



## Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Chairperson's Report**

**Captain's Report**

**Women's Section Report**

**Senior Captain's Report**

**Greenkeeper Report**

**Professional News**

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## Chairperson's Report



A very belated Happy New Year to all OGC golfers! For those of you who have taken on Dry January, hang in there – it's almost over...

2025 was a good year for our club. We finished the financial year (to April 2025) with the first operating surplus since Covid. Our bank balance has improved. Membership was steady, with healthy growth in our junior section, and visitor numbers were up significantly. Our golfing calendar was packed, with competitions being held almost every week of the year. Our teams thrived. The social calendar was vibrant, with quiz nights, music nights and barbeques.

On the course, conditions remained good throughout the year, despite the challenges of some fairly extreme weather. Under the stewardship of our small and dedicated Greenskeeper team, the droughts and subsequent downpours were managed with great expertise. In particular, the greens remained in very good condition, with many visitors commenting that they were the best around.

The programme of course improvements continued. Real progress on safety was made, the crowdfunded accessibility project having exceeded its target and been supplemented by support from Sport England. This enabled new handrails to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> tee-boxes and improved steps down to the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Add to that the new tee-box projects, the work around the 5th fairway pond, the upcoming pathway improvements, and the appearance of a new storage shed and you get a sense of real momentum.



## Chairperson's Report



For a club of our size this was impressive. We are a small club, with a membership of about 400, of whom about 200 are full members. Our resources are necessarily limited. But we still have an 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse to maintain, just as the wealthiest clubs in the country.

The reason that we are able to do what we do at our club is twofold. Firstly, much of what was achieved in the way of course improvements in 2025 was underpinned by monetary donations from members. The generosity of the club's donors has been a key ingredient in our ability to go beyond course maintenance and deliver the improvements that we have seen; my thanks to all who donated in 2025 for making such a difference.

Secondly, we have wonderful culture of volunteerism at the club. From course maintenance, building facilities, working behind the bar, organising and running events, to participating on the club's committees, we have a core of people who consistently give selflessly and generously of their time and effort. On behalf of everyone at the club, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for doing so much to give us an excellent 2025.

And now to 2026. Like last year, the Management Committee's focus will continue to be the careful management of the club's finances with the aim of delivering a small operating surplus for the current financial year (to April 2026) and the next. So far, so good – although tight, we are on course against our budget for this year. As I write, we are finalising the budget for 2026/27.



## Chairperson's Report - continued



It is challenging, as you might expect, due in no small part to the significant increase in employment costs, well beyond inflation, that have been imposed under the government's budgets in 2025. We will cope, however, in part due to the increasing popularity of the course. As members, we will also have to do our bit in picking up the additional cost, but we are keeping this to a minimum in the budget. I am cautiously hopeful that this year's annual subscription renewal letters will be well-received, all things considered.

We have much to look forward to in 2026! Roll-on Spring, longer days and blue skies...

With best wishes,

James Ormrod



## Captain's Report

Welcome to 2026, and is it any wonder we talk about the weather so much. Minus temperatures followed by plus 10 and the course frozen to super wet.

Firstly I would like to correct a wrong publication of competition winners, there was an important omission including yours truly. Christine Rowell and myself won the Glaphorne Trophy. {forgetfulness or jealousy?}

**WINNERS CIRCLE NEW YEAR 4BBB S/FORD** - John Gregory & Michael Thompson

**3 CLUBS & A PUTTER**- Michael Jursa

**AM AM S/FORD**- Jordan, Blayne & Martyn Harvey & Kevin Fox  
**DEC S/FORD- DIV 1**- Guy Bolsover **DIV 2** -John Barratt

**DEC MEDAL- DIV1** -Chris Dix **DIV 2** - Andrew Sulston

**NEW YEAR 4BBB S/FORD**- Cameron McKinnon & Nick Warboys

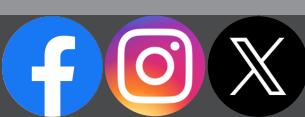
So congratulations to all and good luck to all for the upcoming season.

I have had a couple of moans (complaints) re the temporary green on the 14th and I have spoken with Ian. It will be changed for next year, which will be dependent upon finding a dryish area which would be suitable.

Swing well all and enjoy

Many thanks,  
Dennis Price Oundle GC Captain.

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JAN



## Women's Section Report

Happy New Year everyone! It seems a long time since the festive season but I hope you all enjoyed it and are now ready to work off any Christmas over-indulgence on the golf course.

Well, the winter weather wasn't very kind to us on Tuesdays, it seemed to be either raining or frozen. We had to cancel or re-schedule a couple of our competitions but fingers crossed for better things as we head into February...

But sometimes we struck lucky! We had beautiful blue skies for our Seniors and Women's Christmas competition on 2nd December, which was followed by a delicious traditional Christmas dinner. Our thanks as always to our lovely catering team who came up trumps. Congratulations to the winning teams:

1st: Claire Izod, Nick(ola) Riley, Denis Price, John Homer  
2nd: Sheila Homer, Christine Rowell, Peter Izod, Richard Cole

Sadly, our Women's Christmas competition the following week didn't fare so well weather wise. However, a last-minute Quiz arranged by Debbie Verdino allowed everyone to show off their Christmas costumes in the Bar. Well done everyone, a lot of work went into those outfits and a great time was had by all. Prizes for the best turned out teams were awarded to the Wise Men, with the Angels in 2nd place.





## Women's Section Report - continued

Our only other “achievement” in January was a very enjoyable fun competition organised by Priya Salvi on 14th January. Six teams braved the slightly soggy conditions and were relieved the threatened rain stayed well away until the last team made it into the Clubhouse! Well done to the winners:

1st: Priya Salvi, Debbie Verdino, Dawn Gent

2nd: Ros Riley, Diane Croskell, Alison Page

Looking forward to another relaxed month in February, before we start competition season in earnest in March. Roll on Spring!

Best wishes

Sarah Parsell



## Senior Captain's Report

Happy New Year to you all and here's to a great golfing year in 2026. Due to an imminent holiday I am writing this a little earlier than usual so some results will not be included. Since last time we have had a busy month in the Seniors section with the highlights being: American Greensomes on December 1<sup>st</sup> won by Graham Drage and Trevor Brant with 42 points.

A very successful and well-attended Christmas event with the Women's section featuring an Am-Am format, shotgun start and a buzzing clubhouse afterwards where a superb Christmas meal was enjoyed by all. May I take this opportunity to give a very warm welcome to Sam, who is now leading the catering team – a cracking start!

Winners on the day were Claire Izod, Nick(Nicola) Riley, John Homer and Club Captain Denis Price with nearest the pin winners Deb Scotland and Ant Marriott.

The Seniors Christmas 'Extravaganza' was a 3 Ball Texas Scramble won by Ant Marriott, Ted Jones and Alec Ivings – very well done to them.

But of course, the prize everyone really wanted was a stalk of sprouts - our traditional reward for coming last – see picture below of Alan Sinfield, Dave Reardon and Ian Hood who look like they are having a great time!





## Senior Captain's Report

David Hart won the Winter Stableford Round 4 with a great score of 38pts – that was 4 clear points ahead of Peter Rice – well done David.

The biannual event with the Greenkeepers and Volunteers attracted 28 golfers on a bitterly cold January day. It was a close run thing. With 7 groups playing it was 3-3 waiting for the last group to come in – Head Greenkeeper Ian Robins breathed a huge sigh of relief when his team prevailed.

If you are over the age of 55, you qualify to play in the Seniors section, so please feel free to come along and join in our wide range of events and competitions.

Finally, I would like to close by announcing my charity for the year ahead – Prostate Cancer UK. I appreciate that we have supported this one before but having had a prostate scare myself and seeing others close to me go through it, I feel it is the obvious choice and hope you will all give support where you can.

Enjoy your golf,  
Paul Kime



## Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone

A new year is now upon us, Some things change, some don't. January can bring all sorts of weather and it's no different this year. Rain, snow, ice, frosts, warm and very cold. These now constant weather patterns are causing us many issues as we try to give the best course we can as well as holding us up on projects we are doing - the 5th tee being one of those. We will get there, but may take a little longer than we would have liked.

As you read this I will have come back from BTME, which is a trade show regarding all sports. It's a time where I can talk to companies about all things golf, especially the course. I have some exciting meetings lined up which could mean big things for the club... watch this space.

The 18th tee is coming along nicely as I'm sure you can all see. Oscar has unfortunately moved on to Northants county. With us wishing him all the best, this has given us the chance to look at things and how we can reconstruct the team to make things work better for us and the club whilst still moving forward and improving.

Our January staff v club match was played and it was very cold and tricky. Thanks to all that played, the result well if in doubt was another win for the staff - 4 wins to 3, with Charlie Underwood and Chris Dix bringing home the win for the staff which went down to the last hole! Since we started the matches overall the staff have won 4 matches with 1 half. It is open to all members, so would be nice to see more people at our next one in the summer, followed by a very tasty bbq! So come on let's see you there!

Ian Robins  
Head Greenkeeper

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JAN



## Professional News



January to March may not be great for playing, however this time of year provides the perfect opportunity to work on your game for the new season. Check out this month's video tip and give me a call to take advantage of the winter coaching program.

The January Trade Show in the US saw the launch of new clubs from all the major brands, so you can expect to see new PING and Callaway equipment in the shop very soon. Equipment from Taylor Made, Mizuno and Titleist is also available on request and remember our commitment to price match with major online sites means you don't have to look anywhere else!

### **WINTER COACHING DEAL**

- 8 x 30 min lessons - £150
- Book 8 lessons before the end of March and pay the same price as the normal 5 lesson package saving £90

### **GOLF SHOP DEALS**

- Purchase any electric trolley and receive any golf bag FREE OF CHARGE, saving £250!!
- Purchase any two items of clothing and get the lower item  $\frac{1}{2}$  price

The offers are for February only so don't miss out

### **WINTER TIPS**

Click below for this months pro tip

[https://youtu.be/RS38NUZhbSw?si=JNRD4FkJyf8Y8\\_5I](https://youtu.be/RS38NUZhbSw?si=JNRD4FkJyf8Y8_5I)