



## Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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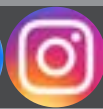
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MARCH



## Chairperson's Report

Spring has arrived, the tee box mats are disappearing and the greens are firming-up; what a fabulous time of the year!

The club's Management Committee has not met since my last update, but we have received our financials. February was a solid month with a net position slightly better than budget. The year-to-date position continues to improve and, if we perform for the remainder of the financial year as we hope, we will close with a greatly reduced operating deficit of only £10k. This is excellent progress and reflects the discipline that has been applied in the management of our costs.

On the subject of managing costs, I must call-out and give heartfelt thanks on behalf of all members to our wonderful volunteers – those who give their time to help-out behind the bar and in running events, and also those out-and-about on the course doing some wonderful clean-up work. We have got off to a great start in 2025 both inside and outside the clubhouse and it would not have been possible without the stellar support of our volunteers.

The Social Committee is busy arranging events for us. Hopefully you caught their email on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – they have lined-up an arts and music evening on 30<sup>th</sup> May, a summer fun and barbecue evening on 8<sup>th</sup> August, and another quiz night on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please do go along if you can and enjoy the buzz in the clubhouse.



## Chairperson's Report - continued

And finally, as I mentioned briefly in last month's newsletter, we will shortly be going live with a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to pay for much needed accessibility improvements on the course - specifically for holes 2, 11, 15 and 17. New handrails and gentler paths will make access both safer and easier for members. This project will go ahead if we succeed in raising £2,500 from crowdfunding, in which case Sport England will match the funds realising a total of £5,000. This will be enough to complete all the works. Please keep an eye out for an email from the club once we have the crowdfunding page launched and please consider supporting this initiative if you can.

My thanks in advance.

Until next time, happy golfing!

James Ormrod





## Captain's Report

Welcome to March's newsletter! Firstly the 100 club winners for February:-

1st Phil Houghton

2nd Dave Rochford

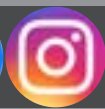
3rd Mike Thompson

And the bottle of wine winner was John Barratt.

Not much competitive golf in March, but the two competitions that were held produced some very good scores. Firstly the pairs bogey, Iain Scotland and Cameron McKinnon beat the course by a remarkable 9 shots. This was followed by the March medal and with a nett 66 Henry Cade took the first division by a full 7 shots. Tony Burrows won the second division with a nett 71.

Congratulations go to the Hollingsworth team who began their matches with a very good victory, beating Cold Ashby 3-2 away. Hopefully they will keep that form going into the next match against Collingtree at home in April.

We also held the Captain's drive in during March, I'll let Veronica fill you in on the details, in her part of this offering.





## Captain's Report - continued

The season begins in earnest in April, with the first of the Summer stablefords taking place. We also have the first major, in the Dawson trophy. This is a singles medal and is a drawn competition, enter via BRS. The mixed section have two matches both at home, to Overstone and Ramsey. The handicap league fixtures begin with a home game against Wellingborough. The Easter weekend has a 4bbb on the Saturday and Sunday. To add to that we have a foursomes competition and finally the Spring Texas Scramble. So lots to be getting on with.

The course is looking good as we come into Spring, with most restrictions now lifted. Please try to keep it this way by repairing divots and pitchmarks and raking the bunkers.

I've managed to shave 0.4 off my handicap this month, but will need to at least match this, each month for the rest of this year, to get to where I want. But with more qualifiers and better weather on the horizon I will have every opportunity.

Enjoy your golf and see you out on the course in the near future.

Chris Dix OundleGC Captain.



## Men's Competitions Update

With spring now upon us, the course in fantastic condition, our competition season starts with earnest and league matches and friendly matches already being played.

The Hollingsworth team, led by Charlie Fowler, won their first match away at Cold Ashby. It was Cold Ashby's first home defeat in 3 years so a fantastic result. The draws for the summer knockout competitions take place next week and as we move into April the White Tees come back into play. The first competition is Round 1 of the Stableford Eclectic.

Our fixture list for April is on the next page.

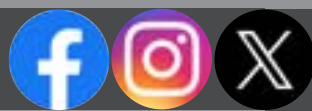
There are some notable competitions and fixtures throughout April. If you interested in playing, want more details or just looking for a playing partner to enter a competition please do not hesitate to contact the competition secretary – Tony Shillcock @statto63@gmail.com or on 07592641992. If you are interested in representing the club in league matches, there are some entry forms on the notice board in the pro-shop where you can express your interest to join the teams.

I have also added a members roll up into BRS on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We welcome new members to join the roll up at 08-15 and enjoy a friendly morning's golf.

Finally, we are hosting the Northants Golf Union County Foursomes event at the end of month. This will mean the course will be closed for some time, we are trying to get some reciprocal tees times at other clubs and will publish these later. We may need some volunteers on the day to help with Car Parking etc. Details to follow.

Enjoy your golf and play well.

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MARCH



## Men's Competitions Update - April Fixtures

Date	Day	Calendar	Event	Qualifier League Open	Title	Time 1 Start	Time 1 End
5th April	Sat	Mens	Comp	Qualifier	April Stableford (Round 1)	07:30	10:30
6th April	Sun	Mens	Board Comp	Qualifier	April Medal/Dawson Trophy	07:30	10:30
12th April	Sat	Mens Events	NGL	League	Hollingsworth vs Whittlebury Park @ Oundle	14:00	15:00
13th April	Sun	Mens	Comp		Spring Foursomes	07:30	10:30
13th April	Sun	Mixed	Friendly		Oundle vs Oversone GC @ Oundle	10:20	11:30
17th April	Thurs	Mens Events	NGL	League	Handicap League vs Wellingborough @ Oundle	16:00	17:30
19th April	Sat	All	Comp	Qualifier	Easter Competition	07:30	11:30
20th April	Sun	All	Comp	Qualifier	Easter Competition	07:30	11:30
25th April	Fri	Mens	Friendly		Oundle vs Ramsey GC @ Oundle	10:00	10:50
26th April	Sat	All	Comp		Spring Texas Scramble - Shotgun	09:00	13:30
27th April	Sun	Mens Events	NGL		Northants Golf Scratch Foursomes	08:00	09:40





## Women's Section Report

Hi everyone

May I begin my report by thanking everyone who had anything to do with the MacMillan Quiz on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. What a fabulous evening! It was lovely to see the lounge full of people and so well supported. The quiz itself was good – very cleverly done, and the food too was excellent. It was a great atmosphere, and I am looking forward to next year already.

The other major event we have had was the Captains' Drive-In on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. 24 players took part and we had a lovely meal and social occasion afterwards.

The results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place Chris Dix and Gerry Jenkinson 43 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place Nick Riley and Sarah Parsell 41 points (on countback)

3<sup>rd</sup> place Ted Jones and Alison Page also 41 points

Nearest the pins were Pat Bishton, Gerry Jenkinson and Kenny Merrill

Twos were Barbara Jenkinson, Tony Burrows, Pat Bishton, Kenny Merrill and Ian Coleman.

Guessing the Captains' drives winners were Pat Bishton, Ted Jones and Chris Dix.

Well done to all the winners and thank you to all those who took part.

A Hole-in-One is always something to be celebrated. This great moment was achieved by Sally Anderson on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Well done Sally! (Photo on next page!)





## Women's Section Report - continued

We had our first mixed match on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the winners were Oundle! We played a pairs better ball adding up the Stableford points overall. It was a close match with Oundle getting 217 points to Ramsey's 212 points. This was a very friendly match, well fought and with an excellent meal afterwards – well done Roger and the catering team. Well done everyone!

May I finish by commending the green keepers on the fabulous state of the course and the bunkers – well done to the whole team.

Veronica Lyon





## Senior Captain's Report

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdie is... Winter is over and we can look forward to long warm sunny days and a few of those birdies.

Wishful thinking maybe but hopefully things are looking up.

We have had a few competitions in March with the prizes allocated as follows:-

- On the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb we had Round 8 of the Winter Stableford which was won by Tony Burrows.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> March we had 3 Clubs & Putter won by Anthony Marriott.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> March we had Round 6 of the Winter Stableford (cancelled from the end of January) the winner being Peter Izod.
- The overall positions for the Winter Stableford were 1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Marriott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Izod and 3<sup>rd</sup> John Foster.
- A Texas Scramble was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March with the winners being Stewart Mclennan, Chris J Hankins, Bob Svarups and John Bishton.
- And lastly the Winter Comps Final was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March won by John Foster.

April will be a busy month with three away matches at CCC Bourn, Brampton Park and The Leicestershire. We have four competitions during the month a medal, Summer Stableford Round 1 and two Trophy competitions. Please enter these either by BRS or the entry sheet on the notice board.



## Senior Captain's Report - continued

For the matches in May the availability sheets will be on the notice board soon. Three of these matches are at home and hopefully we will open the Half Way House for coffee/tea and cakes. I am looking for volunteers to provide cakes and run the HWH on these days. Please get in touch with me if you are able to help.

We have entered the Northants Seniors Pairs KO and have been drawn at home for the first round against Cold Ashby. We do have a friendly match against them on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> and we have agreed to incorporate this KO match on the day of our friendly match. Therefore the first 5 pairs will be playing in the KO and the remaining 3 pairs will make up the friendly match.

I did mention last month that I hoped for an improvement in my golf. Unfortunately this hasn't happened and my Handicap is moving upwards. Since last August my handicap has increased by more than 3 shots which has brought about what is known as a "soft cap". This apparently means that once this point is reached any further increases are restricted to 50% of what is calculated up to an increase of 5 shots. At this point I believe it is known as a "hard cap". I just hoped I don't find out what this means and what then happens.

That's all for this month, enjoy the better weather, enjoy our superb course (many thanks go to Ian, Dan and Oscar for all their hard work) and enjoy playing your golf.

Colin Stanyon



## Greenkeeper Report

Hi everyone. The course is drying out nicely now and firming up, the 15th is also in play so its nice to feel we are moving into the play season finally.

As this is written the last of the bunker sand has been put into the bunkers. Just over 60 tons have been put in and they not only look so much better but play better too, thanks to all those that help get the sand out with us.

Greens have come out of the winter well looking healthy and in a good place, one thing we are going to be working on is some silver moss that has crept in over the years, this moss can be very hard to eradicate, we will be looking to desiccate the moss so we can over-seed the areas with bent seed this will fill in the areas and improve the surfaces even more making them very pure which is what we are aiming to achieve.

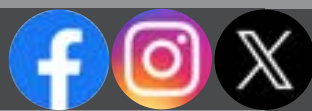
We have been waiting for the weather to improve so we can finish the pond on the 5th hole, a bit of smoothing and finishing work is needed to be done then we can fill and see if the pond holds water naturally, if this is not the case a liner will be put in to make sure water holds.

Really looking forward to the season ahead. We now have 4 full-time staff, if you see Oscar and Rob on the course say hello and welcome them. The staff have brought into the exciting times ahead at Oundle which the members I'm sure will appreciate.

Enjoy the sun and the golf see you all next month.

Ian,  
Head Greenkeeper

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## Catering Report



Good day my lovely little club cards.

Has the weather finally started to turn the corner? I hope so. I can't be bothered with any more rain.

So, what has been happening?

All of the bar staff, Nes, Greenkeepers and Peter and Claire Izod have all been trained on first aid. You should now be in safe hands but I don't want to tempt fate.

We had the Macmillan Quiz Night. I would say it went extremely well and was a great success. It was really nice to see it so well supported by the club.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we catered for this season's first mixed match against Ramsey. The catering team received some great feedback. I most definitely have to give a special mention to Kim Pateman for helping with service, clearing and the washing up. What a superstar.

Have I missed anything? I don't think so. Until next time. Take care of yourselves and each other.

The Catering Team



## Professional News

SALE CONTINUES THROUGHOUT APRIL!

### LESSON DEALS - 8 week package

Following an amazing uptake and fantastic feedback from the winter lesson deal, I have decided to keep the same theme running into the Spring

- Pay just £150 and have a 30 min lesson every week for 8 weeks

### SHORT GAME SERIES - £75 (6 x 60 min lessons)

STARTS MONDAY 14TH APRIL 4PM-5PM FOR 6 WEEKS

The popular 6 week short game series is back covering putting, chipping and pitching basics and drills. Spaces are limited so please register asap.

### EVENTS

THE US MASTERS NINE & DINE is on April 11th and tee times will run from 4pm onwards with a chipping clinic starting from 3.30pm. For booking please email [professional@oundlegolfclub.com](mailto:professional@oundlegolfclub.com). We would like to encourage more non-golfing partners and friends to join the evening meal and activities so please spread the word.

### CLOTHING SALE

- BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ON ALL LADIES CLOTHING\*
- BUY TWO GET ONE FREE ON ALL NON LOGO MENS CLOTHING\*
- 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL FJ SHOES
- £75 PER PAIR ON ALL SKECHERS SHOES

\*lowest price item will be free

### RE-GRIP SPECIALS

Now is the perfect time to refresh your grips ready for the new season!

- PAY FOR 6 GRIPS AND GET ONE FREE
- PAY FOR 11 GRIPS AND GET TWO FREE



## Operations Report



Hi all. At last we seem to have put the cold wet months behind us and look forward to longer drives and clean balls(!).

I mentioned in my last newsletter about efforts to improve the front of house, car parking area etc. I have not had a response to add any items so I will assume that the list I am working with will capture all the main tasks. Generally this is just a tidy up and a lick of paint in order to improve first impressions.

On the catering side, rest assured I have been working with the team to tweak the organisation of the service. It's a little early to detail these changes but I will update you next month.

As of April the summer opening times come in to effect. The bar is open a little later and the course is looking brilliant. Please do come in to the bar after your round. Consistently the 19<sup>th</sup> hole has always been my best hole, a half hour for a drink and a debrief on your trials out on the course is always enjoyable.

Other things to look forward to include improvements to daily menus and a specials board. I know this has been mentioned before but until some of the organisational changes take effect we can't implement what we have planned. Watch this space.

In the meantime please do use the bar when open. The bell system when it's unattended works well so with a little patience you will get the refreshments you need.

That's all for now. Yours in golf.....

Paul Kane,  
Operations Manager