



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 45, February 2018

Comment

The Vale welcomes its readers back from the Christmas and New Year celebrations, hopefully with the break not marred too much by sickness, although with many course closures...hasn't it been wet! Despite that, we did have a new family arrive on the 9th for a short while during one of the few sunny and 'trolleys permitted' days in January. Those members who have not played for a while will notice when they do just how busy the greenkeepers have been; we thank Luke and all his team.



News and Updates from the Club Management

The annual maintenance of trees has been our main focus over the last two months. There are four main parts to this:

Tree Pruning. This is the task of removing all the low branches. This assists the golfer to find the ball in the rough, to have a backswing that is not caught up in branches and to have a chance of punching a low shot back onto the fairway without hitting a branch. It also has the benefit of encouraging top end growth in the trees, which assists them on their way to maturity. This task has now been completed around the whole course.

Hedge/Bush Pruning. Some years ago we found that hedge and bush growth at the rear of the 6th green prevented sunshine and wind from getting to the putting surface. As a result, the green

remained damper than others and a grass disease was most likely to take hold here first. We removed the hedge to the benefit of the green. The same thing was starting to happen to the 4th green, hence the greenkeepers have opened up the surrounds to this green and the airflow/sunshine is improved.

Copse Maintenance. Each year we pick an area of trees to thin out. This year the greens staff are working on the trees between the 11th, 7th and 8th holes. They have started between the 11th green and 7th tee and are working their way through the copse. The trees near the 8th hole are particularly dense. Removing selected trees will enable them to spread properly without the canopies overlapping. It always sounds sad to be cutting a tree down, but the end result always looks good and will benefit the remaining trees.

Stump Grinding. We are hiring a stump grinder for two weeks in February to remove the old stumps.

Annual Project - New Spreader. We are shortly to purchase a new spreader complete with its own vehicle. This will cover a much larger area than our old spreader and also give us a more even spread of material. Across the whole year this will have different applications:

Greens Dressing. Although the spreader will have a much larger throw, the spreader and its vehicle combined are lighter than the current tractor and spreader that we use. Hence it can be used at times when the tractor could not, to give greater flexibility. It will also speed up the process of top dressing the greens as fewer runs are required.

Greens Surrounds. We will feed and dress the surrounds more often with this machine, so the whole green area will look visually better and the ball will sit up more on the grass.

High Wear Walk Areas. There are some high wear walk areas that can be cut up in poor weather – for example, just across the bridge by the 2nd pond and to the right of the 3rd and 6th greens. With the new spreader we can use a coarse-grained sand to change the soil structure in these key areas. However, we can't start this process until April when the grass is actively growing.

Tee-Dressing. Our existing spreader could not be used on the tees whereas the new one can. Hence our tees have been hand dressed to date, which is not ideal as coverage is not as even as machine applied dressings.

New Tee Signage. All 18 tee signage boards and the welcome board are being replaced with new signage. This will smarten up the appearance of the tees.

Pathways. The pathways will all be topped up with granite dust this Spring.

Primroses. Our thanks go to Sheila Perkins who has planted primroses either side of the 12th pond. These may not flower this year, as they could take the first year for roots to become established, but in subsequent years they should flower and spread. On calm days we might even see their reflection on the pond.

Car Park. Once the water table has gone down the greens staff will fill any holes in the car park and entrance drive.

First Aiders. We now have 13 staff members who have been first aid trained in January. This includes all the greenkeepers, so if a problem arises on the course you could call on any greenkeeper to assist in the first instance.

Catering – Sunday Roasts. The list for Heinz's roast on Sunday 4 February is now full, so we have added a second Sunday roast date of 25 February. These are 2-course roasts, served from 1:00pm, at £10.95 per head. Please see the menu and booking sheet in the downstairs bar.

Hopefully, without tempting fate, if periods of February end up being as wet as January and we need to close the course, then we will offer members a free group golf lesson, cheaper range tokens and a meal deal at lunch time to let people to come up to the Golf Club and have a chat.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Standing Astride or on Line of Putt (Rule 16-1e). A player must not make a stroke on the putting green from a stance astride, or with either foot touching, the line of putt or an extension of that line behind the ball.

Exception: There is no penalty if the stance is inadvertently taken on or astride the line of putt (or is taken to avoid standing on another player's line of putt or prospective line of putt).

Touching Line of Putt (Rule 16-1a). The line of putt must not be touched except:

- the player may remove loose impediments, provided he does not press anything down;
- the player may place a club in front of the ball when addressing it, provided he does not press anything down;
- in measuring (Rule 18-6);
- in lifting or replacing the ball (Rule 16-1b);
- in pressing down a ball-marker;
- in repairing old hole plugs or ball marks on the putting green (Rule 16-1c); and
- in removing movable obstructions (Rule 24-1).

AVGC Winter Rules

The Club's Winter Rules – decided each year by Chris Wright – are of course posted on the Club noticeboard in the changing room lobby at the start of each winter and published in *The Vale*. These are updated from time to time, according to weather and course conditions. For example a recent temporary Winter Rule – posted on the noticeboard – was that the flagstick should either be left in or taken out – not tended. This Rule lasted from 30 December until the end of January and may have been extended since *The Vale* went to press.

From time to time, again according to local conditions, rules for the day (such as 'All bunkers are GUR') are written on the chalkboard outside the shop entrance.

Please look at these boards before you play – it's not wise to assume that you are up to date.

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

I see a lot of players hitting **at** the ball rather than hitting **through** the ball. It's a subtle difference but this will help with your transition through the swing and take less heavy shots when you take your divot.

To help you visualise this, imagine a second ball sitting up on a tee about four inches in front of every real ball you hit. As you address and swing at the real ball, imagine that your swing must hit the real ball, and then still have enough speed and energy to hit the second ball just as hard and as far as the first. This will help you hit through the first ball, and your shots will be more solid and successful as you end your swing with a 'World Class Finish', hands held high with your chest and hips to target.

BOGOF in February!

For each of the following lessons for adults, if you buy one you get the same for free:

- 30 mins £25
- 1 hour £40

(Both lessons must be used before the end of February.)

Contact Russell Phillips on 07843 692948 or email r.phillips@avgc.co.uk

New Year - New Start!

Let me help you get your game where you've always wanted it. Take a structured coaching program dedicated to improving your game.

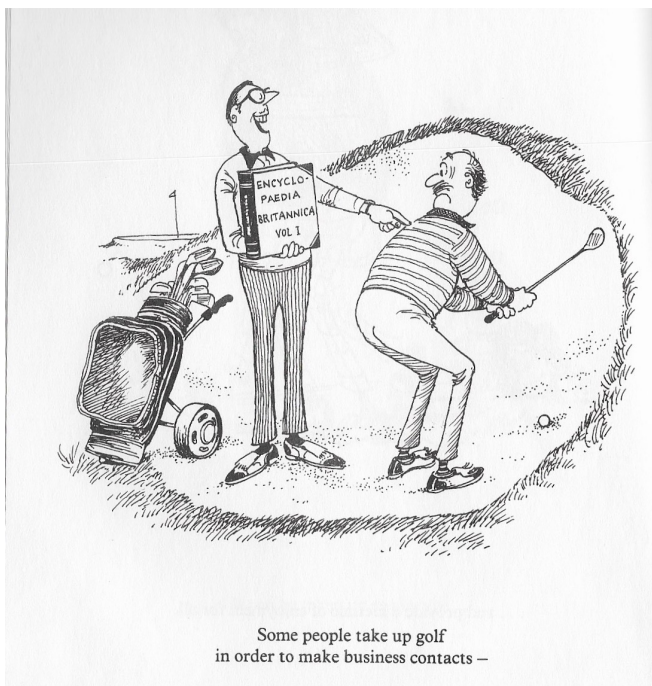
6 hours for just £228 (save £72)

8 hours for just £280 (save £120)

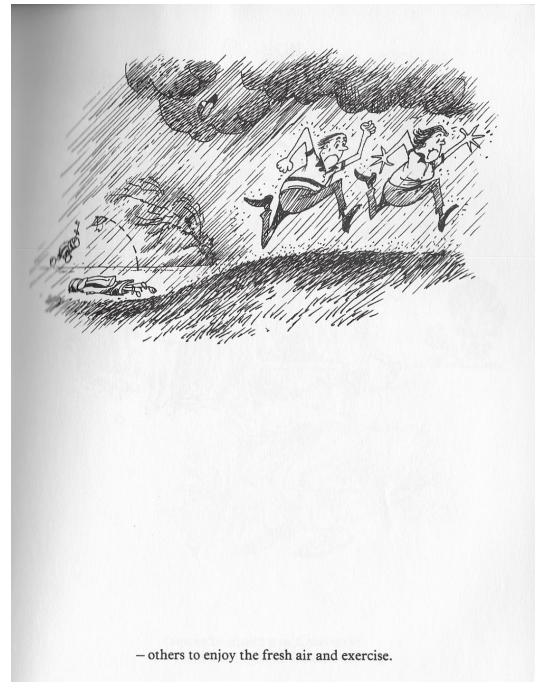
10 hours for just £320 (save £180)

Plus get 3-hole playing lesson assessment free with any of the above

Just call Terry Bunyan on 07588 272322. Over 30 years coaching experience.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Handicaps – the 'c' Annotation

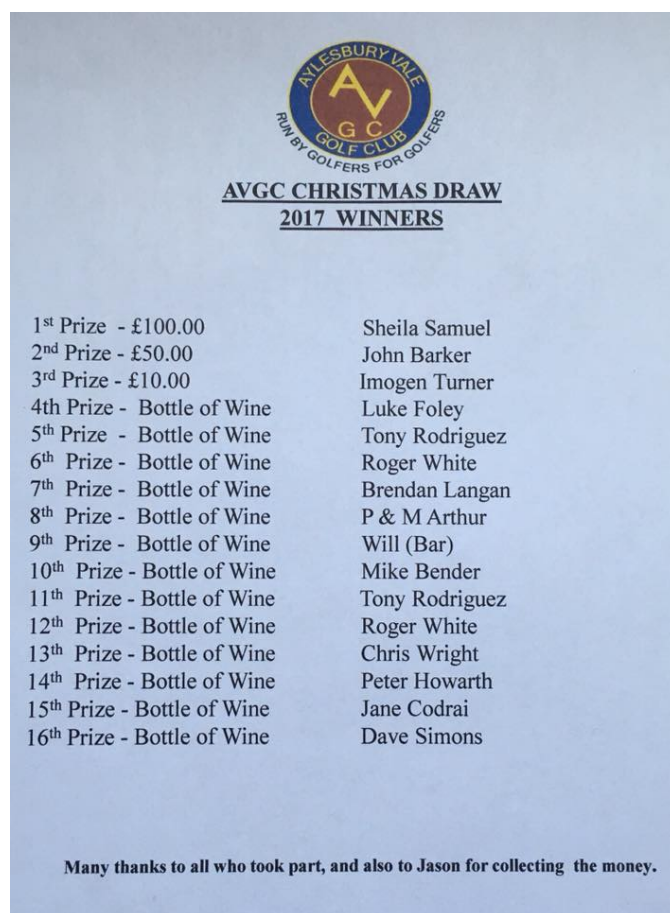
It is assumed by many golfers that the 'c' appearing after their handicap indicates that it is 'current'. To be accurate - although the effect is the same - CONGU uses 'c' to categorise players as having a valid 'competition' handicap, they having completed three qualifying rounds in the previous or current calendar year.

Handicaps – Annual Review

The list of male members whose competition handicaps were changed at the annual review is on the 'Handicaps' board in the changing room lobby. Some have been allocated 'c' handicaps higher than 28 under the new system that became effective on 1 January.

Christmas Draw

Congratulations to the prizewinners of the delayed Club Christmas Draw.



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain

What is the difference between a good golfer and a great golfer? That is the question I have been asking myself. Whilst watching the Abu Dhabi championship for three days I got up close to all the top players, watching them drive, fairway shots, chipping and putting. They all had fantastic swings, chipped up close, sunk long putts but somehow we knew Tommy Fleetwood would win again, why? I think it's the X factor, I don't think you can be trained for it, you either have it or you don't.

We played the same golf course a couple of days after the champs and blimey the fairways were so narrow. Just off the fairways, nearly impossible to hit it anywhere, couldn't get out of the bunkers, the greens were like lightning, downhill putts just had to be nudged, and water all in the wrong place, so I don't think I will be turning pro just yet, but it certainly proved to me how easy it looks on the telly.

Only a couple of months of my Captain's year to go. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun! AGM and the Presentation Night will soon be with us, do try not to miss it as this year there will be a musical twist!

Keep it straight and clean and may all your shots land on the green.

Andrew Bond

Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal	
10 December	Course closed
	5

Medal (postponed) 27 January	Cancelled due to course condition
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Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain

A belated Happy New Year to everyone.

Stir crazy? Cabin fever getting to you? Not the best time to be trying to play winter knockout competitions. Thanks to Luke and all the AVGC team for doing their very best to allow us to get on the course as much as possible.

Competitions. The new Winter Six Stableford competition was hit in December and had to be cancelled. The January one was a non-qualifier which allowed Bev Hughes to shine. Congratulations Bev, not only winning over all but a '2' as well.

Inter-Club Matches. The start of a new year did not bring us any better fortunes. We continued with our losing form, going down 2:4 at Oakland Park. Still, it was good to play there at last. Let's see whether the return of our Winter League Captain, Peter Nightingale, from yet another holiday can improve our fortunes.

Members' Health and Wellbeing

Some of you may have been aware that our Peter Carmody had a temporary health scare just before Christmas – high blood pressure, but not because of his golf. I am pleased to say that he has recovered fully.

I was not aware of Peter's ill health until some time afterwards; there have been other instances of members or their immediate family being unwell etc, which we do not hear about. This made me think that we do not have a way of getting to know these things, and letting other members know. I have found the extremely strong 'support network', and members' genuine concerns, as being one of the best attributes of the Seniors Section and the Club.

Peter Codrai and I are very happy to act as first points of contact on such things. If you become aware that any member or their immediate family has been struck by ill health or 'misfortune', or notice that perhaps we haven't seen somebody for some time, please let either of us know. Likewise, tell your partners and friends that they can contact us if you yourself are 'struck down'.

All the best for 2018.

Mark Leech

Seniors' AGM – Wednesday 7 February

Details of the Seniors' AGM have been on the noticeboard for some while and also emailed to all Seniors on our Contact List. We hope that many Seniors will attend the AGM (3:00pm in the upstairs lounge) – hopefully having played beforehand in the AGM Cup – and help to vote for and guide the incoming Committee for 2018. If you are not able to attend you can complete a postal vote, for which forms are on the changing room noticeboard and also available by email from Lance Redler.

AwayDay Questionnaire

Thank you to all those senior members who returned the AwayDay questionnaire before Christmas. The headline outcome from the returns is that practically all of them supported keeping three AwayDays for the current year. Of these, over 70% were in favour of going to either one or two 'upmarket' venues of the three courses to be visited.

Potential venues and packages are being researched and more details of the programme for 2018 will be announced at our AGM on 7 February.

Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter Six (3) 11 December	Course closed
Winter Six (4) 8 January	1 st : Bev Hughes 34 Pts 2 nd : Mickey Parslow 33 Pts 3 rd : Peter Nightingale 32 Pts
Winter League away match vs Oakland Park 17 January	Lost 2:4

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain

Happy New Year to all members and staff at AVGC.

Unfortunately, the Ladies' golf competitions in January have not been played due to inclement weather, but well done to all Ladies who have battled the elements to get their knockouts played on time.

December seems an age ago, but we had a jolly time at the Bring & Win on 16 December. Playing six holes in the sleet wasn't quite so nice, but the mince pies and bucks fizz in the Clubhouse were. Well done to Julie Hoar who won the competition and runners up Ros Barnes and Kim Burnage.

Our other big event in December was the Club Christmas dinner & dance, attended and enjoyed by nearly 100 people from all Sections of the Club. Thank you to the staff and organizers of what we hope will become an annual event.

Some dates for your diaries:

- Tuesday 27 February – Ladies AGM, 1900 for 1930 in the function room.

- Wednesday 7 March – there will be a coaching and fun competition upstairs in the Clubhouse, run by Russell Phillips. Come along for coffee and a catch-up with everybody. It's a light hearted session - 10.00 for 10.30 to brush the cobwebs off and an opportunity to meet your new Captain, Jane Barker. You will need your putter and a wedge.

- Thursday 7 June – Invitation Day – an opportunity to bring a friend to our great Golf Club. Invite your friend now before the season starts and they get too busy.

Jane Codrai

Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

Weekend Medal 3 December	1 st : Jan Chambers nett 79 2 nd : Sue Bellingham nett 80 3 rd : Vanessa Bond nett 80
Midweek Medal 6 December	1 st : Gegie McGinley nett 74 2 nd : Anne Bridges nett 76 3 rd : Danka Lawson nett 80

Juniors

Junior Open Day – Tuesday 13 February

The Junior Open Day is aimed at all Juniors who are involved in the challenge programme or who are looking to start playing golf. The 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 3:15pm. 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 £20!

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

Pro Shop

Grips

While the weather is bad it's the perfect time to get your clubs re-gripped. Through February and March, Russell Phillips will be offering **half price** on Lamkin and other promotional grips whilst stocks last. Don't forget, if you get more than 10 grips done on full price grips you will get a further 10% off. That's a 10% members' discount and a further 10% for 10 or more being done at one time. A full set of clubs can be re-gripped for less than £40!



and in Conclusion...

An Ode to Golf

In my hand I hold a ball,
White and dimpled, and rather small.
Oh how bland it does appear,
This harmless looking little sphere.
By its size I could not guess
Of the awesome strength it does possess.
But since I fell beneath its spell
I've wandered through the fires of Hell.
My life has not been quite the same
Since I chose to play this stupid game.
It rules my mind for hours on end,
A fortune it has made me spend.
It has made me curse and made me cry,
And hate myself and want to die.
It promises me a thing called Par,
If I hit it straight and far.
To master such a tiny ball
Should not be very hard at all.
But my desires the ball refuses,
And does exactly as it chooses.
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies,
And disappears before my eyes.
Often it will have a whim
To hit a tree or take a swim.
With miles of grass on which to land
It finds a tiny patch of sand.
Then has me offering up my soul
If only it would find the hole.
It's made me whimper like a pup
And swear that I will give it up.
And take to drink to ease my sorrow,
But the ball knows ... I'll be back tomorrow.

...the last word is... If any member would like to receive a monthly copy of *The Vale* direct, by email, as soon as it is published (120 members already do) please let the Editor know: lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk.

...and a touch of humour... a good golf partner is one who's always slightly worse than you!

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities



Mobility Scooter For Sale

Nearly new lightweight Minimo mobility scooter, in immaculate condition. Designed to fold and fit into your car boot. All paperwork available including service history and invoice. £1500 ono.

Contact: Simon 07731 813651

What's on This Month and Next?

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

Men:

Monday to Sunday 5 to 11 February - Winter Stableford

Sunday 11 February – Medal 0745-1100

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

Seniors:

Monday 5 February – competition 0830-0915

Monday to Sunday 5 to 11 February - Winter Stableford

Wednesday 7 February – AGM Cup 0900-1030

Wednesday 7 February – AGM 1500 approx

Monday 12 February – Winter Six (5) 0830-0915

Wednesday 14 February – competition 0830-0915

Monday 19 February – competition 0830-0915

Tuesday 20 February – Winter League away match vs Little Hay

Wednesday 21 February – competition 0830-0915

Monday 26 February – competition 0830-0915

Wednesday 28 February – competition 0830-1000

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

Ladies:

Monday 5 February – competition 1000-1030

Monday to Sunday 5 to 11 February - Winter Stableford

Wednesday 7 February – competition 1030-1100

Saturday 10 February – Medal 0945-1030

Monday 12 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 14 February – midweek Medal 1000-1100

Monday 19 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 21 February – competition 1000-1030

Saturday/Sunday 24/25 February – weekend Stableford

Monday 26 February – competition 1000-1030

Tuesday 27 February – AGM 1900 for 1930

Wednesday 18 February – monthly Stableford 1000-1100

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

Wednesday 14 March – midweek Medal 1000-1100

Saturday 17 March – Hellen Rowley Plate 0945-1030

Sunday 18 March – Spring Mixed Foursomes 0845-1000

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 19 March – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 21 March – monthly Stableford 1000-
1100

Sunday 25 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400

Monday 26 March – competition 1000-1100

Monday 26 to Friday 30 March – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 28 March – 30+ handicap competition
1000-1100