



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club
www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 54, November 2018

Comment

Brrr! Winter draw(er)s on again! October has been the best hole-in-one month for many a year, with six achieved, as will be seen later in *The Vale*. Overall, some great scores have been entered this month, with 40+ points being almost commonplace...it won't last!

Club Christmas Dinner Dance
Saturday 8 December
7:00pm for 7:30pm

Live entertainment & 3-course meal
All welcome; dress smart casual

Cost £26pp
Table plan and booking sheet in Clubhouse bar

News and Updates from the Club Management

Course. We think it is fair to say that good progress has been made with the course following the drought, but we are not quite there yet. The greens have recovered well and are playing much better. There is plenty of evidence of the new grass coming through on the tees but this process needs to continue for a little while longer yet. It is a similar story with the collars – improving but some more growth still required. All the work has already been put in with regard to over-seeding, spiking and verti-draining, but we will be adding one last fertiliser treatment to the tees and collars to get as much growth as we can this autumn.

New Staff Member. You may have seen a new face in the Pro Shop - Dan Lazar has joined our staff. He is a qualified chef and will be assisting Heinz with function meals, as well as working in the Pro Shop and behind the bar. Dan comes with a wealth of experience from The Three Locks GC and I hope you join us in welcoming him to our Club.

Sunday Roasts. Heinz will be cooking his Sunday roasts on 4 November and 25 November. The sign-up sheets are in the bar.

Christmas Party Lunches. Heinz is offering his Christmas celebration roasts again this year for your social groups to have a get-together. Have a chat with Heinz to organise your celebrations.

Christmas Parties. We offer our annual winter discounts on members' parties booked at the Club from 1 November 2018 to 28 February 2019. The room hire fee for the upstairs function room is discounted from £200 to £50 for members holding parties for 50 guests or more. Please chat to Jason for more details and banish any winter blues!

Driving Range Winter Evenings. We are liaising with Russell Phillips to find out which evening he is going to be at the range. This will probably be a Tuesday or a Thursday and we will be keeping the Clubhouse and range open until 8pm so that members can use them. We will organise a 'bargain deal' on the price of range tokens and a meal, such as sausage, mash, peas and onion gravy. Sorry this is a little vague at this stage, but the precise start and end date will be posted on the noticeboard. We will begin around mid-November.

SmartGolfer Network. Farthingstone GC is the latest Club to join, giving you 34 courses to choose from!

Vehicle Security. The police have advised us that thefts from vehicles are rife in the area. Their advice is not to have any possessions visible in your car and those with vans are particularly at risk. If you have a van with tools in then don't leave them in the car park while you play golf for four hours! Unfortunately, along with other Clubs, we have to point out that even although we have cameras now, vehicles and goods are left in the car park at your own risk.

Finally, on 26 October herons and an otter were sighted at the 13th pond!

Chris Wright

New Rules of Golf – Effective from 1 January 2019

Standards of Player Conduct (Rule 1.2). All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

Acting with integrity – for example by following the Rules, applying all penalties and being honest in all aspects of play.

Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others and not distracting the play of another player.

Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.



You should check to see whether your Committee has adopted a Code of Conduct, as you could get a penalty if you do not follow it.

Tip of the Month from your Club Professional, Terry Bunyan

With the onset of winter the golf ball does not travel as far, so be sure to take a little more club when playing into the greens ... AIM FOR THE TOP OF THE FLAG. Also, with softer greens use more loft for your shorter shots assuming the lie is good (40yds in). The ball will spin and stop next to the pin more easily. Be bold, be brave!

Special Lesson Offers - by Terry Bunyan

This month marks my 15th year as the Pro here at the Vale, and still looking good. My huge thanks to all the members and staff for their support over the years - here's to the next 15!

To mark the occasion, if booked by the end of November here are a couple of lesson offers **with prices from 15 years ago**:

- 9-hole playing lesson normally £60. Now £35.
- 2-hour short game lesson. Normally £80, now £40.

Also you can book your winter game improver packages :

5 x 45 min lessons, Only £159
5 x 30 min lessons. Only £129

LADIES' SPECIAL: 1-hour lesson for two ladies to share, just £40 (£20 each).

Adult Individual Lessons – by Russell Phillips

The Winter Packs. If you haven't signed up to your winter pack yet don't worry, you haven't missed the boat. You must sign up before 14 November, before the first series of playing lessons. With the playing season coming to an end, now is the time to start working on your game over the winter ready for next year! I will be working with you on a fortnightly basis to develop your game over the winter period. The aim is to complete the package by April 2019. We will set some personal goals/targets, work on the range, short game, putting, bunker play, course management.... whatever we need to get you the results! Past players who have purchased winter packs have gone on to win competitions, lower their handicap and play better than ever before! What you get:

THE FULL PACK - £250 Members (£175 Saving), £325 Non-Members (£215 Saving)

1 x assessment with goals and targets so we can work together to achieve them.
12 x 30 minute golf lessons to work on your game 1-2-1.
and
2 x 9-hole group playing lessons!

THE HALF PACK - £175 Members (£125 Saving), £225 Non-Members (£165 Saving)

1 x assessment with goals and targets so we can work together to achieve them.
7 x 30 minute golf lessons to work on your game 1-2-1.
and
2 x 9 hole group playing lessons!

Not quite what you were looking for? Or want to share a winter pack with your partner? I can create a package to suit your goals and needs.

Holes in One!

Many congratulations to Charlotte Simpson for her hole-in-one on the 2nd on Bank Holiday Monday, Rob Crocker for achieving his first hole-in-one on Thursday 4 October on the AVGC 17th, to Keith Minor who had his ace on the 8th at AVGC and to Dave Lea (pictured) for achieving his first hole-in-one, at Pavenham Park on 11 October during the Seniors' Committee Cup competition. Just as we felt it couldn't get better, Steve Madgwick had an ace on Finchley GC's 12th hole on 12 October and Andy Penfold at AVGC's 8th on 28 October!



Summer Midweek Singles

Congratulations go to Tom Hobbs, winner of the summer Midweek Singles Knockout competition, having beaten Mickey Parslow.

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

This month saw the conclusion of the Men's Club matches and - to say the least - not quite the record I hoped for when starting my year, final two matches finished with further home defeats against Abbey Hill GC, who retain the David Lea Trophy, and Chalgrave Manor GC. Obviously, I will have to rethink my inspirational speaking technique - Thomas Bjorn I'm not. My thanks to all the players who have turned out for this year's Club matches.

One Club team competition finishes and another starts, yes winter is upon us and on Saturday 27 October we played our CBL Winter Knock-Out against Princes Risborough GC. I congratulate the team on the successful outcome.

The month also included the annual Four Nations Trophy. The week before we wondered whether the event would go ahead due to Wales not having the requisite 12 players required. Well it did go ahead, with England taking an early lead, only for Wales to come through in the later stages and lift this year's trophy; congratulations to Wales.

I would just like to raise an observation regarding the 8th hole during last month's Medal, and before I go any further this is not a Club local or competition rule, it's just me passing on a suggestion that might speed up play. I couldn't help but notice one group had tee'd off with a further two groups waiting at the tee. My suggestion would be to consider this hole as a call up hole, once all players' golf balls are on the green. It might help but certainly won't hinder. Just a thought.

The AVGC Christmas Dinner & Dance is on 8 December and it includes a 3-course meal with live entertainment for the fantastic value of £26pp. It would be great to fill the room with as many members, staff and partners as we can possibly cater for. Booking forms are in the bar to reserve your places.

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

John Barker

The October monthly Medal saw an excellent turnout of 78 players and in Division 1 Jason Thornalley took time out from bar duties to take top spot, with a nett 70. Lee Bracey-Wright took second place on countback from Nathan Chandler, both players recording nett 71. Paul Herridge took the honours in Division 2 with a nett 68, a shot clear of Adrian King in second place. Third place went to Colin Welch (nett 70). In Division 3 Dwayne Cowans recorded the best score of the day, to win with a nett 67 - a shot clear of second placed Tom Read. Warren Jones finished third with a nett 70.

The October midweek Medal was a close fought affair with Matt Miller winning with a nett 70, a shot clear of Paul Talbot and Will Bond who took the minor places. The Alistair Waddington Texas Scramble saw 20 teams take part and it was the four ball of Ghie McGinley, Shane Lea, Shanil Patel and Tim O'Sullivan who came out on top. Runners-up were Graham Lowe, Nick Brewer, Steve Page and Shaun Houghton.

Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal 7 October	Div 1 1 st : Jason Thornalley nett 70 2 nd : Lee Bracey-Wright nett 71 3 rd : Nathan Chandler nett 71	Div 2 1 st : Paul Herridge nett 68 2 nd : Adrian King nett 69 3 rd : Colin Welch nett 70	Div 3 1 st : Dwayne Cowans nett 67 2 nd : Tom Read nett 68 3 rd : Warren Jones nett 70
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Midweek Medal	1 st : Matt Miller nett 70 2 nd : Paul Talbot nett 71 3 rd : Will Bond nett 71
Home match vs Chalgrave Manor 13 October	Lost 1½:3½
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Will Shackleton 41 Pts 2 nd : Gary Brazier 41 Pts 3 rd : John Burrows 40 Pts
CBL home match vs Princes Risborough 27 October	Won 4:2

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

The excellent early Autumn weather has continued through most of last month, which I am sure contributed towards a brilliant turn-out of some 57 Seniors at the annual Trafalgar Salver event, won by Adrian King. It was also pleasing to see so many Seniors able to stay for our annual awards event which followed thereafter. There were too many prizewinners to list here, but other recent successes include Mike Lee and Ken Slatter in the first two Winter '8s' and Tom Hobbs who came through to beat Mickey Parslow in the final of the Seniors' summer KO competition.

The annual awards event was as usual well organized by Peter Codrai and also thanks to our resident David Bailey, alias John Dudman, who took all the photographs. My top lip has only now just recovered from smiling throughout all the snaps with the prizewinners, but unfortunately John was unable to capture my 'good side' in any of the photographs!

With two home wins in our final two Summer Friendlies against Silverstone and Chalgrave Manor, our overall record was W10, L11 and D1. I would take this opportunity to give a big thank you to all those Seniors who turned out to support me in these matches during the course of the season.

I reported last month that Larry Goddard was to present his proposed calendar of events for 2019 to your Committee at the next meeting on 4 October, following his player consultation as to the future of Summer Friendlies. In case you have not seen the Minutes of that meeting (Minutes are always available for viewing in the box in our changing room), your Committee agreed to significantly prune the number of Summer Friendlies in 2019. Given that travelling distance was a frequently mentioned limiter to participation, we will no longer be playing Chartridge Park, Beadlow Manor, Kirtlington and Mount Pleasant Golf Clubs. In addition, there was a lot of negative feedback about the higher match fee and particularly the formality of the need to wear a jacket and tie at Leighton Buzzard, so this Club has also been deleted from our programme of matches.

Shortly afterwards we heard of the closure of Wavendon Golf Club, another of our regular opponents. It was therefore opportune that Larry was approached by Whipsnade Park to play them home and away next summer and this Club will now be included in our 2019 calendar, which fits quite nicely into the theme of more local matches. All the affected Clubs have now been notified.



During a recent trip to the Côte d'Azur your Captain took the opportunity to twin with Seniors in Nice (see photo). Potentially a future AwayDay venue if funds allow? Perhaps I need to consult with Peter Codrai and Keith Loxton!

Sad person that I am, I keep a log as to how much golf I play each calendar year. By the time you read this piece I will have completed 120 rounds, 100 of which I will have played since I took over as Captain. All but a few have been played

either at, or as a result of some sort of connection with, AVGC. I am sure that some of you Super Senior athletes out there will think this total is nothing special, but I think it demonstrates a fair degree of commitment given that I am only a 5-day member who has perhaps played only a few times at weekends. Certainly, I am getting value for money out of my membership this year.

Dave Simons

Winter League by Peter Nightingale

October has been a good month for the Seniors' Winter League teams. It started on Monday 8 October when we played Little Hay at home. Wins by Andrew Bond and Tom Hobbs, David Dean and David Lea, Keith Loxton and Hugh Froud saw us get a tough draw 3:3 (last year we lost the corresponding fixture). On Monday 22 October we entertained Weston Turville at home. A couple of the matches went to the last putt on the 18th but there were wins for Peter Nightingale and Peter Lawrence, Andrew Bond and Tom Hobbs, Richard Braithwaite and Barry Stanley, Keith Loxton and Hugh Froud and a half for Don Huggett and Lance Redler. The result was 4½:1½. On both dates we enjoyed fabulous autumn weather, but maybe this was the last chance to enjoy late summer sunshine.

Our next match is our first away match at Weston Turville on Thursday 1 November and our final match this year is against Chartridge Park on Wednesday 7 November, normally a very difficult fixture.

Whilst I have a team for the away match at Weston Turville, I require more people for Chartridge. If you would like to see and help the Seniors enjoy their success this year, please put your name on the list on the Seniors board.

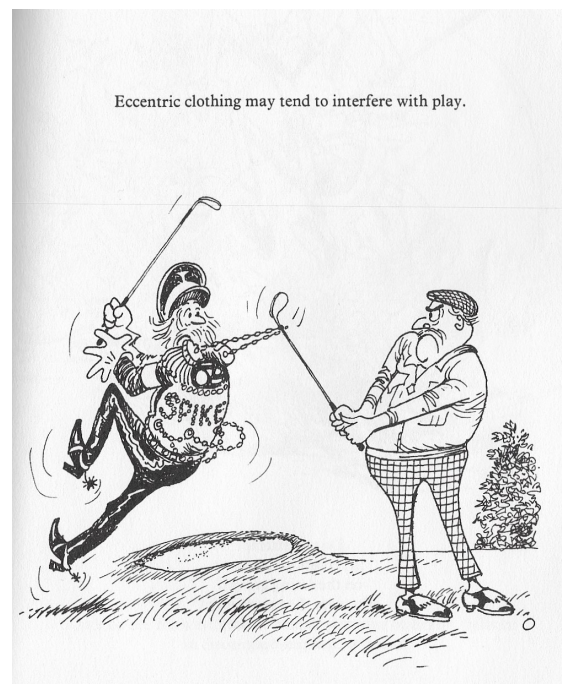
For the past few years we have either been bottom of the table or second from bottom at the end of the season. This year we have a real chance of improving on this position because at present we have five points from six - and are leading the table!

Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter Eight (1) 1 October	1 st : Mike Lee 43 Pts 2 nd : Peter Nightingale 42 Pts 3 rd : David Stonhill 41 Pts
Home match vs Silverstone 3 October	Won 4:2
WL home match vs Little Hay 8 October	Halved 3:3
Home match vs Chalgrave Manor 10 October	Won 5:1
Committee Cup (at Pavenham Park) 11 October	1 st : Peter Codrai 38 Pts
Winter Eight (2) 15 October	1 st : Ken Slatter 43 Pts 2 nd : Chris Cox 38 Pts 3 rd : Richard Sutton 38 Pts
Winter League home match vs Weston Turville 22 October	Won 4½:1½
Trafalgar Plate 24 October	1 st : Adrian King 57 Pts 2 nd : Martyn Gates 56 Pts 3 rd : Mickey Parslow 54 Pts



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

On August Bank Holiday Monday Charlotte Simpson got a hole-in-one on the 2nd whilst playing the monthly free format Stableford competition. Congratulations to her and I hope she is enjoying her free Hugo Boss ladies Hole-in-One watch.

AVGC Ladies played their last friendly match of 2018 away at Mount Pleasant on a lovely sunny day at the end of October. It was another defeat with two losses and two halves, but nevertheless an enjoyable day. I would like to thank all of the ladies that have played in Friendly matches this year and encourage ladies to sign up and join in. Next year all of the Friendlies are at home and it would be lovely for some new names to appear on the lists.

Jean Edwards is a very active member within our Club and, amongst other roles, she runs the Chiltern League for us. I would particularly like to thank her for the wonderful job she does organizing these matches. After a very indifferent season we had success at the end of year Ryder Cup. This was hosted by Chiltern Forest at which the home Club certainly have advantage. I am very pleased to report that we managed to come fourth out of the nine Clubs participating, so congratulations go to all those who played.

The monthly weekend free format Stableford competitions are not being very well supported, so rather than a free format over the two days we are trialling a Weekend Monthly Stableford to be held on one of the weekend days, which will take place on 24 November. The first tee time is at 10:04am. Please join in this competition if you can. A couple of years ago a new monthly Stableford competition was added to the midweek calendar. This competition has proved to be very popular, often with over 20 participants.

The last Mixed Invitation of the year was played on 21 October. It was lovely to see so many couples taking part, 10 in total. My thanks go to Sue Bellingham and Brendan Langan who stepped in at the last minute to make up the numbers. Julie Lea and Nick Bowden came second with 40 points, beaten by Vanessa and Andrew Bond who had 42 points. Well done to them. We were then treated to a lovely lunch prepared by our new member of the kitchen team, Dan.

The sign-up sheets for the midweek Christmas lunch and the Bring and Win competitions are now on the ladies' changing room board. The Christmas lunch is preceded by a 9-hole competition, weather permitting. There is no obligation to play, feel free to just come along and enjoy the social lunch.

The Bring and Win is another opportunity for a Christmas social at the weekend. This is being held on Saturday 15 December. Again, it is a 9-hole competition followed by bucks fizz and mince pies, then everyone gets the opportunity to delve into the Santa sack and pick out a wrapped gift. Please bring a wrapped gift as close to the value of £10 as possible, but no more. Chris has agreed a reduced green fee of £5 for Midweek ladies and you are very welcome to come along and join in.

Jane Barker

Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

Stableford 3 October	1 st : Sheila Perkins 41 Pts 2 nd : Pat Banister 40 Pts 3 rd : Linda Davies 40 Pts
30+ handicap competition 10 October	1 st : Christina Mungovan 31 Pts 2 nd : Andy Dean 30 Pts 3 rd : Janet Ewart 30 Pts
Weekend Medal 13 October	1 st : Danka Lawson nett 69 2 nd : Jane Codrai nett 70 3 rd : Sue Bellingham nett 72
Midweek Medal 17 October	1 st : Jean Edwards nett 72 2 nd : Pat Banister nett 73 3 rd : Gegie McGinley nett 73
Midweek FF Stableford	1 st : Jane Whigham 36 Pts 2 nd : Julie Merriman 34 Pts 3 rd : Jean Cross 31 Pts
Harries Shield 27 October	1 st : Jane Barker nett 74 2 nd : Natalie Rendle nett 82 3 rd : Lesley Wright nett 85

Juniors

Junior Halloween Open Day



Did you see this crazy bunch at the Golf Club on Friday 26 October? We had a great day with nine children all dressed up and playing Halloween-themed golf games. Best-dressed awards went to Lucy Trundle and Emily Honan!

Special thanks to Kim Burnage and Mike Pelizzoni for your help.
We will be back next year to scare you all again!

Pro Shop

Christmas Sale. We always hold our Christmas Sale in November and December in the shop to assist members with Christmas presents. As usual, there is 10% off all shop goods, excluding Russell's Pings and re-grips. Pay with your Members' white card and you will get a further 10% off.

Ping Day Trip to Gainsborough

Looking for a new set of clubs? Be the first to demonstrate and have the new Ping irons. Russell Phillips is offering a unique experience for anyone looking to upgrade their set, heading up with them to the Ping factory in February 2019 and demonstrating the new product that will be available on 1 March. You can try the new drivers, woods, hybrids, crossover, irons, wedges and even the new putters! All of these will be custom fitted to you and your swing to give you the best results. Ping is the best driver in the market now for both distance and forgiveness, what else could you want? Here is what the day involves (looking at a Friday in February, but date to be confirmed):

Meet at AVGC 7am and travel to Gainsborough
Tea/coffee on arrival
Get 1½ hours on Trackman with a Ping fitter to demonstrate the clubs
Lunch
9 holes of golf
Leave Gainsborough and return to AVGC at approx. 6pm

Russell will be travelling with you and there is only space for six players. If this is of interest, please get in touch with Russell and he will book your position. Money has to be paid in advance to secure your position. **This experience will cost £70 per person and all above are included in the cost.** With Christmas just around the corner why not treat someone to this experience?

Grips. Have you seen the grip display in the shop? Grips are priced up in the shop where members will now get 10% off the price of re-grips. They will also get a further 10% off if more than 10 clubs are re-gripped at any one time.



and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... if any other Club members would like to have *The Vale* emailed to them each month (more than 100 already do), just let the Editor know at: lanceredler@avgcseniors.co.uk.

...and a touch of humour... it takes a lot of balls to golf like I do.

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 November – Medal 0715-1030

Monday 5 to Friday 9 November – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 28 November – mixed home match vs Hazlemere 0945-1100

Saturday 1 December – Turkey Trot 0745-0945

Saturday 8 December – Club Dinner Dance

Sunday 9 December – Medal 0745-1030

Monday 10 to Sunday 16 December – winter Stableford

25/26 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED

Seniors:

Thursday 1 November – WL away match vs Weston Turville

Monday 5 to Friday 9 November – Midweek Stableford

Monday 5 November – Winter Eight (3) 0830-1000

Wednesday 7 November – WL away match vs Chartridge Park

Wednesday 7 November – competition 0830-0915

Monday 12 November – competition 0830-0915

Wednesday 14 November – competition 0830-0915

Monday 19 November – Winter Eight (4) 0830-0915

Wednesday 21 November – competition 0830-0915

Monday 26 November – competition 0830-0915

Wednesday 28 November – competition 0830-0915

Monday 3 December – Winter Eight (5) 0830-1000

Wednesday 5 December – competition 0830-0915

Saturday 8 December – Club Dinner Dance

Monday 10 December – competition 0830-0915

Monday 10 to Sunday 16 December – winter Stableford

Wednesday 12 December – competition 0830-0915

Monday 17 December – competition 0830-0915

Wednesday 19 December – Winter Eight (4) 0830-0915

25/26 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED

Ladies:

Sunday 4 November – Barbara Carr Plate 0845-0930

Monday 5 to Friday 9 November – Midweek Stableford

Monday 5 November – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 7 November – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1030

Saturday 10 November – Medal 0945-1030

Monday 12 November – Medal 1000-1030

Wednesday 14 November – competition 1000-1030

Saturday 17 November – Stableford 0945-1030

Monday 19 November – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 21 November – Stableford 1000-1030

Saturday 24 November – Stableford

Monday 26 November – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 28 November – mixed home match vs Hazlemere 0945-1100

Sunday 2 December – Medal 0845-0930

Monday 3 December – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 5 December – Medal 1000-1030

Saturday 8 December – Club Dinner Dance

Monday 10 December – competition 1000-1030

Monday 10 to Sunday 16 December – winter Stableford

Wednesday 12 December – 9-hole competition 1000-1100 + Christmas Lunch

Saturday 15 December – 'Bring & Win' (9 hole) 1000-1100

Monday 17 December – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 19 December – Stableford 1000-1030

Saturday 22 to Sunday 23 December – Stableford

25/26 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED

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, Dan Lazar
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

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