



Oundle Golf Club  
Newsletter

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## Chairperson's Report

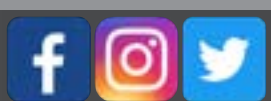
I hope everyone agrees that the course is looking as good as it has ever has. Unfortunately we have a number of players who do not replace their divots on the fairway. I regularly have to replace substantial fresh divots which have been left by others. Could all players please make an effort to find and replace their own divots and anyone else's divots that they find.

Our fairways are looking spectacular and not replacing divots creates an eyesore and a problem for our hardworking greens staff in maintaining and presenting the fairways in such good condition.

We also still need to attract more members to join the Club. Please spread the word as to how great it is to play our wonderful course and encourage anyone you know who plays golf to come and join us.

Thanks

Peter Izod  
Chairperson





## Captain's Report



Welcome to April's newsletter. After playing this morning, I must say how nice the bluebells look on the 3rd hole, it's just a shame that they only last around 3 weeks before they go over.

Onto last month's 100 club draw.

In first place was Simon Fitton.

Second was Claire Izod.

And third, Philip Barnett.

All should now have the money put on their bar cards.

Not too busy a month on the competition front, as we had a few cancellations due to yet more wet weather.

One of the competitions that had to be postponed was the April Stableford. Because it's one of seven counting ones, for the Mick Ives Trophy, it has been rearranged for Saturday 18th May. Also cancelled on the same weekend was the Ellis Family Salver, this now has a new date of Sunday 21st July.

The Easter 4 BBB competitions did go ahead and the Saturday winners were Terry Tibbs and Jacques Lourens on countback with 47 points. On the Sunday Callum Bowyer and Lee Hodsdon also on countback won with 46 points.

Jacques carried on his good form winning the Spring Foursomes along with Adam Butler with a nett 70.

## Captain's Report - Continued



The Club's first major went ahead in April, the Dawson Trophy and Rob Tansley took the plaudits with a nett 72.

The first division was won by Michael Davidson with a nett 73.

The mixed section played a couple of fixtures in April, with a good draw away to Overstone and a narrow defeat at home to Elton Furze.

Many of the clubs league matches begin in May, with both the Hollingsworth and Handicap leagues starting. The Club's friendly fixtures also start with an away trip to Ramsey on May 5th. The sheets to enter these are on the notice board in the Pro shop, please put your names down if you are interested. Also coming up next month is my Charity Day on the 4th, with a raffle to follow. The Presidents Cup, a drawn medal and two Stablefords.

On Sunday 12th May we are hosting the British Junior Golf Tour. To make this day a success, I'm looking for some volunteers to help with marshalling, starting duties and manning the halfway hut. I will send a separate email out, with more details next week.

I mentioned briefly about the divot bag holder last month. This has now been built and is due to be installed in the next week or two. The bags were quite expensive with the club logo on them, so please remember to leave them in the box provided, on the way off the course. There is also a large clock incorporated in it, to aid with teeing off at the correct time. My thanks go to Chris Potter, Peter Rice and Russ Hart for their assistance in this.



## Captain's Report - Continued

While it's still relevant, I'm going to talk about preferred lies this month. When this ruling is in place, which could be up until the end of May this year, you may mark, lift and clean your ball and place it within six inches of its original position, not nearer the hole. On all closely mown areas. This does not include the rough or semi rough.

Now onto my handicap, I seem to remember that I was down to play in six qualifying events in April. Well that quickly became just the one, the Dawson Trophy. Where I proceeded to play probably my worst round in 3 years. Luckily for me I didn't have a counting round coming off, so my handicap remains the same. Next month is a different story, with 4 out of my next 5 counting, I will definitely move one way or another. Time to shine.

That's it for now, enjoy your golf and see you out on the course.

Chris Dix  
OundleGC Captain

## Senior Captain's Report



April has seen a much better month with the start of fixtures and the first Medal and Summer Stablefords of the year.

Having said that our first match of the year against Cambridgeshire was a washout after a deluge, but after that we have had two narrow defeats, both away, and a home win against Leicestershire.

Our main focus now is on our Pairs Open on May 9th, and with an entry list of about 130 we are definitely hoping for a fine day. We hope everybody enjoys the day and the money raised goes back to the club to purchase items for the course.

As we get closer to the day we hope members will come forward with cakes for the halfway house and prizes for the raffle.

We have a program for May that includes six matches, three home and three away, so everybody should get a chance to play if their names are on the availability sheet.

Winners of our Competitions in April were:

Seniors Medal: Colin Stanyon

Millennium Quaich: 1st Greg Southwell and Peter Turner

2nd Graham Drage and Tony Murdoch

Winter Finals Final: 1st Rob Darby

2nd Chris Dix

Summer stableford: Bob Svarups

John Foster

Senior Captain



## Women's Section Report

Hi All,

Hallelujah our beautiful course is at long last playing 18 holes. We have had two rounds where scores for handicaps have counted, here's hoping we can record many more.

I would like to extend our Condolences to John Robinson, on his mother Cicely's passing. What a Grand Lady she was, I had the opportunity of meeting her twice, one was the occasion of her 100th Birthday, this was an honour and a privilege. RIP Cicely.

We are progressing well with the "New WHS" system, many thanks to Karen Johnson, for taking this on and having the patience, to explain to us.

A very successful Nine and Dine was hosted by Dave Moreland, with a delicious meal to follow. A big thank you to all involved. It was lovely to have social time after a game. Looking forward to the next one.

We had two Friendlies in April, our match against Overstone, was a draw, which was a good result. The last one was against Elton Furze at home, it was 4BBB, and sadly we lost.

Cecil Leitch started yesterday, we had a match against Northants which was bravely fought, but we lost 3/2 which is not bad as it was an away game. But we have many more to play. Hopefully in warmer weather.

Our Section meeting this month, was well supported and well run, thank you Sarah and Pat S. Please ladies, we do need volunteers to chair the meetings, as we are a "Team" it is nice for us all to contribute.

## Women's Section Report - continued



We started our month with:

2nd April 2024

Oundle Greensomeswinners Linda McLeod and Deb Scotland 29 points

9th April Competition was cancelled due to weather (sound familiar)

Tuesday 16th April

18 Hole Stableford. Winner Pat Silburn 32 points.

Tuesday 23rd April

EL1 winner Pat Silburn on 32 points.

And one two recorded

Congrats to all

I would like to end off with encouragement to enter our Open, we are five weeks till the close off date and it would be lovely to have a couple more fourballs. Sadly, Overstone also chose this date for their Open. Elton Furze has a friendly against Nene, but hopefully they are not taking up their entire women's sections. So please see if you can extend invitations, to those excluded!

Hoping May will bring some sunshine and warmth. Happy Golfing all and may all your Putts sink on our beautiful greens.

Karen.



## Greenkeeper Report



Hi everyone

Well finally we get back up to 18 holes seemed like a very very long winter, we have been working hard to keep the course in its best condition throughout this period its been a struggle but we got there, the good thing for me is to see how the course takes this sort of weather and learn from it so next year we can make adjustments so your golf is less affected.

Aeration is a key component to improve greens and we will be introducing a lot more of it during the year but still producing smooth quick greens, talking of which we took our first stimp reading the other day and the greens were running at 10.5 which for time of the year I was very happy to see..... although some golfers didn't agree after 3 putting, lol.

Thanks for all the nice comments about the course, this can't be done without the help of the club and my staff, from me a very big thanks for everything.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the course.

Ian Robins  
Head Greenkeeper

## Catering Report



Good day to you all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in fine fettle.

So, what's coming up on the horizon?

Over the next few months we have some big events coming up. I will outline everything for you below:

- 1) Our first big event is the Captains Charity Day on Saturday 4th May
- 2) Seniors Men's Pairs Comp on Thursday 9th May
- 3) British Junior Golf Tournament on Sunday 12th May
- 4) Women's Open on Thursday 13th June
- 3) Stamford Society on Saturday 15th June, shotgun start from 1pm

It may not seem a lot but if you add Probus meals and a lot of societies you will see the department is going to be very busy. A lot of it is similar to last year but the numbers have increased.

If the bar is busy when you come up please give us time to serve you but be assured we will accommodate you and your request.

We will be seeing you on a regular basis!

Best wishes to you all,

The Catering Team



## Professional News

The next golf major is just around the corner, which means it is the next 'nine and dine' on Friday 17th May!

The Masters edition was fantastic with 40 golfers and an additional 10 guests for the dinner. For the USPGA event I will be running a putting clinic/demonstration, followed by nine holes and a 'Gourmet Burger'. We may even have a singer following proceedings so please join us and book a taxi!

If you would like to join for the golf and meal or even just the meal (guests welcome) please email [professional@oundlegolfclub.com](mailto:professional@oundlegolfclub.com)

### Pro shop

#### MOTOCADDY MADNESS

- Brand New SE Electric trolley - Starting at only £499!
- PLUS - Purchase any Motocaddy electric trolley and receive a free accessory pack worth £84.95
- CUBE compact push trolley - Only £189
- Simple to fold, lots of storage, foot brake, adjustable handle height
- P1 push trolley - Only £139
- Sturdy, lightweight, one-click folding mechanism, foot brake, built in drinks holder
- PLUS - Free umbrella holder with any push trolley worth £33



## Professional News

### AMAZING SHOE DEALS

- Buy any pair of Skechers shoes for £75

### Lessons

I am pleased to say that the first short game series has proven popular and was actually over subscribed. I will be starting another one during May so please email [davemorelandgolf@gmail.com](mailto:davemorelandgolf@gmail.com) with your interest and preferred timings. With the light drawing out I am also offering individual lessons up until 7pm for those interested.

## Operations Report



Dear All,

Following on from my article in March's Newsletter regarding the financial challenges of running an in-house F&B operation, I would like to respond to extracts of the article in the context of our Club. The first thing to say is that we are certainly not alone! I take some comfort that there are many other clubs facing the same financial challenges and the same can be said across the hospitality sector as a whole.

'Members expect what they consume before and after a round to be discounted – As is the case at Oundle, but certainly not the case at all clubs.

"On £550,000 ex-Vat turnover last year we made a £7,000 profit," Whilst we have succeeded in achieving a healthy net surplus (Food and Beverage Costs v Sales), staff costs and overheads such as utilities and the upkeep/replacement of equipment, means that we are still operating at a loss. Rest assured; we are always exploring different ways of cutting costs without compromising the service.

"....so, you've got to sell more product when your wages are going to go up 10%, and you've got to cover that now" – Please continue to support your club!

"...when it comes to club functions, it's generally the same people who are supporting it. See above and below!

.....price increases – fuelled by inflation and the cost-of-living – will make F&B a bigger challenge in 2024, with members generally routinely resistant to forking out more cash. A fact that is both acknowledged and understood. We will always strive to provide value for your money where possible.

## Operations Report - continued



“Food costs have increased between 10 and 25 per cent. During 2023/24 we experienced a 12% increase in our food costs, hence the modest increase at the point of sale.

... the gross profit margin still needs to take into consideration costs outside of buying in stock. Employing staff to make the food, serve the food, clean the plates are all added costs – Hence my regular appeals for volunteers. Supplementing the permanent staff with willing helpers produces a positive and tangible impact on our bottom line.

There you have it. I hope that the above comments provide a useful backdrop into some of the ongoing challenges that we are facing. I do however feel that our direction of travel is a positive one and all the time that the Bar and Catering function is adequately supported by yourselves, I anticipate that the current upward trend will continue.

Halfway House – Your patience has finally been rewarded! The long awaited refurbishment of the Halfway House will commence on Monday 27th May. The work will consist of new flooring in both toilets, a replacement WC, a replacement roof and a complete overhaul of the exterior of the structure that will include the removal and replacement of the rotting sections of some of the woodwork. As mentioned, in last months Newsletter, this would not have been possible without the generous donations from a Club Member and from the Women’s Section. Thank you!

## Operations Report - continued



I am also very grateful to a contingent of Women members who have been working hard by carrying out a much needed deep clean of the inside the HWH before the season starts in earnest. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

A big thanks to Ian Tucker who sourced and purchased 6 tables and 16 chairs at a very competitive knock down price from one of his many contacts in the local area. The furniture will go a long way in refreshing the décor in the bar area and Cotton Room. A great example of what can be achieved without the burden of excess cost.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 20th June 1700 onwards – Euro 24 - England v Denmark – Final details will be emailed shortly. Please support this event.

Friday 17th May – US PGA Nine and Dine – I anticipate that Dave (Moreland) will be advertising the event as part of his article in this Newsletter. Anyone who might be pondering whether to attend, ask any one of the 50 attendees who participated in the Masters Nine and Dine, and I am sure you will be convinced.

That's all for now.

Stay safe and play well.

Malc