



Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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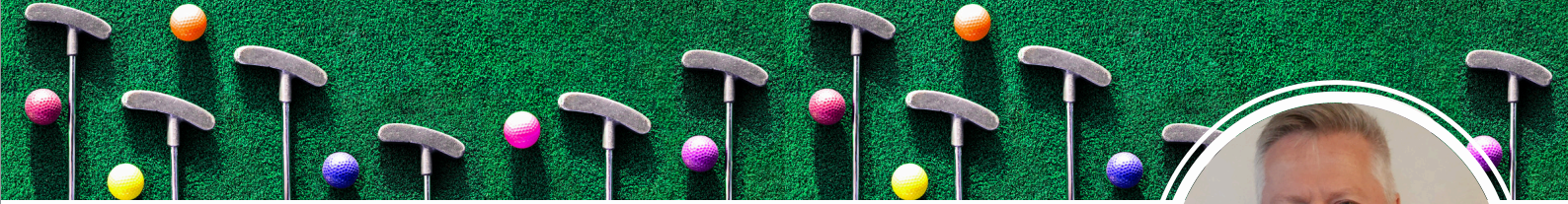
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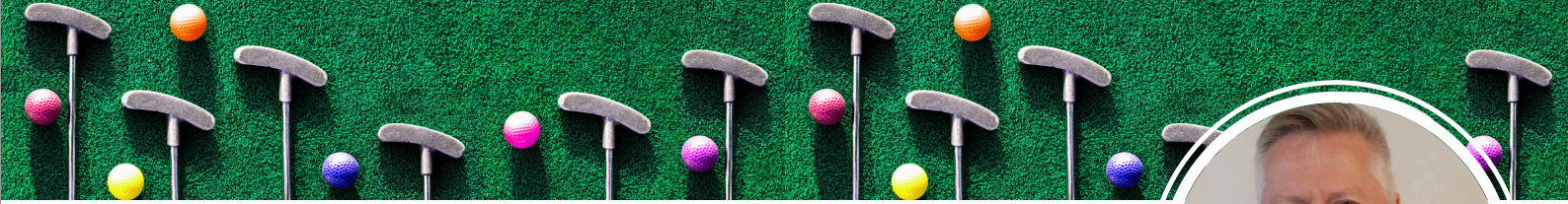
Chairperson's Report

As this merciless summer begins to loosen its grip, we now face the prospect of an unusually stormy and wet autumn. Or, at least, that is what is being forecast. Apparently, El Nino 2026 in the Pacific Ocean is shaping up to be the most profound since records began. Whilst this mostly affects the southern hemisphere, we may feel its influence in our corner of the globe in the form of a succession of significant weather fronts coming in from the Atlantic from October through the end of the year. So, buckle-up!

If things do come to pass as predicted, we will need to be as supportive of our Greenskeeping team as we can as they battle to protect the more vulnerable parts of the course. Given their success in nursing our greens through the second summer in succession of brutal droughts, we can have every confidence that they will manage conditions with consummate expertise. But they will need us to do our part.

My thanks, as ever, to our troupe of volunteers for extending the reach of our Greens team and helping to continue the programme of course improvement.

The management committee met on 4th August. The Greens Committee provided a written update. The Greenskeeping team is acutely aware of the stressed state of a number of the tee-boxes, including the first, third and thirteenth. The proposal is to extend the irrigation system to these areas by the end of the calendar year, subject to covering the cost. If this can be done, those tee boxes should fare much better over summer 2027.

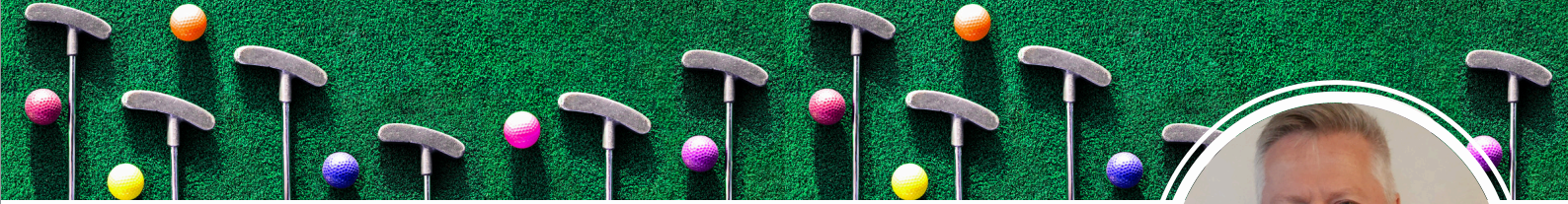


Chairperson's Report - continued

I have mentioned before the planned work to re-route the path down from the 2nd tee box to shallow it out and enhance safety and comfort of use. There is also a desire to upgrade the path down from the 17th tee, adjusting the camber and improving the surface. This is potentially quite costly, so will require some further work on feasibility; we will keep you updated.

Finally, given the potentially permanent change to our climate toward more extreme variances, the Greenskeeping team are also putting their minds to how better to manage water supply. We already have a borehole, but the question is whether there is the possibility of capturing water during the wet months and storing it for use over the summer. For a club of our size and means, this is clearly ambitious thinking; nevertheless, it is certainly worth exploring and we are looking into whether any practical or financial help may be available to help us move the initiative beyond the purely conceptual stage.

On financials, the numbers were in for the first three months of the new financial year, to the end of June. We are behind budget at the moment due to some softness in annual dues revenue, visitor greens fees for June being below expectations (we think, because of the unusually hot weather during that month) and a disappointing catering performance. On turnover of about £300k, we are about £3k behind on our net position; if we ignore unrecovered VAT, we are about £17k behind. Our bank balance continues to be better than this time last year, but not as much as we want.



Chairperson's Report - continued

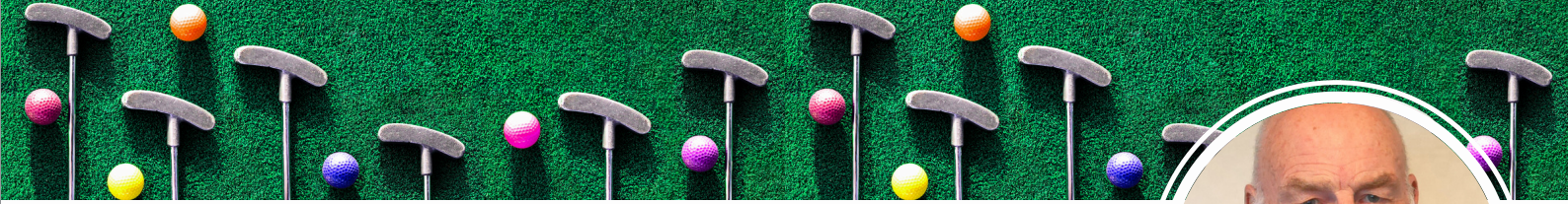
It is obviously early days in the financial year with three quarters to go, but we want to close the gap and continue to build on the good momentum we have. As Nes mentioned in a recent email, we have made an investment in improving the quality of our food offering – that will start to show up as our new catering manager, Sam, begins to implement changes. Please keep this in mind and, if you haven't for a while, give lunch a go in the clubhouse. Sam is keen and energetic and would be delighted to get your thoughts and suggestions.

As I mentioned last time, our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th August. Please do come along if you can. Last year's was a fun and sociable evening and it is a good opportunity to ask the management committee members any questions you may have.

Finally, we have the OGC Race Night upcoming on 23rd October with the opportunity to place your bets on horses, trainers and jockeys! This will be a hoot! – pop a note in your diary and don't miss out...

Until next time,

Best wishes,
James



Captain's Report

WINNERS CIRCLE

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Tony Shillcock and Ant Marriott for reaching the final of the county knockout. Wishing well for the final.

Well done Charlie Fowler winning the club Championship and Nigel Cox for winning the nett.

Peter and Clare Izod won the Glaphorn Trophy.

The Reg Rawding Trophy was won by that well known set of bandits, despite missing Peter Gunning, Terry Beckett, Martin Camp, Richard Cole and Mark Nicholson.

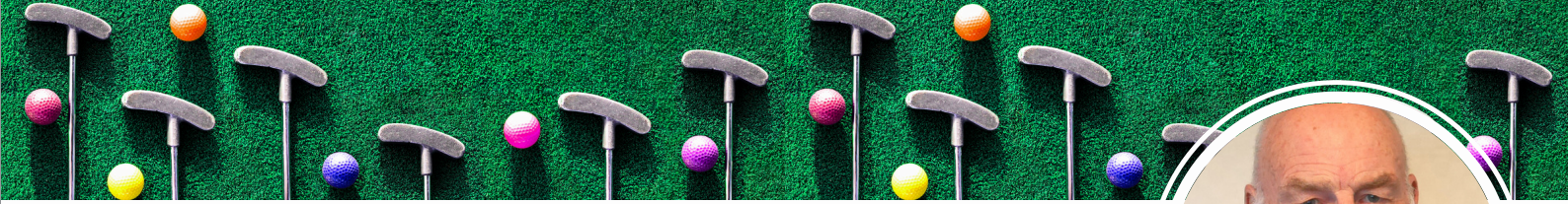
The Oundle Putter was won by:

Visitors - Peter Izod and David Montgomery 39 points.

Oundle Putter 2026 Winners - Stephen Griffin and Adam Butler 44 points (on countback from Doug Walker and myself).

So as someone quoted from years ago " I hate you Butler"





Captain's Report - continued

The Handicap team finished with a fine win and therefore finish in the middle of the table won 4 lost 4. Thanks to Tony and the stand in captains for their efforts. Not always an easy task getting a team put together especially with the members handicaps changing constantly.

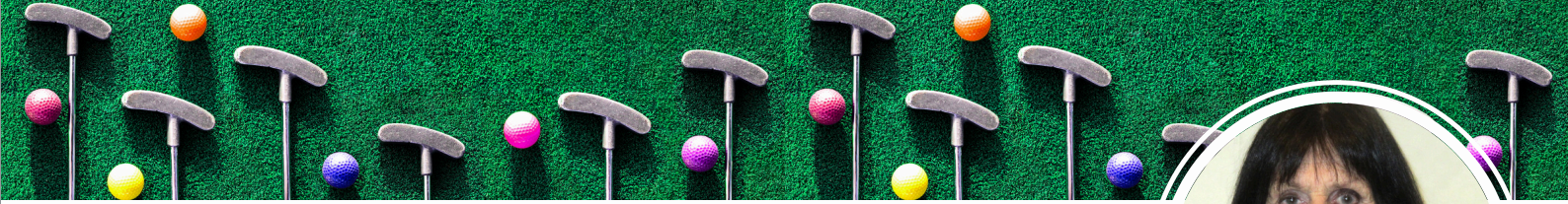
Since the last report we've had some rain and more promised at months end. Hopefully amongst the thunder storms we can receive some steady rain capable of soaking the ground rather than running off it. Fingers crossed.

Regrettably for some the pond on the fifth is back in play, although not me!!!! (so far!!)

Thats it for now although rumour control has it that we may have a captain for next year.

Many thanks,

Dennis Price Oundle GC Captain.



Women's Section Report

Some cooler weather seems to be arriving and even the odd spot of rain to soften the ground.... huge thanks go to the Greenkeepers for all their hard work keeping the tees and greens in much better shape than many courses we've played recently.

Congratulations go to our recent competition winners:

Dawson Trophy - 1st Karen Johnson, 2nd Karen Taylor

Kimbell Cup - 1st Pat Bishton, 2nd Christine Rowell

Cancer Salver - 1st Ellie Merrill, 2nd Karen Taylor

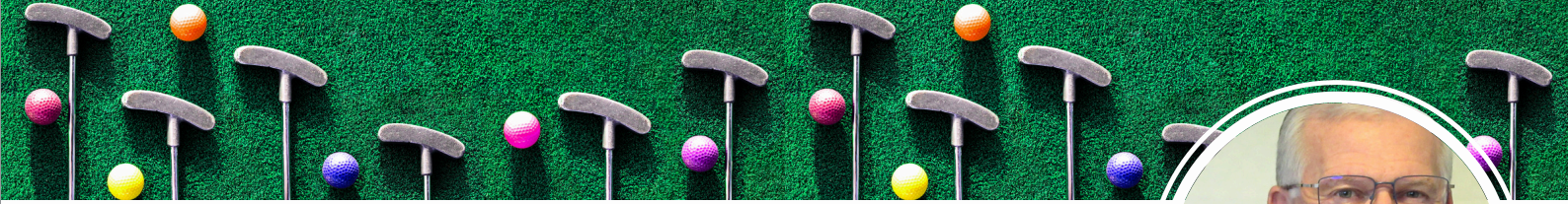
Wilkinson Trophy - 1st Ros Riley & Liz Swan, 2nd Priya Salvi & Deb Scotland

Claire Izod and Karen Johnson represented Oundle in the Area Final of the Coronation Foursomes held at Belton Park. It was a field of 70 pairs and they came a creditable 19th on count back (so sadly, no trip to St Andrews for the next round!)

On Friday 14th August Oundle, Overstone and Kingsthorpe played our annual Triangular match at Overstone on yet another scorching day. The home team took full advantage of their local knowledge with a good win of 170 points to Oundle's 134 and Kingsthorpe's 122. Our thoughts are with Kingsthorpe after their devastating fire and hopefully we'll be able to continue this historic series at their course next year.

Finally, we'd like to warmly welcome Sam Ryan to our catering team. We look forward to planning our events with you.

Happy golfing!
Sarah Parsell



Senior Captain's Report

The hot weather continued for most of this month but I am now writing this in cooler air following a few very welcome showers.

The course continues to look great considering the recent high temperatures and is still the best of any we have played on the senior circuit, especially the greens. Well done again to Ian and team.

We have played another 4 friendly matches this month with one of these being at Kingsthorpe where just 4 days later they lost their clubhouse to a devastating fire. This is partly why you should have noticed stronger rules about smoking on our club premises. Let's all be vigilant and prepared to challenge anyone who chooses to break the rules.

Our County KO Semi-final is scheduled for 10am on Friday 28th August at Northampton Golf Club – do come along and support us if you are free that day.

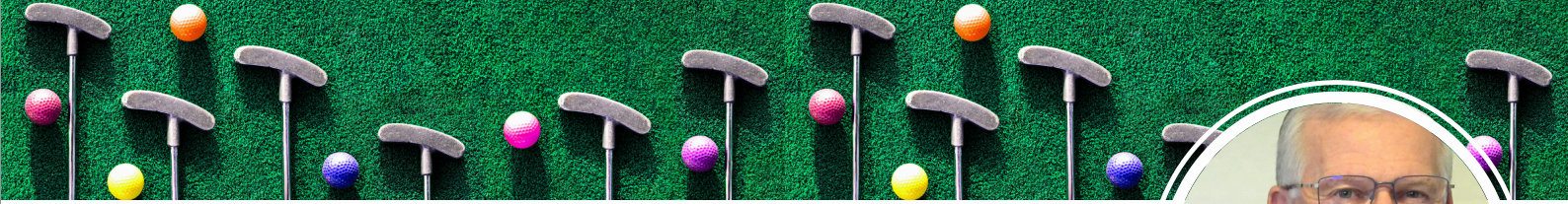
Friendly matches

Thorney Lakes Away - halved
Kingsthorpe Away - lost by 1
Pavenham Park Home - halved
Overstone Park Away - lost 2-6

Summer Stableford Round 6 - 29th July

Our winner was Kevin Paul with 40 pts including one of only two twos on the day – well played Kevin.

Steve Holmes and John Foster followed with 38 pts each



Senior Captain's Report

Seniors Medal - 3rd August

Div 1 John Foster Net 70

Runner-up Mike Davidson Net 71 and Best Gross score of 77

Div 2 Ted Jones Net 68

Runner-up Dave Woods Net 75 on countback from Alan Sinfield

Only two twos were recorded on the day - Iain Scotland on the 9th and Graham Drage on 13! - No mean feat in current conditions.

Individual Roll-up - 5th August

1st Steve Rozak 38 pts

2nd Doug Walker 36 pts

Des Trainor recorded the only two.

Summer Stableford Round 7 - 10th August

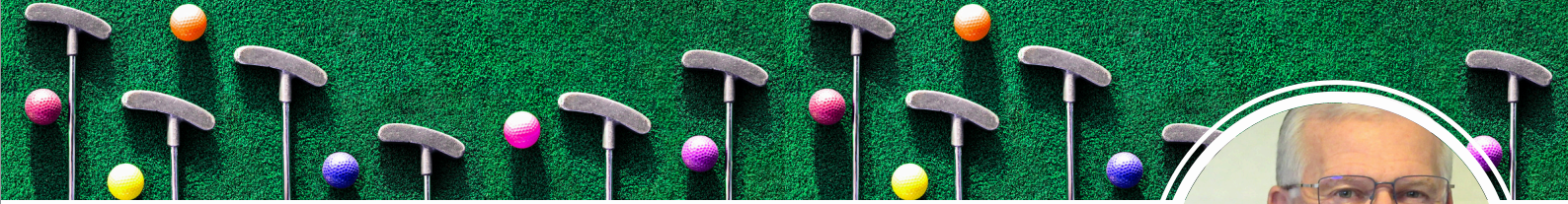
1st – David Doveton 38 pts

2nd (again) Peter Curnow 37 pts with Phil Houghton 3rd on 36 pts.

However, my Vice Captain Peter Izod must have had the most profitable day by scoring both of the two twos recorded on the day and I believe that was on consecutive holes.

Team Roll-up - 17th August

Won by Andy Billing, Andy Sulston and Stewart McLennan, 5 points clear of the field.



Senior Captain's Report

Seniors' Club Championship 19th August

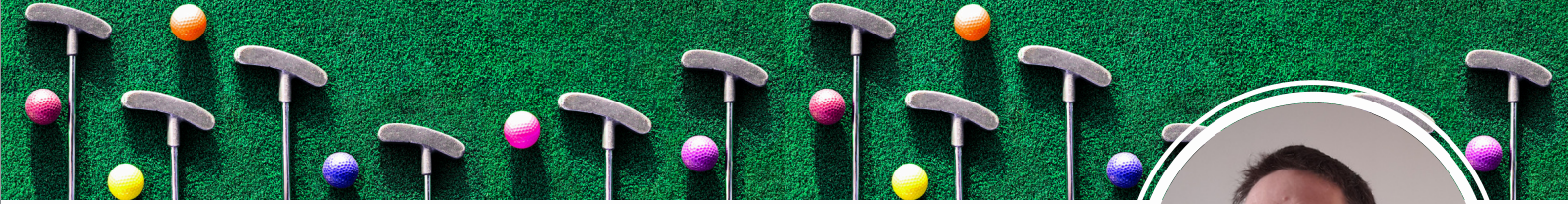
Gross Result - 1st Guy Bolsover 77, 2nd Mike Davidson 83, 3rd Paul Kime 86

Net Result - 1st Paul Kime Net 69 Overall Winner, 2nd Guy Bolsover Net 70, 3rd Ellie Merrill Net 70.

As you can see, we have a packed programme in the Seniors so if you are over the age of 55 and would like to join please get in touch.

Enjoy your golf in the cooler weather,

Paul Kime
Seniors Captain



Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone,

As I write, 55 days without rain and four heatwaves has finally come to an end and not before time for all golf courses and greenkeepers. Work that goes unseen in keeping the greens in the condition they are often goes unnoticed by golfers so big thanks to my staff and Barry for keeping our heads above water.

Now it's about getting tees, approaches and other areas back to where we want them to be. This won't happen quickly and until we get proper moisture into the surface we won't know how much die back we will have. Fingers crossed it is not too bad, not sure if it is reassuring, we are not the only course, nearly every course down South is in the same boat.

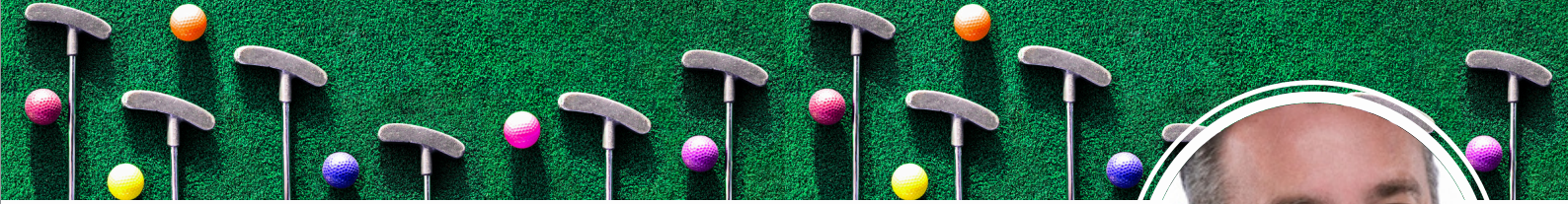
Exciting times ahead with a lot of projects starting and new equipment so we can take all areas to the next level. I can't wait to get my teeth into it!

Thanks to the club for giving myself and my staff the tools and support to achieve everything on the course. We as a team set high standards and this will never change so we can give you all a great course.

Things to do, so see you all next month.

Regards,

Ian Robins,
Head Greenkeeper.



Professional News

I would like to start this month by saying a big thank you to all of those who have booked lessons over the past couple of years. The recent on-course lesson promotion seems to have been well received and as a result I will keep this offer on until the end of September. I have always been passionate about coaching and seeing pupils winning competitions and lowering their handicaps still gives me a massive buzz. There is still plenty of the 2026 season remaining so if you would like to take up any of the coaching deals I would be happy to schedule you in.

Sadly we will run out of daylight in October so this month will see the last Nine & Dine of the season. There has been a date change, so the event will now take place on Friday 25th September. I am still to decide on the menu so if you have any special requests let me know! The famous Buttered Chicken has only made one appearance this year or it could be time for something brand new.

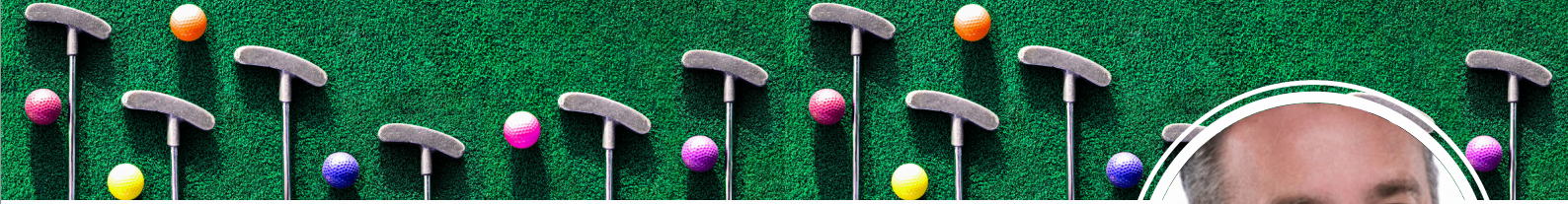
Book directly with the pro shop or email professional@oundlegolfclub.com

The Summer Draw is almost full so take the opportunity to get your tickets now. The draw will take place at the Nine & Dine event on September 25th.

GOLF LESSONS

ON-COURSE LESSON SPECIAL CONTINUES UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER

Book a 90 min on-course lesson during August and receive a FREE follow up 30 min lesson to work on the most important areas of your game!



Professional News

GOLF SHOP

ELECTRIC TROLLEY PROMO

Buy any Powakaddy or Motocaddy electric trolley during September and get any golf bag at HALF PRICE!

Entry level models from both manufacturers start at only £499

GOLF SHOES - 20% discount

Looking for a new pair of shoes for the Winter? Buy any pair of shoes during September and get 20% off the marked price.

Please remember that I will always price match with major online sites and most equipment can be delivered within a week.