



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Chairperson's Report

Captain's Report

Senior Captain's Report

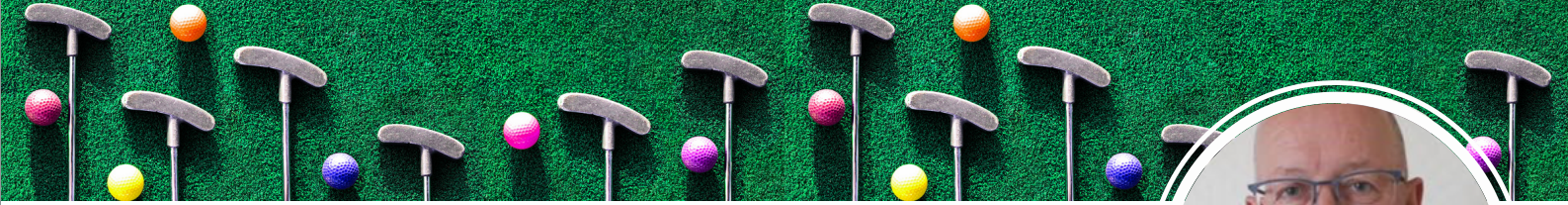
Women's Captain Report

Greenkeeper Report

Catering Report

Operations Report

Professional News



Chairperson's Report

I would first like to welcome Ian Robbins as our new Head Greenkeeper. I am sure everyone would agree that the course is in splendid condition and that the greens are running fast and true. Thank you also to Gary for stepping into the breach as temporary head greenkeeper pending Ian's appointment.

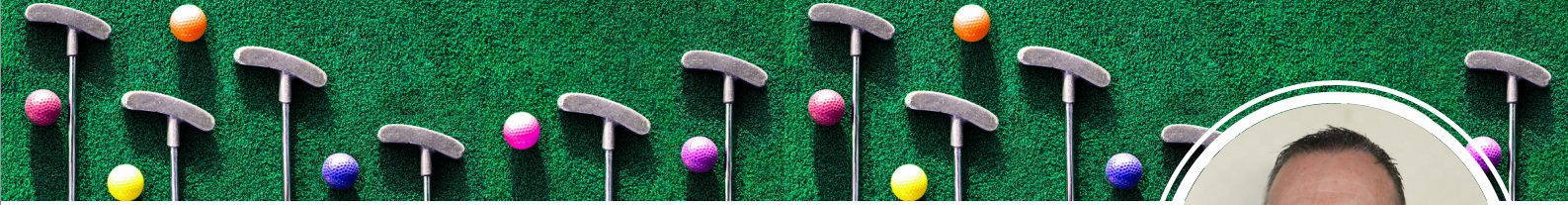
Those who attended the AGM on 20th July will know that although the Club is moving in the right direction, the emphasis for the Management Committee is still to recruit new members and to attract more visitors and societies.

The anticipated increase in the cost of power, materials and loan interest payments means that it is essential that we increase our income. Only with an increase in income can we continue to improve the course and the facilities provided by the Club.

Please encourage anyone you know who may either be thinking of taking up golf or of changing clubs, to come and play our course. I am sure that they will not be disappointed.

Many of the visitors I have spoken to have commented that Oundle is the best course that they have played locally. Well done to our Greens team, the catering team, the marketing team and to Nes in the office. Also my thanks to all the volunteers who help both on and off the course. All of your continued support is invaluable.

Peter



Captain's Report

Welcome to this month's newsletter, in what has been a predominantly wet month. I can't remember the last time I played without having to put the brolly up at sometime. The one thing that it has done though is help to produce the course in such good condition, a stark contrast to this time last year.

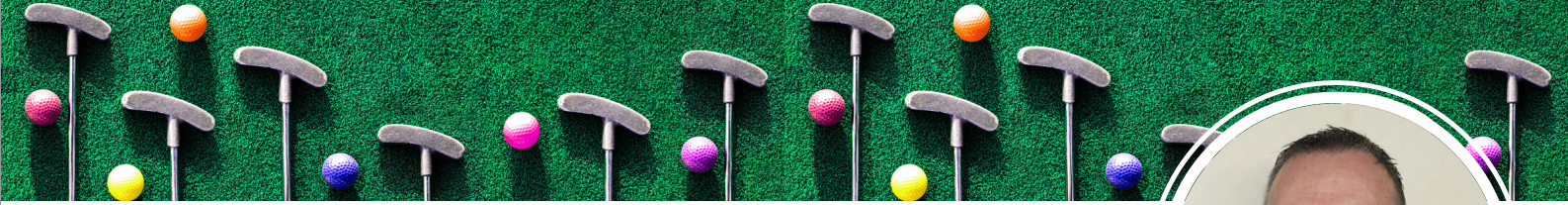
Onto last month's competition winners. We began the month with the Mark Kirk Trophy, which was a 4bbb format. The winners were Guy and Jack Bolsover with a cracking score of 50 points.

Next up was the fourth round of the summer stablefords. Callum Bowyer won the first division on countback from Adam Butler on 38 points. The second division was won by Paul Tansley also on countback to Tony Shillcock again with 38 points.

The updated league tables are on the notice board in the changing rooms. I have acquired a trophy, kindly donated by Michal Jursa, which will go to the overall winner of this competition. Best of luck.

Also in July we held the Summer Texas Scramble, on countback the winners were Steve Griffin, Graeme Eadie, Jason Hodgson and Richard Hook with a score of nett 56 playing off 5.

To end the month I held my Captain's Day, I hope all participants enjoyed their day. Richard Glithero and Jamie Townsend took first place with 46 points from Chris Hankins and Tony Shillcock in second on 44 points on countback to Chris Jones and Ted Jones. Hopefully you have all received your prizes by now, if not they are in the Pro shop awaiting your collection.



Captain's Report - continued

August brings another busy month on the golf front, with another round of the summer stablefords, the Reg Rawding Trophy, a pairs Texas Scramble, two 'majors' the Watts Russell/Lascelles (medal) and Fletton Cup (bogey) and finally the August medal which doubles up with the Izzard qualifiyer. This is split into three divisions with the winners of each going forward to represent Oundle in the finals.

We finish our Handicap league fixtures this month, with a match against Peterborough Milton away on the 10th and a home fixture with Corby on the 16th.

The club has also arranged friendly matches against Overstone both home and away on the 19th and 26th. I am looking for players for these two games, so if anyone is available please put your names on the sheet which is situated just outside the bar at the top of the stairs.

Just a quick reminder about our festival of golf week which begins on Saturday 2nd September with the Oundle Putter. This is the club's main open competition and is a 4bbb comp. It is priced at just £15 for members and £30 for guests, please enter if you are able, there will be plenty of prizes up for grabs.

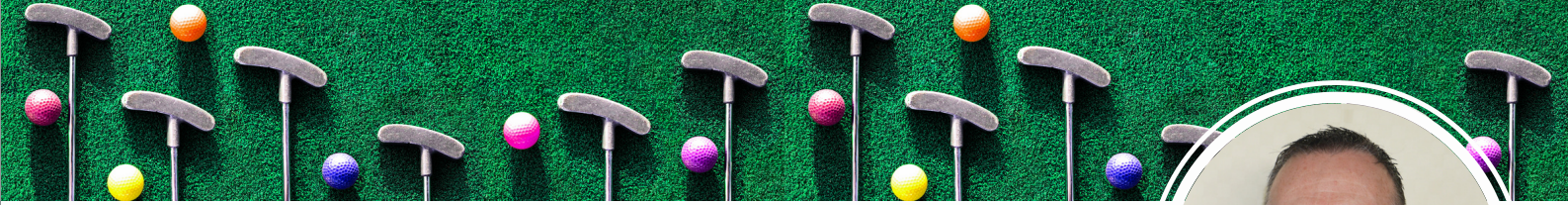
This month's 100 club winners are:

1st prize:- Jim Clarke

2nd prize:- Christine Rowell

3rd prize:- Denis Price.

The bottle of wine winner for July is Phil Houghton



Captain's Report - continued

Just a quick update on my handicap, not good news, I've managed to go up from 10.6 to 11.3 despite putting a couple of level par cards in. Just the way the new handicap system works, I'd got two very good scores coming off. Never the less my putter is now in the Pro shop getting regripped, something had to take the blame. I'll see how I get on with it this month.

Bye for now, see you out on the course.

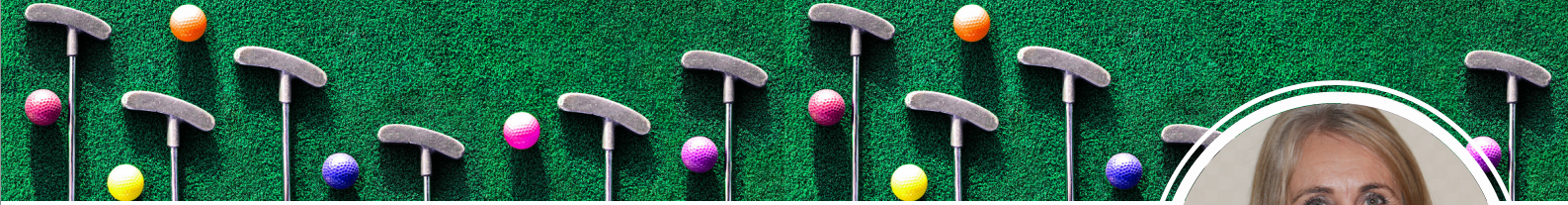
Chris Dix
Club Captain



Senior Captain's Report

What a busy month for matches, of the six matches we played we lost the four away matches and won the two home matches. I think the highlight was our match at The Warwickshire, which we lost but what a complex course it is. The weather was just right, I thought some of our greens are tricky, but theirs were all tricky. Gerry Morgan won the nearest the pin, winning a four ball voucher for The Warwickshire. With so many matches not much time for other comps, the July medal was won by Steve Holmes with 42 points, 2nd was Rob Stead with 40 points and 3rd on 39 points was Merv Price. It must have been a nice day because there were seven two's. August is another busy time with six matches to be played.

Ian Tucker
Senior Captain



Women's Captain Report



Hi all,

And she's back! I have to say the Course is looking wonderful, so a big thank you to our new Head Greenkeeper staff and volunteers. Greens are a challenge, but I think everyone is starting to get the Summer Green Feeling!

We have had a month of Comps. Kicking off with Superwoman/Super Gran:

Super Woman Pat Silburn 37 Points

Super Gran Ros Riley 38 Points

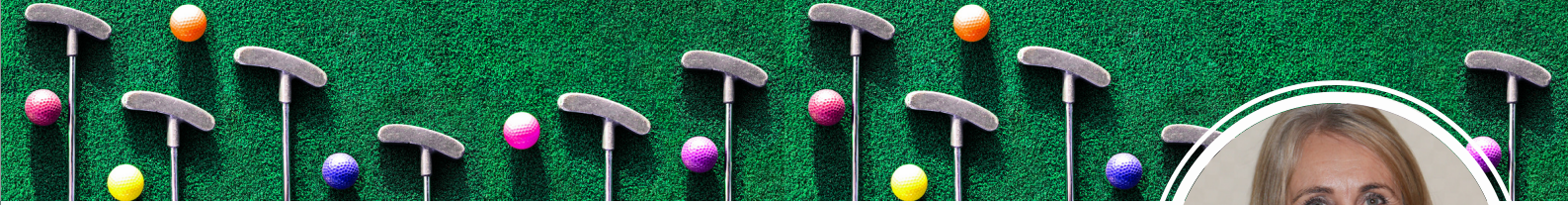
Super Nine Hole Mary Panton

Followed by

Midsummer's Cup Pat Silburn 90 gross

Dawson Trophy Ros Riley 97 gross nett 71.

Yesterday we celebrated a very special Lady, Ros Riley, who turned 80 on the 21st July, a big thankyou to Veronica for the Birthday Cup Cakes, a real hit. Ros here's wishing you a year of good health, happiness and you are already playing amazing golf! (Many Congrats.)



Women's Captain Report - continued

I have an interesting story to share, just so that you are all aware! When doing a General Play Card, you can register your round either on the England Golf App, or via the Pro Shop, or let Sheila Homer know. I did a General Play Card with a marker, and I opened the app, but it would not open my round, so I thought I had cancelled it, and after play I entered score via Pro Shop, marker signing my card. 72 hours later, I was awarded a "Penalty" round for not closing my open round, via the app. It was sorted out but did cause a bit of a faff, so be sure to either carry on with the app if possible or make sure it is cancelled.

Please note that only a few weeks remain, until entries for the Women's Open Day on the 5th of September close. A few more spaces are still available, you are allowed a team of 3 Oundle ladies and one guest. At £10 per member and £20 per guest. But if it is impossible for you to get a guest, then please don't feel you are not wanted! this is the Festival of Golf celebrating 130 years, so all welcome with a handicap of course. I am collecting donations for the raffles; it will be run on the same format as last year, hoping to raise some funds for Local Air Ambulance.

Happy golfing.

Karen Taylor



Greenkeeper Report



Hello everyone,

Firstly could I say a big thank you to all members and staff that have made me feel so welcome at the club, it's most appreciated.

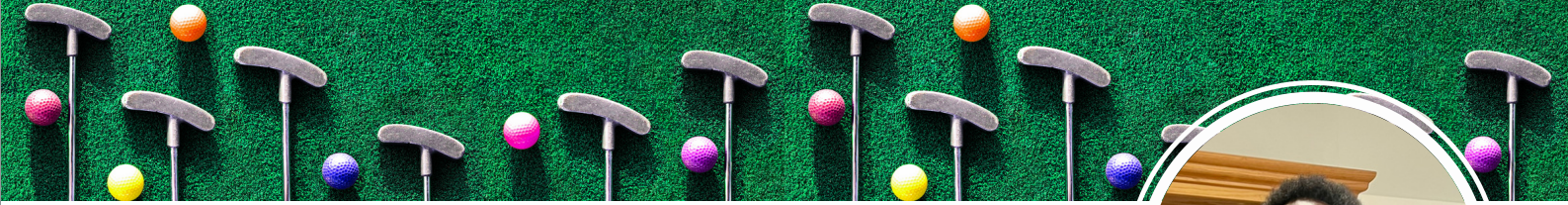
Well what a start - the hottest June followed by a very wet July the grass growth at the minute is just crazy with mowers being put to the limits but on the positive side, it's allowing us to present the course as we like to which I think everyone seems to be happy with.

As time goes on you will see changes especially to the way the course is presented. I must say a big thanks to Gary, Dan, Charlie and Matt who have taken onboard what I'm trying to do and are a massive thank you to Nes, who's been so helpful with me settling in. A big well done to Matt who has fully passed his level 2 in greenkeeping with distinction. The gang are doing a great job and I thank them for all they do as it's a massive help and can't be underestimated.

The next few weeks will see loads of major competitions, as well as our festival of golf. So it's all hands to the pump to produce the course in it's very best light. Next month I will go into the things we will be doing over the next few months.

Hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and we get some good golfing weather and I look forward to seeing you out on the course.

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper



Catering Report



Howdy doody folks

I hope you have all had a good month.

First of all, I have to say the course is looking fantastic. I have had a lot of society guests tell me it is playing exceptionally well. I think all the rain we have had has helped.

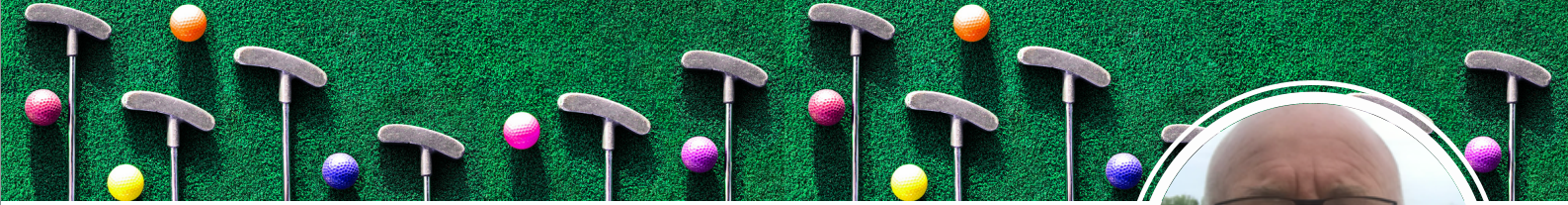
July has been a little bit quieter for the catering department, especially when you look back at May and June.

Both Captains Day events have gone really well. I have to say a massive thank you to Mike Thompson and Michael Davidson for helping me out at such short notice. I appreciate that. Looking ahead, August looks like it could be similar to May and June business wise. Kaching! That is good to see. We must be doing something right.

Well that's it for now as I have 39 coming in for a 2 course meal at 3pm. It's the Women's Captains Day.

See you all soon.

The Catering Team



Operations Officer Report

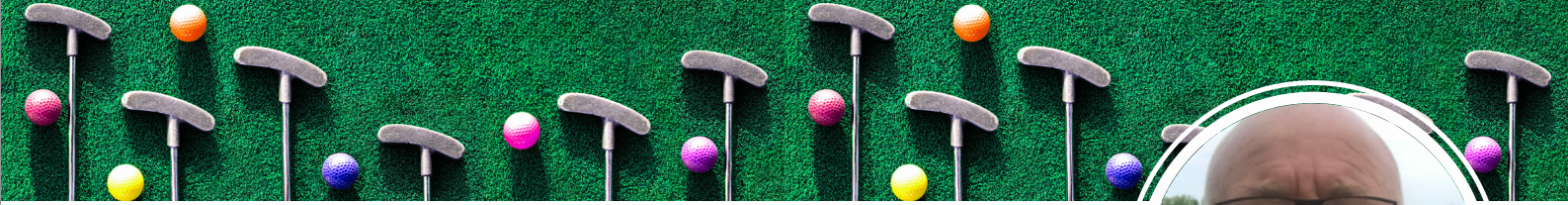


Despite the relatively drab July weather, I will start on a positive note, I am happy to report that the Bar and Catering (B&C) service is currently on track to reverse the historical annual losses into a surplus for this coming year. This piece of good news prompted me to provide you with a backdrop of the challenges that the hospitality sector faces and what we are doing at the club to address the ongoing situation.

The combined factors of the rising cost of utilities, the staffing crisis and the spiralling wholesale cost of food and drink prices have created unprecedented levels of pressure on Bar and Catering services. A recent article in a Sunday supplement highlighted that since the pandemic, the cost of eating out has increased by an average of 30%!

So, what are we meant to do to combat these issues? Do we simply 'absorb' the increases and lose money, or do we address the decline, and if so, then how?

In terms of energy costs, our current tariff is about to expire, and I know that Nes has spent a great deal of time and effort in trying to obtain a better deal from all the available energy suppliers. The prospect of leaner and greener forms of energy is also being explored. In the meantime, we are diligent in ensuring that we are reducing the use of energy by not leaving electrical units, such as the exhaust fans running when there is no food service. As members, we can also play our part, by switching off any unnecessary lighting that you may see switched on during the day. Sometimes it's the small things.



Operations Officer Report - continued



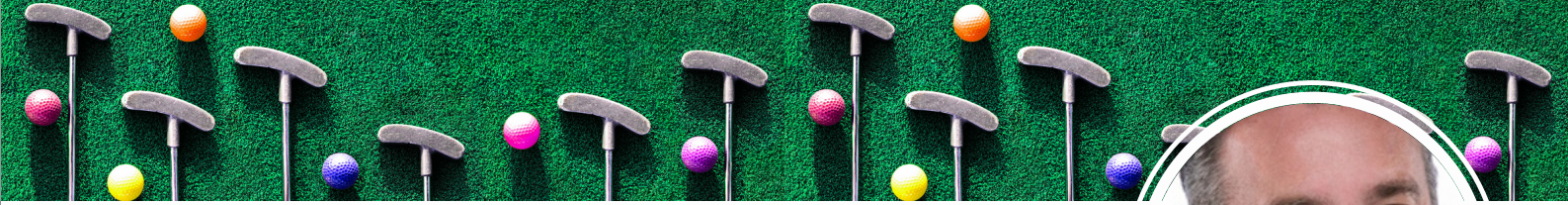
The staffing crisis is causing major problems for virtually every hospitality outlet in the UK, not only in the resourcing of competent people, but also the challenges of retaining existing staff. We are blessed to have a happy and functioning team that provides a quality service (although there is always room for improvement). However, we must not be complacent, and we will remain alive to market forces to ensure that we retain our current team. The hospitality industry has, for decades, undervalued many of its staff – something that we at OGC must not allow to happen. I am acutely aware that the implications of not retaining staff will have a detrimental effect on the quality and levels of service – a situation that I am determined to avoid!

Rising wholesale food and beverage costs are a major problem for all clubs, and one that affects every single member to a greater or lesser degree. This is a topic that I will cover in the August Newsletter

To finish on a positive note and from a personal perspective, the course is currently in such great condition. This fact is also reflected in the very positive comments and praise that I regularly hear from the members, visiting societies and other guests. So, a well-deserved thank you to all of the catering team for all of your ongoing hard work. It is very much appreciated by all.

Play well.

Malc



Professional News

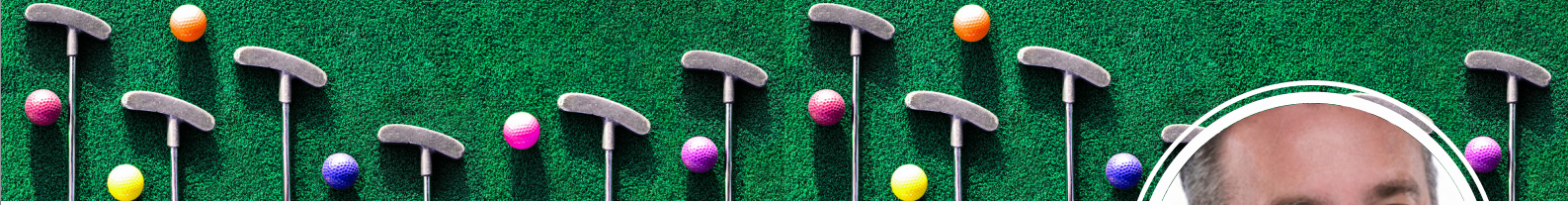
Pro shop

Although summer doesn't seem to have arrived yet, the weather has definitely had a positive effect on the golf course. The feedback through the pro shop from members and visitors has been fantastic and it is exciting to see the club starting to thrive again.

On the equipment front you should start to notice more hardware in the shop and we are planning a demo/fitting day during August and September. If you would like to try some clubs or book a fitting please register your interest through professional@oundlegolfclub.com. Please remember that even if we don't have stock we can get hold of almost any club in a few days and price match with the big online stores!

Lessons

Many of you seem to be enjoying the chance to take lessons at the club again and my diary is filling up quickly. August and September should provide the perfect opportunity for on-course coaching whether just for an hour or 9/18 holes so give me a call at the club or email davemorelandgolf@gmail.com



Professional News - conntinued

Quick Tips

Everyone tends to automatically open the clubface when trying to play a greenside bunker shot, but if you are struggling to make a consistent strike try the following set up and practice drill. You can always introduce an open clubface for more delicate shots later.

1. Set up in the bunker with a square stance and clubface and without a ball
2. Make a few normal swings completing your follow through and imagining the sand being hit out of the bunker onto the green
3. You should start to notice that the impact or 'sand divot' is somewhere between the centre of you stance and your left foot (right foot for left handers)
4. Make note of the position of the centre of this 'sand divot' and that is where you should have your ball positioned when playing a bunker shot. It will normally be around the instep or big toe on your left foot.
5. Use a ball now and set up with a square stance keeping the ball in the new position.
6. Swing as before trying to complete your follow through and hit the sand out of the bunker onto the green
7. Voila!

For clarity on this and for a more in depth lesson don't hesitate to get in touch.

Dave Moreland