



## Oundle Golf Club Newsletter

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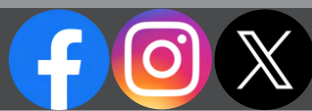
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JANUARY



## Chairperson's Report

A very belated Happy New Year to all OGC golfers!

If you are anything like me, you are looking forward to the longer and brighter days ahead and wondering whether, at last, this will be the year that will deliver on that promise of golfing prowess that has proved so inexplicably elusive hitherto. For my part, perhaps I will spend less time in 2025 searching for my ball under that tree on the short third; maybe even crack the secret to standing on the 16th tee box without a sense of impending doom...

Perhaps not. More realistically, however, I am confident that we will enjoy the continued improvement of our excellent golf course at the expert hands of Ian Robins and his greens-keeping team. Our thanks to them for so effectively nursing the course through the difficult months and into the Spring.

Our thanks also to the outgoing officers for all their efforts. My particular thanks to Peter Izod for his adept chairing of the Management Committee over that last three years. I shall do my best to pick up where he left off, ensuring good coordination among all of the committees (Management, Greens-keeping, Women's, Seniors and Golf & Social) and well-informed decision-making. In that regard, please feel free to drop a line to me or any of the other officers at any time if there is anything you would like us to know, consider or decide upon. (Contact details are on the website.)





## Chairperson's Report - continued

The Management Committee's particular focus in 2025 will be the elimination of the operating deficit. Very good progress has been made over that last couple of years under that watchful eye of Mark Nicholson, our Finance Officer, and it looks like we will close the current financial year with a small deficit of around £20k. We aim to complete the job this year and provide our greens-keepers with the means to continue their course improvement plans. With that in mind, please do spread the word among friends and family about our course and encourage them to come and try it out; we had so much good feedback during 2024 from new and prospective members that we have every reason to feel optimistic about increasing our membership.

And one final item – a reminder about the Macmillan Mammoth Quiz to be held in the Clubhouse on 28th February. A fun evening for sure, and an excellent cause.

With best wishes,

James Ormrod





## Captain's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025, I'll begin with the 100 club winners, for the last two months.

November's winners were :-

- 1st Denis Price
- 2nd Tony Murdoch
- 3rd Graham Woolley

December's winners were :-

- 1st Tony Shillcock
- 2nd Mike Thompson
- 3rd Malcolm Taylor

Nes is now collecting the money for this year's entries. It's £60 for the year and with more than a one in three chance of winning, it's a good way to support the club, with a chance of winning some money.

The bottle of wine winners, donated by myself, for November and December, were Tony Shillcock and Nick Arpino.

Just a quick reminder for the newer members, pop your bar receipts into the jar on the bar for a chance to win this.

Now onto the golfing winners for the last two months.

At the end of November we held the St Andrews Day Sunningdale foursomes. Doug Walker and Mike Thompson won by a full five shots from the rest, with 45 points.

Both the Saturday and Sunday Christmas 4bbb competitions were cancelled, due to the course being closed due to waterlogging.





## Captain's Report - continued

The Christmas AM -AM did go ahead the following weekend, with Nick Harrison, Henry Cade, Adam Butler and Charlie Fowler winning with 94 points. The raffle was held afterwards and over £300 was made for my charity, which again this year will go to improvements to the course. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets for the raffle.

The December medal was won by the only player to finish under par, Jason Hodgson with a nett 71. The first division was won by Callum Bowyer on countback from Guy Bolsover with a nett 74.

The monthly stableford was held over 14 holes with Jamie Mayes winning the second division with 30 points and Graeme Eadie the first with 29 points. The last competition of the year, was the end of year Waltz, with Callum Bowyer, Marco Derosa and Cameron McKinnon winning with 80 points. Six points clear of the field.

January's competitions began with a 4bbb, the Saturday one was won by Anthony Wilkes and Jamie Townsend with 35 points.

The Sunday version by Cameron McKinnon and Nick Warboys on 42 points. The bi-annual match between the members and the greenkeepers and staff took place in January with the greenkeepers winning again 5 - 2. The summer game will be held in early July with a BBQ to follow, where hopefully I'll get some revenge.

The monthly stableford was won by Chris Hankins with 34 points and in division two Terry Tibbs with 33 points.

Finally the last one, was the January medal. Over 14 holes, Peter Black won the second division with a nett 52 and Ryan Collins the first with a nett 54.





## Captain's Report - continued

We held our annual AGM and presentation evening in December, thank you for all that came along, I'm hoping to include some photos of the winners throughout the year in this newsletter.

We have quite a busy year ahead with competitions and matches. A lot of hours has gone into planning and completing the diary, most of them by Tony Shillcock who I must thank immensely. There are now printed copies in the Pro shop and by the computer in the bar, kindly produced by Colin Stanyon, for your use. It's also online on the club's website.

Talking of matches, if you wish to play in the leagues or the friendly games, the sheets are up in the Pro shop for you to enter on.

Competitions coming up in the next month include a Texas Scramble (shotgun start at 9:00). A medal, a stableford and two American Greensomes. Enter on BRS for all of them.

We are looking to hold various social events throughout this year and Sheila Homer and Chris Swan have kindly stepped forward to help organise them. The first one is the MacMillan quiz held on the 28th February. There is still room for a few more teams to enter and we are also looking for prizes for the raffle. More details can be found on the posters around the clubhouse.

This year I will try to include relevant rules as they come up. Which brings me onto preferred lies. The correct ruling is, you may clean and place your ball within six inches, not nearer the hole, when it comes to rest on the fairway. (Not the rough and not a scorecard or a club length, most of us should know what six inches is.)





## Captain's Report - continued

The other ruling concerns tyre tracks. This is a local rule which we do not have at Oundle. So you must play your ball as it lies with no relief. Stops any confusion and with the tyre tracks in the rough only, you would only be dropping your ball in a worse position.

I hope to again continue with my battle to get my handicap back down to single figures this year. This month hasn't started too well, even though it was just a 0.1 increase, it has put me into division two. So I begin my quest on 12.9 with almost a full year to attack it.

Speak soon and see you out on the course, happy golfing.

Chris Dix OundleGC Captain.



## Senior Captain's Report

I trust you all had a good Christmas and wishing you all a belated Happy New Year.

The Seniors Committee held a meeting on 16th December 2024 and welcomed three new committee members, John Lynch as Treasurer, Paul Kime as Vice Captain and Doug Walker as Greens Representative. Hopefully you will all have received a copy of the minutes and will have read and are happy with what was discussed and agreed.

This newsletter covers two months on this occasion, December and January, and during this time we have had a number of competitions, and I think we have only had to cancel one due to bad weather. These are the competitions that took place along with the winners:-

- Monday 2nd December – American Greensomes. Winners – John Foster & Ted Jones – 43 points
- Monday 9th December – Winter Stableford Round 4. Winner - Anthony Marriott - 30 points (14 holes)
- Monday 16th December – Christmas Comp. Winner - Peter Turner - 36 points
- Monday 13th January 4BBB. Winners - Peter Turner & Merv Price - 40 points. (it should be noted that their combined age is 174 years). Puts the rest of us so called seniors to shame!
- Monday 20th January Winter Stableford Round 5. Winner - John Foster - 36 points
- Wednesday 22nd January American Greensomes. Winners – Chris Dix & Malcolm Alder – 40 points







## Senior Captain's Report - continued

We also had a Christmas Comp with the Women's Section with a meal afterwards and the winners of this were Rob Darby, Colin Brown, Ros Riley and Pat Wilkinson.

There was a Greenkeepers Challenge on Wednesday 8th January which was again won by the Staff team.

There are a number of competitions in February which can be entered via BRS or the entry sheet on the seniors notice board. Please do put your names down and get involved. We also have a roll up with a difference on Monday February 17th. This will be a shotgun start and we will have a lunch afterwards. This is being trialled as a replacement for our breakfast roll ups. Again please get your name down on the entry sheet.

It won't be long until the availability sheets will appear on the notice board for our matches in April (all of which are away) and for the Northants Seniors KO for which we are yet to be notified of our first opponents. Please look out for these, put your name down to enable me to include you in the team for one or more of the matches.

Finally I was made aware of a mistake in the Seniors Diary. The Seniors Club Championship is on Wednesday 20th August and not Monday 20th. Thank you to the eagle eyed senior who spotted this. (I always seem to manage at least one mistake in the diaries each year.)

Brace yourself for a bit more winter weather, enjoy your golf. Spring is now not to far away.

Colin Stanyon





## Women's Section Report

Hi everyone – happy new year to you all. I took over as the Captain of the Women's Section at our AGM last November – this is my 3rd stint as Captain – so I must have enjoyed the first 2! Actually I did – I loved it.

So, our organisation for this year is as follows. Although we still have our list of jobs that everyone is doing and we still have a slightly adapted Constitution for our Section, we have a committee of 4 people this year which meets every month, and our Full Section meetings are to be held every 3 months instead of every month as we did last year. So far it is working – we have had 2 committee meetings, and those minutes are posted to all members by email plus a copy is in the file in the clubhouse. The first Full Section meeting is to be Tuesday February 18th after golf.

On Friday 3rd January a large group of members said a fond farewell to two of our members – Barry and Gerry Robson who moved to near Leamington Spa. A buffet lunch was enjoyed by all followed by a presentation of a bottle of champagne and a voucher from the money collected from members. Both Barry and Gerry will be hugely missed by the Ladies, Seniors and Mixed Sections in particular, and we would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to the running of OGC for the past 23 years.

We are looking forward to the golfing and social events of 2025 with great enthusiasm. Please can I implore you all to support the social events which are being planned this year. It is one of the advantages of being a Club member to be able to meet socially as well as on the course and make friends.

Happy golfing everyone.  
Veronica Lyon



## Greenkeeper Report

Hello everyone,

Hoping you all had a good Christmas and New Year, time seems to fly by so quick as we enter another golfing year, we are excited going into this year and the years ahead to the improvements that we will be making to the course in the coming years, we will be working closely with NGU over the changes that are made and any alterations regarding slope ratings etc, within the next couple of months we will have a hole by hole guide as to what changes we will be making and this will be shared to the membership so you can all see what is planned and what we intend on doing to make Oundle golf club the course everyone wants to play.

You will see a few staffing changes over the next couple of months too, we will be going up to 4 fulltime members of staff along with the help from the members work party this will allow us to produce and improve the course going forward, our first new staff member has started and he is Oscar Tansley, Oscar has come from Woburn golf club and he will be a trainee greenkeeper with us in his short time working as a greenkeeper he already is showing a high level of attention to detail and work ethic.

Id like to thank Charlie underwood for all the help he has done for us without that help things would have been much harder and its great we still will be seeing him around the course, also the help over the last few months that we have had from Rory potter and Oli cruise too young lads and members that really got stuck into things and made it a joy to work with them.



## Greenkeeper Report

As for around the course well the weather has been very up and down which seems the norm now, where we can to still produce the surfaces that we want to for the members we have, we have done a lot of tree work opening up areas of the course to enhance the courses beauty as well as to let in more light and air and make the course play even better, the pond on the 5th is still requiring some work which the weather dictates when we can do it until it is done the pond is g.u.r and golfers are asked to use the drop zones or nearest point of relief.

Finally thank you members for adhering to the 90-degree rule as I'm sure you can see the fairways look clean which means come spring we can make them look and play even better so thanks.

Until next month enjoy your golfing.

Ian Robins  
Head Greenkeeper



## Catering Report

So Christmas is now a distant memory. I hope you all had a wonderful break with both friends and family.

As the weather hasn't been great we don't have much to report from the catering side.

I do have a favour to ask from our captains. Nes kindly does the rota for the bar and catering and it covers 2 months. Is it possible you can give as much warning for meals as we do rely heavily on volunteers so it can be quite difficult to fill the gaps if volunteers aren't forthcoming. This may sound a bit picky but it would be a great help to us and it makes it easier to accommodate your requests. Apart from that I don't really have a lot to report. Hopefully this will change as the weather changes.

Best wishes

The Catering Team



## Professional News

It is still very much the 'off' season but what better time to upgrade your equipment and game ready for Spring!

The response to my winter lesson deal has been fantastic so I would like to say thank you to those who have signed up. As you can imagine there are some pretty quiet days in the golf shop over the winter, so taking a couple of hours out to help you with your game has been a pleasure. If you would still like to take up the offer of a lesson every week until the end of March for £125, I still have a couple of slots free.

For those considering new equipment please remember that I will price match with all the online stores and can usually get everything within a week. I understand that it is sometimes easier to just click a button but I would really appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a more personal service.

Finally I am pleased to say that I have just finalised the Nine & Dine dates for 2025 with the first event on March 21st. We will take a vote on the first clinic and meal so please send through any requests.

### FEB SHOP SPECIALS

- SPEND £75 AND RECEIVE A FREE DOZEN SRIXON BALLS WORTH £21.95\*
- All SKECHERS shoes still £75!
- Ball & Glove deal - £32.50

### WINTER LESSON SPECIAL

- Take a 30 min lesson every week until the end of March for £125 (Value £264)



## Operations Report

Hi and welcome to my first newsletter as the new Operations manager. Firstly I'd like to thank the outgoing Ops man Malcolm. He has left some pretty big boots to fill. In a short time I've got to know Mal through the handover and I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying that he will be missed (apart from some of his jokes). Mal, we look to welcome you back any time and wish you and Jenny luck in your new life on the south coast.

I won't bore you with an introduction suffice to say that it's nice to get the grey cells going again after a long time out of any such role. There is a lot happening which I'd like to update you on so here goes.

Firstly you will notice that the beers have changed in the bar. Early signs are that Cruz Campo and Heineken 0 have gone down well. More changes to come includes a rethink on the bar menu and introducing a specials board. The key here is to optimise the use of stock and to ensure we are selling food and not storing it which ultimately leads to waste. For sure whatever the team put together it will be tasty and make full use of what we have available.

Now a thorny subject, the temperature in the bar. Firstly, apologies to anyone who has felt uncomfortable with the room temperatures. It has taken me a little while to get my head around what is going on. There are two main reasons for this. One, thanks to Tony Shilcock for pointing this out, is that the doors behind the bar to the kitchen and the cellar need to be kept shut at all times. As fire doors this is a given. By doing this the cold air from the cellar will not be drawn up into the bar area.





## Operations Report - continued

The second reason is that the radiators which are set must be left and not played with. I totally understand the desire to change them when it's cold but it throws out the room settings hence adding to the problem. We will be locking the rad settings and keeping doors closed. Hopefully this will solve the problem. With any luck we have seen the back of the worst weather, fingers crossed.

One final piece of housekeeping.....it's been mentioned that the member area carpets and bar area are at times caked in mud making it difficult to clean. Could I ask please that we remember to knock off the worst of the mud. We host visitors regularly and first impressions are essential. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

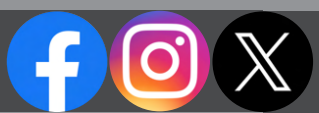
Well that is about enough from me. Wishing you all success on the course and in the bar!

Paul Kane  
Operations Manager





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JANUARY