



Oundle Golf Club

# Newsletter

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## Chairperson's Report



### Dear Members,

Where has that month gone? I cannot believe that summer is nearly over and we have not really had what we call "summer golf" this year at all! The course has looked great all year due to the sterling efforts of the greens team and the volunteers in a summer that has seen some challenging weather conditions from soaring temperatures to torrential rain.

Well done to all involved and many thanks to all of you.

### Practice Balls On The Course

Sticking with the course, we have had a few situations where practice balls have strayed from both practice areas onto the 1st or the 18th fairways.

If you on either of these practice areas:  
Firstly please shout "fore" if you can see your ball heading in the wrong direction Secondly please gather up all of your golf balls after your practice session – do this carefully if you do have to retrieve them from the 1st or 18th fairways!

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# Chairperson's Report continued...



## "Fore"

And while we are on the subject – it is part of golf etiquette and a Health and Safety rule that you should shout "fore" at any time on the course if your ball is obviously going astray – to another fairway. Even if you think you cannot see anyone who may be in the way still shout please. There have been some near misses reported to me recently and I experienced one myself a couple of weeks ago while on the second and a ball came over from the 15th with no shout!

## Break In

You may have heard the bad news that we were broken into on Thursday 26th August. The thieves gained access via the farm road and travelled up the 18th fairway. Then they tried to break into several sheds before forcing a gap in the asbestos walls facing the road of the green keepers' shed. Some hand tools were stolen such as a strimmer and chainsaw. This is devastating news because we have been advised not to claim on our insurance since we are trying to build up confidence since the huge claim after the flood. We will be replacing the equipment gradually, but this, and the work to repair damage to the building is a drain on our finances that we could do without. We are now endeavouring to further improve our security with an extra camera and other measures.

## Marketing

So now for some good news! We are delighted to tell you about our new marketing arrangements with Alex Huggins of Elda Digital Creatives. They are going to continue the great work Helen Austen was doing and obviously you can see this newsletter as the first evidence of their work for us. They are also going to ramp up our social media exposure with a new Twitter account as well as Facebook and Instagram. We are going to tackle the website next. This will be a focus for September.

## Paul Silburn

As you will have probably seen Paul sadly passed away on Wednesday August 25th. I am sure you will all have different memories of Paul, but I do believe his wit, his sense of humour, his smart way of dressing, his dancing and his talent and achievements in golf competitions both on his own and with his wife Pat will be fondly remembered. Pat has said that she will miss him dreadfully and I know he also leaves a big hole in this Club.

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# Chairperson's Report continued...



## Member's Guests On The Course

I have mentioned this before but it is still happening - so here goes again!!

**First point** – a guest is only a guest if they are actually playing with the member – otherwise they will be charged at the visitor rate for that day. If you wish to sign a friend in as a guest you **MUST** play with them.

**Second point** – guests cannot be taken on the course before the Proshop opens in the morning unless they have arranged with the Pro and paid the previous day. Otherwise they will not be insured to be on the course. Think of the scenario that a ball goes over the hedge onto Benefield Road and hits a car! This is easily done from a tee shot on the 11th and on the 13th. The consequences could be disastrous anyway but very expensive if the golfer is not covered by insurance.

## AGM

The AGM took place on Thursday 2nd September. It was attended by 40 members who voted on the 2 propositions. You may like to know that the first one regarding the change of Management Structure was agreed in principle with work now to be done to the Club Constitution and the job descriptions. We would hope to have this work done in a few weeks and then perhaps hold an EGM for members to finally agree the change.

The second proposition regarding dogs on the course was not passed. In fact it came to light during the evening that as far as our lease agreement for the land near the lake is concerned we cannot allow dogs on that part of the course anyway. This is an excerpt from the lease agreement:

"So far as the use of the demised premises is concerned to manage and conduct the Club on proper lines and to enforce strictly the rules of the club for the time being in force which shall provide (inter alia) that all reasonable and proper steps be taken to prevent members of the Club their guests and invitees and other from trespassing beyond the limit of the demised premises and at no time to allow dogs and cats on any part of the demised premises"

All the minutes including the reports from President, Chairperson and Club Captain and the Finance accounts for the year up to April this year are going to be available on the website very soon and a copy will be placed in the Clubhouse.

*Veronica Lyon*

Oundle Golf Club Chairperson

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# Captains Report

Working commitments meant I was unable to get my Newsletter for August to the office in time for publication, my apologies for that, but to make up for it you have a bumper edition this month.

On a golfing front it is great to see so many golfers on the course, both members, guests and visitors. We have had many society event days, which bring in much welcomed revenue and have received great feedback on the whole effort of the teams within the club, to provide a welcoming place to play golf and socialise afterwards. 'Teams' are my theme of the month and I will have spoken of the great team ethic at the club AGM.

You will have noticed that we have, continually, had to reduce the opening hours of the Halfway House on occasions. This is not a decision we take lightly but is driven by the lack of staff we have available at the time. The hospitality industry has been hit particularly hard during the pandemic and the general availability of catering and bar staff has reduce dramatically. Jemma is working tirelessly to rectify this so please bear with us at this time. If you know of anyone looking for bar or Catering work please let Jemma know.

Our administration and pro-shop teams continue to offer a great service to members and visitors alike. Jasmin and Peter in the office are working tirelessly to get our systems fully updated and in order. Please remember to say 'hello' and introduce yourselves when you see them – they are a great asset to the club. In the pro-shop you will have noticed the new television showing our newly produced course flyover, the introduction of Malcolm to the team and of course all the new golfing equipment. I am sure Michael will refer to this in his notes.

Our competitive teams have had a mixed bag of results this year but I am happy to report our newly formed Men's Scratch team' led by Michael Davidson, last week recorded a 5-1 victory at home against Cold Ashby to leave them 1 point behind the leading team in their group. A great team effort. Best of luck this weekend against Daventry.

## Competition Update

The knockout competitions continue to be played, with the semi- final stages to be played in both the Saxby Cup and J&B Trophy. Closing date is 28th September for these games. Congratulations to our winners through the last two months with some very good scoring, attracting the handicap secretary into action, no doubt.

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# Captains Report cont...

Congratulations to Charlie Fowler on regaining his Club Champion title. The August medal was also the Izzard Trophy qualifier, a NGL team competition at Rushden Golf club. The club will be represented by Dave Reardon, Dean Bailey & Andrew Sulston. Further congratulations to Charlie Fowler and Guy Fowler on reaching the NGL 4BBB semi-final. Good luck in that game.

## Competition Results

### Captains Day

Mens result: Graham Eadie & Steve Holmes 61.4  
Mixed result: Christine Rowell & Denis Price 65.5

### July Medal

Div 1: David Jack 60  
Div 2: Barry Watts 60

### June Stableford

Div 1: Steve Griffin 45pts  
Div 2: Peter Gunning 42pts

### Club Chamionships

Cotton Cup: Charlie Fowler 152 (Club Champion)  
Potter Bowl: Chris Hankins 142  
Cummings Cup: Chris Treweeks 130

### Summer Texas Scramble

Nick Harrison, Peter O'Dowd, Jamie Gambrell  
& Henry Cade 53

### Congratulations to all our winners!

I wish to thank all members for their support during my return as Captain. I look forward to speaking to you all soon.

Enjoy your golf, play well and stay safe.

### August Stableford

Div 1: Dave Reardon 37pt  
Div 2: James Johnson 37 pts

### Reg Rawden AM-AM

Henry Cade, Nick Harrison, Liam Bulmer & Dale Abbot 123

### Watts Russell

Matthew King 70

### Lascelles

Malcolm Taylor 69

### August Medal

Div 1: Adam Butler 67  
Div 2: Michael Donagher 65

*Tony Shillcock*

Oundle Golf Club Captain 2019, 2020 & 2021

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# Senior Captains Report



August has been a very successful month for the seniors teams in matches home and away, with thirty different players taking part in the various teams.

We started the month with a convincing home win against Toft from Lincolnshire 7 v 1, followed by a good away win at The Leicestershire 4 1/2 v 1 1/2.

We had our first whitewash of the year when beating Lutterworth 7 v 0 at home.

Things were more difficult in our away match at Overstone but we still secured a honourable draw 4 v 4. The away match at Toft on the last day of the month saw a disappointing result of a 2 v 4 loss, though we were playing against some amazingly generous handicaps!

In the seniors competitions there was a narrow win for Ted Banham in the Summer Stableford Round 6 on countback from Trevor Brant both having 40 points.

The Seniors Monthly medal was won by the evergreen Pete Turner with a 69.

The Millenium Quaich, a drawn pairs competition went to countback on 45points, with the pairing of Rob Stead and Graham Dorks coming out on top from Brian Leach and Nick Riley, the trophy will be presented at the Seniors AGM.

Preparations for the Seniors Charity Open on 6th September are well underway, we are welcoming a field of 136 players, exactly half being visitors so we are expecting a busy day.

Thanks to all those that have volunteered to help out with car parking, starting, registration, the raffle, scoring, and providing refreshments at the halfway house, also those who kindly donated raffle prizes and cakes, we hope to raise a good amount for our charities, Cransley Hospice and Lakelands Hospice so please give generously.

The sheet for the Exchange day is filling up on the Seniors notice board, there are a few places left, so get your name down soon if you wish to go.

*Philip Churchward*

Oundle Golf Club Senior Captain

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# Women's Captain



**Congratulations** to **Pat Silburn** on retaining her **Women's Club Championship title**. The competition was held over 2 of the hottest days of the Summer (30C+) so thanks to all who played and survived!

Commiserations to the Cecil Leitch Team. We didn't manage to retain the cup for a third year.....but there's always another year. Thanks to Pat Silburn, Captain, and the team.

The Women's Section is sporting new club colours in a pale blue/grey that compliments the grey chosen by the men. We hope that this new look will encourage our women golfers to wear the colours on golfing occasions other than matches.

Thanks also go to the gardening crew who are valiantly tackling the garden outside the ProShop. After some years of neglect we are making progress towards something that is more easily maintained.

*Sue Brown*

Oundle Golf Club Women's Captain



# BOOK A TEE TIME

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# Greenkeeper's Report



During the growing season daisies and clover have become more noticeable on the fairways in particular on holes 5/6/7/8/11/12/14 and 18. These have all now been sprayed with a selective herbicide to get rid of the problem on the fairways.

The greens are continuing to be cut at 4mm every morning. During the month they have also been verti-cut to try and improve speed and consistency. The greens do grow a noticeable amount from six in the morning when they are first cut until mid to late afternoon when some people play. This does lead to slightly slower greens in the afternoon compared with the morning.

Rabbits have been targeting the bunker on the left-hand side of the 7th green. They are looking for the nutritious roots of the grass and the edges of the bunkers make an easy target round the course. We do have a local marksman who comes out and shoots to control the numbers but as we are in the middle of the countryside and they do breed like rabbits it is difficult to stay on top of the situation. We have filled in the scrapping on the edge of the bunker, laid down a mesh of chicken wire to discourage them from coming back then put down a layer of sand and seed. The irrigation has been set to hit the site so it should not dry out and get established quite quickly. In front of the 17th green has also been renovated.

Some of the other jobs that have been done this month that are not mowing related are- crossing points have been strimmed, bunkers have been weeded and topped up using leftover sand from topdressing, a sprinkler has been replaced on the 18th green, sleepers repaired that run alongside the 13th tee, hedge outside the pro shop leading up to the entrance has been trimmed and the greens have all been hand weeded to remove the daisies.

We have had a Jacobsen AR331 rough cutter on demo (there are videos on YouTube if you would like to see it in action). Its main feature are units that move from side to side. This makes it easier to mow round obstacles such as bunkers. An order has been placed for a new machine and it will be with us early next year. Our old rough cutter will be traded in at the same time to get money off the new machine, the same as you would with a car.

The work party have been continuing with their good work around the course. They have been concentrating in recent weeks on the hedgerows. Along the back of the 5th green and alongside the 6th tee have been done. Along side the 13th hole has also been done as well as the hedge at the entrance way. A special thanks must go to John Foster who has been taking away the benches from around the course and renovating them at home.

*Daniel James*  
Oundle Golf Club Greenkeeper

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# Professional News



**This months pro shop offers:**

**25% off** clothing

**15% off** men's Oundle club clothing

**£20% off** Skechers shoes

**Don't forget we have a pro shop price match guarantee!**

September Pro's roll up was a success and thank you to all the members for the support.

## Congrats to the prize winners:

1st Veronica Lyon

2nd Gerry Morgan

3rd Mike Thompson (count back)

Honourable mention to our new club Administrator Peter Reed was pipped by Mike into 3rd place.

Jordan Darnell has turned professional to start his PGA training at the beginning of October so we wish him all the best with that!

Hopefully we will see the good weather continue through September and everyone is looking toward to the Ryder cup.

Have a great week.

*Michael Farr*  
The Professional Team



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# Catering Report



As you should have seen we will be starting Sunday Roasts again from 12th September. With a choice of 3 meats with all the trimmings followed by Paula's homemade Pud's this is one not to be missed. Table bookings only so please contact one of the team to get booked in, spaces are limited.

Paula has been back in our kitchen for a whole month now and has provided several successful meals for various functions. I am excited to say from this month Paula will be here full time and producing more delicious meals for our members and guests to enjoy.

Keep an eye out for our new and improved bar menu coming in the following weeks.

Thank you to those who supported the pros roll up on the 1st September and Paula's first Sunday dinner on the 12th. The roast dinner was a huge success. Make sure you get booked in for the next to avoid disappointment

Thank you all for your patience this month regarding some halfway house closures, we are still working hard to solve any issues.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Jemma and the Team*

Oundle Golf Club Catering



## JOIN US FOR SUNDAY LUNCH

26th September, 3rd October 17th October, 31st October 14th November, 28th November

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE GIVE US CALL ON 01832 273267

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# Member News



Dear Members,

It is with much sadness that I have to inform members of the death of one of our current members, Mr Barry Seal.

Barry died suddenly on the course on Wednesday morning 8th September. He was 82 years of age.

Barry joined the club in December 1999. I certainly enjoyed playing golf with him regularly on a Friday morning. I believe that everyone who knew him would say he was a friend. He never had a cross word for anyone and was always cheerful and an extremely good golfer.

I shall be writing to his widow, Margaret in the very near future to offer her our sincere condolences and I'm sure that a number of us will want to attend his funeral. I will keep you informed as to when and where it will be held.

He will be greatly missed and may he rest in peace.

## 2 for 1

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As most of you will know Liz and I have recently toured large parts of Scotland. On that trip we had a chance to meet up with Dave and Liz Foley in their new home at East Linton. We also enjoyed a round of golf at their course 'The Glen Golf Club' at North Berwick. A course with lovely sea views.

Dave and Liz would like us to pass on their best wishes to all their friends and former playing partners at Oundle Golf Club.

*Chris Swam*

Club President

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