



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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FEB



Chairperson's Report

It is fair to say that we have had enough rain so far this year. Whilst not quite biblical, the persistence of wet weather has felt almost unprecedented. The Greenskeeping team have clearly been doing their utmost to keep as much of the course in play as possible, but they are not miracle-workers. I think that the balance that they have sought to achieve between making the course available and protecting it from significant damage has been spot-on, and I would like to thank our Greenskeepers for their diligence and club members for their patience. Spring is around the corner and the sunshine will return.

The management committee met in mid February and discussed a broad range of matters. Dave Morland, our resident pro, led a review of pro-shop issues. We looked at financial matters and incentives, opening hours, the buggies programme, and annual objectives. We will be looking to finalise the review with Dave over the next month or two and will update the pro shop contract to reflect what is agreed.

Although Graham Drage was unable to make it to the meeting in person, he submitted a written summary from the Greens Committee. You may have seen a mowing robot in action on the 18th fairway recently. This was part of a feasibility study conducted by the committee. Although happy with the financial implications and functionality of the automated solution, the committee was unable to get comfortable with the security implications – the perceived risk of theft was too high. The Green's Committee's reluctant recommendation against adoption was accepted by the management committee. In other matters, the Greenskeeping team (with help from our volunteers) are looking to complete the new steps down to the 18th green by the end of March.





Chairperson's Report

We are looking at undertaking another greens drainage upgrade as was done for the 15th last year, thanks to a generous donation by a member; more on that as plans firm-up. A priority for course improvement this year will be tee-boxes – the re-worked 18th continues to grow-in and the major work on the 5th will re-commence when conditions allow. We remain committed to re-routing and improving the path from the 2nd tee, but, again, we are at the mercy of the weather as far as timing is concerned.

On the club's finances, the news continues to be encouraging. December was ahead of budget, and for the financial year as a whole (from April 2025 through March 2026) we remain slightly ahead. The underlying bank balance position has improved year-on-year, and we hope to continue to be in a position to enable modest course improvements and reduce the club's debt. As to the forecast for the financial year end, much will depend on the impact of the weather on visitor numbers during January, February and March; that being said, we are cautiously optimistic that we will again return a small surplus. I will keep you updated.

On the marketing front, we are launching a temporary partial year membership (4 months) for new members, enabling them to get a taster of what being a member of our club brings. We typically run offers like this early in the calendar year to ensure that we maintain overall membership numbers. Although we are a small club, our membership numbers have remained consistent year-on-year, and we want to make sure that that continues.





Chairperson's Report - continued

Along these lines, we have also launched a *Women into Golf* initiative, offering a package of four weekly introductory sessions both on the course and in the clubhouse – hopefully you will have seen the email that went out on 18th February. We want to grow our women's section and hopefully this will help.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in these offers, please encourage them to sign-up. Thanks.

Our thanks go to our Seniors Section who have kindly donated £2,000 to the club. The management committee have agreed to apply this to a refresh of the lounge area in the clubhouse. More on that to follow as we put plans together.

And finally, in case you missed it, there is a wine tasting evening being run at the clubhouse by AMPS, our local wine merchants, on 8th May. For details, see the Club News email that went out on 11th February. I am sure it will be a fun event!

Until the next newsletter, stay dry.

James Ormrod



Captain's Report

Well I started last months report talking about the weather, I think I've just seen Noah sail by. Can't remember anything like this although no doubt someone will have experienced similar in the past.

WINNERS CIRCLE

Winter Texas Scramble

Richard Glithero, Jamie Townsend, Jamie Haynes & Andrew Billing
American Greensomes
Alan Jones & Philip Twiselton

Please remember the Captains Drive in on Sunday March 8th and enter on BRS, and look out for a meal booking sheet appearing in a pro shop near you soon.

So, with both competitions cancelled this weekend because of fore-mentioned weather I can only ask all to get out and perform a sun dance.

Many thanks,
Dennis Price Oundle GC Captain.





Women's Section Report

Well, I can't remember a more miserable start to the year. Our Section hasn't yet managed to play a single Tuesday competition in February and the outlook is still looking somewhat bleak... let's hope we get a nice, long summer to compensate!

On the positive side, we've been working hard to set up our Spring and Summer competitions, and now have confirmed dates for our Cecil Leitch matches and 8 Women's Friendlies. The complete spreadsheet showing all our Women's Section competitions for 2026 will be on the noticeboard within the next few days, together with entry forms for competitions commencing in March/April.

Ellie Merrill, Nes Reed and I, together with Dave Moreland, have also put together a plan for a Women's Academy to introduce more women to playing golf. Launched in mid-February, I'm delighted to report we already have enough interest to begin the first coaching sessions in March. Hopefully, we can build on this throughout the year and welcome new members to our friendly and supportive Section.

Last but by no means least, I'm very pleased to announce that my chosen charity for 2026 is Volunteer Action (VA), a local charity supporting local residents who may be elderly, unwell, or have disabilities. By providing services to these valuable members of the community, VA aims to maintain independence and improve the quality of their lives. In 2025 VA was proud to receive The King's Award for Voluntary Service — the highest national honour given to volunteer groups across the UK. I'd love to help them continue with this incredibly valuable work.

Looking forward to having some results to publish next month!!

Sarah Parsell

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FEB



Senior Captain's Report

Having been away for 3 weeks during a period of very wet weather (which also followed us on our travels) there is a lot to cover this month.

Firstly, the weather has led to us playing an “extreme” course, which has resulted in some of our Senior members wondering if that means they now play an “extreme” sport.

Seriously though, I am sorry that some people have been unable to play in the current conditions and very much hope this will change soon. Having been a member at Oundle for almost 37 years this is the first time I recall us having this situation.

On to the results:-

January

4BBB – a very close thing with 5 groups on 35 points but won by Michaels Davidson and Thompson.

Winter Stableford Round 5 – Stephen Angell won with an excellent 41 points ahead of a field of 35 golfers (would it be unfair to say he’s doing rather better than his beloved Crystal Palace?).

American Greensomes – a healthy turnout of 20 pairs was beaten by 2 clear points by Jeremy Nicholas (recently retired) and Gurjit Bhavra: this must have been on one of the rare occasions that GT was in the country! Well done guys, it’s good to see some different names at the top.





Senior Captain's Report

February

Winter Stableford Round 6 – huge congratulations to Iain Scotland winning by 5 clear shots with 33 points off 7 handicap.

Winter Stableford Round 7 – winning with 36 points (4 clear) was Peter Reed, who went on to win again...

Waltz - Peter Reed, Stephen Angell and Chris Dix with a great team score of 64 points (6 points clear) of the nearest rivals. Charlie Underwood also cleaned up with the only 2 on the day.

At the time of writing, we have already postponed the last Winter Stableford event as this requires 14 holes to be open. On this point, please spare a thought for Rob Darby, our Competitions Secretary who is pulling his hair out trying to organise comps, cancel them and rebook! Well done, Rob and thank you for all your hard work.

Enjoy your golf,
Paul Kime





Greenkeeper Report

Hi everyone

I hope you're all well. This month is short and sweet. The weather, well what can I say, awful sums it up! Day after day of rain has meant we are behind on some jobs.

Thanks to all of you for looking after the course. I know it's not perfect carrying, but the results are there to be seen. The course looks great, with many courses around us jealous how well the course looks, so thank you all!

You have all seen we've had a lot of water building up around the 18th and 1st fairways. This is because of blocked drains. We have decided to have an open ditch which will run through the practise area, 18th and 1st fairway, with walkways in places. This will stop the water build up in the future. We plan to have this completed by the end of the play season, before winter starts.





Greenkeeper Report

An update on some of the smaller jobs we have been able to complete:

The marker post on the 10th green (picture below) so everyone can see where the hole is at the lowest point.

We have put coloured distance hole markers on the tees to replace the wooden posts, giving a natural and upgraded look.

We have also refurbished the tee markers.

Right, now I'm back off to the church to pray for better weather. Anyone who wants to do this is most welcome.

Ian Robins.
Head Greenkeeper.





Professional News

Feb 26 has definitely been a month to forget from a golfing perspective, so I have decided to write it off and carry on all the winter deals for another month. This means the winter coaching deal will now continue until the end of April so take advantage now!

With the course being so wet, electric trolley sales have also suffered so check out the incredible deal below which is available on all Motocaddy and Powakaddy models.

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 ½ price.

The offers are for March only so don't miss out!

WINTER TIPS

Click below for this months pro tip

https://youtu.be/3cIVOprDB60?si=LAifg2c_mKMUjr2D