



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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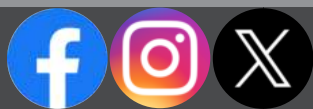
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JULY



Chairperson's Report

The second drought of the year appears to have passed and the fairways are recovering satisfyingly quickly. Ian and his team have done an excellent job of keeping the greens in very good condition – we continue to get compliments from visiting teams from other clubs. Our thanks to the greens staff and volunteers for their hard work and success in dealing with the extraordinary weather.

The management committee met on 2nd July. The club's finances at this early stage in the new financial year look healthy: overall revenue is ahead of budget and the bank balance has improved versus this time last year. This is important as we look to continue course improvements and reduce the club's debt. As I mentioned last time, last year's audited accounts will be tabled at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 6th August at 7pm; a link to the accounts was sent by email to all members on Thursday 24th July. Please do come along if you are able as we will both be explaining the numbers and talking about our approach to managing the club's finances over the next few years.

On the subject of course improvements, the Greens Committee confirmed that the materials for the installation of the new hand-rails and improved steps (down to the 18th green) have been received with work due to be complete by calendar year-end. A bowser for watering tee-boxes has been purchased to support plans to improve the resilience of the grass coverage. Also, new drainage will be installed in the 15th green during September ahead of the wet winter months; happily, the green should not be out of action for more than a week, if all goes to plan.



Chairperson's Report - continued

Membership numbers look solid and we have seen a noticeable uptick in visitor rounds so far in 2025, which has been very helpful for the club's finances. Against this background we want to make sure that the club retains its friendly and relaxed character, so we are instituting a few initiatives to help ensure good behaviour and golfing etiquette. These include the use of a visitors' sign-in book in the pro-shop for recording visitors' and guests' contact details, should they be needed. We will also be enhancing some of the signage on the course and conducting a trial twilight golf course marshall programme.

And finally, please keep your eye out for details of a planned Quiz Night on 17th October. The last one proved very popular, so it might be worth popping that one in your diary!

With that, I will leave you for now and hope to see you at the AGM on 6th August.

Best wishes,
James



Captain's Report

Welcome to this month's newsletter and as usual I'll begin with the 100 club winners.

1st 89 Richard Nunn
2nd 57 Stewart McLennon
3rd 6 Graham Drage

The bar receipt winner for June was Alec Ivings.

A couple of congratulations before I get on to the golfing winners. Firstly to Bob Svarups, who I had the fortune to be in the same group with, while he had a hole in one, on the 9th at Oundle.

Going even better, was Andrew Shaw, who also had a hole in one, on a par four whilst playing in a competition at Muswell Hill.

Well done to both of you and I hope the bar bill wasn't too high.

Now onto the club's results.

A couple of majors were played for over the last month. With Peter Black and Dave Freebody winning the Berridge Bowls 4bbb on 42 points. Then Tony Burrows won the Fletton Cup, beating the course by 4 shots.

Two more rounds of the summer Staplefords went ahead. Bob Svarups and Andy Billing winning the first and second division, both with 36 points. Then in early July, Chris Jones won the first division and Guy Fowler the second both with 40 points. This win has moved Chris to the top of the table with three rounds to play. While Nigel Cox leads the second division. The updated tables are on the notice board in the changing rooms.



Captain's Report - continued

Keeping his good form going Chris Jones was part of the winning team in the Summer Texas Scramble, along with Nick Warboys, Cameron McKinnon and Callum Bowyer they won with a nett 54.

The monthly medal was won by Nathan Thomas with a nett 68. Michael Davidson took the first division with a nett 69.

The Mark Kirk Invitational was a close run affair, with three teams on 40 points. On count back Guy Fowler and Denis Price finished first.

After a very good start to the Club's friendly matches we have lost the last two. Three and a half to one and a half away to Gedney Hill and four and a half to one and a half also away to Overstone.

The Handicap League team continue to struggle, with two defeats this month. Firstly a narrow loss to Wellingborough away 8 - 4, then a home defeat to Peterborough Milton 7 - 1.

More bad news I'm afraid with the loss for the Hollingsworth team in the semi final against Kingsthorpe. A good achievement to get to this stage though. The bi-annual match against the green keepers and staff was a tight game with the end result a draw, we play again in January.

Finally the results from my Captains Day. Winning a golf bag each, in first place was Nick Arpino and Jason Hodgson.

The Footjoy golf shoes go to Tony Shillcock and Terry Tibbs.

And in third, winning a top each was Peter Izod and John Barrett.



Captain's Report - continued

The nearest the pins went to Tony Burrows (3rd hole) and Dave Rodgers (13th hole).

Out of the 58 players that took part nobody managed to find the green on the 9th, so that prize will be going in to the Christmas raffle. Thanks to everyone who came along and if you didn't finish in the top three I hope you had better luck in the raffle.

Another busy month to come culminating with the Club Championship and the two opens.

BRS is the place to go to enter the Championship, the closing date for entries is the 14th August, when the draw will be made.

The mixed open and the Oundle Putter can be entered via the office. The £20 entry fee for the Putter includes food - steak pie and chips.

This year seems to be flying by and with it, the end of my Captains stint. I'm still looking for a successor, so if there's anyone that I haven't asked or would like to take on the mantle, please let me know or ring Nes in the office. We will give you all the details you need.

Finally, onto my Handicap. Another very slight cut of 0.1. And like last month with seven qualifiers to be played in August expect bigger changes to come. I can only hope.

That's all for now, enjoy your golf and I'll see you out on the course in the near future.

Chris Dix OundleGC Captain.



Women's Section Report

Hi everyone

Captains' Day

Firstly thank you everyone who took part in my Captain's Day on Tuesday July 8th. The weather was kind and we all had a fabulous meal afterwards – a good day all round.

The winner was Diane Croskell with 34 points (the women played 14 holes), second was Pat Wilkinson 31 on countback, 3rd Pat Silburn also 31, 4th Alison Page also 31 points. 5th was Sally Anderson 30 points and the surprise (best total score on the par 3s) was Pat Bishton. Nick Riley won the men's first prize on countback from James Ormrod and James won the 2s competition. Well done everyone.

Women's Recent Comps

Congratulations to our recent winners:

24 June - Midsummer Cups

Best Gross and Overall Winner Pat Silburn, Runner-up Priya Salvi

Best Nett Winner Ros Riley, Runner-up Karen Johnson

22 July - SuperGran

Winner Christine Wright, Runner-up Ros Riley

SuperGirl Winner Megan Smedley, Runner-up Sally Anderson

We have the Kimbell Cup, the August Cancer Salver, the County 4BBB Knockout and The Dawson Trophy all coming up.



Women's Section Report

Our Cecil Leitch team despite battling bravely did not get through to the quarter finals this year but well done all those who played and thank you Pat Silburn for being a fabulous team Captain.

Lyn Cater and Pat Wilkinson have got through to the Regional Final of the Coronation Foursomes which they will be playing at Belton Park – good luck both of you.

In the Mixed section we have the match versus Peterborough Milton (away at Peterborough) coming up on Sunday 10th August – I still need some more players for this one – I have 5 pairs at the moment and they are asking for 8 pairs. Please let me know if you can play.

First tee is at 1.30pm after coffee in the lounge from 12.45pm, and there will be a 2-course meal afterwards for £19 which is gammon with roast potatoes and vegetables, and raspberry and white chocolate profiteroles or blackberry pie for dessert.

The Mixed Centenary match v Northampton GC (Harlestone) on Sunday 24th August has been cancelled by them unfortunately.

Happy golfing everyone
Veronica Lyon



Senior Captain's Report

Another month is over already and we are still enjoying some great weather although the recent rain has obviously been very welcome especially by Ian and the guys looking after our lovely course.

We have only had two seniors competitions this month. A Medal on 2nd July was won by Paul Kime in Division 1 with nett 68 and in Division 2 by Andy Sulston with nett 70. We then had a further round of the Seniors Summer Stableford which was won by Tony Murdoch with 39 points on count back from Rob Darby. The highlight of that day must be the Hole in One by Bob Svarups on the 9th hole. We all enjoyed a drink on Bob!

We have had a busy month with the seniors matches. We have had three away matches so far all of which we have lost. Having said that the result away at the Warwickshire was a very narrow defeat 4 1/2 to 3 1/2, it all came down to the last match. We have also had two home matches which we have won quite convincingly. Thank you to all who have supported the seniors teams so far this year.

We also took part in a further round of the Northants Seniors KO which was away at Rushden. Although all of the matches were quite tight we went on to lose 4-1. We'll try again next year.

During August we will have three competition which will include the Seniors Club Championship on Wednesday 20th August. We also have five matches this month, two at home and three away..



Senior Captain's Report

In September I am have my Captains Away Day at Kilworth Springs on Tuesday 23rd. There is a sheet up on the seniors notice board for you to put your down if you are able to come along. The cost is £50 which will include coffee and bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes golf and then a two course meal.

I would like to welcome a few more seniors who have joined the club recently and I would encourage them to join in with seniors competitions, roll ups and matches. Most of the information you will need is on our notice board in the pro shop, on the web site or in the diary tri-fold pamphlet. Continue to enjoy the good weather, our course but most of all your golf.

Colin Stanyon



Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone,

As I write this newsletter, it's thankfully raining. Never in 30 years of greenkeeping have I seen 3 heatwaves in a year with the chance of more to come! This means we have been watering much more than I would like, but keeping it a little more moist is far better than letting it dry out. This does make it harder to keep the pace in the greens as we would want but they are still running true with good pace.

Our new "made for us" bowser is coming anytime now, which will give us better options when it comes to watering areas regularly, to keep them in top condition and healthy no matter how hot it gets.

We now have a start date for the installation of the drains to the 15th green. Tuesday 9th September is when Fray Drainage will be working on this green. Hopefully, if all going to plan, the green will be out of action for a very short time. As soon as the roots start to show (less than 10 days), the green will be back in play, some pictures of what we are doing to the green and the work that goes into it are on the next page.

Thanks to all that played in the staff v club match it was a tight game with the final score 3.5 points v 3.5 points so a draw but as holding champs the staff retain the trophy and keep their unbeaten run going since starting it up again, its a match open to all members so would be great to see a few more ladies next time.

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper



Greenkeeper Report - Continued





Professional News

Although the major golf championships are over for the year, the nine and dine will continue in August and September. Please call or email the pro shop if you would like to play and remember that guests can come along for the evening. We may even have some local music talent for the next event on Aug 15th so sign up now!

August brings the last chance for the 8 week lesson deal so let me know asap if you would like to take up the offer. I am obviously still running the 5 x 30 min package so give me a call to discuss your preferred deal.

PRO SHOP DEALS

★ ELECTRIC TROLLEYS - Buy any Motocaddy or Powakaddy electric trolley and get any bag at half price!

★ GOLF BAGS - 20% discount on all in-stock bags

★ REGRIPS - Buy 6 get 1 free, Buy 11 get 2 free

LESSON DEAL

Take a 30 min lesson every week for 8 weeks for the usual 5 lesson price of £150

Book 30 mins per week for 8 consecutive weeks any time between now and Sep 30th.



Professional News

EVENTS

This month's NINE & DINE is on August 15th and tee times will run from 3.50pm onwards with a putting clinic starting from 3.30pm.

For booking please email 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.

The food will be available from 6.30pm and the presentation is expected to be around 8.30pm



Operations Report



Hi and welcome to my update from operations.

Apart from being the busiest time of the year at the club it's also been busy for me away from the OGC. Apologies for not being as present as I'd like to be.

The team has worked hard to host the societies, competitions and events that have been ramping up as we near the height of summer. Last week we were reminded of the fragile resources at our disposal as we had to close the bar due to an injury to a member of the bar team and no replacement at such short notice. A reminder that we operate with very tight margins. I'm sure you understand that for now we rely on a very small group. If you were impacted my sincere apologies.

In previous newsletters I have hinted at some organisational changes that will bring about further progression in the bar/catering function. As always with these things getting everything in place takes longer than anticipated. I hope by the next edition to have news on this.

Whilst working last week I had the pleasure of meeting three of our new younger members who came into the bar. It is great to see the membership growing in the younger age groups and even nicer for them to spend time enjoying the food and drink. Their enthusiasm was great to see and bodes well for the future.

At the end of this week I and my family are on holiday so I'll be away until 10th August. I then need to get my game together to put in a good account at the club championships. So until then I wish you all success on the course and in the bar!

Paul Kane, Operations Manager