



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 46, March 2018

Comment

Please come to the Club by 2:00pm on Sunday 25 March to support and witness your Captains' Drive-In. All are welcome to gather in the upstairs bar afterwards to usher the 'old' out and welcome the 'new' in.



News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

The annual project of tree maintenance is now almost complete. There remains some maintenance of the trees along the left hand side of the 8th hole, the conifers then need a tidy up across the course and finally we need to pollard some willows so that they do not sprout and then get blown over in strong winds.

On the course itself we thank you for your patience with trolleys this winter. We try to strike a balance between allowing trolleys when they won't damage the course and banning them when they will. Given average rainfall throughout the year the course drains far better than in the early years, but once the water table rises significantly we just have to wait until it subsides. We still wouldn't swap the soil type overall for chalk/sand, as when we do get severe heat/drought then we retain green grass at a time when other courses don't. Our issues in wet years are thus in winter, rather than having our issues in summer when most golf and major competitions are played.

The next project on the course will be the early spring fertilisation of greens, tees and surrounds. Now that the ground is drying the new tee signage will be put out. There is also a new sign to be erected at the entrance to the Club.

Parking Signage

Many thanks to Steve Burnage for making up new Captains' parking signs. At the same time the greenkeepers have taken the opportunity to smarten up this area. We now have the nearest two parking bays to the Clubhouse as Blue Badge disabled parking bays. Then we have the Captains' bays and next come two disabled bays.

Now that these new signs are in place we ask all members to park in the main car park rather than the staff car park. In the event of an emergency a fire engine or ambulance needs access right up to the Clubhouse.

If you have a blue badge displayed on your windscreen or dashboard then you are welcome to park in one of the Blue Badge bays. We also have members who are not holders of the blue badge, but we know that they cannot walk 18 holes and require a buggy every time that they play. These members are welcome to use one of the two disabled bays that does not have the Blue Badge annotation.

Members Invitation Open Days

If you know of a friend who might like to join the Club, we have two dates when you can invite them for a courtesy round. You can either book a tee time yourself and play with them, or arrange for them to play on their own and have a courtesy time as follows:

Sunday 18 March: Tee off between 12:45 and 13:30
Good Friday 30 March: Tee off between 13:00 and 14:00

We will meet and greet these players before they tee off. If they subsequently join we will add a £25 top up on the white card to the member who introduces any brand new members, starting on 18 March 2018. Our priorities remain attracting membership in preference to 'pay and play' golfers.

We may run a series of these days as we look to replace around 30 membership places that became vacant this winter.

Our research informs us that AVGC remains value for money, typically offering a 7-day membership for at least £250 less than member-run Golf Clubs in this area. Basically the only way to be allowed to spread payments equally across all 12 months will be for continuous membership, which will then enable access to all the membership bonuses such as the SmartGolfer network and discount membership white card.

The date of the ladies' AGM has been rearranged from 27 February to Tuesday 13 March.

Clubhouse Improvements

We have fitted white slat walling throughout the Pro Shop, the stairwell has been decorated, thanks to Jason, Lee and Leo, and the upstairs function room will be painted this month.

We would like to extend our thanks to Brendon Langan for replacing all the lighting in the upstairs room and stairwell with modern, dimmable LED lighting. He has also fitted six speakers across the ceiling upstairs which leads to a much improved sound quality. Dave Lea will no longer need to shout for prize presentations!!

Catering – Sunday Roasts

Heinz is going to put on a roast on Easter Sunday, 1 April, for members and their families. This will be a 2-course roast, served from 1:00pm, at £10.95 per head. Please see the menu and booking sheet in the downstairs bar.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

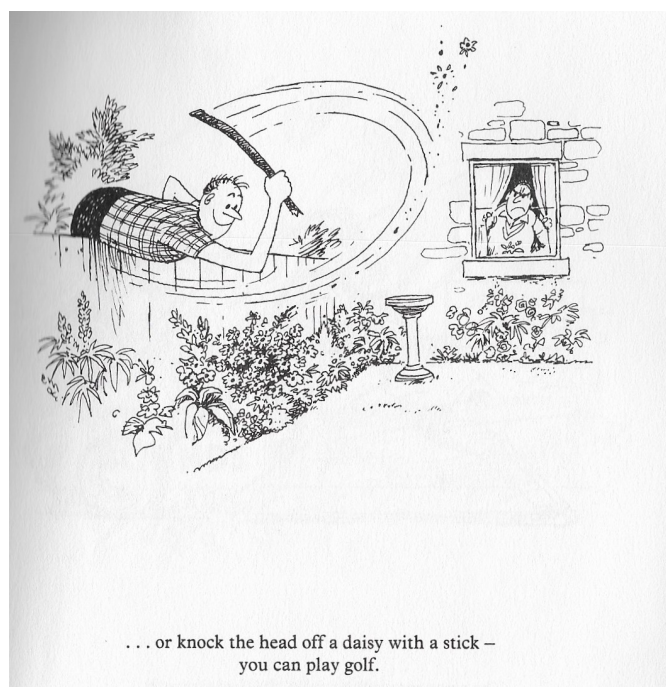
Playing from Wrong Teeing Ground (Rule 11-5) or Outside the Teeing Ground* (Rule 11-4). The rules for a player playing from outside the required teeing ground, which would include the wrong-coloured tee, differ according to whether Match Play or Stroke Play is being used:

- a. Match Play. If a player, when starting a hole, plays a ball from outside the teeing ground there is no penalty, but the opponent may immediately require the player to cancel the stroke and play the ball from within the teeing ground.
- b. Stroke Play. If a competitor, when starting a hole, plays a ball from outside the teeing ground, (s)he incurs a penalty of two strokes and must then play the ball from within the teeing ground.

** 'teeing ground' is the starting place for the hole to be played. It is a rectangular area, two club-lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee-markers. A ball is outside the teeing ground when all of it lies outside the teeing ground*



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Tip of the Month from your Club Professional, Terry Bunyan

This month I would just like to point out three of the most important things that you should try to achieve within your golf swing - things that I try to help with during my lessons on a daily basis. These are all common among the best players:

One: you must learn to release the golf club correctly; that is the hands and forearms should rotate after impact;

Two: you must get the club down. When you start the downswing the arms and club must work down behind you;

Three: you must turn behind the ball. In other words you must stay behind the ball, as moving forward towards the ball from the top of your swing will result in many missed shots.

For further explanation of these three fundamentals and help with your golf swing, call me on 07588 272322.

Group Lesson

Terry Bunyan's next group lesson is on Tuesday 6 March at 10am – on the short game.

Just £12
All are welcome...just turn up

Special March Offer From Terry Bunyan

Spend a Day with the Pro

To include:

1-hour range video lesson
2-hour short game lesson
Chipping, pitching, bunkers, lob shots
Plus 9 hole on-course playing lesson
And debrief and equipment check

Normally £220. Now just £129

Call Terry on 07588 272322

SmartGolfer Membership Cards

All SmartGolfer cards issued by the Club in 2017 expired on 31 December. Did you remember to renew yours?

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain

Quite a different experience last month. The Seniors' Section has always been a blinkered viewpoint of the Men's Section, with some urban myths about really slow play, never letting you through, miserable old bu##ers, etc.etc., but I must say after serving on the Seniors' Committee this last year...what a load of rubbish.

I've done my best to turn out with all the various Sections during my year and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. I have come to the conclusion that every Section has its characters/banter and everyone just wants to have a great round of golf and a good time and I think our glorious Golf Club is perfect for such activities. The Seniors have become such a good Section that the players in the Men's Section can't wait to be 55 years old!

The County organiser contacted me the other day and wondered why our members don't enter any of the various County competitions. They are good value to enter and are open to everyone and it would be great to see someone from AVGC do well.

Not long to go now, still keeping it straight!

Andrew Bond

For the first time since October the Men's Section managed to play a monthly Medal, albeit in very difficult conditions. A very hard frost made holding shots to the green almost impossible, coupled with bitterly cold conditions with the temperature only just above freezing.

In Division 1 Neil Garrett took the honours with a nett 74, one shot ahead of Johnny Frankland. Third place went to Steve Page on countback from Steve Chandler. Division 2 was won by the 'in form' Lee Sarmple with a nett 75, one shot clear of second placed Phil Jelley. Paul Herridge finished in third. A nett 76 was enough to give Neil Meldrum victory in Division 3 with Russell Dunn and Keith Loxton taking the minor places.

With further bad weather forecast for the coming week it is possible the March Medal could be in danger of cancellation. Roll on summer!!

Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
25 February	1 st : Neil Garrett nett 74 2 nd : Johnny Frankland nett 75 3 rd : Steve Page nett 79	1 st : Lee Sarmple nett 75 2 nd : Phil Jelley nett 76 3 rd : Paul Herridge nett 78	1 st : Neil Meldrum nett 76 2 nd : Russell Dunn nett 79 3 rd : Keith Loxton nett 79

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain

No comments on the weather and lack of play from me this month; enough has been said already – if not too much!!

Thank you for the huge turnout for the AGM; it was fantastic to see so many attending.

It is excellent to see so many of the Men reaching a 'certain age' and wanting to take part in Seniors' events. After the necessary checks for age verification, some teeth, zimmer frame licence, etiquette test (we don't want the Men's bad habits in our Section, please), speed of play and general vetting (not in an animal husbandry way!), we have allowed some to enter the hallowed portals of AVGC Seniors' golf. A big thank you to those who made the grade and stepped forward to play with us.

The new Captain's sign's (*sic*) with the plugged ball landscaping in the car park make the area very attractive. Let's hope that the signs are more resistant to careless reversing; perhaps now that the Men's Captain has changed his tank for something more suited to his age, they may be at less risk.

Competitions

The two competitions this month saw nailbiting finishes, with the potential winner in the Clubhouse being pipped at the post by a member of the last group on count-back.

Congratulations to Mickey Parslow for winning the AGM Cup; Mr Simons had to wait a long time to lose. Both Martin Shefferd and Mike Bishop secured 'Twos'.

Peter Arthur showed off his shiny new handicap by winning the Winter 6(5), with Mike Bender having to wait for hours to come only second – very close count-back, down to the last 3!! Both Mike and Peter took the 'Twos' as well.

Inter-Club Matches

Despite the late transfer in of two lower handicap 'Men' reaching Seniors' standards, we lost our match of the month – the Winter League match against Little Hay (away).

Not much longer to go!!

Mark Leech

Seniors' AGM

A copy of the Minutes of the AGM held on 7 February, together with the revised Seniors' Constitution that was approved at the AGM, can be seen in the document box on the window ledge in the changing room.

The Seniors' Committee for 2018, that assumes office on 1 April, is:

Seniors' Captain: Dave Simons
Seniors' Vice-Captain: Larry Goddard
Treasurer: Keith Loxton
Admin Secretary: Lance Redler
Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Social Secretary: Peter Codrai
Members: Dave Friend, Bob Phillips
Immediate Past Seniors' Captain: Mark Leech
Men's Captain: (to be elected at the Men's AGM on 3 March)

Inter-Club Matches – Wednesdays

Some irritation was expressed by a couple of members during the post-AGM discussion about the perceived adverse effect on Wednesday 'rollups' of Seniors' inter-Club home matches, causing the 1st tee to be closed at 8:45am. An analysis of the Club calendar for the coming season shows the effect to be very limited.

For matches in 2018 the first tee will be closed at 8:45am, on Wednesdays: twice in April, twice in May, not at all in June or July, once in August, once in September and once in October. Two other Wednesday matches commence an hour later and the remaining two home matches are booked for a Monday and a Thursday. Your Committee does not consider that this small number of closures is either unreasonable or particularly restricts Seniors' opportunity to play, given daylight hours and the length of the season during which members can play.

Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

AGM Cup 7 February	1 st : Mickey Parslow 37 Pts 2 nd : Dave Simons 37 Pts 3 rd : Mike Bender 34 Pts
Winter Six (5) 12 February	1 st : Peter Arthur 38 Pts 2 nd : Mike Bender 38 Pts 3 rd : Mickey Parslow 35 Pts
Winter League away match vs Little Hay 20 February	Lost 1½:4½

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain

February has been a very quiet month with all competitions cancelled due to bad weather. However, some ladies have played their knockouts in poor conditions and all the deadlines have been met. Whilst February has been a quiet month, there is much to look forward to on the golfing calendar:

7 March: 'warm up 10:00-12:00 with Russell;
13 March: Ladies' AGM;
23 March: Presentation Night;
24 March: Captains' Drive-In.

and of course there's a full golfing calendar for 2018/2019.

Jane Codrai

Juniors

Easter Open Days



These days are designed for all children aged between 6-11 and of any ability to have a fun day learning how to play golf (even if its for the first time!). This is a special Easter Egg theme where children will have the chance to win some Easter eggs! Children will be organized into teams and get the opportunity to win team events throughout the day. Registration starts at 10:00am and the day concludes with a presentation of all the prizes at approximately 4:00pm. They do not need their own equipment to take part, however if they have any they should bring it along and clothing worn should be smart.

The whole day includes lunch (nuggets, chips and beans) and costs just £30 per child! Juniors who are Blue Tee members will get 10% off and Juniors who are full red tee members will get 20% off.

The Juniors Open Days run from 10:00am – 4:00pm and are on:

Monday 2 April 2018 and Monday 9 April 2018

You must book your child's place by contacting Russell Phillips on 07843 692948 or email r.phillips@avgc.co.uk.

Pro Shop

New Grips in the Shop!

Did you know that the life span of a grip is 16 months and that any worn down grips where dents and tears are present breach the Rules! New grips could be the answer to saving you a few shots a round.

Golf Pride's **new** Align ribbed grip is available in standard white, plus four grey and both in midsize, at £15 per grip fitted (remember that you get your members' discount of 10% per grip and save a further 10% if you get more than 10 grips replaced in one go). Look out for these new grips in the shop.



Deal of the Month



As Russell Phillips is changing to Golf Pride, he has a number of Lamkin and Black Widow grips going for half price, whilst stocks last: Lamkin Crossline @ £7.50 per grip are **now £3.75 per grip!** Available in Standard and Midsize.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... If you thought that golf in the rain this winter was tough, have a thought for wartime golfers at the Richmond (N. Yorks) Golf Club in 1940, whose temporary local rules read:

RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

TEMPORARY RULES. 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

...and a touch of humour... Golfer: *'I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course.'* Caddy: *'Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth.'*

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month and Next?

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

Men:

Saturday 3 March – Medal (shotgun start 0800)
Saturday 3 March – AGM 1330 approx
Saturday 10 March – Zodiac Texas Scramble 0745-0945
Monday 12 to Friday 16 March – Midweek Medal
Sunday 18 March – Spring Mixed Foursomes 0845-1000
Saturday 24 March – Presentation Dinner 1900
Sunday 25 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400
Monday 26 March – competition 0830-1000
Monday 26 to Friday 30 March – Midweek Stableford
Saturday 7 April – Burcott Trophy 0745-1015
Sunday 8 April – Medal 0645-1130
Monday 9 to Friday 13 April – Midweek Medal
Sunday 15 April – CBL home match vs Chartridge Park 0945-1100
Monday 23 to Friday 27 April – Midweek Stableford
Saturday 28 April – Committee Cup 0745-1000

Seniors:

Monday 5 March – competition 0830-1000
Tuesday 6 March – Winter League home match vs Chartridge Park
Wednesday 7 March – competition 0830-1000
Monday 12 March – Winter Six (6) 0830-1000
Monday 12 to Friday 16 March – Midweek Medal
Wednesday 14 March – competition 0830-1000
Monday 19 March – competition 0830-1000
Wednesday 21 March – competition 0830-1000
Sunday 25 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400
Monday 26 to Friday 30 March – Midweek Stableford
Wednesday 28 March – competition 0830-1000
Wednesday 4 April – home match vs Beadlow Manor 0900-1000
Monday 9 April – Medal (1) 0730-1000
Monday 9 to Friday 13 April – Midweek Medal
Tuesday 10 April – away match vs Weston Turville 0900-1000
Wednesday 11 April – Captain's competition 0815-1000
Monday 16 April – Summer Six (1) 0730-1000
Wednesday 18 April – home match vs Mount Pleasant 0900-1000
Monday 23 April – Captain's competition 0815-1000
Monday 23 to Friday 27 April – Midweek Stableford
Monday 23 April – Winter League Awards Day,
Chartridge Park 0900-1000
Tuesday 24 April – AwayDay Collingtree Park
Wednesday 25 April – away match vs Wavendon 0900-1000
(Monday 30 April – hollow coring on greens)

Ladies:

Sunday 4 March - Medal 0845-0930
Monday 5 March – competition 1000-1100
Wednesday 7 March – indoor coaching & fun competition 1000
Sunday 11 March – Medal of Medals 0845-0930
Monday 12 March – competition 1000-1100
Tuesday 13 March - AGM
Wednesday 14 March – midweek Medal 1000-1100
Saturday 17 March – Hellen Rowley Plate 0945-1030
Sunday 18 March – Spring Mixed Foursomes 0845-1000
Monday 19 March – competition 1000-1100
Wednesday 21 March – monthly Stableford 1000-1100
Friday 23 March – Presentation Evening
Sunday 25 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400

Key Contacts

Club Management

e-mail: info@avgc.co.uk
www.avgc.co.uk
Tel: 01525 240196

Memberships/Shop/Tee bookings: Chris Wright,
Garry Hutchinson, Jason Thornalley
Restaurant/Functions: Jason Thornalley, Chris
Wright
Head Chef: Heinz Simon
Head Greenkeeper: Luke Foley
Teaching Professionals: Russell Phillips 07843
692948

r.phillips@avgc.co.uk
Terry Bunyan 07588

272322

terrygolf1965@gmail.com

Men

Captain: Andrew Bond
Vice-Captain: John Barker
Treasurer: Russell Crane
Competition Secretary: Dave Lea
Admin Secretary: Roger White
Handicap Secretary: Neil Garrett
5-Day Representative: Peter Codrai

Seniors

Captain: Mark Leech
Vice-Captain: Dave Simons
Treasurer: John Parmenter
Competition Secretary: Dave Lea
Admin Secretary: Lance Redler
Social Secretary: Peter Codrai

Ladies

Captain: Jane Codrai
Vice-Captain: Jane Barker
Treasurer: Jean Edwards
Admin Secretary: Charlotte Simpson
7-day Competition Secretary: Natalie Rendle
5-day Competition Secretary: Jan Chambers
Handicap Secretary: Danka Lawson

Juniors

Captain: Alex Robins

Ladies (cont.):

Monday 26 March – competition 1000-1100

Monday 26 to Friday 30 March – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 28 March – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 4 April – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1100

Monday 9 April – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 11 April – midweek Medal 1000-1100

Sunday 15 April – Australian Spoons 0900-0945

Monday 16 April – midweek Australian Spoons 1000-1100

Wednesday 18 April – Stableford 1000-1100

Saturday 21 April – Medal 0945-1030

Sunday 22 April – Coronation Foursomes 0945-1030

Monday 23 April – midweek Coronation Foursomes 1000-1100

Monday 23 to Friday 27 April – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 25 April – competition 1000-1100

Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 April – weekend Stableford

Sunday 29 April – Medal 0945-1030