

# OXLEY GOLF CLUB

## CLUB OF THE MONTH ›



### David Newbery

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In 2002, Oxley Golf Club caught the eye of Golf Management Australia (Qld) and was voted Club of the Year.

Fast forward 17 years and the popular club, in Brisbane's western suburbs and just 15 kilometres from the heart of the city, continues to flourish and is this month's Club of the Month.

In some ways, Oxley Golf Club flies under the radar but it certainly punches well above its weight.

Any golfer lucky enough to call themselves a member of the historic 91-year-old club proudly calls it their "second home".

And who could blame them?

From the time you enter the car park, and long before you reach the clubhouse, the welcome and friendly greetings from members and staff is evident.

Oxley Golf Club has a great history and derived its name from one of Australia's greatest explorers, John Oxley.

In fact, Oxley's distinctive mermaid motif was chosen by the club because John Oxley's home base was HM Cutter Mermaid.

Established in 1928, Oxley GC started out as a nine-hole course with the second nine holes completed in 1937.

The layout lasted until 1955 when it was changed to accommodate the position of the new clubhouse in 1957.

Golf operations manager James King told **Inside Golf** that Oxley Golf Club was well-known for its culture and spirit.

"Our brand promise is 'Quality, Engagement and Experience,'" he said.

"That starts with management, the board and staff and filters down to members and visitors.

"We want to make sure members are appreciated so we provide them with the best quality possible, our engagement, and an experience they'll remember.

"We want to make sure that we engage with our members and guests so that they'll remember their round at Oxley Golf Club.

"We aim to provide the best possible quality golf course and a positive experience and we want golfers to know they are appreciated.

"One of the nice things at the club is the camaraderie of the members, who take pride in their club."

Since arriving at the club in 2017, general manager Brett Holland has worked tirelessly with his staff to make sure members and guests receive first-class service.

Under his leadership, there is a push to make the condition of the golf course at Oxley one of the best in the state.

Instrumental in the club's success is superintendent Glenn Beauclerc, who joined the club nine months ago.

Since his appointment, there has been a noticeable difference to the condition and look of the course.

"People keep commenting on how good the condition of the course is," King said.

Oxley has always been known for producing excellent greens ever since course designer Ross Watson reshaped and converted the putting surfaces from couch to Bermuda 328 in 1978.

Beauclerc has taken the greens to a new level courtesy of fortnightly spoon-feeds and monthly preventative fungicide applications.

The greens are cut to three millimetres daily and rolled three times a week.

"Glenn has introduced an eight millimetre step-cut around the greens whereas previously it was almost fairway length and the fairways have been stripped and look great," King said.

"The club recently invested in a new Toro Groundmaster 4700-wide area rough mower, which has greatly increases productivity and morale.

"The tee blocks have been reshaped and height-reduced to eight millimetres and the gardens around the tee blocks have been given a new lease of life with replanting and pruning."

In recent times, Oxley GC has appointed a qualified horticulturist and irrigation technician to head up the beautification program.

They are ably assisted by an active, happy band of volunteers who dutifully turn up every Tuesday to ensure the golf course and surrounds have that postcard look.

It's another reason why Oxley Golf Club has become a popular wedding venue.

Moreover, the quality and condition of the golf course hasn't escaped the attention of the state's golfing authorities, who have appointed Oxley as host club of the Queensland Men's Stroke Play Championship in August.

It's another feather in the cap for the club that hosted the 2010 Australian interstate series.

One of the unique features of the Oxley golf course is it's divided by Boundary Road with the clubhouse and five holes (7, 8, 9, 17 and 18) on one side of the road and the remaining 13 holes on the southern side of road.

Recently the club received an assurance from the Brisbane City Council that there won't be an upgrade to Boundary Road and that means the layout will be unaffected.

Oxley's formidable championship layout boasts five separate tee blocks that stretch to 6240m (black), 6089m (blue), 5822m (white), 5418m (red) and 5263m (yellow).

The Slope Ratings are 124, 123, 117, 124 and 123 respectively.

The course has many excellent holes, but arguably it's the 551m par-5 12th that will leave a lasting memory.

It's a long rolling hole that doglegs left and is one of the most talked about holes at Oxley.

Trees hug the entire length of the left side of the fairway.

While the tee shot is important the second shot will almost decide your fate.

Hit a good second shot and you'll be left with an 8-, 9-iron or wedge to the green.



The 397m par-4 15th and the 410m par-4 16th are two of the toughest holes on the course.

Golfers of all levels will certainly enjoy the challenge of taking on these make-or-break holes.

The charm and history of the golf course is noticeable when stepping into the two-storey clubhouse.

The walls are covered with photographs, while cabinets are filled with trophies dating back decades.

It adds to the welcoming and friendly atmosphere in and around the club.

The clubhouse has three function areas and an outdoor entertainment area. One of the function rooms can host as many as 120 guests – perfect for large weddings and corporate days.

For members and visiting golfers, the deck overlooking the ninth green is a popular gathering spot after a round.

It's here where friendly banter can be heard along with "if only" stories.

The pro shop is run by PGA professional Channon Ryan along with former touring pro Andrew Duffin.

As pro shop owner, Ryan maintains a fully-stocked shop, quick turnaround club repairs, provides lessons, sells range balls and holds regular club-fitting days.

The popular coach has been at the club for seven years and he and his staff are enthusiastic and upbeat, which is reflected by their popularity around the club.

The club also boasts a large locker room with full amenities.

Juniors and ladies too are well catered for when it comes to clinics and individual lessons.

The driving range features an under-cover area with artificial turf.

Next month Oxley will take delivery of a brand-new fleet of lithium battery-operated golf carts featuring 10-inch GPS.

"It's really exciting to see all these improvements," King said.

"Oxley welcomes visiting golfers and membership is open in all categories," King added.

"We have a competition every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and they are open to visitors with a Golf Australia handicap.

"Generally field sizes on Saturdays reach 220 players, but no one misses out on getting a game.

"We have both of men and women playing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. "As many as 50 women play in the Wednesday and Saturday comps.

"We can accommodate up to 260 players and we marshal the field to ensure pace of play is brisk."

Traditionally on one Friday each month members have the opportunity to reserve a booking for their group at what the club calls "Sheet Night".

"It just adds to the culture and camaraderie of the club," King added.

"There is trivia, raffles, an optional dinner and the president addresses the members with information of upcoming events and things that are happening around the club.

"Most recently a member had an albatross and a hole-in-one on consecutive holes and that certainly reverberated around the club."

All in all, Oxley Golf Club has a friendly, proper feel with its members always finding an excuse to spend more time at the club.


The members' hospitality is overwhelming as they are a genuine bunch of golf-loving golfers who relish hearing feedback on their golf course and club.

That's because mostly it's high praise.

Many members have called the club home for decades and that's generally a sign they are content and enjoy playing a challenging layout week in, week out.

For out-of-town golfers, Oxley Golf Club may not be as well-known as other Brisbane clubs, but it remains a course every golfer should visit simply because of its long history, unique layout and excellent facilities.

Oxley Golf Club is located at 290 Boundary Road, Oxley Qld 4075.

For further information on membership, green fees, wedding functions call the club on (07) 3379-6322 or go to the website at [www.oxleygolfclub.com.au](http://www.oxleygolfclub.com.au) 



## Membership Open

Oxley Golf Club situated in Brisbane South West and just a 25mins drive from the CBD boasts a renowned Par 72 Championship layout. Amongst some of the best greens in South East Qld members enjoy a social atmosphere with friendly staff and great service.

*Celebrating more than 90 years*



**Host venue QLD Mens Stroke Play Championships**



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