



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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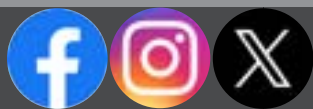
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OCT



Chairperson's Report

The autumn colours are truly glorious this year which is some considerable compensation for the leaf-anxiety we all suffer during this couple of months – so distressing to lose a ball in the middle of the fairway! That being said, Ian and his team are doing a great job of keeping things under control with the leaf blower. And with the rain now being a regular companion it is gratifying to see how the recent drainage work on the 15th green is doing its job and keeping the surface dry and firm. It is also pleasing to see the new hand-rails in place by the steps up to the 15th tee-box – thanks to all involved.

I have less to report than usual as, at the time of writing, we are between management committee meetings. However, there is plenty going on at the club. I was delighted to participate in the quiz night on the 17th; it was my first at the club, and what great fun it was! Despite the grave injustice of our team losing by a solitary point (particularly in light of my unwise overruling of what turned out to be the correct answer as to the meaning of “USB”), the whole evening was thoroughly enjoyable – the food was good, the drinks flowed freely, and the atmosphere was excellent. Hats-off and big thanks to the volunteers who organised and ran the evening, and a particular round of applause to Peter Reed for his very accomplished compering. If you haven't yet turned up to one of these, I would heartily recommend it. I think there will be another Macmillan quiz night in the not-too-distant future which will be worth looking out for.



Chairperson's Report - continued

While on the subject of entertainment, please do come along if you can to the Christmas fun evening on the 28th November – see the email from Sheila, Chris, Nes and Peter sent on 27th October. Aside from the mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, there will be two music acts: a barber shop choir, including the dulcet tones of Paul Kime, and the mega-band Count Me In, with rock guitarist Michael Davidson. We will need a good attendance in case Michael decides to do some crowd-surfing.

The daylight hours are dwindling fast now, so please keep an eye on the course closure time. At the time of writing, it is down to 5pm.

And one last item – another club rule of which I was unaware until recently. If there is fog or mist around, we cannot tee-off from the first tee-box unless and until the marker post can be seen. This is a safety matter, so please do observe that rule and remind others if needs be. If you are uncertain about the weather conditions, it is always worth putting a call into the pro-shop to double-check that the course is open and in play. Thanks.

Until next time,
James



Captain's Report

Welcome to October's newsletter and as usual here are the 100 club winners.

1st Sheila Homer
2nd Michael Davidson
3rd Tony Murdoch

The bar receipt draw was won by Peter Izod.

Now this month's golfing winners.

The month began with a pairs Texas Scramble. With a nett 62, Richard Glithero and Jamie Townsend won on the day.

The Elaine Leach Charity Cup was won by the Jones's, Alan, Ted and Chris ably assisted by Phil Twiselton with 87 points.

In the October medal, the only person to beat his handicap was Nigel Cox, winning the second division with a nett 69. Charlie Fowler took the first division with a nett 78.

A quick mention to Chris Hardinges who had the only 2 on the day.

The winter foursomes was won by Jarrod Gregory and Kieran Kakkad with a nett 69.



Captain's Report - continued

The final round of the summer Staplefords went ahead and with Ellie Merrill winning the second division on 40 points and Bob Svarups the first with 37 points, no one managed to catch Chris Jones who duly took the Mick Ives trophy with an excellent total score of 151 points.

Nathan Thomas won the second division on 142 points. The final standings will be posted on the notice board, in the changing rooms in the next few days.

The final mixed major competition of the year, namely the Fairgrieve trophy, also took place in October, with Karen Taylor and myself narrowly defeating Kenny and Ellie Merrill on countback with 35 points.

The Champion of Champions medal was won by Guy Fowler with a nett 70 and he becomes the first winner of a new trophy, kindly donated by Chris Hankins.

The Autumn Texas Scramble was a very close affair. Three teams finished with a nett 54 and winning on countback was John Crawley, Spencer Coates, Rory Coates and Ben Hancock.

Finally we end where we began with Richard Glithero and Jamie Townsend winning the 4 BBB with a total of 44 points.



Captain's Report - continued

Not too many competitions coming up in November we have just a medal, a Stapleford and a couple of American Greensomes to play for. Hopefully the wet weather stays away and we continue to play a full 18 holes.

In the next 2 to 3 weeks the Christmas raffle sheets will be going up in the bar, same as usual £1 a square with the draw being made after the Christmas AM-AM on December 21st. Any donations for prizes would be most appreciated, please leave them either behind the bar or with Nes in the office.

After almost giving up on my handicap I've managed to shave 1.2 shots off and have gone down to 11.3. This was mainly due to playing in a few opens at different courses, so I've booked in to play at Wellingborough and Northampton over the next couple of weeks to see if I can continue the trend. With just two months left I will need a similar effort to manage it.

That's it for now, happy golfing and I hope to see you on the course shortly.

Chris Dix Oundle GC Captain.



Women's Section Report

Hi everyone

The month started on a real high with 14 ladies going on a 2-day trip organised brilliantly by Sheila Homer. The destination was Heacham Manor - a great place to stay and to be highly recommended. We arrived there in time to play our first game which was a 3-ball waltz AmAm. The prize-giving for this was just after our excellent evening meal- the victorious team being Megan Smedley, Ros Riley and Ellie Merrill with 75 pts. Nearest the pin was Sally Anderson.

The second day saw us playing an individual Stableford which was won by Nes Reed on countback with 36 pts. 2nd was Debbie Verdino also 36 pts, and 3rd was Megan Smedley with 35 pts. Nearest the pin was Priya Salvi. Well done to all the prize winners and special thanks from all of us to Sheila for her fantastic organisation.

We held a fun competition on Tuesday 21st October which was a Texas scramble. The winning team were Sally Anderson, Liz Swan and Karen Taylor. Thanks again to Sheila for her organisation of this event.

I must also at this point mention some other women's successes. Ellie Merrill won both the Women's Poppy Day competition, and in the All Player October Stablefordshe won division 2. Congratulations Ellie.

Ellie joined the Club in March this year with a handicap of 34.5 and now in October only 7 months later she is down to 23.3 a reduction of 11.2 – quite incredible. Well done.

Ann Flack has reduced her handicap this year from 42.7 to 37.1. Sally Anderson has reduced hers from 29.3 to 25.3 and Priya Salvi has reduced from 24.8 to 18.4. well done all of you!



Women's Section Report

In the mixed department The Fairgrieve Trophy was competed for on Sunday 5th October. The winners on countback were Chris Dix and Karen Taylor and 2nd were Kenny and Ellie Merrill both pairs on 35 points. Third were Simon and Sally Anderson.

And the final Mixed Social of 2025 was on Sunday 26th October. This was the Captain versus Women's Captain. The winning team was Kenny Merrill, Sheila Homer, Richard Cole and Christine Rowell – again on countback. There have been some close scores this year! Nearest the pin on 3rd for Women was Priya Salvi and for the men on 13th Kenny Merrill. We had a lovely beef stew with mash and vegs and a chocolate brownie for afters.

Overall the Women's Team were victorious – yay!

Many I thank all those who have supported the Mixed matches and events this year particularly Chris Dix, our Captain for the past 3 years. His support has been very much appreciated.

Veronica Lyon



Senior Captain's Report

This is my last contribution to the club newsletter as Seniors Captain before handing over the reins at the Seniors AGM on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

I would like to thank all those on the seniors committee for all of their hard work and support during the year in making everything we do as the seniors section run smoothly. In addition I would thank all of the senior members for their involvement in the competitions and matches held during the year and in helping to make our two Seniors Opens a success.

The course this year has in my opinion been in excellent condition, the best we have had for some time, especially the greens. This has been echoed by the comments I have received from visiting teams during our seniors matches. A big thank you to Ian and the team.

Moving on to the competitions held during October. We had the Robinson Trophy on 1st Oct which was won by Chris Dix and Ted Jones with 45 points. Next was an AM/AM won by Doug Walker, Peter Rice, Steve Homes and Alec Ivings with 84 points. We then had a Seniors Medal where James Ormrod won Div 1 with a nett 71 and John Homer won Div 2 with a nett 75 on count back from Alec Ivings and John Lynch. The first round of our Winter Stableford was held on the 15th Oct and was won by Anthony Curchin with 38 points on count back from Ian Hood and Graham Drage. Then we had a 4BBB won by Peter Izod and Ted Jones with 39 points. Finally we held a Texas Scramble won with a nett 57 by Chris Dix, Peter Rice, David Holroyd-Doveton and Chris Hankins. Well done to all of the winners.



Senior Captain's Report

We did hold our first Roll Up and Lunch of our winter programme, and although I was unable to play, I understand this was a great success and will be repeated during the forthcoming months.

Although this was not strictly a Seniors event Dave Woods and Alec Ivings again organised a Poppy Day Event to raise money for the British Legion. It was a very successful day which raised £525.00. The Club Mens winner was Kevin Paul, the Club Ladies winner was Ellie Merrill and the Visitors winner was G Kirk.

Just another reminder to all senior members that we are holding the Seniors AGM on Wednesday 12th November at 2pm which is preceded by a roll up in the morning and lunch. A sheet is on the notice board to indicate if you would like to play in the roll up and/or want lunch.

Again a big thank you to all of the Seniors members for making this past year a success, just don't expect me to do it again!!

Colin Stanyon



Greenkeeper Report

Hello everyone

Well summer is over, what a dry one we had! Thankfully with a bit of TLC most areas have come, or are coming back.

Winter rules come into play on the 1st of November, we will put out our traffic control pegs out on the approaches. With the ground still firm, the 90 degree rule won't come into play just yet, the main thing all golfers can do to help us and the course is to keep away from the around of the greens with trolleys, use hedgehog wheels, use paths where ever they are.

The 15th green had settled down nicely and so far so good, the pond has been lined on the 5th and 2 ball retrievers have been put out.

Green height of cut has been raised to help reduce the stress going into the winter on the greens, rolling will continue as and when we can the greens will run smooth by doing this, not quite as fast as they were so give them just a little more when putting.

It's a bit mad at the moment, what with the grass still growing, presentation doesn't stop just because winter is nearly here. Project jobs also are starting, and lets not talk about leaves. As and when we can, we are trying to keep on top of them, but please make sure you watch where your ball lands it's a lot easier to find if you do so.

Enjoy your golfing.
Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper



Professional News

Lessons are readily available throughout November and December and if you are looking for Christmas present ideas. I am offering up to 15% off all lesson vouchers, so check out the deals below.

Our Christmas Draw will start next week, with fantastic prizes including a set of irons, driver and more. Purchase your squares in the pro shop for a chance to win big!

PRO SHOP SPECIALS

- ★ 20% OFF ALL GOLF BAGS
- ★ 40% OFF SELECTED MENS CLOTHING

LESSON PACKAGES

CHRISTMAS VOUCHER SPECIALS

- 1 x 30 min lesson - £32 (usually £36)
- 1 x 60 min lesson - £55 (usually £65)
- 5 x 30 min individual lessons - £127.50 (usually £150)