



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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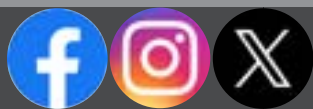
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SEPT



Chairperson's Report

The long hot summer has passed and we are now seeing a more normal mix of rain and sunshine. As I am sure is the same for you, I have been caught in a few downpours while labouring through rounds of golf over the past few weeks. As trying as that can be, it has been doing our course a world of good. The fairways are green again, the bare patches receding, and the tee-boxes softening. The greens continue to be excellent, as they have been all year.

On the subject of greens, you will likely have seen that the drainage work on the 15th has been completed. That the green was able to be put back into service within a few days of the work being completed was remarkable, and the light scarring left behind is gradually healing. To give you a sense of just how impressive this is, the large mounds of earth you can see to the right on the approach to the fourth green are made up of the spoil extracted from the 15th. (That earth will be used for the new yellow and red tee-box on the 5th.) The green will continue to improve as the greenskeepers top dress and roll over the autumn and winter. The early signs are that the drainage work has been effective and we are hopeful that the green will remain in service for more of the winter than we have been used to in the past. If success is proven by next spring, we will look to do more of this type of work on others of the most affected greens.

The management committee has met twice since I last wrote – on the 2nd and 30th of September. The Greens Committee updated us on each occasion. The new fertiliser and machinery store is almost complete. Work on the handrails for the path up to the 15th tee is due to start in October with a view to completion in December.



Chairperson's Report - continued

A proposal for improved pathways around and from the 2nd/11th tee-box have been put forward, together with a proposal for a few new copses on the right side of the 4th fairway on the approach to the green – this will improve the look of the hole and provide some protection for the existing white and new yellow and red tee-boxes on the 5th. The new pond on the 5th fairway has now been lined and it has been decided that the rough-grassed bund on the copse-side of the pond will be included within the red-staked penalty area. This means that drop zone relief (under a one stroke penalty) may be taken for balls entering that rough, rather than players having to walk back to the tee to retake the drive if their ball is not found.

Club finances for the months of July and August were solid, with results slightly ahead of budget and the bank balance improved year-on-year. The forecast for the balance of the year shows some pressure, however, so we are working hard on our costs management to ensure a continuation of the good momentum from last year. As I have mentioned before, we are looking to complete the year in surplus again, enabling us to further reduce debt and continue with course improvements.

Membership looks healthy, and we have had a significant uptick in junior members. This provides an opportunity for juniors-specific programmes and initiatives, and we are looking into the establishment of a new volunteer role on the Golf and Social Committee to spearhead these efforts.



Chairperson's Report - continued

We are entering the final calendar quarter which means that we are gearing-up for the budgeting cycle for the next financial year. As usual, we will be looking at our projected costs across all aspects of the club and reviewing our membership offers, annual dues levels and visitors' greens fees. Our objective is to provide Oundle Golf Club members with an exceptional and improving golf club, and excellent value for money. We aim to complete the process in January/February, when we will share the result of our efforts with members.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our club golf captains – Veronica, Chris and Colin. The amount of effort required to lay on a packed season of competition is huge and we have been fortunate indeed to have had the benefit of their untiring dedication throughout the year. Matches have been run flawlessly, we have been well represented, and we have seen plenty of success – well done and thank you!

Until next time,

Best wishes,

James



Captain's Report

Welcome to September's newsletter. Just finished watching the end of the Ryder Cup and that was a lot closer than it should have been. But we got over the line in the end.

The 100 club results for this month are :-

1st GT Bhavra

2nd Iain Scotland

3rd Christine Rowell

The bar receipt winner was Dale Abbott.

Now the golfing winners in September. The Oundle Putter was won by a home pairing in Peter Izod and John Barratt with 46 points. In fact the top three positions were held by Oundle members.

The monthly medal went to Charlie Fowler with a nett 72 and the second division, also with a nett 72, by Richard Nunn.

The Fenwicke Cups is Oundle's oldest competition and this year it was won by Iain and Deb Scotland (photo attached) with 40 points.

The penultimate round of the summer Staplefords went ahead with Chris Jones winning the first division on 38 points and Dale Abbott the second also with 38 points. Chris has shot to the top of the standings and has a 7 point lead going into the last round, can anyone catch him. The updated tables are on the notice board in the changing rooms.



Captain's Report - continued

The annual Past Captains get together was played in much better weather than last year, Denis Price won the men's prize and Gerry Robson the women's.

Finally, the last of the club's friendly fixtures was at Peterborough Milton and we were narrowly defeated 3 and a half to 2 and a half.

Commiserations to our Izzard Trophy team, Iain Scotland, David Reardon and Richard Tuzinkiewicz who finished 9th in the finals day at Delapre. Also finishing 9th was Steve Griffin in the County champions event at Kettering.

Coming up next month we have the Elaine Leach Cup an AM-AM competition. The Autumn Texas Scramble. A 4bbb pairs comp. A foursomes competition. The last round of the summer Staplefords and the Champion of Champions medal. There's also a couple of mixed competitions, the Fairgrieve trophy and the Captain v Women's Captain match.

The pond on the 5th has now been fitted with a liner and is one of many jobs that the green keepers will be taking, over the next few months. The Captains charity money is going to pay for 30 trees, which will be planted on the right hand side of the 4th fairway. This will frame the hole better and give some protection to the new tee being built on the 5th.

The path from the 2nd tee is also being redesigned soon. So plenty going on over the next couple of months.



Captain's Report - continued

TI'm afraid my handicap has gone up by a whole shot and with no qualifiers to be played over the next month, it looks like a forlorn attempt to get back to single figures. I will see what November brings.

That's it for now, make the most of the continued dry weather and I'll see you out on the course shortly.

Chris Dix Oundle GC Captain.





Women's Section Report

Well, after the lovely summer we have experienced, it started raining at the beginning of this month. It reminded me of the Autumn of 1976 when after a very dry and warm summer and previous winter, it did not stop raining for about 3 months! I particularly remember this because I was teaching PE outside a lot of the time! I was hoping that it was not going to be the case this Autumn, but as I write this, we are back into a more settled weather pattern thank goodness. It always amuses me to see a lot of the reports starting with what the weather has been, but it affects our glorious game of golf a lot!

Talking about our glorious game didn't the European Ryder Cup team do well?? They kept us on a knife edge right till the end. Well done lads!

Our winners for September are:

County 4BBB - 1st Alison Page & Megan Smedley, 2nd Deb Scotland & Sarah Parsell. Alison & Megan to go forward to the County Knockout next year.

Elaine Leach - 1st Christine Rowell, 2nd Karen Taylor (on back 9 countback - 71 points to Pat Silburn's 69)

9 Hole Salver - 1st Mary Panton, 2nd Alison Page

Wilkinson Trophy - 1st Kim Pateman & Sarah Parsell, 2nd Pat Silburn & Claire Izod. Well done all of you.

Good luck to all the Medal and Stableford Winners competing for glory on Tuesday 7th October.



Women's Section Report

Sheila Homer has been busy organising a Golf away trip. 14 ladies are going on the trip to Heacham Manor Golf Club 1st/2nd October. I will do a report on this event in next month's newsletter. Thanks to Sheila for doing this.

One of the highlights of the month for me was the Past Captains' Competition and Dinner on Sunday 21st. It was a lovely day (there I go again talking about the weather!) and we had a really good 3 course meal afterwards.

The other highlight was that I was invited to play in the Northants Ladies Past Golf Captain's President's Day on Thursday 25th at Whittlebury Park. I find the red and blue courses there both very challenging so I will not talk about my Stableford score! Apart from that I had a lovely day!

Veronica Lyon



Senior Captain's Report

September has turned out to be a very busy month in that we have three competitions, our final two seniors matches, Seniors Charity Open, Seniors Past Captains Day and the Seniors Captains Away Day.

SENIORS COMPETITIONS

Firstly we held the Collison Cup which was won by Dave Woods with a nett 70 and in second place Jeremy Nicholas with nett 72. We then had the final round of the Summer Stableford which went to Dave Reardon with 35 points but only on count back from Peter Izod. Finally we had our September Medal where Div. 1 was won by Tony Burrows with nett 73 and Div. 2 was won by Dave Woods with a nett 70. Well done to all our winners.

SENIORS MATCHES

Our last two matches of the season were against Collingtree Park at home which we won and against Burghley Park away which we lost. However we have had quite a successful season where we have played a total of 28 matches. We have won all of our home games, we have won three of our away games and also drawn two of the away games. Therefore in total we have played 28, won 17, drawn 2 and lost 9. Congratulations to all those who have played in these matches.

SENIORS CHARITY OPEN

What a day that was! We had the most entrants ever with 192 (145 of whom were visitors) playing in 48 teams. We raised over £4000 for my charity the Air Ambulance, and the club benefited to the tune of over £3000 with green fees, food and drink sales and buggy hire.



Senior Captain's Report

A big thank you goes to Peter Rice for all his hard work in organising this event, to all those volunteers who helped on the day and of course to those who made cakes and who manned the halfway house. And I mustn't forget Roger, John and all of the bar staff for providing bacon rolls beforehand, the meals afterwards and drinks all day. Thank you to all involved.

SENIORS PAST CAPTAINS DAY

This was only the second year that this has been held but although some were unable to attend we still had a good day with the winner being young Mr Peter Turner. Well done Peter.

SENIOR CAPTAINS AWAY DAY

We had a cracking turn out of 40 of us for this event which we held at Kilworth Springs Golf Club. We started off with coffee and bacon rolls, played 18 holes of golf in fine sunny weather, albeit a bit chillier than we have become used to, and then we had a two course meal. All in all it was a good day hopefully enjoyed by everyone. We had an individual Stableford competition and also a team AMAM. The winner on the day was Dennis Price with 37 points just pipping three players, Rob Darby, Chris Dix and Tony Wilkes all with 36 points. The team AMAM was won by Iain Scotland, Tony Wilkes, Steven Angell and Peter Reed with 88 points. Thank you to everyone for their support.

The last event of my year as Seniors Captain will be the AGM on Wednesday 12th November. There will be a 14 hole roll up that morning followed by a meal. The AGM will then commence at 2pm where all the trophy competition winners will be presented with their trophies and prizes.

Colin Stanyon



Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone

Short one this month, the drainage work on the 15th green has been done and is now in recovery already though after just 2 weeks the green is looking almost as it was pre drainage work being done as the picture shows and is back in play.

The pond liner has now been installed and filled looks very nice as you can see, this not only adds a good feature to the hole but also gives us the option to use as an exit drainage point for that area.

Very busy time at the minute with a lot going on as well as still presenting the course, to date we are still very dry. The good thing is that means things like trolley bans and reduced holes are likely to be very minimal, hopefully not at all but that might be wishful thinking.

Enjoy the dry weather and sun. See you all next month.

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper





Professional News

We may be approaching the end of the season but the weather looks to be holding for the near future so why not use the next couple of months to work on your game. Lessons are readily available throughout Autumn and even if the weather does turn we will have access to the golf simulators at Oundle Sports Centre.

PRO SHOP SPECIALS

★ 20% OFF ALL GOLF BAGS

★ 40% OFF LADIES CLOTHING

LESSON PACKAGES

5 x 30 min individual lessons - £150

On-course playing lesson - £75 (additional players for only £25 each)

If you are interested in lessons on the simulator please let me know



Operations Report

Due to work commitments Paul Kane has resigned from the role of Operations officer as of today 2nd October.

He will still volunteer his help where work commitments allow.