



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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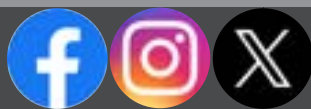
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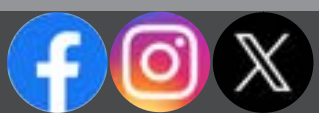
MAY



Chairperson's Report

Summer is knocking hard on the door. As I write, the forecast is for wall-to-wall sunshine and warmth. Fortunately, we have not seen (so far) the drought that plagued us this time last year. Consequently, the course remains green and those of our fairways that start the year relatively bare are thickening-up. Additionally, the two newly acquired mowers (one fairway and one greens) have improved the quality of the cut and Ian and his team are showing their artistry in defining the course beautifully.

Our end-of-financial-year numbers are in. I am pleased to share the news that we have returned a surplus for the year again, this time at a little under £14k, almost exactly on budget. Income was up on flat year-to-year membership numbers as a result of a significant uptick in visitor greens fees as well as the increase in annual dues. It is worth noting that the revenue that the club generates from visitors and societies is equal to about 42% of the total raised from members' annual sub's; in other words, this is a very valuable subsidy for all members. Expenditure on the maintenance of the course was well-controlled, helped by a reduction in equipment repairs costs under the new -fixed price contract with our equipment supplier. The combination of improved costs structure, volunteering effort, member donations and excellent stewardship by the greens team has delivered a continually improving course on an annual spend within budget – an impressive performance.





Chairperson's Report - continued



Importantly, the club's cash position continued to improve, ending almost £15k higher year-on-year. The club's bank balance stood at roughly £81k at the end of March. This is the second year of improvement and we will aim to continue this trend. Building our bank balance will enable us to continue to invest in course improvements, gradually reduce the club's debt, and grow the buffer we need to move comfortably through the low-revenue months over the winter, as well as deal with any unexpected costs that arise during the year.

Members have every reason to feel satisfied with the outcome. My thanks to all who have contributed to this excellent result – members, volunteers, donors, staff, and committee members. It is a pleasure to see Oundle Golf Club both happy and healthy!

Best wishes,
James

Captain's Report



WINNERS CIRCLE

CAPTAINS CHARITY

- 1st Adam butler and Stephen Griffin 46 points
- 2nd Chris Treweeks and Stuart Burgess 45 points
- 3rd Kevin Paul and Richard tuzinkiewicz 45 points

ELLIS FAMILY SALVER

- Kenny and Ellie Merrill 43 points
- Peter and Clare Izod 42 points
- Sally and Simon Anderson 40 points

PRESIDENTS CUP AND MAY MEDAL

- DIV1= Adam Butler net72, Ryan Collins 72, Anthony Mackin 74
- DIV2= Chris Dix net 68 [cup winner], Andrew Billing 75, Terry Tibbs 76.

We are due to play a friendly against Gedney on Saturday 23rd and just less than 48 hours away we still do not have a team. We are due to play them away on the 20th June and currently there are only 5 names on the availability sheet. We shall have to think about if it is worth rearranging these friendlies next year if we continue to have poor take up.

Also talking of friendlies the overstone matches have been rearranged, the home match is now July 11th and the away fixture is September 6th.

Many thanks,
Dennis Price Oundle GC Captain.



Women's Section Report

Happily, Summer seems to have arrived, bringing run on the ball, the sun on our backs and hopefully the end of slogging through the rain and wind! The course is looking magnificent - huge thanks as ever to the Greenkeepers.

Firstly, congratulations to our recent winners:

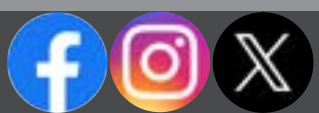
Teese Trophy: Lyn Cater & Pat Wilkinson

Women's County Charity Medal: Silver Division - Claire Izod, Bronze Division - Deb Scotland. Claire and Deb will represent the Club in the Final at Kettering Golf Club on 30th September, in aid of the The Air Ambulance Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire & Rutland.

Coronation Foursomes: Karen Johnson & Claire Izod, who will represent Oundle in the Area Final at Belton Park on 19th August.

So far we've played two Cecil Leitch matches. The first, Away to Kettering, went the opposition's way with a 3-2 win for them. The second, Home to Nene Park, was a resounding win for Oundle - 4 1/2 to 1/2. We look forward to another successful season.

Our second Women's Friendly match of the year was held at home against Elton Furze, who sadly beat us 3-0. Hoping for better luck against Rushden on 29th May.





Women's Section Report

Our second course of Women into Golf coaching sessions has now been successfully completed, which means we have introduced 12 potential members to the Club. Please be patient and kind to any you may find out practising either on the course or the practice ground. Dave Moreland is arranging two 6-week follow-on courses which will start on 8th and 16th June. If you know anyone who may wish to join this Intermediate Course, please contact Dave and generally help publicise to anyone you know who may be interested.

Happy golfing to all!

Sarah



Senior Captain's Report

So, the much-needed rain has arrived to give the course a beautiful palette of greens and creating what is still the best condition of any course I have played so far this season – well done Ian and team!

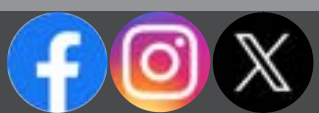
The Senior section has had slightly fewer competitions to report on this month and yet it has still had a very busy feel about it probably due to another successful Seniors Pairs Open.

This event is for members and their guests together with visiting pairs from near and far – this year we had one player from Bamburgh Castle Golf Club. It continues to be very popular with many entrants returning year after year.

No less than 54 pairs teed it up with 27 visitor pairs and quite a few mixed combinations of members and their guests. We were blessed with a fine day of weather albeit a little chilly early on.

Winning by a huge margin of 5 points with a total of 47 were Charlie Underwood and Steve Holmes - which should have triggered a handicap reduction for at least one of them!

Interestingly, there were 8 twos scored on the day but only 2 of those came from home players so well done to our visitors on the shorter holes.





Senior Captain's Report - continued

These days are also very important in financial terms to the club and we estimate we were just short of £2,000 in green fees and bar takings plus around £950 for charity. This money was raised from the raffle and the Charity bucket situated at the half-way house where our renowned home-made cakes were served along with tea, coffee and cold drinks.

The day ran very smoothly which of course does not just happen without a great deal of organisation and planning beforehand. Phil Houghton and Doug Walker were the two key coordinators but they were supported by a small army of helpers in roles such as car parking, registration, raffle tickets, Half Way House cake making and service, score board entries and so on – a massive THANK YOU to all who gave their time and effort or a raffle prize.

On to the results:

Team Roll-up (2 from 3 to count) – Paul Kime, Steve Holmes and Malcolm Alder – 84 points.

Summer Stableford Round 1 – won by Kevin Paul 34 points on countback from David Doveton and Rob Stead.

Summer Stableford Round 2 – played in horrendous wind and rain, Charlie Underwood shrugged it all off to score 38 points (another cut?) with Tony Murdoch in second place and claiming the only 2 of the day.

May Medal – Andy Sulston, a recent addition to the Seniors section had his best round of the year winning with net 67 pushing Mike Davidson into second place with a mere net 70 off 7.9.



Senior Captain's Report - continued

Senior team matches

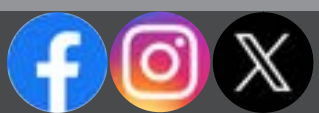
Since last month we have played 4 friendly matches against Overstone, Cold Ashby, Pavenham and Priors Hall winning the 3 at Home and a narrow defeat away at Pavenham.

These matches are a great day out with the opportunity to play different courses for around £20 – what a bargain!

If you are over 55 and would like to join us in the Seniors section please get in touch with either myself or one of the committee – you are assured of a warm welcome.

Enjoy your golf,

Paul Kime
Seniors Captain



Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone

Thankfully we have had a drop of rain which has greened things up a bit. Our crazy weather at times makes it very hard for us but we battle on.

The 5th tee is now in play. I wondered with firstly rain and then dry weather if I was ever going to get there but we have and it makes the hole look so much better.

The pond is an ongoing issue. We found that deer have been going in it to drink and tearing a few holes in the liner. Once the water level stabilises we will fence off the pond, repair the liner and fill it up. Hopefully that will do the job.

We have cut around the trees on the new land so making it easier for you to find and play your balls. Thank you to John Foster for the loan of his machine to get this work done.

The course is looking spot on, I want to thank my team for all their hard work. The greens are running fast and smooth without me having to push them. This is great for the plants health, running consistently around the 9 to 11 (if I'm mean) on the stimp meter. This is fast enough with our slopes but nice to know I could squeeze a bit more if needed.

I'm pleased to see my new feeding programme is working well.

Until next month, happy golfing.

Ian Robins.
Head Greenkeeper.



Professional News

It has been a great start to the season and with the current weather forecast and course conditions, long may it continue. The majors have been fantastic so far and Aaron Rai's win confirms what a great sport golf is. The past few years have all been about 'bombing it' off the tee, however watching the way Rai managed his way around the course in that final round shows us that brains over brawn still works occasionally!

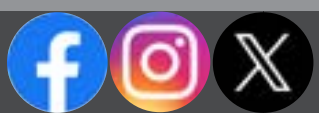
For nine & dine this month please remember that there are two events with only just over a week to go until the first one. These events provide a great opportunity to bring friends and family along for the meal so please email professional@oundlegolfclub.com to book ASAP.

Upcoming Nine & Dine dates

- June 5th
- June 26th
- July 17th
- Aug 21st
- Sep 18th

Junior events & handicaps

It is great to see so many juniors playing and there will be some tournaments and friendly matches organised this summer. Currently only around 20% of the junior members have handicaps so please get in touch if you are a junior member or parent of a junior member wishing to organise this.





Professional News - continued

GOLF SHOP -TRY BEFORE YOU BUY!

Full Demo sets of both the latest mens and womens PINGS can be tried on the course giving you the perfect opportunity for you to try the latest technology against your current clubs. Also I may not keep all brands in stock but if you would like to try other brands such as Callaway, Titleist, Cobra and Mizuno then let me know. Please remember that I will always price match with major online sites and most equipment can be delivered within a week.

LESSONS

From the middle of June I will have more availability for evening lessons and I would highly recommend the popular on-course evening sessions for 60 minutes or even 9 holes. The 5 x 30 min lesson package is still available and many people are benefitting from taking a couple of 30 min sessions on the range and the remaining 90 mins on the course.

COACHING TIPS

This month's tip is based around Aaron Rai's major win and involves course management. The course is already firming up due to the hot weather and obviously plays very differently to the winter, however I am sure that most of you are still hitting driver from the tee? Why not try choosing your most accurate club (3-wood, 5-wood, hybrid) from the tee next time you play rather than the driver. Our course is shorter than most and with the fast running fairways even the shorter hitters out there will benefit from leaving the driver in the bag more often this summer. It doesn't matter what level of golfer you are, you will have a better chance of stopping the ball on the green if you are hitting your approach from the fairway instead of the rough!