



Oundle Golf Club General Meeting

**Thursday 9th December
7.30pm**

At Oundle Golf Club

Agenda

1. Welcome by The President
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting in September 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Scrutineers
5. Chairman's Report for 2021
6. Club Captain's Report for 2021
7. Election of Officers
8. In-coming Chairman's Address
9. In-coming Club Captain's Address
10. AOB

Veronica Lyon, Chairperson welcomed everyone present to the General Meeting of Oundle Golf Club.

There were a number of apologies:

John & Pam Mumford, Phil Churchward, Dave Jack, David Charlton-Jones, Paul & Christine Wright, Garry Asbery, Chris Dix, Brian Leach, John & Sheila Homer, Pat Wilkinson, Alan & Trev Panter, Denis Price, Mike Thompson, Pat Silburn, Trevor Rouse, Keith Dixon, Terry Beckett, Charlie Fowler, Jacques Lourens.

Veronica then introduced the President, Chris Swan.

1. Welcome by the President – Chris Swan

Ladies & Gentlemen – Welcome to this General Meeting of Oundle Golf Club and thank you all for attending this evening.

As is normal at these meetings we remember those members and past members who have passed away since our previous meeting. In this case we remember Barry Seal and Reginald William (known as Bill) Hurley. Could I ask that we all stand and pause for a moment of silent reflection.

As is usual for me, you will be pleased to hear that my address to this meeting will be brief.

My very first thoughts when writing this address was to mention the tremendous work that Barry and Veronica have done in raising money for this club. They worked extremely hard and very long hours together working on Grants and loans in order that this club would be in a better financial position than when they started.

In my opinion we, as club members owe them a debt of gratitude and we should show our appreciation for the work they have done.

It also goes without saying that as members of a club we rely upon the time and effort of those people who serve on the various committees that the club needs, also the volunteers who work around the course, so that our club continues to flourish and exist.

On a personal level it has been a great privilege for me to serve as your President over the last three years. When I joined this club in 1995 I certainly never expected that to happen. I now go from an elder statesman of the club to a has been. One thing I won't miss will be trying to get in and out of that parking space, which I think is probably the worst in all the carpark.

I have played with a variety of members over the last three years and on most occasions, I've been asking those people to help me spot where my ball has gone, whether it was left, right or rarely in the middle. Sometimes we find it and sometimes we don't but apart from having laser treatment on my eyes, I think I've solved this situation by getting a new pair of glasses....and now its easier to see my ball.

Finally, and my swansong, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Liz, who has supported me not just over the last three years but throughout our 42 and a half years of married life. We all know that behind every man making decisions there is a greater woman telling them what those decision should be and certainly that has been the case for Liz helping me. Therefore, I would like to present to Liz this small bouquet of flowers.

Thank you and I now pass over to you Veronica.
Chris Swan.

2. Minutes from last meeting

The Minutes from the Annual General Meeting held in September were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising – there were none.

4. Election of Scrutineers – not required as there will be no voting

5. Chairman's Report for 2021

“Well, it has been an interesting 5 years in the Chair! I am not going to go over all the problems we have had to face over that time – you have all heard about the flood etc etc!

Instead, I am going to be letting you know of the positive progress that has been made in the golf club – in all aspects of this big little business.

Let me take you back to the difficult autumn of 2016 when we held 2 EGMs. One was to approve the levy of £100 which we imposed on all members. The other was to consider selling the Club. As you know we **did** have the levy and we **did not** sell the Club, preferring to try to make things work somehow. Someone did ask at the time how we could still be in difficulties following the levy – well that levy raised just under £29,000 and saw us through only 1 extra month! We still had to rely on the goodwill of many members to lend the Club money to see us through to the new season starting on the following April 1st – and this had been happening for quite a few years. Every year we started the new financial year having to pay debts which had been created just to get us through to when the main subs came in (Feb/March of each year) So we always started each year on the back foot. In April 2021 for the first time in many years we had all our money to use on the next year – no debts to pay. In many ways this was due to all the circumstances surrounding the Covid pandemic – the grants, the payment holidays etc. But we did it!

I am also very proud of the developments, improvements and changes we have made in the 5 years:

(The list below was provided in paper form to all those in attendance)

Major Changes from 2016- 2021

Systems - Website improvements – public front end and members' area
Intro of BRS booking system
CCTV system installed
Computer based system for H and S
WHS system adopted

Marketing much improved particularly social media, helped raise the profile of OGC in the County which helped to dispel negative rumours

Course - Improvements on course thanks to Tuesday morning gang of volunteers ie
Steps on 11th and 15th, paths, hedges etc
Removal of trees around the lake
2 new shelters on the course
New flag position system on greens
3rd and 16th tee areas improved

Facilities - Clubhouse refurbishment
Improvement in practice facilities
Improvement to outside balcony area
Proshop is better than it has ever been – great new partnership with Rutland Water
Improvements to garden outside Proshop
Members' buggy shed built for members' individual buggies
Creation of the new meeting room
Buggies – now 5 (from 4)

Staff – lots of changes in staff including new Head green keeper Sept 19
Adopted catering in-house – we have our own Bar and Catering Manager

Membership numbers have gone from 289 (281 full members and 8 Juniors) in 2016 to 447now (242 full members -33 Intermediate and 16 over 80s included, 91 Juniors, 33 Eagle 69 Birdie and 12 social)
Birdie and Eagle membership options – revised from former flexible membership
100 Club - £250 every month and £500 at Christmas
Buggy loyalty card system and buggy deal for members' long-term use
Communication much improved with reports and newsletters regularly

Finance

Cash situation on 2/12/16 **-£11,735**. Cash balance today is just over £57,000 (not including the Bounce Back Loan of £50,000)

Mortgage 17/1/2017 £440,600. Mortgage today £371,790

Members Loan Scheme stands today at £78,000 – this was introduced to keep the Club

solvent over the last few months of the financial year. Debt has been reduced by £34,000 from £112,000 and will reduce by a further £14,000 next March – so then balance will be £64,000

So, to sum up, in the 5 years the cash balance has improved by £68,735, the mortgage debt reduced by £68,800 and the MLS debt has reduced by £34,000 with another £14,000 to come off next March.

It has not all been plain sailing – it is always difficult to please all members and anyone in office is a target to be shot at (just look at our Prime Minister at the moment!) and will always make mistakes – my mistakes have been quickly pointed out – thanks for that! But as David Davis (our England Golf advisor) has said to me - the people who do not make mistakes are the people who do not do anything!

One of the huge downsides of stepping down as Chairman is that I have had my own allocated car-parking space for the last 8 years – from Lady Captain in 2014 till now – I will have to find a space to park in future!

So finally, I would like to thank the Presidents who have worked with me – and the Club Captains, the Women's and Seniors Captains and all the various members of the Management Council over the 5 years. I would particularly like to pay tribute to Barry Robson who was Finance Officer for 4 of those 5 years and who was my right hand, my left hand and my rock throughout that time. I also better mention Ian who has been unfailingly supportive of everything I have done at the Club – thank you dear!

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered and are still volunteering in any capacity to work for the Club – from those who kept Reception going, to the guys out on the course on Tuesday mornings and all the many committee members who unselfishly contribute to the running of the Club. I would like to thank all those who are coming forward to run this fabulous Club from now on and wish them huge luck – I truly believe that the Club will be in very safe hands.

Thank you, the members, all again for your support and best wishes.”

6. Club Captain's Report for 2021

“Welcome

- Mr President
- Madam Chair
- Ladies & Gentlemen

2021 – To coin a phrase from singer Jamie Lawson.... I wasn't expecting that! Taking Over from Garry Asbery halfway through the year

- I appreciate the work done by Garry during the first months of the year and understanding of his personal reasons for standing down when he did. I would like to publically thank him for his support as I took over the mantle again and his

attitude to helping out. He has asked me to pass on his thanks for all the support received during his tenure.

- I have been amazed by the attitude of the club members and their welcome & support I have received and bearing with me during the last 6 months as I took over as Captain again.
- I have said on many occasions that the reason the club has been successful is due to the people selfishly giving up their time – None more so than Paul Kime and Veronica Lyon. I would like to thank them for their support and continued work on the management council. To Veronica your five years working for this club has been eventful, hard work and I hope rewarding. The Club and its members are indebted to your dedication and I personally thank you.

Why?

The teams that supported me: some fine people

- Management Council – Veronica, Paul Kime
- Catering & Bar Team– Jemma, Rhiann, & Paula
- Admin team – Peter & Jasmin
- Greens – Daniel, and his team
- Health & Safety team – Claire Izod & John Homer
- Tuesday work party – Mike Thompson, John Foster, Paul Kime, John Homer, Colin Stanyon, Nick Riley
- Men's Teams Captains, Chris, Michael & Guy
- Richard Cole & Martin Camp for Comps and Handicaps

Golf

Obviously the golfing highlight was actually getting back playing and completing our season of competitions.

We had an Oundle winning pair for the Oundle Putter – Tony Wilkes & Chris Treweeks securing victory on the day with 47 pts. Our Club Champion for 2021 was Charlie Fowler who also reached the final of the NGL 4BBB with his father Guy, but sadly losing 2&1. Our league teams were unable to get past the group stages in the Hollingsworth & Handicap Leagues, whilst our newly formed Scratch team went to the wire hoping for results to go their way on the final weekend but sadly just failing to get promoted – a truly fine effort by the team

The Senior's team led by Phil Churchward played 28 matches of which 13 were at home and 15 away. We won 17, halved 3 and lost 8 and a total of 44 players took part. I look forward to putting myself forward for selection to complete next year as I move into my new role at work!! With less travel away...

Having represented the club in matches and events many members of opposing teams, society's, visitors and guests have commented on the course condition, friendliness of the members and staff, and the quality of the food available and it should make all the teams proud that our guests take the time to comment. Thanks to all of you.

Captains Events

My Captains events throughout the year have been very well supported this year and I would like to thank the members for their continued support through the year. It goes

without doubt that these events do not run themselves and the teams of afore mentioned staff have made these a great success. For some reason we did not hold the Captain vs Women's Captain event due to the small matter of a mini tornado.... Maybe next year!!

Round Up

To finish up I would like once again thank you for the opportunity to represent the club as Captain during 2021. It has been fun & challenging and provided much enjoyment.

I hope I have not let you down
Thank you very much “

7. Election of Officers

There are two vacancies as indicated below – volunteers for these positions were asked for from the floor but none were forthcoming.

As there were no contested positions the following were voted in unanimously en-bloc:

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Secunder
President	Richard Cole	Chris Swan	Terry Beckett
Chairman	Peter Izod	Tony Shillcock	Paul Kime
Finance	Colin Stanyon	Barry Robson	Peter Izod
Operations *	Michael Davidson	Peter Izod	Colin Stanyon
Commercial	Paul Kime	Richard Cole	Tony Shillcock
Club Captain	Tony Shillcock	Chris Dix	Chris Hankins
Club Vice Captain	Chris Dix	Richard Nunn	Chris Hankins
Women's Captain	Debbie Verdino	Sue Brown	Sarah Parsell
Women's Vice Cap	Karen Taylor	Debbie Verdino	Sheila Homer
Seniors' Captain	Rob Darby	Phil Churchward	Peter Izod
Competitions Coordinator #	Richard Cole	Terry Beckett	Peter Gunning
Course Coordinator	Denis Price	Veronica Lyon	Michael Davidson
Maintenance	Guy Fowler	Garry Asbery	Martin Hipwell
Junior Coordinator	Vacancy		

Social Events Organiser	Vacancy		
*Chris Treweeks will be helping. #Paul Pateman will be helping.			

8. In-coming Chairman's Address – Peter Izod

“OGC is not out of the woods yet in terms of finances but with a good team assembled now we have a good chance of getting through the challenges ahead. The work for this starts now and I expect we will be having meetings very soon to start planning for the year ahead.”

9. In-coming Club Captain's Address – Tony Shillcock

Captains Welcome Speech December 2022

“ Welcome

President, Chairman, Members of the Management Team, Ladies and Gentlemen good evening.

You have once again given me the great honour of representing Oundle Golf Club as Captain for this coming year 2022. I am truly thankful and I hope to be a worthwhile representative of this great club. This will be my fourth and last year as Captain as I hope to restart the progression of Vice Captain on to Captain etcetera. I warmly welcome Chris Dix as my Vice Captain and look forward to working with him throughout the year as we realign the role of Club Captain and Club Vice-Captain. I also would like to welcome Rob Darby as Seniors Captain and Debbie Verdino as Women's Captain and look forward to a really productive year ahead.

As I said previously we should all be grateful for the work done by the members of the management team over the previous years. The club has recently gone through some trying times, difficult, testing and sometimes quite frightening. I believe we are now in a unique position to move the club forward with some new vision and guidance. I wish the new management team much success and assure them of my continued support.

We are a members' club – not an owned club – this is your club, nothing happens without the support of members supporting this club. Yes – we have paid employees who provide a fantastic support to the club, none more than our green keepers who give us a course that, in my humble opinion is second to none in our area. We all have a responsibility in looking after it so remember to replace your divots and repair pitch marks during your game.

Our Bar & Catering team have really suffered due to the covid pandemic and resulting employment issues, but they continue to support the club every time they can. It has not

been easy and I ask the members to bear with them whilst we attempt to increase the staffing levels. I have spent many hours helping out in the kitchen and the bar and it is tough work and sometimes it feels quite unrewarding. Jemma and the team have an important job to do in representing the club, please work with them during this difficult time.

We also have a great band of willing volunteers at committee levels and supporting the course management. An absolute asset that an owned club would not care about as long as they get your money. Our Golf pro and the team in the Golf Reception provide us and our visitors with a warm welcome and valuable advice - To all our support staff and volunteers – **THANKYOU**

On to 2022

Those people who know me will know I am quite an organised chap, so hopefully if all goes to plan we already have a progression plan in place for next year and we are already working on the following year in terms of Captains.

Because of that we can also plan what needs to be done and what we need to focus on. Chris, my Vice Captain and I have already spent a short amount of time on planning and we will begin working with our fellow Captains to prepare a full season for 2022 and preparing for 2023.

I leave the organising of the club to the Chairman and his team whilst I will focus primarily on the golf side of our club and look to any support from members in helping us get a really good golf & social calendar.

2022 Charity

In my past years as Captain, I have nominated the club as my Captains Charity. I intend to do so again this year. We still have many improvements to make, not least the Green Keepers Accommodation, to which we have had some very good input from the green keeping team and are looking to a project team to manage this process moving forward. We are also still keen to develop the swing studio as a project and you will have seen the request for project managers for both these challenging projects.

The bunkers on the 13th will become the Captains Charity Bunkers for the year, with £1 the penalty for entering either bunker. The Captain will donate £2 if he ends up in the bunker. Please donate generously

In closing

I would like to reiterate a statement I made when originally taking over as Captain in 2018. We all get Bank Holiday Mondays and Good Fridays. Most of you get Bank Holiday Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays as well!!! Most of my golf takes place at a weekend where I can relax and enjoy my game... sometimes. This is a personal plea. If you have a gripe, suggestion or moan can you approach me in the club house after yours and my round rather than on the golf course. I would appreciate it and we discuss over a beer!!

Have a great remainder of 2021, a wonderful Christmas and New Year break and I look forward to welcoming you all on the course in 2022. Play well, enjoy your game and enjoy your golf and please Stay Safe.

THANKYOU

10. AOB

Richard Cole, incoming President said:

“Having been a member of this club for 50 years it is a very great privilege and honour to represent OGC in this way.

Although I am very much old-school, I do recognize the need for the club to change as it is only by constantly changing that a business such as this will survive. I am also very pleased to hear that Paul Pateman has offered to help with competitions. I wish you all well for the year ahead.”

The meeting closed at 8.30pm, followed by a short interval before the presentation of prizes by Tony Shillcock.

