



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Chairperson's Report

Captain's Report

Senior Captain's Report

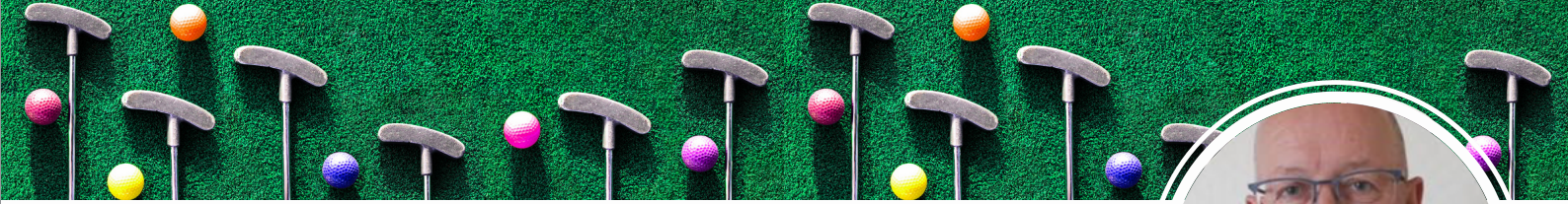
Women's Section Report

Greenkeeper Report

Catering Report

Professional News

Operations Report



Chairperson's Report

The Management Committee continues to prioritise increasing the Club's income to enable us to maintain the quality of the course and its facilities.

This is a crucial time of the year for attracting new members and so if you are aware of anyone who may be considering joining OGC, please encourage them to come and play what is undoubtedly one of the finest courses in this area.

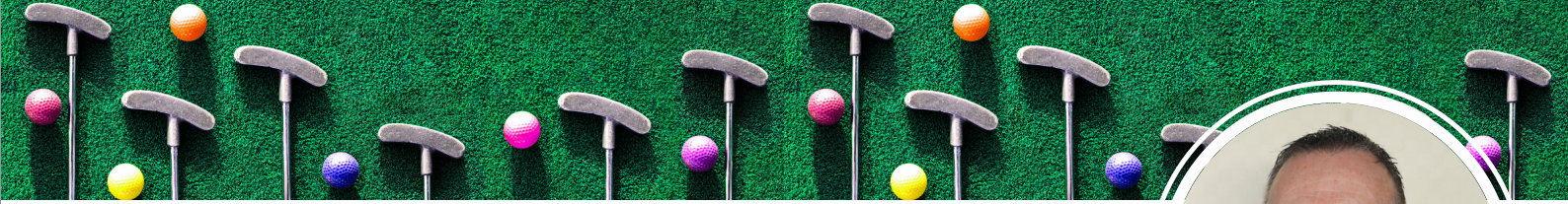
Could I please also encourage you to use the Club's bar and catering facilities and the services of our Professional, David Moreland. Both need your support in order to provide the standard of service that members expect.

Hopefully we have seen the last of the dreadful weather we have experienced over the past month and we shall soon see the whole course in its full glory. The greens are looking superb given the wet weather we have experienced recently and they will be even better with some warm weather and sunshine.

Enjoy your golf.

Thanks

Peter Izod
Chairperson



Captain's Report

Welcome to March's newsletter. My aim this month is not to mention the weather, as I'm sure you are as fed up as I am with it.

Firstly some unfinished business regarding the 100 club draws.

The January results were as follows :-

- 1st Johnathan Court
- 2nd Jim Clarke
- 3rd Peter Izod

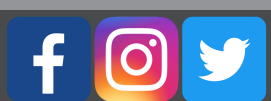
February's results were :-

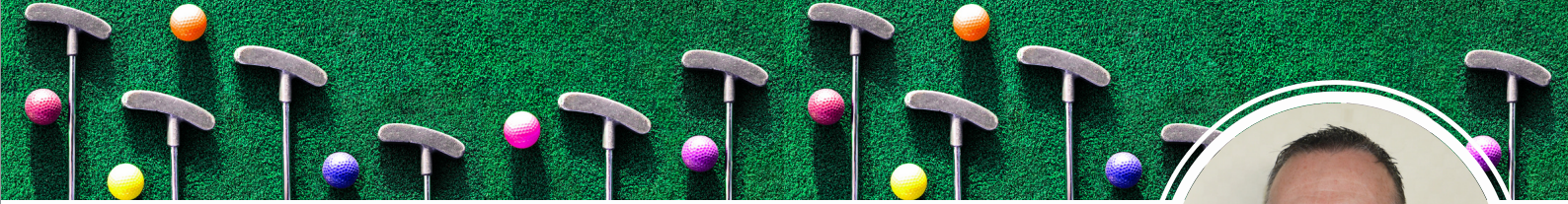
- 1st Peter Rice
- 2nd John Mumford
- 3rd David Charlton - Jones

Now onto this month's golfing winners.

We began the month with a pairs bogey competition and the winning score was an incredible 9 up on the course and it was only 14 holes. Well done Michael Davidson and Rob Stead. In second place were Paul Pateman and Tony Burrows with 6 up. Next came the monthly medal, over the full 18 holes, though the 5th was played as a par 3. The division two winner was Phil Twiselton with a nett 67 and George Montgomery took the first division with a nett 70.

Back over 14 holes the monthly stableford was won by Denis Price with 33 points (nice to see him back in the first division) The second division was won by Stewart Davidson with 30 points.





Captain's Report - Continued

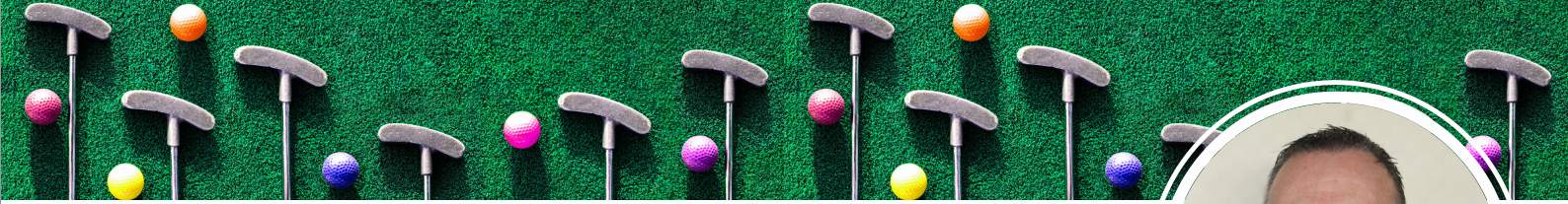
The Captain's Drive in was held towards the end of the month and Denis Price kept his form going, taking first place along with Priya Salvi scoring 37 points in a 4bbb format.



The mixed section got their friendly fixtures underway, with an away trip to Ramsey and came back with a creditable 3 all draw.

Coming up in April we begin our Summer Stablefords with the Mick Ives Trophy at stake. There is a total of seven rounds, with the best four counting, BRS is open for bookings.

April also brings with it, our first drawn competition of the season, the Dawson Trophy. Medal format off the white tees.



Captain's Report - Continued

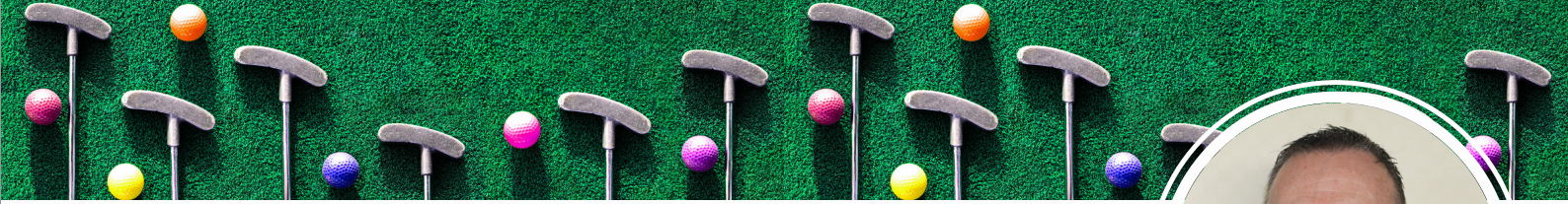
Towards the end of the month there's the spring Texas scramble. We are going to trial a new system for this, where by you draw your starting hole for your team, on the morning of the competition. More details will be displayed on BRS when bookings open.

We also have a Foursomes competition in April to get us ready for the Hollingsworth league which also begins later in the month. On the mixed front, there's friendly matches against Overstone and Elton Furze. Finally, the Ellis Family Salver is being held on the 7th. Bookings are already open on BRS so please get your names down if you are eligible.

Hopefully by now you've all seen the new pins and flags on the course. These were paid for by the Captain's charity, so essentially the members who have donated through various raffles and other fund raising activities over the years. So a big thank you from me.

I'm also in the process of reinstating the hole in one board, in the bar area. By the time you read this it should be in place. Being built at the moment is a stand to hold a clock and divot bags to be positioned near the first tee, more on this next month.

I'm going to include a new feature in my monthly newsletters, starting this month. Regarding rules, specifically at certain holes at OundleGC. Some will be fairly obvious, others not so much so. But at least by the end of my tenure we should at least all be singing off the same hymn sheet. I will begin with the 12th hole.



Captain's Report - Continued

If your ball finishes on the 13th teeing area, or adjacent path, you must drop in the dropping zone provided.

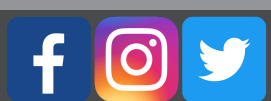
With no penalty. This does not include the gorse. (A ball finishing in the gorse bush may be dropped within two club lengths of where it lies, not nearer the hole, with a one shot penalty), you must also find your ball, you cannot presume it's in the gorse. To be safe play a provisional ball.

Secondly, the path means the gravelled area and not the muddy area where people have been walking. If your ball finishes in the roped off area it must be played as it lies. This is a moveable obstruction and the posts and rope can be moved to enable you to play your shot. Just be thankful you are still in bounds.

As for my handicap, I seem to recall that I was down to play in six qualifying events in March. Well it ended up being none because of the dammed weather (sorry, nearly got to the end). I will resume my fight in April with the new WHS rules to make it even harder.

That's it for now, see you out on the course soon. Happy golfing.

Chris Dix
OundleGC Captain





Senior Captain's Report

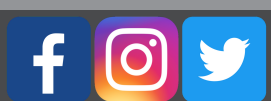
Now is the time for members to enter the MENS SENIORS PAIRS OPEN on May 9th. Being over 55 is the only qualification needed. So I hope as many of you as possible will enter. Good prizes on offer, and if you want to enter by yourself we will try and pair you up with somebody.

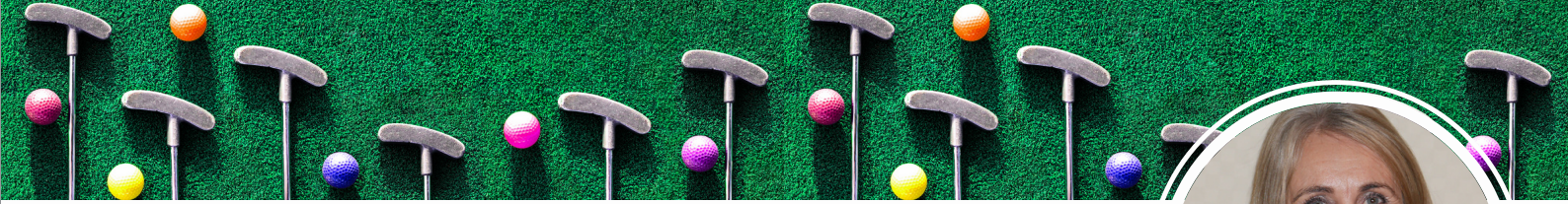
We will also be looking for volunteers to help on the day. All money raised goes towards projects on the course. We have had an excellent response from visitors, so please come forward and fill up the remaining spaces. Entry forms are in the Bar and Pro shop.

We are about to embark on our summer schedule of fixtures, there has been an excellent response from members and I could have filled the opening four fixtures twice over. However with a list of 29 matches, everyone should get a fair outing throughout the summer.

In the Northants Senior Knock Out we have a home match with Peterborough Milton on 29th April, hopefully we will progress further than the last two years when we have had a early exit.

John Foster
Senior Captain





Women's Section Report

Hi all,

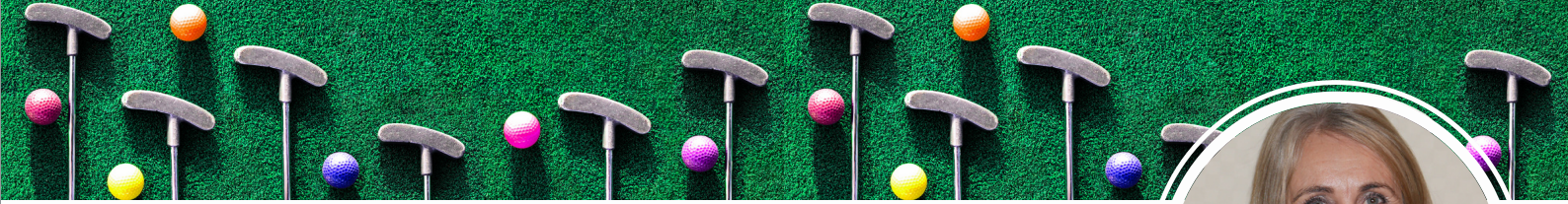
I am sitting and reflecting on how we have got to Easter, in fact Easter Monday, and its still murky weather, with intermittent rain, and golf has been touch and go! Let's hope April Fool's Day is the turning point, and we can get some serious golf going.

What golf has been played, has been over 14 holes and I would like to thank Ian and his team, for all their hard work at keeping the course looking amazing, and also thank you to all the players who have stuck to the rules keeping out the wet by using the 90-degree rule. When we can play 18 holes in hopefully some sunshine, our course and greens are going to be magnificent.

Not much to report on results for March, but we did win our friendly against Kibworth, well done team. Next one is the 11th of April against Kettering.

Congratulations to Sheila Homer for winning the Winter knockout. An achievement in getting in matches in between mud and course closures.

We are trying to hammer away at our Open, but we are appealing to all our Women Members, to encourage registration, it is coming upon us quickly, so please invite your friends, we have lots of spaces to fill, and this is a wonderful way to show off our new and improved course. We have women members willing to play, if you have friends who would like to play we can provide two home members. Let me know.



Women's Section Report

I want to say a big Thank you to the women members who supported the Captain's Drive In, this was very different this year, with our new Section. Due to the "rain" we had to cancel the first one, but we managed a successful day, the following week. Thank you, Chris Dix and your merry men, for the day and including us. The meal afterwards was delicious, thank you catering staff.

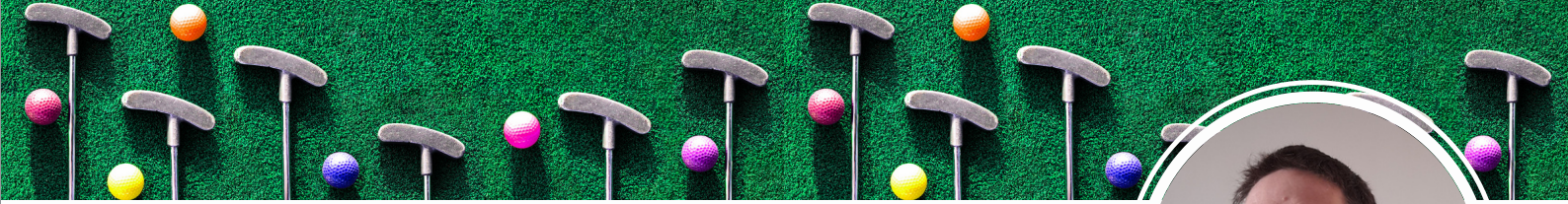
Dave Moreland is holding the Nine and Dine on the 12th April, this is a great way to get our "Social" side of the Club up and running, let's make it a success.

One piece of good news is that the Halfway House Toilet is open, so no more crossing of legs. Please can we treat it with some TLC, as it will be a while before the small upgrade will start, and the men's side is out of action, so for the time being it will be a well-used and hopefully gender friendly toilet!

That's all for now,

Happy April golfing and may we embrace the new WHS!

Karen T.



Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone,

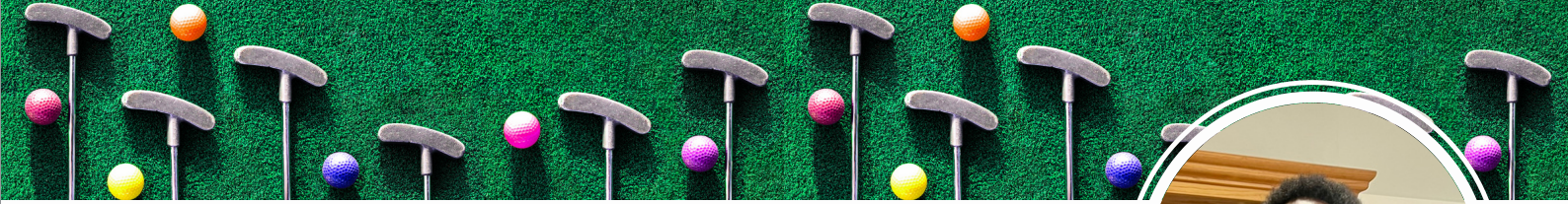
Well what a winter that was record temps and rainfall has made things very hard for us to produce the course that we want to give you. Having said that, the greens have been spot on considering, I'd like to thank all my staff plus the Tuesday gang and everyone else who have gone above and beyond over the winter. Without their help, things would have been a lot harder.

The only good thing about the weather is that it has highlighted issues that come with a 100 plus year old course, plans to address these issues are being put into a planned strategy to improve the course for years to come. The golfing season is almost upon us and thanks to all the members that have adhered to the measures that we have put into place over the winter, I think you would all agree the fairways and approaches are a match to any course around.

We now just need the weather to improve so we can start manicuring the course to our high standards and also getting those greens truly slick..... please don't blame me for those 3 putts!

I look forward to seeing you all out on the course and enjoying your golf.

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper



Catering Report

Good day to you golfers,

It finally looks like we have hopefully turned the corner with the weather. It's about time!

Over the last month the bar has been slightly busier. We have had the Captains Drive In and the Northants U16 Competition. We received positive comments for both events. In April we have a few societies visiting and the first of the senior men's matches. This is good to see as we have been very quiet. With the clocks changing we should also see more visitors on the course which can only be good news.

Well that is it from all of us until the next time we meet. I'm sure we will have a lot more to say to you all.

Best wishes to you all,

The Catering Team



Professional News

Finally the weather seems to be matching the quality of the golf course, and with the first golf major of the year just round the corner we have decided to start the popular 'Nine and Dine' series again.

Dates will coincide with the four majors and sign ups for the Masters event on Feb 12th are already approaching 40. If you would like to join for the golf and meal or even just the meal (guests welcome) please email professional@oundlegolfclub.com. Don't worry if you can't make the first one as there will be events to coincide with the USPGA (May 17th), US Open (June 14th) and The Open (July 19th).

As the clocks have now moved forward we also hope to start a weekly roll-up on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. The cost would be approx £9 including 9 hole competition and bar snack. Please register your interest and preferred tee times by email to professional@oundlegolfclub.com

[Pro shop](#)

PRICE MATCH CONTINUES

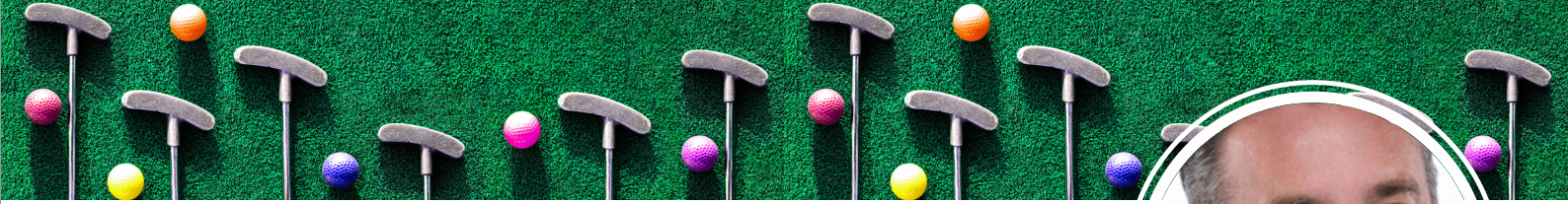
If you are looking for new equipment come and see us for a free fitting and price matching against online giants clubhouse golf and American golf. Most items available within a few days.

Offer 1

Buy any Callaway Paradym, Ping G430, Titleist TSR or Cobra Darkspeed Driver and we will:

- Price match with Clubhouse Golf
- Give you the option to purchase any fairway wood at 50% discount





Professional News - Continued

Offer 2

Buy any set of Callaway Paradym, Ping G430, Titleist T-series or Cobra Darkspeed irons (minimum 6 clubs) and we will:

- Price match with Clubhouse Golf
- Give you a FREE matching hybrid

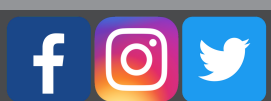
AMAZING SHOE DEALS

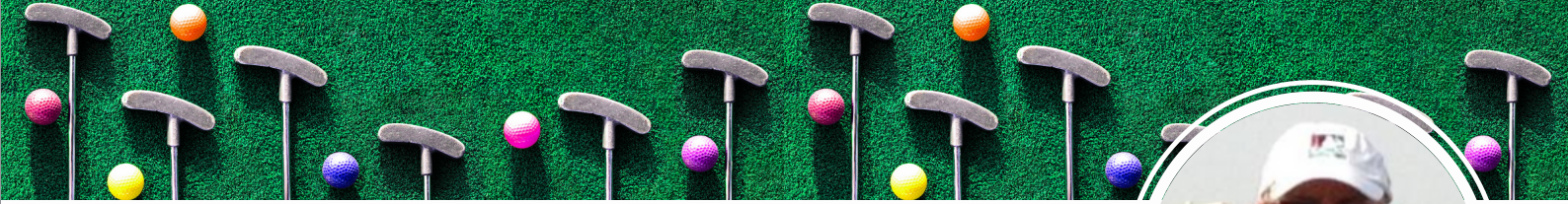
- Buy any pair of Footjoy shoes and receive a £40 voucher to spend on any item in the Pro Shop
- Buy any pair of skechers shoes for £75

Lessons

I am planning a six week 'Short game' series which involves group coaching on putting, chipping & pitching. If you are interested in joining either during the week or on the weekend please email your interest and preferred timings to davemorelandgolf@gmail.com. The cost for the six week program is £75 per person.

Our junior program starts again on April 20th with a 5 week program for ages 5-16 yrs. Everyone is welcome so please tell your friends and family.





Operations Report

Dear All,

Each month I receive 'Insight' which is the monthly update from the Golf Club Management Association (GCMA). Included in the March edition was an article that I feel compelled to share with you. The article provides an accurate insight into the financial challenges of operating an in-house food and beverage operation. Please have a read and if you have thoughts or opinion on this matter, please get in touch.

'We golfers are a demanding lot. We want a cheap pint, and good food at a great price. Members expect what they consume before and after a round to be discounted. You'd imagine the turnover of food and drink over a year at your club, in terms of pints and pies sold, would be enormous.

But, for the unwary, F&B (as food and beverage is known in the trade) can be a financial black hole. Plenty of clubs keep it at arms-length, franchising their operations out to suppliers, but what is the bottom line for those who do it themselves?

Denham, in Buckinghamshire, would be one of the more successful operators. The private members' club are renowned for their Sunday lunches and functions. How do the numbers come out?

"On £550,000 ex-Vat turnover last year we made a £7,000 profit," said General Manager Richard Penley-Martin. "It's going to be a bit tighter this year because, obviously, we've got to factor in a 10% increase with wages.



Operations Report - continued

“What we’re trying to do is make sure we keep the volumes up. That’s difficult because members expect discounts off the prices, so you’ve got to sell more product when your wages are going to go up 10%, and you’ve got to cover that now.

“So if our wages go up by 10%, we’ve got to sell another £50,000 worth of product to not lose out. Fortunately, we’ve got very good catering here but it’s a challenge. “Like a lot of places, when you look at the F&B operations, when it comes to club functions, it’s generally the same people who are supporting it.

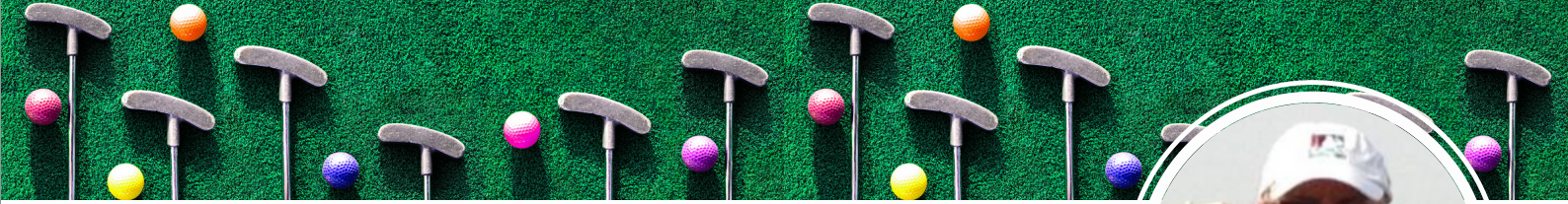
“We’ve got a slightly different dynamic that about 40% of our members live in London so, for them to come here, they’ve got a train or car journey.

“Suddenly, an evening out here becomes more expensive whereas there are plenty of places they can go in town that they can walk to. We’ve got to be very aware of that and we’re spending a lot of time understanding where the value is there.

“Overall, It’s 1.2 per cent profit on turnover and you know all the effort that’s gone into it. But it’s one of the things we’re renowned for here.”

As Penley-Martin suggests, price increases – fuelled by inflation and the cost-of-living – will make F&B a bigger challenge in 2024, with members generally routinely resistant to forking out more cash.

Kerry Alligan-Smith, General Manager at Redditch, in the West Midlands, confirmed the wages and salaries increase – estimating the government-enforced changes will add some six to eight per cent onto the club bill.



Operations Report - continued

“The minimum wage will have a big impact this year as lower paid salaried staff require higher increases,” she explained.

“Food costs have increased between 10 and 25 per cent. We aim for a 60 per cent gross profit, but the demand from members means this is becoming more challenging.

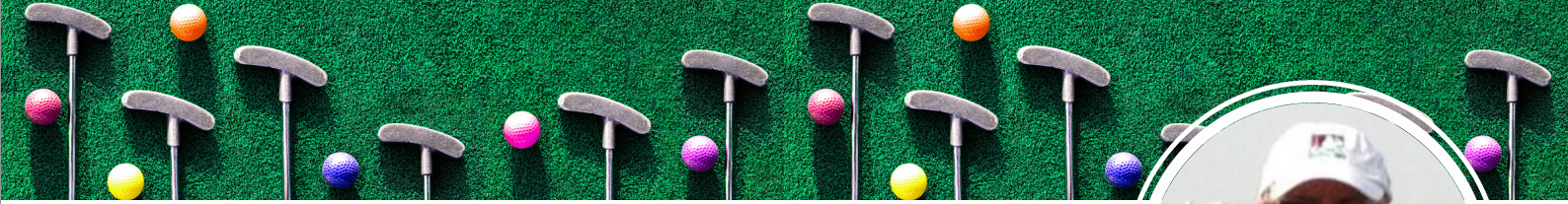
“We’ve also seen an increase in on the Bar cost of sale – some clubs saw that go up 17 per cent in 2023.”

She added that members need to understand the impact of costs for providing a service at clubs and the gross profit margin still needs to take into consideration costs outside of buying in stock. Employing staff to make the food, serve the food, clean the plates is all added costs outside just buying the stock. Expectations on quality can’t always be met with value – so decisions for clubs to consider is: do your members expect to have higher quality produce and excellent service or value produce but lowered expectations? The latter would always cause more complaints and damage clubs’ reputations.

I will follow up with some of my thoughts in my April article.

A quick update on two other matters.

Bar – Edwards Drinks Suppliers Ltd have now replaced Grainstore as our main supplier of beverages. The new arrangement represents financial savings for the club and over the coming days you will see the following changes in the choice of beer at the pumps.



Operations Report - continued

San Miguel will be replacing Estrella.

London Pride (keg) will be replacing John Smiths Smooth

Thatchers Gold will be replacing Somersby.

Halfway House – We are currently awaiting three separate quotations for the refurbishment of the Halfway House. The funding for the work will be provided from a generous donation that has been kindly offered by a member of the club. If there any members with the requisite skills who would like survey and quote for the work, please get in touch.

Stay safe and play well

Malcolm