



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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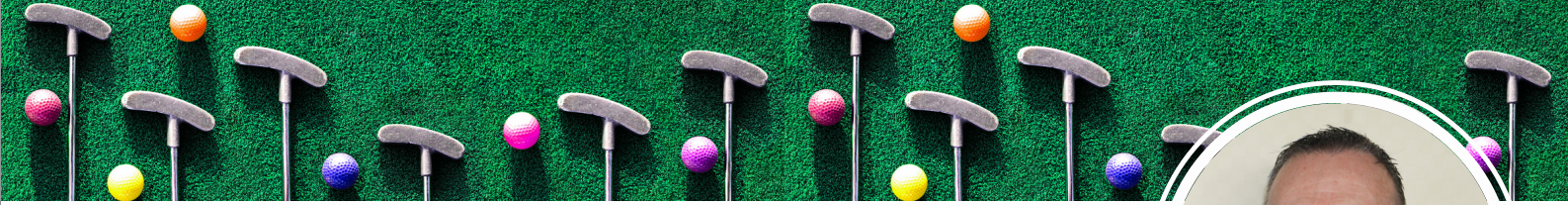
Chairperson's Report

The holiday period has meant a quiet month from a management point of view but the course continues to look in splendid condition due to the hard work of the greens staff and volunteers. Many visitors have complimented the Club on the condition and quality of the course.

I must continue to bang the drum regarding recruiting new members. We are still short of full members and with interest rates increasing and the Club's fixed rate for electricity coming to an end, we anticipate a sharp increase in our fixed costs next year. If we do not continue to attract new members, the existing subscriptions will inevitably have to increase. So please encourage anyone you know who wishes to join a club, or who is thinking of changing club, to come and try Oundle as I am sure that they will not be disappointed.

Thanks

Peter



Captain's Report

Welcome to September's newsletter. We began the month with the first named storm of the year aptly named "storm Anthony". I say this because the day it struck coincided with the August Stableford competition, with very few players braving the weather Anthony Burrows top scored with a very good 39 points, which has moved him up to second in the second division, just a few points behind Tony Shillcock.

Richard Glithero won the first division with 33 points. With just two rounds to go there's all to play for, I've put the updated sheets in the changing rooms. The Watts Russell/Lascelles also took place last month with Adam Butler winning the Watts Russell with a nett 67 and Terry Tibbs winning the Lascelles with a nett 65. Both have had a slight cut in their handicaps. The Reg Rawding Trophy victors were Richard Nunn, George Montgomery, Barry Watts and Tony Wilkes.

A pairs Texas scramble was held with Matt Chapman and Tony Everson winning on count back from Richard Glithero and Jamie Townsend. The August medal also doubled up as the Izzard qualifier and the three players that are going forward to represent Oundle on the finals day are Chris Jones, Grant Holmes and Ian Hood, best of luck to them. To round a busy month off for competitions, the Fletton Cup was held towards the end of the month. Dale Abbott won this by beating the course by four shots.

The handicap league fixtures came to an end with two very good victories, firstly an 8 - 7 win away to Peterborough Milton followed by a 19 - 1 win at home to Priors Hall. For the players who took part I have put a results sheet up in the changing rooms for your information. A total of 32 people played, thank you to all for taking part.

The mixed section had a good month by beating Peterborough Milton away 4 - 2 in a friendly, then retaining the Centenary Cup by beating Northampton GC at home.

Captain's Report



There were two club friendly matches in August against Overstone both home and away. The results were exactly the same as last year with a 5-1 win at home and a 5-1 defeat away, so an honourable draw.

We play Peterborough Milton away on September 23rd in a club match and are looking to do the hat-trick. There are still a few spots available, entry sheet on the board at the top of the stairs.

The 100 club winners for August are :-

1st prize, Bob Svarups

2nd prize, John Mumford

3rd prize, Debbie Verdino

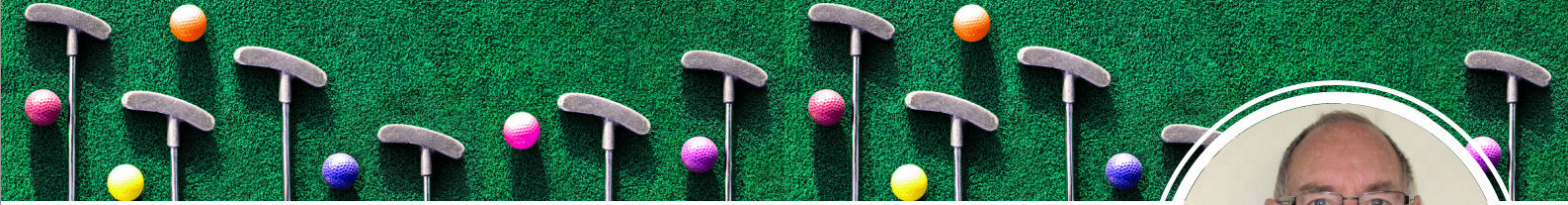
The bottle of wine winner was Paul Taylor.

The festival of golf week is almost upon us, when you read this it will be well underway. The weather is looking fair for the whole week which will only enhance the course and the bunting is up, in the bar and around the Pro shop. Thanks go to Karen for this.

Just a quick update on my handicap. Another increase I'm afraid just up 0.1 of a shot. So not the putters fault, I've had that done. Time is running out with only four months left to lose two whole shots. Must try better this month.

That's all for now, enjoy your golf and I hope to see you out on the course soon.

Chris Dix
Club Captain

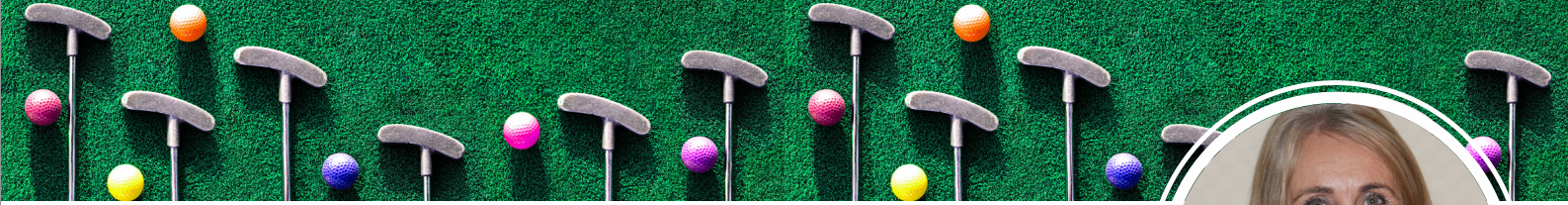


Senior Captain's Report

Hi All,

What a busy month August was for matches, we had three away and three at home. This resulted in the usual outcomes losing the away match and winning the ones at home. I would like to thank John Foster my vice captain for leading and organising the last three matches whilst I've been holidaying in Brittany even managing to play some golf. There were also rounds of the summer stableford and for those brave enough a medal competition, unfortunately I don't have those results to hand. September sees us playing our last three matches, and also the Seniors charity open.

Ian Tucker
Senior Captain



Women's Captain Report

Hi All,

I cannot believe that we are over halfway through the year, and everything that was planned last year is upon us.

We started August off with my Captains Lunch, I think I can safely say this was a successful day all round, we had 25 Golfers in the morning and 39 for lunch, including some of the men, which was wonderful, thanks to Nick Verdino for helping out at the Halfway house and thank you to Debbie Verdino for the delicious Cup Cakes. Thank you to Roger and staff for the lunch.

Our Overall winner for the day was Pat Silburn

Best Front Nine was Barbara Jenkinson

Best Back Nine was Ros Riley.

Best Man over nine holes Barry Robson on a count out from John Homer.

Well done to all, the scores for the day were very close.

The Kimbell Cup, which was played in Honour of Mina Kimbell, who sadly passed away at the beginning of August, was won by Barbara Jenkinson and runner up was Megan Smedley, well done ladies.

Yesterday we had the Cancer Salver Challenge this was won by Carla Fogarty, well done Carla. Runner up was Pat Silburn.



Women's Captain Report - Continued

We are now preparing for the Festival of Golf, and I am very excited to show our course off, which is looking sublime, once again a big thank you to Ian, Staff and Volunteers, your very hard work is paying off with great success. Chris Dix kicks off on Saturday with the Oundle Putter, and the Women's Open is on the 5th September, I am so happy to say that we have 64 ladies going out, and I hope all have a wonderful day, and a big thank you to the Women who have got teams together and to the Women's Section who have donated wonderful prizes for our Raffles. All monies raised to go to Local Air Ambulance.

Happy Golfing
Karen Taylor



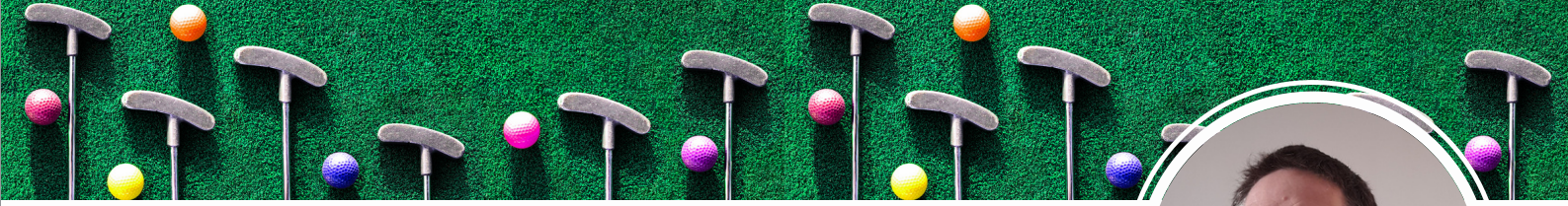
Greenkeeper Report

Hi everyone,

At the time of writing, we are in full swing (pardon the pun) of the festival of golf, the course is coming along nicely and hopefully all playing will enjoy the course looking at its best. Best of luck to all those playing and a big thank you to everyone who has helped us prepared the course for the festival week.

Course renovations are just around the corner. We will be scarifying, tinning, seeding and dressing the greens, followed by a recovery feed for them. This is a very important practice to do, but going forward I will be looking to introduce much more aeration work into the greens. We have very shallow rooting greens at the moment and as well as creating stronger roots, this will also break down thatch more, so that we have better rooting, better draining, it will be more disease tolerant, and better playing greens. There is no magic wand, just good practice, that is done regularly to get better greens. Our roller allows us to still produce a smooth playing green after the work has been done to them.

I have been changing a few broken sprinklers over the last couple of weeks. The irrigation system is working more like it should be, but there is still plenty to do over the winter. All heads will be lifted up as most have sunk, which leads them to not working to their maximum output. The mower also going over them when they are sunk can lead them to being broken. Come spring, the system will be as close to perfect as it can be.



Greenkeeper Report

One area that needs addressing is our bunkers. We are doing all we can, but a long-term plan needs to be put in place to raise them to the standard of the rest of the course. We are at the early stages of putting plans in place to achieve this.

Tree work will be ongoing during the winter with trees that are dangerous, taking priority.

Enjoy golfing,

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper



Catering Report



Good morning my little tee sheets

I hope you are all in fine fettle.

I would like to thank the members who have been supporting the team in the bar over the last few months, It has been a huge help.

As you are aware the festival of golf will soon be here. This will be a busy time for us so if you can help us by just being patient the team will be very grateful. Thank you in advance.

That's pretty much it for now. Until next time I hope you enjoy our wonderful course and facilities.

We have a lot to offer. Have fun

The bar team

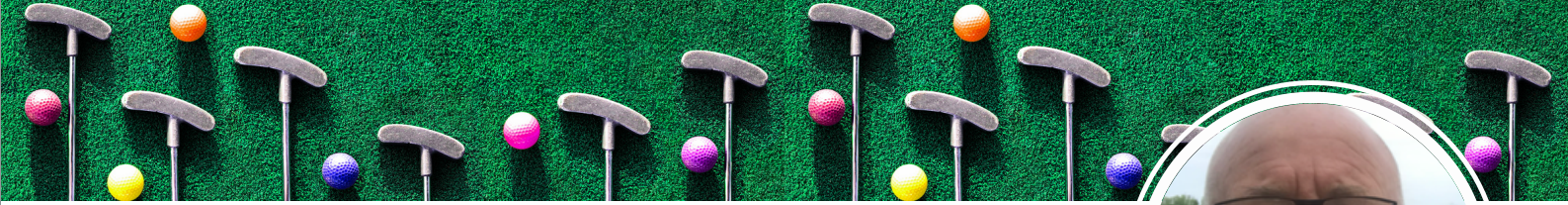


Operations Officer Report

To follow on from last month's article on the financial challenges facing the Bar and Catering operation, rising wholesale food and beverage costs are a fact of life and constitutes a significant headache for all areas of the hospitality sector. Our club is no different and action must be taken to ensure that you receive the level of service that is demanded. As you will appreciate, financial resources are not a bottomless pit, therefore a sensible but fair approach needs to be applied to this issue. We cannot just ignore the impact that rising prices will ultimately have upon on our club. My focus is to ensure that the Bar and Catering elements make a positive contribution to the club finances and not to drain resources from other income streams, mainly from your annual subs, so doing nothing is not an option!

The 'Top 10' food items that have seen the biggest increases over the past 12 months are:

1. Vegetable oil: 65%
2. Pasta: 59%
3. Tea: 46%
4. Chips: 38%
5. Bread: 37%
6. Biscuits: 34%
7. Mixed frozen vegetables: 31%
8. Milk: 29%
9. Crisps: 23%
10. Tomatoes: 19%



Operations Officer Report

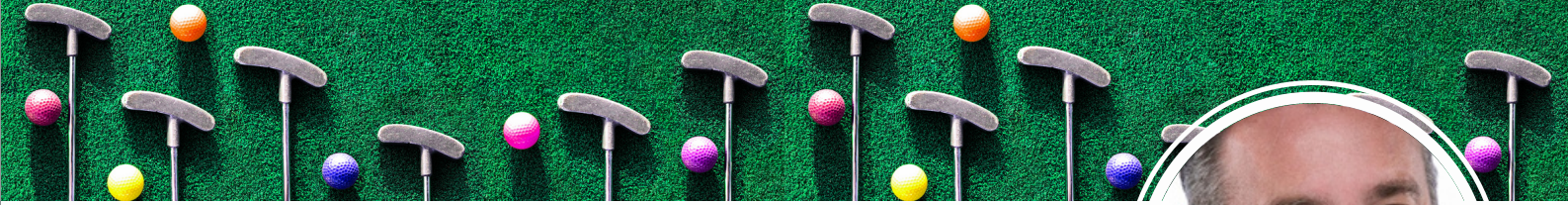
Whilst we have attempted to arrest the rise in prices by re-negotiating better supplier deals, or even changing suppliers, the harsh reality is that it's tough out there for suppliers too, and price rises are inevitable. Some of you may have even encountered Roger on one of his regular jaunts around his local supermarkets taking advantage of the various available promotions to meet cost efficiencies for the club.

I fully appreciate that increasing prices is not an easy sell with members. I hope however, that you will understand the need for these periodic increases and continue to support us through these challenging times.

You may have noticed the increase in the number of societies who have recently been visiting the club. Society Golf is currently going through a boom period, and we need to be alive to the potential of the benefits of hosting such events. I cannot emphasise enough what an important part visitors play in terms of income generation. In comparison to the corresponding period in 2022, this year has seen society revenue double! The number of advance bookings for 2024 are also very encouraging. Whilst members will always take priority, it is important that we continue to attract societies to our club. The current quality of the course and the welcome received in the clubhouse are the two most important aspects for a positive experience for our visitors. I would therefore encourage members to continue in making our societies and visitors alike very welcome.

Prior to signing off for this month, if you have any ideas, articles or suggestions that you like to see included in future newsletters, please get in touch. Ta.

Malc



Professional News

I will have my chef's hat back on during September for the long awaited return of the 'nine & dine' golf and curry evening. The event will run on Friday 22nd September starting with a putting clinic at 4pm and tee times from 4.30pm. Guests and visitors are welcome to join and I am sure it will be another great social event!

Please book your place and curry choice through the pro shop.

Pro Shop

Many of you have shown an interest in attending a custom fitting day at the club and I am pleased to announce that I will be offering free sessions on Sep 16th & 23rd. These sessions will involve a basic swing analysis plus fitting, and afterwards you will have all the information you need to order any brand of club.

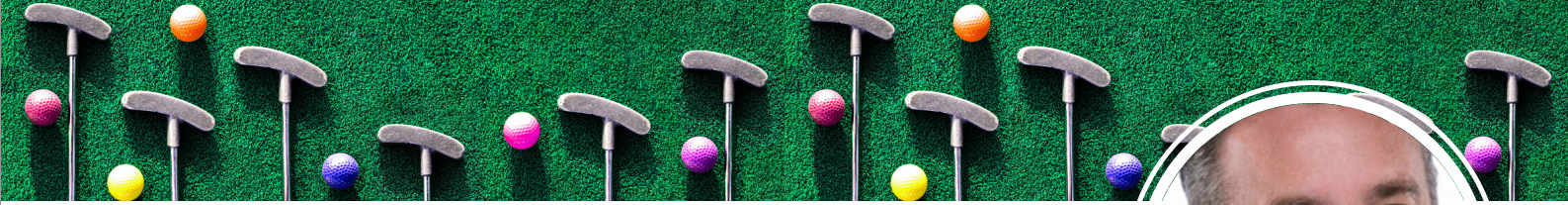
Monthly offers

- Trade in ANY old trolley and receive £100 discount from any of our electric trolley ranges
- 50% discount on all ladies clothing

Lessons

Whilst the weather is still good I am offering a special rate of £75 for a nine-hole lesson. Register and pay any time during September to receive the discount and lessons can be taken any time before the end of the year.

The long awaited junior programme is here with free introduction sessions being held on September 24th. Following this I will run a 6 week course covering all aspects of the game for all age groups.



Professional News

Tip of the month

Chipping - It's all about the lie!

Many players will approach every chip shot with the same club and the same set-up without really considering how the ball is lying. For many shots this is fine, but if the ball is sitting down or up in the grass too much you may thin the ball, or go underneath it completely.

Sitting down

If the ball is sitting down in the grass or on a bare lie where it is difficult to get to the bottom then we need a steeper angle of attack. The way to achieve this is to move the ball back in the stance keeping the hands and weight forward. This will help reduce the bounce and make it easier to get the leading edge of the club to the bottom of the ball.

Sitting up

If the ball is sitting high on top of the grass we need to shallow out the angle of attack so moving the ball slightly forward in the stance will help achieve this.

NB. Remember that moving the ball back removes loft from the club and moving it forward increases the loft so you will need to adjust your club or strength of swing accordingly.

Dave Moreland