



# *The Vale*

## Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

[www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)

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Edition 33, December 2016

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### **Comment**

The Editor thanks all readers for continuing to take an interest in, and read, *The Vale*. He would welcome input from readers as well – whether in manuscript or by email – make it a New Year Resolution!

Please note that there will not be a January issue of *The Vale*.

## **N.B. Christmas Day – Course and Clubhouse are Closed!**

### **News and Updates from the Club Management**

We wish all members a very happy Christmas and great golf in the new year! This seems an appropriate time to thank Lance for his 'Vale' compilations each month. The next issue will be 1 February 17 as Lance takes a well-earned Christmas break!

### Course Matters

The drainage work around the 6<sup>th</sup> green is now complete. The new 5<sup>th</sup> tee is also finished and turfed.

Additional winter projects include re-surfacing the 17<sup>th</sup> tee, re-surfacing and extending the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee and putting out a new set of ladies tee markers. The greenkeepers are currently setting in the concrete bases for the ladies' markers to go in.

We are also verti-draining the fairways once again this winter. At the date of writing the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> have been verti-drained.

Buggies. Some of the buggies have been returned to the depot, but not all. This feature is being written several days in advance of 1 December but the forecast still looks dry, the course is currently dry and hence there is every chance that buggies will still be on the course into December.

Members' Loyalty Cards (White Cards). Apologies for the fact that the white cards were only working in the bar and not the shop. This turned out to be a Windows problem that the system operator has now corrected and hence you can now use the cards in the shop again.

### Forthcoming Dates

Saturday 3 December – Mens' Turkey Trot

Sunday 4 December – Ladies Medal 08:45 – 09:30  
AVGC v Chartridge Park 10:00—10:30

Wednesday 7 December – Ladies Xmas 9-hole comp + lunch

Saturday 10 December – Ladies Bring and Win

Saturday 10 December – Seniors Prize Presentation

Sunday 11 December – Mens' Medal

Sunday 18 December – Heinz's 3-course Christmas Roast (turkey or gammon) served from 1:30 p.m. Please book in the downstairs bar.

The only day that we close is 25 December.

*Chris Wright*

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### **Rules of Golf**

#### Definition – 'Casual Water'

From time to time play at AVGC and elsewhere is permitted even when snow and/or ice are present on the ground. Knowledge of the following definition regarding snow and ice may be helpful.

In the Rules of Golf, 'Casual Water' is defined as '*...any temporary accumulation of water on the course that is not in a water hazard and invisible before or after the player takes his stance. Snow and natural ice, other than frost, are either casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player....dew and frost are not casual water.*'

#### **Tip of the Month from your Head PGA Professional, Russell Phillips**

As the cold wet weather is now upon us, the greens have softened and the ball is not travelling as far. Play your approach shots with care. This time of year an extra club will enable you to pitch the ball on the green and stop quickly; don't be short. If the ground hardens due to ice you may find a club less is required.

Play with a harder compound ball to maximise the distance, as soft balls have little use at this time of year. A hard compound ball will often be labelled 'Distance'.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to working with you to improve your game in 2017!

*Russell*

## Christmas Vouchers – Lessons with Russell Phillips

**£20 gift voucher** - for 1 x 30min one-to-one lesson

**£50 gift voucher** - for 3 x 30min one-to-one lessons

There are only a limited number of these vouchers available from the pro shop so don't miss out! Vouchers must be purchased before 24 December.



## Lesson Offers – December & January - from Terry Bunyan

4 x 1hr lessons + 9-hole playing lesson:

Normally £228...offer price £160

### Winter Game Improvement Plan...best offer ever!

12 hrs of coaching, normally £504; prepay offer price £299.

Plus, plus get a further 9-hole playing lesson (worth £60) FREE!

Just call Terry on 07588 272322

## Mens' Changing Room - Lockers

As many of you know we have been looking into upgrading the lockers in the mens' changing rooms. We have now placed the order for them to be installed during the week commencing 9 January 2017.

2016 Locker holders: If you currently have a locker, could we please request that you ensure that it is fully **cleared out by 24 December** (any that aren't will be cleared out by the contractor!).

2017 Locker holders:

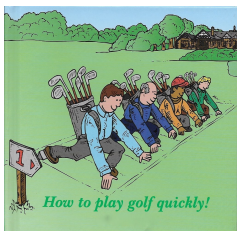
If you have submitted a form and requested a locker for 2017, then the initial payment is required by 16 December (as per details in the correspondence). If you are unsure of how much to pay or how to pay it, please contact Stephen Montague by email on [sdmontague@btinternet.com](mailto:sdmontague@btinternet.com) or phone 07880 720321.

We still have a few lockers for 2017 that are not yet allocated. If anyone who requires a locker hasn't already requested one, then please contact Stephen Montague (details above) ASAP.

We do apologise for the obvious disruption there is going to be to the changing rooms at the end of December and beginning of January. We aim to keep this to a minimum, but ask that everyone is tolerant of this as ultimately we will have much improved facilities at the end of the project.

Finally, if anyone is interested in taking any of the old metal lockers please contact Andrew Ashcroft on 07808 939597 to discuss further.

## How to Play Golf Quickly (5)



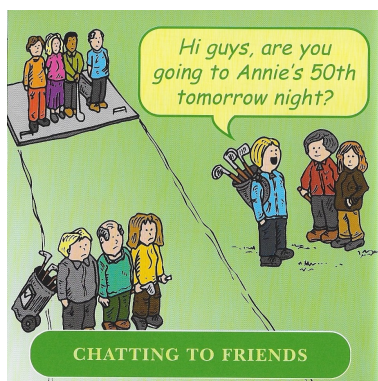
In this fifth and final part of *How to Play Golf Quickly*, we look at yet more quick tips regarding time wasters. We hope that our readers have found the tips both amusing and helpful!

John Timpson, the author of this book, has given the Editor permission to publish extracts from his book in *The Vale*.



### So Slow

Some people simply don't get on with the game – here are more of the things that hold them up.



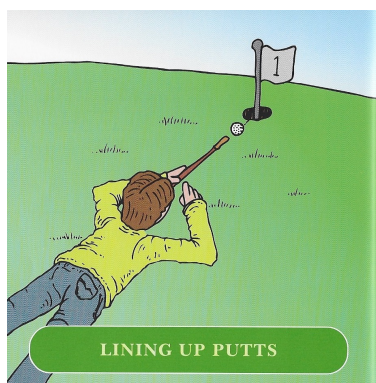
### Far too Social

Some people walk across two fairways simply to say hello. Save time and keep your conversation to the Clubhouse



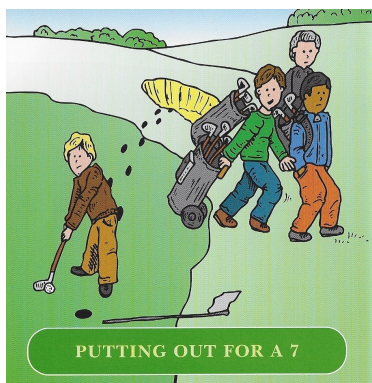
### Cover Up

Cautious golfers change into waterproofs at the slightest sign of wet weather, but waterproofs waste a lot of time. If it rains, put up your umbrella and if it becomes a deluge, walk back to the Clubhouse.



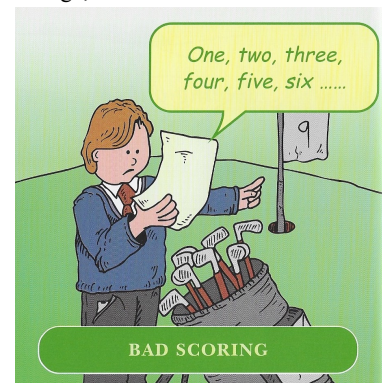
### Town Hall Clocks

Some people look as if they are playing in the Open Championship. Studying the line from every angle takes a lot of time when you take 42 putts to the round.



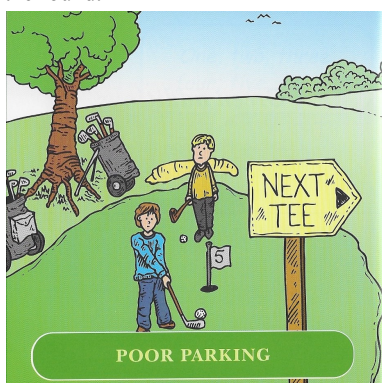
### Holeing Out

Some golfers insist on putting when the hole is well and truly lost. Save the putt for the next hole – when it might matter.



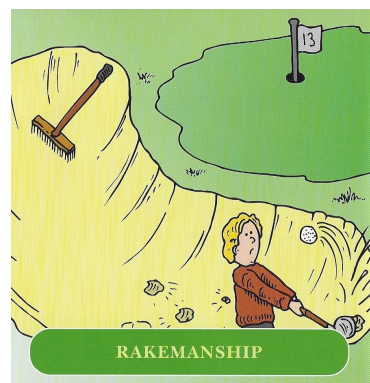
### Green Additions

Good golfers know the score. Clear the green before you fill in your score card.



### Thoughtlessness

Think ahead.  
Always leave your clubs en-route to the next tee.



### Sense in the Sand

Before playing a bunker shot, collect the rake and place it nearby – that way you won't spend so long in the bunker.





## Men

### A Word from the Captain

Well 2016 has nearly come and gone, in almost a blink of an eye. It's frightening how quickly years pass us by.

It's quite easy to forget how bad the weather was at the beginning of the year, the wettest, mildest winter on record, and how good Aylesbury Vale GC is now currently playing. The greenkeepers have had a tremendously difficult season but I would like to thank them all for their hard work. Well done guys.

A big thank you to Andy Ashcroft and Steve Montague for heading the locker project team. The lockers are now ordered and I look forward to seeing the new lockers installed in early January.

The Chiltern Breakfast League winter knockout match had to be rearranged due to Chartridge Park being closed. The new fixture will now take place on Sunday 4 December, so good luck to all those that take part.

Competitions have been well supported this year and I encourage all members, for whatever reasons, that don't play competitive golf, to join in. We have three very well run Sections in the Mens, Ladies and Seniors with hard working Committees providing competitions throughout the year. It's a great way to meet new people and get to know the friendly environment Aylesbury Vale is famous for.

The festive period is nearly upon us so I'd like to wish current Captains, Jan, Bob and Reece, management and members of Aylesbury Vale GC a very happy Christmas and a very healthy new year.

*Adrian Fallon*

The November midweek Medal saw four players all score 34 points, but it was Steve Willett who took the honours on countback from Graham Freshwater and George Cowley. Chris Thorogood just missed out on the prize money in fourth place.

The November monthly Medal saw over 70 players take part and it was Shaun Houghton with a nett 69 who won Division 1. Clayton Barlow (nett 71) was second with Matt Lea (nett 72) third. Nick Ward was the winner in Division 2, also with a nett 69. Phil Jelley took second place on countback from Andre Lotter, both players recording nett 71s. Mark Westbrook came out on top in Division 3, his nett 73 beating Andrew Pearce by a shot, with Terry Lock a further shot back in third.

### Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
5 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Shaun Houghton nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Clayton Barlow nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Matthew Lea nett 72	1 <sup>st</sup> : Nick Ward nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Phil Jelley nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Andre Lotter nett 71	1 <sup>st</sup> : Mark Westbrook nett 73 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Pearce nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Terry Lock nett 75

Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Steve Willett 34 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Graham Freshwater 34 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Graham Cowley 34 Pts		
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## Seniors

### A Word from the Seniors' Captain

The weather is now well on the turn towards our winter climate, but I have to say that the course is still in great condition. We are now well into the planning phase for next year's calendar and this will be finalised over the next two months. By the time you see my next contribution to the Newsletter, Christmas and New Year will have come and gone. So I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

### Winter League

The only Winter League match played during the past month was away to Weston Turville. We had beaten them at home the previous month in a closely fought contest. The match at their place was also very close, but we narrowly lost 2:4. Congratulations to David Needs with Peter Lawrence for their win and also to Peter Nightingale with Mark Leech and Hugh Froud with Tony Deall for their halves.

The only other match scheduled for last month was away against Chartridge Park. This match, which in previous years was played in February, had been changed to play in November to get better weather. It was rained off!! The best laid plans and all that.

Seniors Presentation Evening. The Seniors' Presentation Evening will take place on Saturday 10 December. There are still some places left so if you would like to come then please put your names up. It is always a good evening, with great food and dancing and loads of laughs. Give it a go and bring your friends. We have to give the food orders to the Club on 5 December at the latest, so there is not much time left.

'Gotcha' Cards. For the small sum of £5 you can purchase one of these cards and it means that you don't have to put money in the charity box if you go in one of the Captain's Charity Bunkers. All proceeds go to Willen Hospice, our charity for this year. See any Committee member to get one.

### Seniors Committee for Next Year

The next Seniors' AGM will take place in February next year and notices are now on the Seniors' noticeboard. An important part of the AGM is notification of the new Seniors' Committee from 1 April 2017. Sign-up sheets for Committee posts are on the Seniors' noticeboard and so far we have candidates for all but two of the posts. If you would like to apply for any post then please put your name up, with proposer and seconder **even if there is already a name up** for that position. If there is more than one candidate then a vote will be taken at the AGM and those members present will make the choice.

The two posts that are currently vacant are Treasurer and Competition Secretary. Our Seniors' Section, as we currently have it, cannot carry on without a Treasurer. So if you feel inclined to 'give it a go' there are a number of past Treasurers who can help and advise anyone who is interested. As Seniors, we currently enjoy many competitions throughout the year and we recognise that this is a time consuming activity so, if required, we can set up a team of willing helpers to assist the Competition Secretary in carrying out this task. If we don't get a Competition Secretary then the Seniors' Section will be able to continue, but the number and quality of competitions may have to be reduced. If you have any interest in either of these posts and would like more understanding of the roles then please speak to any of the Committee members.

A Final Mention. We have Seniors' Captain's competitions (Roll Ups) on Mondays and Wednesdays and these are normally well attended. On Monday 21 November, the weather was horrendous. Torrential rain and high winds were the order of the day. That morning, most Seniors got up, looked out of the window and went straight back to bed. But we had one member who turned up at the Club and played on his own (albeit only nine holes). So a big 'Well Done' to Larry Cullen for braving the elements.

*Bob Phillips*

### Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter League away match vs Weston Turville 3 November	Lost 2:4
Winter League away match vs Chartridge Park 9 November	Rained off

## Ladies

### A Word from the Lady Captain

Hello everyone,

Well it looks like it has come to that time of year when you have to play when you can, or you could miss out. Hopefully we don't all turn up at the same time!

As you might expect, qualifying matches have slowed down, only Medals being played, of which we had two: the November 7-day Medal, won by Gail Wickersham and the November 5-day Medal won by Ros Barnes. Well done to both of them.

There was also the Barbara Carr Plate which was won by Vanessa Bond. Congratulations to Vanessa.

We do run a monthly Stableford (apart from the monthly free format Stableford). Although due to all bunkers being GUR it became a non-qualifier, it was won by Jane Codrai this month. Well done to Jane.

I would like add that for the time of year, and the amount of rain we had over one weekend, the course held up very well. All thanks to Luke and his boys.

As this is the last issue of *The Vale* until next year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year.

*Jan Chambers*

### Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

30+ handicap competition 2 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hilary Graham 29 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Gina Royffe 26 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Glynis Flack 21 Pts
Weekend Medal 6 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Gail Wickersham nett 70 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sue Bellingham nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Natalie Rendle nett 79
Midweek Stableford 7 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Pat Banister 29 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Julie Merriman 28 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Danka Lawson 27 Pts
Barbara Carr Plate 13 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Vanessa Bond 31 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sheila Perkins 31 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Gail Wickersham 30 Pts
Midweek Medal 16 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Ros Barnes nett 75 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Pat Banister nett 79 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 79
Winter Monthly Stableford 23 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jane Codrai 34 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Pat Banister 31 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Melinda Arthur 31 Pts

Winter Stableford 27 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Vivien Craker 36 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Julie Hoar 35 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sue Bellingham 35 Pts
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## Juniors

Congratulations to Oliver Pearce for completing the final level of the challenge programme. He now progresses up to join the Cadets.

## Pro Shop

### Ping

We have the last few bags left available at 25% off. These are a great Christmas present and are cheaper than you can get online.

AVGC has great pleasure offering you the opportunity to get yourself custom fitted to Ping products. We have a launch monitor as well as all the necessary tools to get you fitted. All fittings cost £50 and can take over an hour. If you purchase any clubs on the day of your fitting you will get the £50 refunded (the fitting is FREE!).

**PING**<sup>®</sup>  
*Play Your Best*<sup>™</sup>



PGA. There is a great opportunity to get children's clubs, as all PGA clubs are 33% off original price. A half set including: bag, driver, hybrid, 3 irons and putter is now only £100. Colours available: lilac, blue and orange. Only available while stock lasts.

MD. Final sale, 50% off Icon Steel Irons, which are now £149. These are a great set of irons at an unbeatable price.

## and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** the Editor and team wish all readers Happy Christmas! May 2017 bring all that you desire and not only what you deserve.

**...and a touch of humour...** Golfer: *'Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?'* Caddy: *'Eventually'*.

*Lance Redler*

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

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### ***What's on This Month and Next?***

(All-Section and Club events are in **bold**)

#### **Men:**

Saturday 3 December – Turkey Trot  
Sunday 4 December – away Breakfast League match vs  
Chartridge Park  
Sunday 11 December – Medal  
**Monday 12 to Friday 16 December Winter Stableford**  
**Monday 26 December – Boxing Day rollup (Stableford)**  
**Sunday 1 January – 9-hole rollup from noon**  
Saturday 7 January – Medal  
**Monday 9 to Sunday 15 January – winter Stableford**

#### **Seniors:**

Monday 5 December – competition  
Wednesday 7 December – competition  
Saturday 10 December - Presentation Night (7pm)  
**Monday 12 to Friday 16 December winter Stableford**  
Monday 12 December – competition  
Wednesday 14 December – competition  
Monday 19 December – competition  
Wednesday 21 December – competition  
**Monday 26 December – Boxing Day rollup (Stableford)**  
Wednesday 28 December – competition  
**Sunday 1 January – 9-hole rollup from noon**  
Monday 2 January – competition  
Wednesday 4 January – competition  
Monday 9 January – competition  
**Monday 9 to Sunday 15 January – winter Stableford**  
Wednesday 11 January – competition  
Monday 16 January – competition  
Wednesday 18 January – competition  
Monday 23 January – competition  
Wednesday 25 January – competition  
Monday 30 January - competition

#### **Ladies:**

Sunday 4 December – Medal  
Monday 5 December – competition  
Wednesday 7 December – competition  
Saturday 10 December – Bring & Win (9 holes)  
**Monday 12 to Friday 16 December- winter Stableford**  
Monday 12 December – competition  
Wednesday 14 December – midweek Medal  
Saturday 17 December – weekend Stableford  
Sunday 18 December – weekend Stableford  
Monday 19 December – competition  
Wednesday 21 December – competition  
**Monday 26 December – Boxing Day rollup (Stableford)**  
Wednesday 28 December – competition  
**Sunday 1 January – 9-hole rollup from noon**  
Monday 2 January – competition  
Wednesday 4 January – competition  
Sunday 8 January – Medal  
Monday 9 January – competition  
**Monday 9 to Sunday 15 January – winter Stableford**  
Wednesday 11 January – midweek Medal  
Monday 16 January – competition

### ***Key Contacts***

#### ***Club Management***

e-mail: [info@avgc.co.uk](mailto:info@avgc.co.uk)  
[www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)  
Tel: 01525 240196

**Memberships/Shop/Tee bookings:** Chris Wright, Tony  
Fleming, Neil Thornalley  
**Restaurant/Functions:** Neil Thornalley, Jason  
Thornalley, Chris Wright  
**Head Chef:** Heinz Simon  
**Head Greenkeeper:** Luke Foley  
**Teaching Professionals:** Russell Phillips 07843 692948  
[r.phillips@avgc.co.uk](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk)  
Terry Bunyan 07588 272322  
[terrygolf1965@gmail.com](mailto:terrygolf1965@gmail.com)

#### ***Men***

**Captain:** Adrian Fallon  
**Vice-Captain:** Andy Bond  
**Treasurer:** Steve Montague  
**Competition Secretary:** Dave Lea  
**Admin Secretary:** Roger White  
**Handicap Secretary:** Neil Garrett  
**5-Day Representative:** Peter Codrai

#### ***Seniors***

**Captain:** Bob Phillips  
**Vice-Captain:** Alan Jackson  
**Treasurer:** Martin Shefford  
**Competition Secretary:** Alan Jackson  
**Admin Secretary:** Mike Ewart  
**Social Member:** Peter Codrai

#### ***Ladies***

**Captain:** Jan Chambers  
**Vice-Captain:** Jane Codrai  
**Treasurer:** Jean Edwards  
**Secretary:** Jane Barker  
**Competition Secretary:** Vivien Craker  
**5-day Competition Secretary:** Judy Fagan  
**Handicap Secretary:** Danka Lawson

#### ***Juniors***

**Captain:** Reece Croft

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**Editor *The Vale*:** Lance Redler (01296) 681286  
[lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk)

#### ***Ladies (cont.)***

Wednesday 18 January – competition  
Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 January – weekend Stableford  
Monday 23 January – competition  
Wednesday 25 January – competition  
Monday 30 January - competition