

Regd. Charity No 119499





The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 48, May 2018

Comment

With our course in the magnificent condition that it is, now we can understand the Management's repeated decisions to restrict the use of trolleys for so many weeks. Our thanks to Luke and his amazing team for getting the mowers in use once again and to such good effect.

Lady Captain's Day – Saturday 12 May

A fun day for *all* members of the Club. Entry form is on the Clubhouse bar noticeboard.



Live singer and meat buffet – only £30 and guests welcome! Members who are interested in attending this Summer Party are asked to enter their name and number of expected guests on the sheet on the Clubhouse bar noticeboard.

If there is insufficient interest the Party will not take place.

News and Updates from the Club Management

Course

Welcome to the crazy year that has gone from winter to summer and back to winter with no sign of spring! Hopefully we will see normal spring around 4 May with 16+ degree temperatures and a drier outlook.

<u>General</u>. The greenkeepers have done their best to get the course to reflect spring conditions after a **** winter followed by the wettest March in a decade! I personally think they have done well – the greens look healthy and roll well whilst the whole course has now been cut three times to get the grass under control. However, not everything in the garden is rosy. We know that there will be patches of lower-lying ground that will require some attention. Further, there are some low-lying patches, for example through the back of the 12th and 14th greens, which could not be cut and will therefore need more attention to get the height of the grass down.

<u>Fairways and Rough</u>. The fairways and rough are currently under control, as Luke took the decision to go out and cut on a couple of occasions when it was still a little wet. Some other Head Greenkeepers may not have taken that option, but it paid dividends when the wet weather returned. Those who left their courses alone were then faced with very long green grass. This causes a real problem to get the grass back down, as the long green grass takes its toll on machinery. You also end up with a lot of cut grass on the course. We could still get tripped up by mechanical failure ourselves, but fingers crossed we will succeed with a philosophy of 'cut, cut, cut' over the next month. This does mean that other projects are on hold whilst keeping the grass down is an absolute priority.

Greens

Greens-wise we have taken the decision to delay treatment of the greens that was due on 30 April and 1 May. There are many tons of top dressing that require transporting to the greens and the course is still a little too soft to cope with this without leaving damage. The greens themselves are good currently, so waiting is no problem. We will probably scarify the greens initially and follow with a narrow-tined verti-drain with a light dress in subsequent weeks.

This decision does have the added bonus that the greenkeepers can keep cutting the whole course at this crucial time instead of spending three days on greens alone. The temperatures are set to rise and with all the moisture in the ground we can expect very strong growth.

Member-wise there is no need to avoid playing this week.

<u>Practice Grass Tee</u>. This is currently out of play whilst new seed grows. However, the grass is thickening well so the tee will be re-opened on Saturday 5 May ready for the Men's Medal and the Bank Holiday weekend.

<u>Wooden Course Benches</u>. The greenkeepers have painted the course benches, which will go back out onto the course this month. I was expecting standard 'brown' but instead we have 'summer damson' for the course and 'sage and misty clouds' for the patio. Ooh la la!

Green Fee Prices. We have increased green fee prices this season. A full list of the new prices is displayed in the shop.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The new legislation for data protection comes into effect on 25 May. A sheet will be going up shortly in the Clubhouse that can be signed to give consent for us to give other members or committee members your details. A copy of our Data Protection Policy will be freely available.

We have never given our members' details to external agencies for marketing and will certainly not do so now. We are still able to write to members regarding membership renewal, but we can no longer give your details to another member without your consent. So, if you want Fred Bloggs to be given your telephone number to arrange the next round of the singles knockout, then you will need to sign the sheet. Our telephone lists will then only contain the numbers of those who have given signed consent.

Catering – *Sunday Roasts*. Heinz's Sunday Roast will next be on Sunday 20 May for members and their families. This will be a 2-course roast, served from 2pm, at ± 10.95 per head. This month you can choose from pork, salmon or homemade steak 'n ale pie. The desserts are treacle sponge or cheesecake. Please sign up in the downstairs bar.

Terry Bunyan. Terry had a good result at the Kingsthorpe Seniors' Tour event, coming 5th with a gross 70.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

<u>Order of Play – Match Play (Rule 10-1)</u>. Rules 10-1a and 10-1b describe how the order of play is decided when starting a match and during play of a hole. Further, Rule 10-1c explains the procedure if a match player plays out of turn. It says that:

'If a player plays when his opponent should have played, there is no penalty, but the opponent may immediately require the player to cancel the stroke so made and, in correct order, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.'

However, in stroke play there is no penalty and the ball is played as it lies, unless the competitors have agreed to play out of turn in order to give one of them an advantage; if this is found to be the case, both are disqualified.

Hole-In-One

Congratulations to the Seniors' Captain, Dave Simons, who achieved his first hole-in-one in some 40 years of golf on 19 April, on the 15^{th} at AVGC, during an informal round. The ball was eventually found in the hole after some earlier fruitless searching.



Tip of the Month from your Club Professional, Terry Bunyan

<u>Bunkers</u>. Do not be afraid of going into a bunker. With the right SIMPLE technique a bunker shot is one of the easiest to play; here's how (it's all in the set up):

Wide stance; Ball forward, opposite left instep; Club in a neutral position. in other words DO NOT LEAN CLUB SHAFT OR HANDS FORWARD; Most important of all - have 90% of your weight on your left side.

Now take 4-6 inches of sand as you swing through to at least shoulder height, with a smooth swing that is accelerating AND DO NOT MOVE OFF YOUR LEFT SIDE DURING THE ENTIRE SHOT.

Don't forget that short game lessons are always available from the master!

Terry Bunyan's Lesson Offers This Month

2-hour short game lesson just £50

9-hole playing lesson just £50

Also look out for group lessons and lesson offers on my blackboards, near the Pro Shop.

Contact Terry on: 07588 272322

New – Swing Speed Programme with Russell Phillips – Increase Your Distance!

Get that swing speed up with Russell's new programme using his swing stick and launch monitor. At the start he will monitor your clubhead and ball speeds; during the session he will be looking to increase both with this easy method. If you don't improve you'll get your money back!

6 x weekly 30-minute sessions: £120 for members and £150 for non-members. Book your first lesson before 31 May and get this pack for £90 for members and £120 for non-members!

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





Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

At last a change in the weather - and what a change with temperatures being recorded in the 20s.

Well my first month saw Club fixtures commence straight from the off, with the Mid-Handicap away to South Beds, Scratch away to Bedfordshire A, Chiltern Breakfast League home to Chartridge Park and the Bedfordshire County team knockout home to Beds and County. Mid-handicap ended with an away defeat but the subsequent fixtures all ended with wins for AVGC – great start and well done to all that took part.

We also saw the conclusion of the Winter 7-day Men's Singles Knockout. Congratulations to Michael Pearce on beating all before him – the news of Mr Wenger's departure obviously not upsetting him or indeed the Arsenal fans as much as the rest of us – congratulations Mr Pearce.

Looking at the month ahead, I would like to bring your attention to two important dates; first being 12 May for Lady Captain's Day and, if you've not already done so, please consider adding your names to the sign-up sheet in the bar. It will be good to see as many members as possible.

The second date is 19 May, no not because of the Royal Wedding or the FA Cup Final, I refer to the allimportant Men vs Seniors match where essential bragging rights are at stake. Can the Seniors inflect their revenge following our triumphant victory last year?

Just like to finish with news that our Junior Captain Alex has also been picked as playing Captain for Bedfordshire County under 14. Good luck and well done.

Wishing you all the best for keeping it on the short stuff.

John Barker

Midweek Winter Singles Knockout

Congratulations to George Cowley, who outplayed Steve Willett to win the Midweek Winter Singles competition.

Midweek Winter Pairs Knockout

Congratulations to Keith Loxton & Larry Goddard, winners of the Midweek Winter Pairs competition.

Competition and Match Results (Men)

Burcott Trophy 7 April	1st: Binzy Bowden 37 Pts 2nd Jason Thornalley 37 Pts 3rd: Shaun Houghton 35 Its		
Medal 8 April	Div 1: 1st: Justin McDonald nett 70 2nd: Steve Chandler nett 70 3rd: Shaun Houghton nett 71	Div 2: 1st: Phil Jelley nett 68 2nd: Rafe Birch-White nett 70 3rd: Lee Sarmple nett 71	Div 3: 1st: Mark Westbrook nett 73 2nd: Andrew Pearce nett 74 3rd: Robert Parish nett 75
Mid-Handicap away match vs South Beds 8 April	Lost 1:4		
Scratch away match vs The Bedfordshire 14 April	Won 4:1		

CBL home match vs Chartridge Park 15 April	Won 3½:2½
Home match vs Beds & County 22 April	Won 3½:1½
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Graham Cowley 37 Pts 2 nd : Adrian Wood 37 Pts 3 rd : Will Bond 34 Pts
Committee Cup 28 April	1 st : Nathan Chandler 39 Pts 2 nd : Richard Webber 35 Pts 3 rd : Freddie Perkin 34 Pts

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

This month I am reminded of the title of the 1960s film starring Paul Schofield called 'A Man For All Seasons'. It has certainly been a frustrating period for all at AVGC, not only us players but also for Club management and staff. My first match in charge was abandoned, followed by two postponements and the cancellation of the April Medal due to weather and course conditions. Then all in the same week we went from carrying on the Monday to golf buggies being reinstated by the Friday, following a mini heatwave. Well this is England!

Despite the frustrations here, having played at a couple of other courses recently and spoken to other Club Seniors' Captains, it does make me appreciate how lucky we are with the course condition and greens at Aylesbury Vale.

Results: in the Summer Friendlies a 5:1 success at home to Mount Pleasant Golf Club, was followed by a narrow $3\frac{1}{2}:2.\frac{1}{2}$ defeat away at Wavendon. Thanks to all those who put their names down to play or actually took part.

An early lead was established by Keith Loxton in the Order of Merit by winning the first Summer Six. Talking of which, Dave Lea does a great job organizing our competitions and getting groups out on the day. If you cannot play it is essential that you send a message to let Dave know, even if it is on the morning of the competition, so that he can adjust groups and times. At our last event there were several 'no shows. This conduct is discourteous and should not be repeated.

In terms of competitions a gentle reminder that start times will no longer be emailed out as these can all be accessed through the Club website under Members Information/Seniors' Section/Golf/Start Times. The Seniors' Section opens up into a 'Latest News' page to keep you posted as to results, events and other points of interest.

AwayDay. A large field (no this is not a reference to parts of the course) turned up to play at Collingtree Park on our first AwayDay of the season. Despite challenging conditions Peter Arthur triumphed in the main singles event. Amongst a host of other winners, Barry Quantrill with two '2s' deserves a special mention. It was an enjoyable day, well run as usual by Peter Codrai, ably supported by Mick Curtis and Dave Friend.

Future Events. It would be good to see more Seniors signing up to play and support the Lady Captain's Day on 12 May and, ideally, I would like to see a few more names down to play the Men a week later on Saturday 19 May.

Breaking News: Local Council refuses Keith Loxton's application to increase the size of his trophy cabinet on the grounds that the extension exceeds that allowed under permitted development. Keith is considering an appeal.

Dave Simons

Website

We are delighted to report that the Seniors' addition to the Club website is now in full use, although not located as announced in the April issue of *The Vale*.

To access the information for Seniors, on the Club website (www.avgc.co.uk) hover your cursor over the MEMBERS INFORMATION tab in the upper menu bar and select 'Seniors'. This will give you access to a wide raft of information, ranging from our Calendar for the year to a list of the current Committee members and their responsibilities, tee times for coming competitions and AwayDays, competition rules, competition and match results etc etc.

Our intention is to keep this website continually updated, so that it becomes the place for Seniors to look for current information - explore it to see where we have got to! We would welcome any feedback or suggestions for improvement.

Winter Pairs Knockout

Congratulations to Mark Leech and Lance Redler, winners of the Winter Pairs Knockout competition, having beaten Peter Nightingale and Keith Loxton in the final round.

Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Medal 9 April	Postponed
Summer Six (1) (NQ) 16 April	1 st : Keith Loxton 39 Pts 2 nd : Nigel Welling 37 Pts 3 rd : Richard Braithwaite 34 Pts
Home match vs Mount Pleasant 18 April	Won 5:1
Away match vs Wavendon 25 April	Lost 2 ¹ / ₂ :3 ¹ / ₂

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

After all the anticipation the Drive-In went off without a hitch. The weather was kind and all four Captains managed to get their balls away, with Alex making the longest drive. Thank you to everyone for the cards, gifts and good wishes and for turning out on the day.

My first competition was Annette's Hat, which despite the appalling weather conditions, a soggy course and carry only, still managed 60 entrants and raised £215 for Breast Cancer. Well done to everyone.

Then I found myself cancelling competition after competition due to the weather conditions, until finally the weather broke and summer arrived for a few days. How lovely to get out on the course in shorts and T-shirts - even if only for a brief period.

Well done to everyone for getting the winter knock-out competitions played in such challenging conditions. The winners are:

7 day Winter Singles – Anne Bridges
7 day Winter Pairs – Jean Barnett and Gegie McGinley
7 day Winter Mixed Pairs – Anne Bridges and Binzy Bowden Midweek Winter Singles – Pat Banister Midweek Winter Pairs – Jane Codrai and Melinda Arthur Midweek Winter Mixed Pairs – Jean Barnet and Adrian Fallon

Jean Edwards took a team to Oakland Park in the Chiltern League, but unfortunately Aylesbury Vale were well and truly beaten, although most of the matches were lost on the 18th.

My first friendly match was played at Leighton Buzzard where we were beaten but still had a very enjoyable day.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to playing golf as the season gets underway. Lady Captain's Day is just around the corner on 12 May. I look forward to seeing you for my fun competition. Donations will be much appreciated from anyone able to sponsor a hole or provide a prize for the raffle.

Look forward to seeing you at the Club enjoying our game.

Jane Barker

Midweek Stableford 16 April	1st: Gegie McGinley 29 Pts 2 nd : Anne Bridges 28 Pts 3 rd : Jean Barnett 24 Pts
30+ handicap competition 18 April	1 st : Jane Whigham 22 Pts 2 nd : Jean Attenborough 21 Pts 3 rd : Glynis Flack 18 Pts
Weekend Medal 21 April	1 st : Sue Bellingham nett 79 2 nd : Danka Lawson nett 79 3 rd : Natalie Rendle nett 82
Stableford 25 April	1 st : Linda Davies 34 Pts 2 nd : Anne Bridges 30 Pts 3 rd : Jan Chambers 28 Pts

Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

Juniors

New - May Half Term Camps

This half term Russell Phillips is running full day Junior Camps from 9am – 5pm. These days will include lunch and are designed to help keen golfers improve their skills at golf. Russell, a PGA Professional, will be with them on each of the days working on long game, short game, putting, bunkers, course management, rules and etiquette. We have Child Protection policies in place at the Golf Club, so you know your child will be safe and having a good time. They should have their own equipment, although this can be provided, and clothing worn should be smart and appropriate for the weather conditions.

The Junior Camps run from 9am – 5pm (8:30 drop off and 5:30 pick up) and are on:

Tuesday 29 May, Wednesday 30 May and Thursday 31 May

Each day includes lunch (nuggets, chips and beans) and costs £35 per child! Come to all three days for £90.

Don't forget that Juniors who are Blue Tee members will get 10% off prices and Juniors who are full Red Tee members will get 20% off.

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

Junior Challenge Dates Have Restarted

If you've missed the email about the start-up of the Junior Challenge dates don't worry, please get in contact with Russell Phillips (see above) as soon as possible and he will get you back in the loop.

Pro Shop

New Grips in the Shop!

Did you know that the life span of a grip is 16 months and 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. £15 per grip fitted. (Remember you get your member's discount of 10% per grip and save a further 10% if you get more than 10 grips replaced in one go).

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.

Ping 4 Series Carry Bags

Were £145 now £115. We have three left in stock and once they are gone they are gone. This is a superb lightweight carry bag with quality that will last.

and in Conclusion...

... the last word is... there is nothing new under the sun, but there are lots of old things we don't know.

...and a touch of humour... Golf is a game where the ball lies poorly and the golfers lie well.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities





What's on This Month and Next? (All-Section and Club events are in **bold**)

Men:

(Tuesday 1 May – de-thatching of greens) Saturday 5 May - Medal 0645-1100 Saturday 5 May - Mid Handicap away match vs Pavenham 1100 Sunday 6 May - CBL home match vs Hazlemere 0945-1100 Monday 7 to Friday 11 May – Midweek Medal Saturday 12 May - Lady Captain's Day 0630-1230 Saturday 19 May - Men vs Seniors 1130 Sunday 20 May - CBL away match vs Chartridge Park 1000 Sunday 20 May – Foursomes Medal 0745-0915 Monday 21 to Friday 25 May – Midweek Stableford Saturday 26 May - CBL home match vs Waterstock 0945-1100 Monday 28 May – Derek Hall Memorial Trophy 0745-1100 Saturday 2 June – home match vs Magnolia Park 0945-1100 Sunday 3 June – Mid Handicap home match vs South Beds 1100 Monday 4 to Friday 8 June – Midweek Medal Saturday 9 June - CBL home match vs Aylesbury Park 09445-1100 Sunday 10 June - Medal 0645-1030 Sunday 17 June – Greensome Stableford 0745-0900 Monday 18 to Friday 22 June - Midweek Stableford Saturday 23 June - Men's Captain's Day 0600-1400 Sunday 24 June - Penny Cup 0745-1000 Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July – Pairs Championships 0745-1000

Seniors:

(Tuesday 1 May – de-thatching of greens) Tuesday 1 May – away match vs Weston Turville Monday 7 to Friday 11 May – Midweek Medal Wednesday 9 May - home match vs Aylesbury Park 0900-1000 Saturday 12 May - Lady Captain's Day 0630-1230 Monday 14 May - Medal (2) 0730-1000 Wednesday 16 May - Captain's competition 0815-1000 Thursday 17 May - away match vs Beadlow Manor 0900-1000 Saturday 19 May - Seniors vs Men 1130 Monday 21 May - Summer Six (2) 0730-1000 Monday 21 to Friday 25 May – Midweek Stableford Wednesday 23 May - Captain's competition 0815-1000 Wednesday 23 May – away match vs Chalgrave Manor 0900-1000 Monday 28 May – Derek Hall Memorial Trophy 0745-1100 Wednesday 30 May - home match vs Weston Turville 0900-1000 Monday 4 to Friday 8 June – Midweek Medal Monday 4 June - Medal (3) 0730-1000 Wednesday 6 June - Rabbits vs The Rest 0815-1000 Monday 11 June – Summer Six (3) 0730-1000 Wednesday 13 June - 'Jones' Drawn Pairs 0815-1000 Monday 18 to Friday 22 June – Midweek Stableford Monday 18 June - competition 0815-1000 Monday 18 June - away match vs Kirtlington 1000-1100 Thursday 21 June – AwayDay at The Bedfordshire (tbc) Saturday 23 June – Men's Captain's Day 0600-1400 Monday 25 June - competition 0815-1000 Wednesday 27 June - home match vs Kirtlington 0945-1100 Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July - Pairs Championships 0745-1000

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 or r.phillips@avgc.co.uk Terry Bunyan 07588 272322 or terrygolf1965@gmail.com

Men

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

Seniors

Captain: Dave Simons Vice-Captain: Larry Goddard Treasurer: Keith Loxton Competition Secretary: Dave Lea Admin Secretary: Lance Redler Social Secretary: Peter Codrai

Ladies

Captain: Jane Barker Vice-Captain: Julie Lea Treasurer: Jean Edwards Admin Secretary: Charlotte Simpson 7-day Competition Secretary: Natalie Rendle 5-day Competition Secretary: Jackie Boden Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett Juniors Captain: Alex Robins

Editor *The Vale*: Lance Redler (01296) 681286 lanceredler@avgcseniors.co.uk

Ladies (cont.):

Ladies:

(Tuesday 1 May – de-thatching of greens) Sunday 6 May – Spring Stableford 0845-0930 Tuesday 8 May – CL away match vs Aylesbury Park Wednesday 9 May - midweek Medal 1000-1100 Thursday 10 May - Chiltern League home match vs Oakland Park 1015-1115 Saturday 12 May - Lady Captain's Day 0630-1230 Sunday 13 May - Spring Stableford 0945-1100 Monday 14 May - competition 1000-1100 Wednesday 16 May – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1100 Thursday 17 May – away match vs Aylesbury Park Saturday 19 May - Medal 0945-1100 Sunday 20 May - Ping 4BBB Stableford 0915-1030 Monday 21 May - midweek Ping 4BBB Stableford 1000-1100 Monday 21 to Friday 25 May – Midweek Stableford Wednesday 23 May - 'Fun' competition 1000-1100 Saturday 26 to Sunday 27 May – weekend Stableford Saturday 26 May – away scratch match vs Leighton Buzzard Monday 28 May – Derek Hall Memorial Trophy 0745-1100 Wednesday 30 May - Stableford 1000-1100 Sunday 3 June - Medal 0945-1100 Monday 4 June – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1100 Tuesday 5 June – away match vs Waterstock Wednesday 6 June – competition 1000-1100 Thursday 7 June – Invitation Day 1000-1230 Saturday 9 June – Summer Cup 0845-0930 Monday 11 June - Grandma Cup 1000-1130 Wednesday 13 June - midweek Medal 1000-1100 Saturday 16 June - home scratch match vs Beds & County 1015-1100 Saturday 16 to Sunday 17 June - weekend Medal Monday 18 to Friday 22 June – Midweek Stableford Monday 18 June - monthly Stableford 1000-1100 Thursday 21 June - away match vs Tilsworth Saturday 23 June – Men's Captain's Day 0600-1400 Monday 25 June - competition 1000-1100 Monday 25 June - CL away match vs Princes Risborough Wednesday 27 June - competition 0830-0930