



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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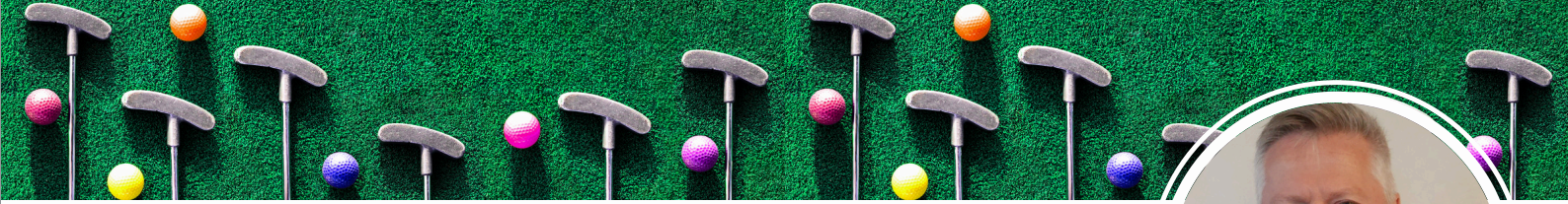
Professional News

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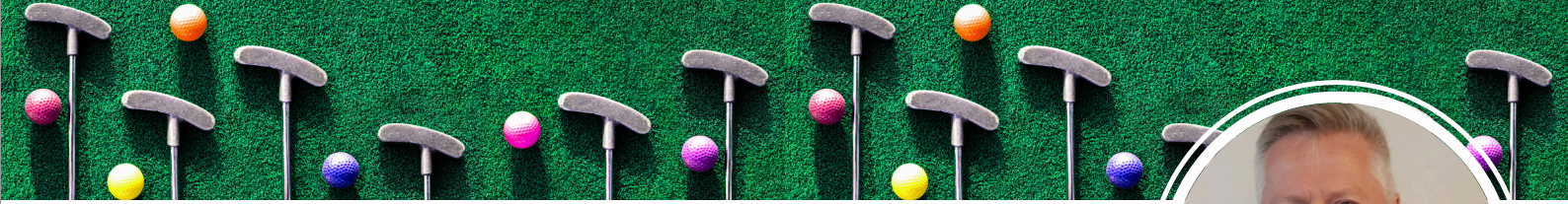
APR



Chairperson's Report

Glorious Spring! Sunlit blue skies, a crisp breeze, bright green foliage, snowy blossom... What a difference a month makes. Now we can truly appreciate the benefit of the care taken to preserve the more sensitive areas of the golf course during the grey months, the entire course being back in play and in truly great shape. The greens continue to improve and are now the envy of the other local clubs. The fairway grass is bulking up and looks beautiful under the artistry of our greens team's skilful mowing, and the various items of course improvement are bedding in nicely. The re-laid 18th tee box is much better, the new tee box for the 5th looks excellent and will greatly improve that hole, the new trees on the approach to the 4th green all look healthy, and the re-laid 15th green continues to mature. (And I, for one, am not missing the left fairway bunker on the 4th at all...) Congratulations to Ian and his team for their continued success in managing the course.

The club's Management Committee met in early April. On financials, February turned out to be a solid month for the club which was a relief given the dreadful weather. I am happy to report that, with one month to go until financial year-end, we are slightly ahead of budget in most areas and are forecasting a surplus in the range of £10k to £20k. This is against an original budgeted surplus of £15k on an annual turnover of roughly £500k. Given that we do not carry a contingency in the budget, this points to good success in carefully managing costs throughout the year. My thanks to Mark Nicholson for his expert budgeting and careful financial stewardship throughout the year, and to those who have carefully managed their own allotted budgets. The result is a bank balance that continues to improve. More detail on the outcome in my next update when the year-end numbers should be in.



Chairperson's Report - continued

The budget for the new financial year (April 2026 to the end of March 2027) has been finalised. We have taken a similar approach to last year and are aiming for a small operating surplus again on an increased turnover of a little shy of £560k. We have been quite rigorous in the face of a range of increased costs, including a big uptick in business rates. Members have done their fair share in shouldering this through the increase in annual sub's, and they have done so without a drop in member numbers and without complaint – sincere thanks from the Management Committee to all members for their understanding. As it turns out, all local clubs have faced the same challenge, and our sub's remain very competitive.

As usual, the Greens Committee provided a comprehensive update. There was much good news to share. Thanks to very generous donations from 3 of our members, we are able to undertake the same drainage work as was done for the 15th green on two further greens this year. This will be done for the 3rd and 4th greens and is currently scheduled for October (allowing for much of the competition schedule to have been completed, while giving enough time for the greens to recover before winter). Although it was originally thought that the 2nd green would be a priority, the work done on the 15th has sufficiently improved the general drainage in its vicinity to mitigate the prior issue with the 2nd.

As I have already mentioned, the new tee-box for the 5th has been completed and looks superb! The turf is brand-new, of course, and will take time to knit together and establish its roots. The greens team are working in the hope of having it readied for the Seniors' Open on 7th May; that sounds pretty ambitious to me, but we will see... If not, I am sure we will cope.

Chairperson's Report - continued



The liner in the pond on the 5th has sprung a leak somewhere. Ian is looking into this and will be trying to figure out a fix. In the meantime, it's easier to spot your ball. (Every cloud has a silver lining.) You may have noticed that the cut on the fairways is a little crisper – this is thanks to a new fairway mower that arrived a couple of weeks ago. Our fixed cost contract with our machinery suppliers has helped ensure that they source good quality used equipment for us, since they are responsible for its maintenance. This is proving to be a good relationship.

Finally from the Greens Committee, the presentation in the clubhouse has been updated and organised into three sections: projects completed, projects planned and funded for 2026, and potential projects yet to be funded. Please do take a moment to have a look – it is very encouraging. If you have any comments or would like to support any projects, please contact Nes on office@oundlegolfclub.com

In other business discussed by the Management Committee, with the longer evenings we will be promoting twilight rates for visitors to help with raising income for the club. Also, we are finalising an update to the club's contract with Dave Morland, our pro. That is almost done and we look forward to our continued relationship with him.

With that, I will leave you to the fairways and fair weather. Happy golfing, and don't forget the sunscreen.

Best wishes,
James



Captain's Report

WINNERS CIRCLE

Firstly the 100 club- £100-£55-£35

JAN= John Foster, Christine Rowell and Pete Turner

FEB= Ros Riley, Ian Hood, Bob Svarups

MAR=Richard Dempster, Ian Scotland, Peter Rice

SPRING FOURSOMES

1st Anthony Wilkes and Paul Kime-Net 70

2nd Rob Tansley and Andrew Billing- Net 74

3rd Spencer and Roy Coates- Net 75

SPRING TEXAS SCRAMBLE

Anthony Wilkes, Nigel Cox, Chris Treweekes and YOURS TRULY!!!

APRIL STABLEFORD

DIV 1= Jamie Townsend 38pts, Stephen Griffin 37 pts Iain Scotland 37 pts

DIV 2 = Robert Tansley 36pts, Martin Camp 36 pts, Tony Shillcock 35 pts

EASTER WEEKEND

SAT= Ryan Collins and Simon Bateman 44 pts

Philip Twiselton and Alan Jones 42 pts

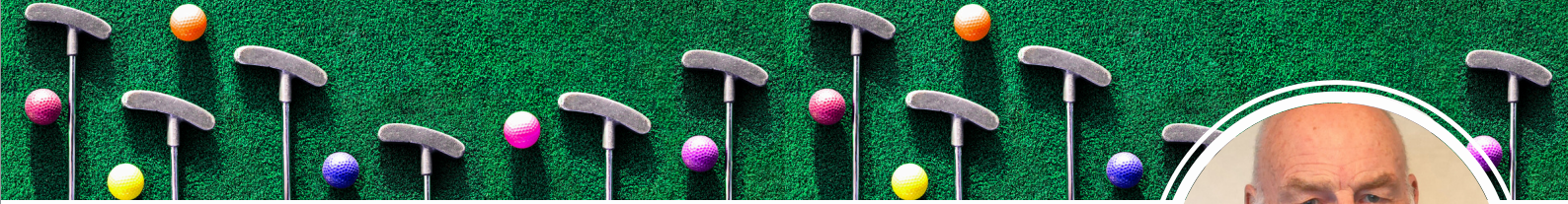
Michael Jursa and Adam Butler 42 pts

SUN= Blaine Harvey and Kevin Fox 43 pts

Dale Abbott and Tony Shillcock 43 pts

Kevin Paul and Richard Tuzinkiewicz 41 pts





Captain's Report - continued

Congratulations to all and especially to those appearing more than once.

I am pleased to announce that the Handicap League Team won their first match 15-3 against Milton.

Also the friendly at Ramsey resulted in a 3-1 win for Oundle.

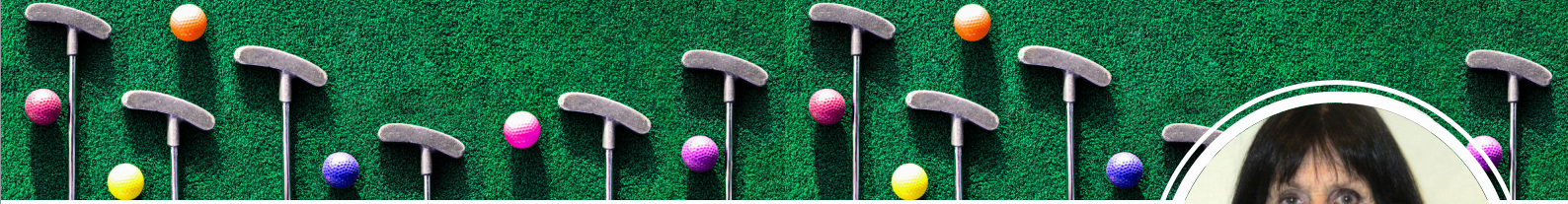
Talking of friendlies, the availability sheets are posted in the pro shop and I ask as many as possible volunteer for these fun days with no real pressure except pride.

Finally slow play has reared its ugly head once again, can I remind members that you keep up with the group in front rather than keeping in front of those behind. On the scorecard there is a section for start and finish times and I would like members to use these sections for use in any disputes or complaints. Also please play ready golf in order to help.

Thankyou for your assistance in this whole matter.

Many thanks,
Dennis Price Oundle GC Captain.





Women's Section Report

After months of rain, we were lucky enough to have a bright, dry day for our "Easter Bunny Waltz" on 31st March, with lots of chocolatey prizes for the winners. This was followed by a celebration of Mary Panton's birthday, with thanks to Deb Scotland for the delicious cake!

The winners were:

1st: Debbie Verdino, Karen Taylor & Barbara Jenkinson

2nd: Ros Riley, Christine Rowell, Diane Croskell

3rd: Deb Scotland, Sarah Parsell, Christine Wright

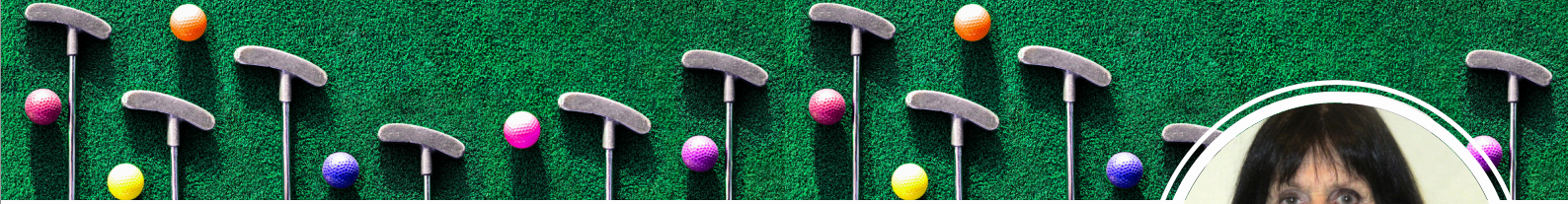
Nearest the Pin: Barbara Jenkinson



Having finally managed to complete our Winter competitions, congratulations go to our Kisbee Bowl winner, Priya Salvi and runner-up, Claire Izod.

Our first Women's Friendly match of the season held at Kibworth on Thursday 26th March resulted in a draw and the second, against Kettering this week, was a resounding win of 3 1/2 to 1/2 to Oundle. Thanks to all who entered.

On 22nd April, Oundle hosted the Northants Ladies Past Golf Captains' 3-Ball Alliance, which was a lively event that produced a great many compliments on our course, catering and overall organisation. Huge thanks to all who helped out and the three Oundle teams who took part, one of which (Lyn Cater, Christine Rowell and Sarah Parsell) came 3rd!



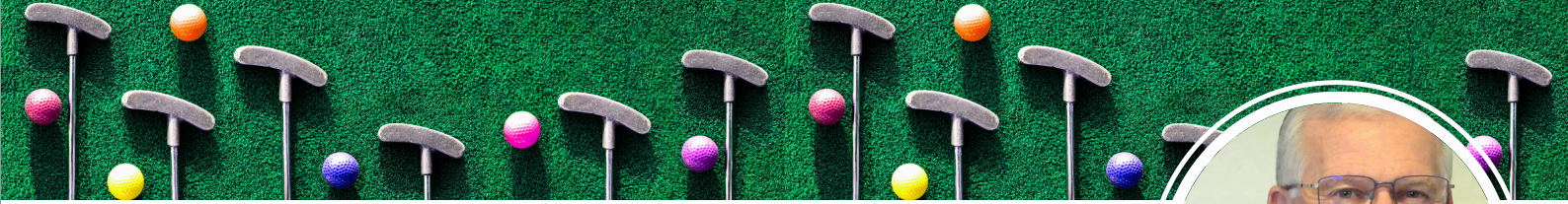
Women's Section Report

Our first Women into Golf taster sessions have been successfully completed, with six women having enjoyed coaching with Dave Moreland and socialising with members of the Women's Section afterwards. We're all looking forward to the next sessions, which start on Monday 27th April.

At the moment it appears that Summer is at last arriving - happy sunny golf to everyone!

Sarah Parsell





Senior Captain's Report

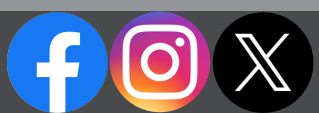
What a fabulous spell of dry, sunny weather we have been enjoying which seems to have generated some very tight, competitive golf amongst the Seniors.

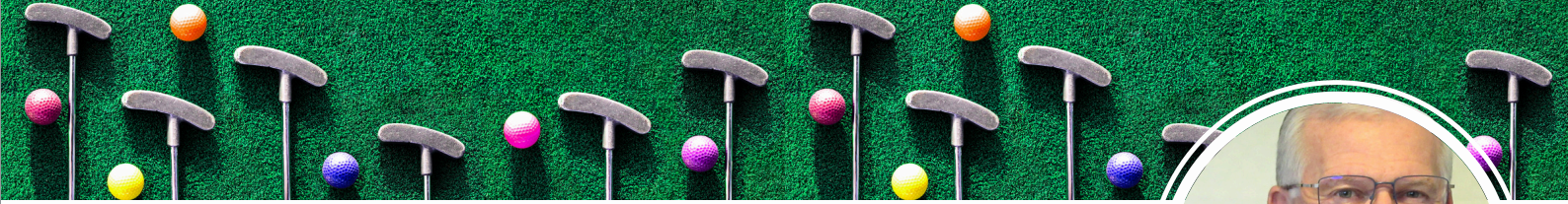
Peter " Roll-up" Reed has managed to win a staggering 3 Roll-ups since my last newsletter!

With an average score of 38 points, it seems he was simply following up his win in the Winter Stableford series (best 5 scores from 8 rounds) – well done Peter and a well-deserved handicap reduction has started to happen. The April Medal saw Max Smith win Division 1 with a net 69 (4 shots clear) and Chris Swan win Division 2 with an even more emphatic margin of 6 clear shots posting another score of net 69 – very well played to you both. The Millenium Quaich is a Betterball Stableford competition where we are drawn for partners thereby encouraging people to play with someone different. This was won by Guy Bolsover and Chris Swan with a great score of 45 points beating myself and Peter Reed on countback – the moral of the story, save your best golf for the back 9 as 24 points at halfway may not win anything!

The Poole Cup is an Individual Stableford and was won this year by Rob Stead with 39 points, again on countback from Andy Sulston – well played gents.

Our Seniors friendly matches have started with 3 losses including Cambridge Country Club both home and away as well as Brampton Park away.





Senior Captain's Report

Brampton Park was a close-run affair which we may well have won had two of our team not taken a drive over to Brampton Heath beforehand! Arriving over an hour late and rushing straight onto the tee they were always going to struggle. We lost the match by one.

However, the important and much better news is that we have progressed to the next round of the County Knock-out beating our nemesis Hellidon Lakes 3-2 at Oundle.

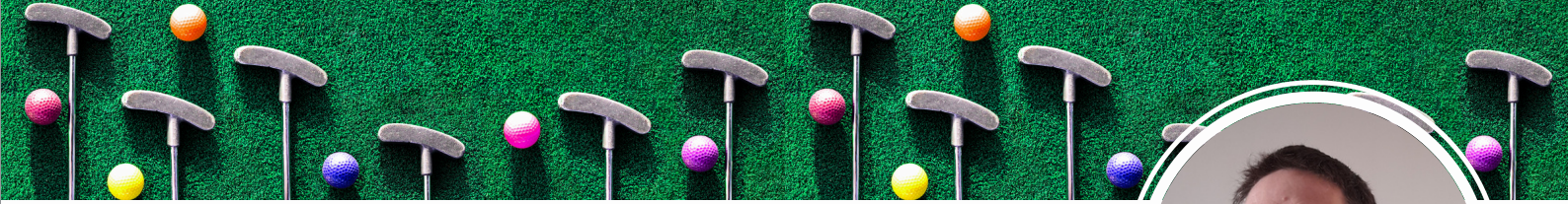
Hellidon beat us in the final in 2024 so it was especially good to win this time around. We now face Collingtree Park, again at home, date to be confirmed.

Having played a few different courses at this point in the season I can safely say that ours is in the best condition with the smoothest, truest greens around – well done Ian and team!

If you are over 55 and would like to play in the Seniors section do get in touch with either myself or one of the committee.

Enjoy your golf!

Paul Kime
Seniors Captain



Greenkeeper Report

Hi everyone

Spring is here and the weather has dried up, almost too much now. Thankfully our irrigation system is up and running as 6 weeks ago we were saturated and now we have hotspots on the greens. The last 4 weeks we have had only 4mm of rain compared to 125mm the four weeks prior. Who would be a head greenkeeper lol!

Cold nights and warm days have the grass plant not knowing if it should grow or stay dormant. This makes producing the surfaces we want to play on hard but I think all golfers seem happy, so happy days.

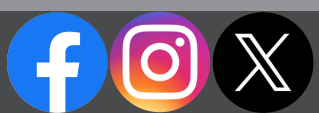
Some of the jobs I would love to do we are having to put on hold so we don't stress the plant more than it is at the moment and ensure we will get good recovery, eg: weed spraying fairways especially for daisies, any aeration work.

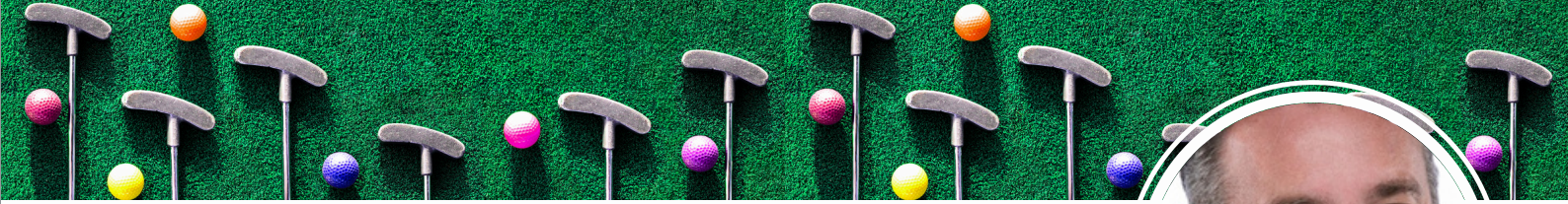
The 5th tee has finally been turfed and we are now growing it in ready for play.

The pond on the 5th has given us some issues mainly because the liner was found to have some holes in it caused by stones being thrown into it. We have repaired as best we can and hopefully the liner will still hold water. If not, we will have to look at how we can alter the pond, maybe even create a grassed bunker that acts as a pond during the winter months.

Until next month, enjoy your golf.

Ian Robins
Head Greenkeeper





Professional News

After such a miserable winter the golfing season seems to have just exploded. The course is already busy and after another amazing Masters tournament everyone is desperate to get out and play. It does also help that OGC is in almost as good a condition as Augusta!

My first nine & dine gets under way this Friday 1st May and the schedule for the rest of the season is below:

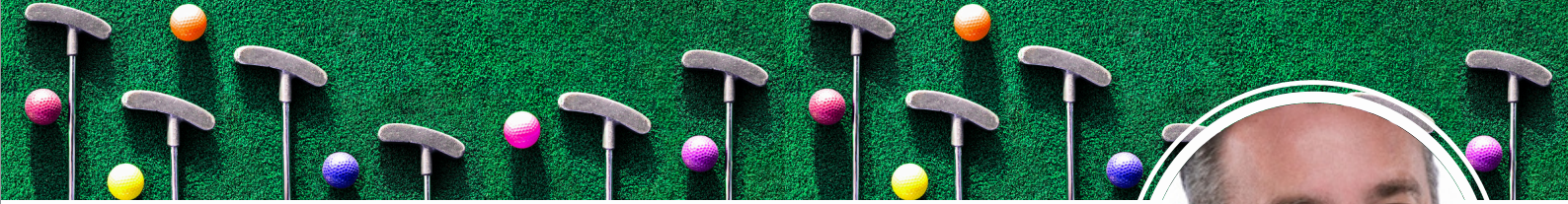
- June 5th (date change)
- June 26th
- July 17th
- Aug 21st
- Sep 18th

For those of you waiting for the Navy or Lemon club shirts they have now arrived and available at £39.95. We also have a new range of OGC branded polos and midlayers so come and have a browse.

Finally I would like to welcome Charmaine Smith who will be helping me in the shop over the summer months. The extra help will free me up to offer a more flexible coaching schedule and hopefully even get out to play golf with some of you!

GOLF SHOP DEALS

- MOTOCADDY DRY SERIES TROLLEY BAG - ONLY £199 (SAVE £60)**
- NEW LADIES PING GLE4 DEMO SET AVAILABLE TO TRY ON THE COURSE**



Professional News

LESSONS

With the arrival of Charmaine I will now be able to offer some additional afternoon coaching slots, however I do expect these to fill up quickly so if you are thinking of having some lessons, please book now.

COACHING TIPS

Click below for this months pro tip

<https://youtu.be/6Kbp580IU4E?si=GYmCxtDU4pf7YTz5>

