop)
• Handicap League	Thursday 13 th May	Overstone at home
	Sunday 30 th May	Priors Hall away
• Hollingsworth	Saturday 1 st May	Daventry at home
	Saturday 29 th May	Silverstone at home

Captain's Report cont....



VE Day 75 + Texas Scramble - Sunday 9 May 2021

We wanted to have an event last year to celebrate it being 75 years since VE Day. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we weren't able to do that. This year (obviously) is VE Day 75 + 1.

The format is Texas Scramble and is already well supported. There will be prizes for the best Men's team, and the Best Mixed Team. The best team overall will also receive a Poppy Appeal Golf Classic medal. All proceeds will be donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. To help with this there will be a voluntary donation of 25p for each bunker you enter.



Captain's Charity Day - Sunday 23 May 2021

On the day we will be joined by Simon Aukland, a beneficiary of the Foundation, who had to leave the military due to surgical issues. Simon says "Golf is my happy, safe place and very important to my mental health. It shows that I CAN DO something despite my disability".



The format of the day is:

- 0830 Shotgun start
- Teams of four AmAm Stableford
- 85% of Course Handicap
- Best 2 scores to count – all on the par 3s
- Voluntary contribution of 25p for each bunker entered
- Entry sheet will be posted on the notice board in the Pro-Shop

[CLICK HERE](#)



to view information on the On Course Foundation

There will be a raffle (**any prizes you would like to donate would be welcome – please leave them behind the bar**). Each player will receive a raffle ticket and you will be able to buy others at the Half Way House and the bar afterwards. Michael will be organising a Pro challenge.

And finally – Other news.



OGC Slope Rating

Those of you playing on Monday 26th may have seen three buggies whizzing around the course without any golf bags. Don't panic, we're not allowing kick golf, if there is such a thing, but the assessment of the course for our official Slope Rating has started.

A team led by Paul Wikeley from NGL, completed the assessment of our greens and par 3s. They are returning on Monday May 10th to complete the assessment. The course is closed for a couple of hours to allow them to work uninterrupted and I would be grateful if you could watch out for them and give them priority if you meet up with them.

I think that's enough



Until next time – enjoy your golf, support the club, especially the bar and roll on May 17th.

Garry Asbery



OUNDLE GOLF CLUB MAY 2021

Senior Captain's Report



The Seniors matches got off to a good start this month with a home win against Brampton Park 5-3, this was followed up by an impressive 5-3 win away to Peterborough Milton, unfortunately the winning run could not be continued and we crashed to a 1 and a half to 6 and a half defeat at Spalding though all the matches were very close affairs.

Seniors competitions are now underway and in the first medal of the year was won by Colin Stanyon with a net 67. Rounds 1&2 of the Seniors Summer Stableford have been completed with wins for Malcolm Taylor (43pts) and Peter Curnow (42pts).

Availability sheets for the May matches will be coming down soon and replaced by the June fixtures, we will also be playing for The Faith Brocklehurst Trophy against the Women's team on Tuesday 25th May, a few places in the team are still available.

SignNow

Seniors Vice Captain Rob Darby will be organising Seniors Roll ups throughout the year on Mondays and Wednesdays when we have no other matches or competitions, it is an opportunity for new and old members to get acquainted.

Philip Churchward



Reciprocal Golf

We are pleased to announce that on Tuesday and Thursdays we have an arrangement with Rutland Water Golf Club for a £15 green fee. All tee times must be booked and are available 1 week in advance. To book call 01572 737525 please mention that you are a member of OGC

Women's Captain



It's good to be back! Thank you to our green keepers and all those volunteers who worked so hard to get OGC in such good shape for our release from lockdown.

Good work from our comps and handicap team, Sheila and Sarah, ensured all was in place for us to start playing again with a revised diary. We played our first friendly away at Milton, captained by Kim, winning 3 - 1. On 12th May we begin the process of defending our Cecil Leitch title (held for 2 years) captained by Pat Silburn, at home against Brampton Heath.

We are pleased to welcome 3 new women members to OGC - Christine Miljkovic, Priya Salvi Sonawane and Lorraine Hemington and hope they enjoy our course and club as much as we do.



Speaking of new members, we are planning an event on 16th September, with the help of Paul Kime, Helen Austen and Michael Farr, to encourage new women golfers or those who want to return to the game to come to OGC and see what we can offer. If anyone has any ideas or contacts that could help us - please let us know.

We have a good entry from our section for the annual Faith Brocklehurst Trophy match against the seniors on 25th May - with high hopes of regaining the trophy!"

Sue Brown



WIN!!!

100 Club Winner!!!

Congratulations to April winner, Diane Croskell

CONGRATULATIONS

Max Edwards and Jonny Kalko for winning prize draw with social media tagging/sharing and posting! Please collect your prize from Pro Shop Remember each time you tag us in, share our posts or provide a review you are entered into prize draw





Greenkeeper's Report

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone back to the golf course full time working and playing. It had been a quiet place without golfers on the course and people in the clubhouse.

One of the first priorities of the month was to get the irrigation system up and running. Over the winter period the ground swells due to the amount of water in the soil. This causes strain on the pipework leading to burst pipes. There were leaks in front of the 3rd tee, behind the 8th green and behind the 18th green these have been dug out repaired and filled back in. New connection points for hoses have replaced corroded ones on holes 15 and 6. On the electrical side of the system three decoders needed replacing. These sit in the box by a green receiving a signal via cable from the main control unit turning the sprinklers on and off. These have all been replaced.

During April the weather has been cold and extremely dry with just 6mm of rain falling so far. The consistent frosts have led to low ground temperatures for the time of year. These two factors have led to poor growing conditions and uneven growth especially noticeable on the greens. I have been holding off doing spring renovation works at the start of April until conditions improve. If you try and put a layer of top-dressing sand down when the grass is not growing strongly there is a chance it will not come through causing more harm than good by smothering them. The bent seed we put down at the same time will not germinate in low ground temperatures and at £300 for 10kgs we cannot afford to waste it.

Coming towards the end of the month the frosts have stopped so we have been able to verti-cut, fertilize, over-seed with a pure bent mix, top dress with sand and verti-drain. This should give a truer more consistent greens through the season. I will put the irrigation on over night this will help water it in and speed up the recovery process. We have removed the branch from the left-hand side of the 9th hole that had fallen due to high winds. We have also removed and burned the silver birch branches that had been raked up by the Tuesday work party on holes 5,6,7 and 8.

General course maintenance has also been taking place with the greens being cut at 5mm as often as the frosts have allowed. The tees and aprons being mown twice a week and the rough and fairways being mown once a week. The bunkers are raked through twice a week. The crossing points over the brook and round the 18th green have been strimmed to give a neater appearance.

Hope you all have a great golfing season.

Daniel James

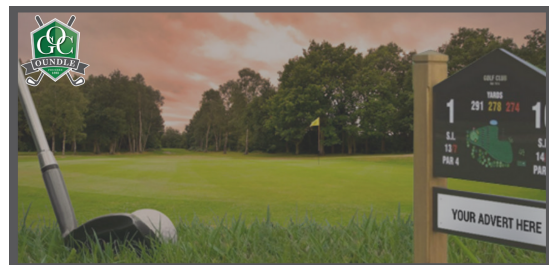




Marketing Report

This month we have had varying marketing activities ranging from promoting the Club, the venue and helping to advertise for staff. We have also been targeting local companies to inform them of our sponsorship programme. We have an excellent sponsorship scheme which not only involves course

signage, website inclusion, screen advertising but the option to exhibit at one of our Opens too. If you know of any company that would be interested please do get in touch and for further information please click on the image.



Promotions this Month



This Society promotion only for bookings taking place on a Thursday will hopefully increase Club revenue and at the same time detract hopefully from weekend Society play. It also utilises a day when the course is at its quietest.

We are also going to offer a Society add on involving the Pro whereby Societies can include a short game clinic to their event. This joint promotion will benefit Michael and his team and the Club as well as providing a good USP for booking golf days at Oundle!



Next Month is Father's Day please do not forget we have vouchers available which can be spent on memberships, golf rounds, coaching, equipment, clothing. They are available from the Pro Shop.

In last month's newsletter we mentioned the positive effect we had when we appeared on Anglia TV. We constantly try to publicise our Club through a variety of media without incurring advertising costs and this free publicity has certainly benefitted the Club and we believe has led to a number of sign ups. This month we have appeared in a video promoting Oundle as a place to visit and do business in. To view this video please click [here](#).



As a result of these videos being so successful we are considering making a promotional video including drone footage. We will keep you updated on this!

Also over the next few weeks please look out for a fantastic giveaway we have negotiated with a new publication called Your Little Book of Eats and Treats



Finally, we would like to thank you for the increased sharing, tagging, reviewing that we have seen on Facebook, Instagram and Google all this helps to promote the Club free of charge. Please don't forget each share etc you enter a prize draw for a free guest pass.

Paul Kime

Message from our Welfare Officer

Safe golf- it's everyone's responsibility



Excellent! We are accredited as a 'Safe Golf' club! But what does this mean?

It means we are committed to ensuring that everyone who plays golf at OGC should be able to do so in a safe environment. Specifically, we are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people, as well as adults at risk, who play golf at OGC.

The club's safeguarding policies are pinned up on the general noticeboard in the downstairs foyer of the clubhouse and are on the website here: <https://www.oundlegolfclub.com/safe-golf/>.

I'd encourage you to at least have a quick look at these but here's what you really need to know.

- Although much of the safeguarding policy is directed towards those at the club involved in coaching and working with juniors at the club, we all have a responsibility for ensuring that children, young people at OGC enjoy their golfing experience, free from any form of abuse or poor practice that risks their well-being. As well as the implications this has for our own behaviour, it means calling-out any inappropriate behaviour of others.
- If you become aware of any concerns about the well-being of a child, young person or adult at risk who plays golf at OGC (member or visitor), please contact me. This includes any concerns you have or become aware of about the behaviour of any adults towards children, young people or adults at risk at OGC. I will ensure that all incidents are reported correctly and referred appropriately.
- If I am not contactable for any reason and there is an urgent need for advice, you should contact the safeguarding lead at England Golf at safeguarding@englandgolf.org, Tel. 01526 351824.
- If you have any doubts at all about what might count as 'a concern' please get in touch with me.

Thanks and here's to happy ...and Safe Golf!

Michael Davidson

OGC Welfare Officer

Telephone: 07904 567611

Email: mdavidson899@gmail.com



Catering Report

Following the change to opening we have now been able to provide the Halfway House (HWH) and balcony table service. The Bar and Catering team would like to thank all members for supporting these services, despite the less than favourable weather conditions on certain days.



Sadly we have been unable to keep the HWH open as often as would wish due to staffing availability, which we are working hard to rectify at this time. We currently have vacancies within the team that we are looking to fill. If you are aware of someone that would fit into our team please let Jemma know in the first instance.



We are looking to improve and develop our food Menu offering and reviewing our bar offer. We will be creating and sending out a survey to get feedback from yourselves and see what you would like available upstairs.



Things are moving forward positively as we prepare for the next milestone for reopening. We have already seen enquiries from the Probus groups who are starting to rebook their meetings which is followed by a meal. This obviously will be a big help for our income upstairs and moving the service we provide forward.

We look forward to welcoming you all upstairs and at the HWH.

Thank you for your continued support

Jemma and the Team





H

It is amazing that Jordan and I have only been at the Club for 5 weeks and in this time we have a newly kitted out Pro Shop, met most of the membership and my lessons have literally doubled in the last 2 weeks. I am pleased that last month's promotion was so positively received - the spend £100 and get a free lesson. To be kept up to date on all the promotions please don't forget to follow me on Facebook and Instagram. Search for FarrGolf and you will find me.

It is great to see so many young people out on the course and I am having a great time coaching many of them. I will be running a Junior Camp during the holidays details of which will follow. If you know any youngsters who may be interested please ask them to get in touch.

Michael Farr

Junior Academy Starts
Sunday 9 May 11 -12

This Month's Promotions



Free Coffee Continues

IN MAY



Buy a Pair of Golf Shoes - Free Golf Glove

COME AND SEE THE WIDE RANGE OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING,
GOLF EQUIPMENT



Ask about our Regrip Offer

Share, follow, Like
facebook page
Farrgolf

CHANCE TO WIN FREE LESSON

Job Vacancy
Full or Part time Pro Shop
Assistant
Ask in Shop