



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

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

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Edition 55, December 2018

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## **Comment**

Don't forget that the new Rules of Golf come into effect on 1 January, so do pick up your free copy of the Players' Edition from the Pro Shop or bar area in time to read it in advance. Also see the Management's and each Captain's notes to find out about a Rules guidance session that has been arranged for January! We make no apologies for this emphasis for, as we hope you will appreciate, we want all members to feel comfortable and knowledgeable about the changes to Rules when they turn up for golf at the start of 2019.

Please note that a January edition of *The Vale* will not be produced.

## **SmartGolfer – WARNING!**

*Your SmartGolfer membership card expires on 31 December.  
It can be renewed in the Pro Shop, ready for 2019.*

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

### Course

The greens staff have worked hard to re-establish grass lost to the drought and for once climatic change has worked in our favour. Abnormally high temperatures in October and November have assisted this process and we have enjoyed a fine golfing and grass growing autumn!

The emphasis now shifts to winter projects. The main one this winter is the refurbishment of bunker edges and replacing turf around the edges that may have been damaged by a combination of excess sand and the hot temperatures. Other projects include reducing the height of the 17<sup>th</sup> hedge, verti-draining the whole course (three holes completed so far), working on conifers, pruning the lower branches of all trees and thinning any copses that have not already been thinned in recent years. We still have the outstanding project of divot mix bags, suspended from wooden frames around the course, to do.

It is time for our plea of 'Please remember to repair pitch marks and replace divots as the ground softens.'

## Rules of Golf 2019

Monday 7 January – Rules Presentation Afternoon. Make a note in your diary that on Monday 7 January a guest speaker from the county, Cally Hawker, will give a Rules Presentation afternoon between 2:00pm and 3:30pm in the upstairs lounge. This is open to all.

R&A Rules of Golf Booklets. The new Rules will come into effect on 1 January 2019 and the new booklets are now available in the Clubhouse. All members are welcome to help themselves to a copy for a preview. They are enhanced with drawings that make the Rules easier to understand.

Summary of Main Changes. The Rules changes are, in my opinion, for the better. They sometimes simplify the Rules, make them fairer and often help to speed up play, which is always welcome!

- Search time – reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes
- Ball moved in search – replace, no penalty
- Embedded ball – free relief anywhere through the course
- Measuring a drop – use longest club (except putter)
- Drop from knee height rather than shoulder
- Ball unintentionally hits player's equipment – no penalty
- Double hit – no penalty
- Touching sand in bunker accidentally is permitted
- Loose impediments can be removed anywhere, including in hazards
- Dropping a ball out of a bunker – 2 penalty strokes
- Water hazards now called 'penalty areas'
- Touching ground in penalty area – no penalty
- Ball moves on putting green after being marked – replace without penalty
- Ball accidentally moved on putting green – replace without penalty
- All damage to green can now be repaired
- Positioning a club for alignment is not permitted
- Caddie assisting with alignment is not permitted
- Putting with flagstick in hole is now permitted
- Ball wedged against flagstick and side of hole is deemed as holed
- Ready golf – a great idea, particularly on the tee. However, golfers will always have to check that no-one could be struck from a shot/mishit shot.
- Social golf – ball OOB has option of playing level with point of ball entering OOB, with 2 shot penalty, but not having to walk back to tee (Local Rule required)

Sunday Roasts. Heinz will be cooking his Sunday roasts on Sunday 20 January and Sunday 3 February. 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.

Winter Party Discounts for Members. We offer our annual winter discounts on member's parties booked at the Club from 1 December 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. Ideal for birthday parties, christenings and family get-togethers! Please chat to Jason for more details.

Thursday 13 December – Late Practice Evening 6–8pm. The bar and Clubhouse will be open. For £12 you get an MOT golf lesson with Russell; he will move between the golfers on the range giving advice on your swing. You also get three driving range tokens and have sausage, mash, peas and onion gravy in the Clubhouse. There is a sign-up sheet in the bar.

Boxing Day. We had put in the handbook that we would be closed on Boxing Day. However, Dan has volunteered to run the day. The course and Clubhouse will be open from 9:00am-4:00pm and Dan will be able to provide catering. So now, if you didn't know what to do with your 'outlaws', you can bring them along for a game of golf or a BLT!!

Room for Rent? Dan has been working at the Club over the past month and renting a room locally in Mursley. Unfortunately his landlady is looking to sell the property, leaving Dan searching for another room. If any members know of someone who is looking to rent a room for additional income then please do have a word with Dan.

The Vale. Finally, many thanks to Lance for co-ordinating this newsletter over the last year. It is a great boon to be able to keep members regularly updated on Club matters and I am sure that you would all join me in thanking Lance for his efforts. Lance has January off for good behaviour and the next Vale newsletter will be issued on 1 February.

And finally, finally, we wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a New Year full of banditry!

*Chris Wright*

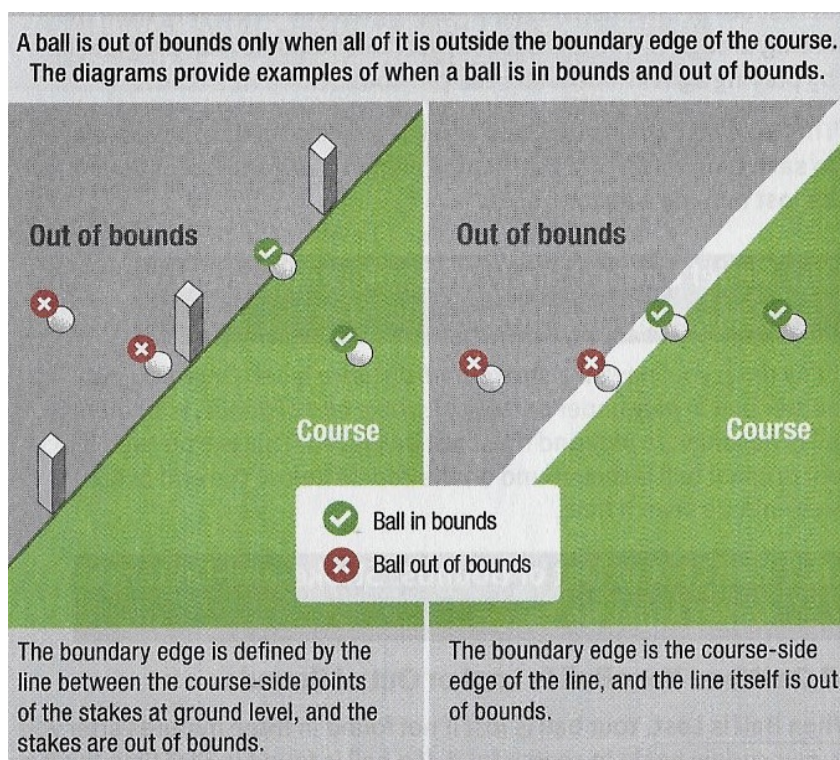
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### **New Rules of Golf – Effective from 1 January 2019**

Rule 18.2a When Your Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds. Your ball is **lost if not found in three minutes** after you or your caddie begin to search for it. If a ball is found in that time but it is uncertain whether it is your ball:

You must promptly attempt to identify the ball and are allowed a reasonable time to do so, even if that happens after the three-minute search time has ended. This includes a reasonable time to get to the ball if you are not where the ball is found. If you do not identify your ball in that reasonable time the ball is lost.

Your ball at rest is Out of Bounds only when all of it is outside the boundary edge of the course, as shown in the helpful diagram below.



## 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. A subtle difference but this will help with your transition through the swing and help you to take less heavy shots when you take your divot.

To help you, visualise an imaginary 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 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.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to working with you to improve your game in 2019!



### Christmas Vouchers from Russell Phillips

**£25 gift voucher** - for 1x30min 1-to-1 lesson

**£60 gift voucher** - for 3x30min 1-to-1 lesson

There is only a limited number of these available from the **Pro Shop** so don't miss out. Vouchers must be purchased before 24/12/18.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by TheIwell ©



### Gift Vouchers for Lessons

Terry Bunyan is offering lesson vouchers for use as Christmas gifts, in denominations from £25. Call Terry on 07588 272322 to order your personalised voucher.



### Winter Lesson Package from Terry Bunyan

One-on-one winter lesson game improvement package available from Terry Bunyan:

9-hole playing assessment lesson  
4 x 45min lessons with iPad video  
2-hour short game lesson

All for just £199

Book before end of December

Contact Terry: 07588 272322

## Men

### A Word from the Men's Captain...

I thought I'd finally cracked the pre-match inspirational pep talk following the brushing aside of Princes Risborough GC in the first of our winter CBL KO matches, however the formula proved short lived when we were sent packing with an aggregate defeat against Mill Green GC in the next round.

So, my year for attempting to pick the in-form players and blame my Vice-Captain when it didn't pay off comes to an end. I would just like to thank all players who have placed their names on the sheets and turned out for home and away fixtures representing AVGC during 2018. Good luck to Mr Chandler for picking up the mantle, hopefully finding the balanced winning formula for next year's challenges.

The past month included the holding of the re-arranged Waddington Shield Texas Scramble. In case you had forgotten, the original date only had six teams entered due to a small matter of clashing with the final day of this year's Ryder Cup. However, to re-arrange proved to be the right decision as we ended up with a full field, with congratulations going to the winning team of Ghie McGinley, Shane Lea, Tim O'Sullivan and Shanil Patel with a fantastic nett score of 56.9. Note, for those who have not yet met me and realised what a dashing good-looking fellow I am, the picture below is me (second from the right) presenting to Shane, Tim and Shanil but unfortunately missing Ghie.

Moving on to matters ahead, January 2019 sees some changes to the rules of golf and to try and aid and address any confusion or concern that members may have, our good Lady Captain has managed to arrange for Cally Hawker, County Handicap Advisor, to attend AVGC and provide a rules presentation on Monday 7 January at 2:00pm. A sheet will be pinned on the notice board ahead of the date for any members who will not be able to attend in person but wish for specific questions to be addressed.



As there will be no further edition before Christmas, I will take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the forthcoming festive period and 2019.

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

*John Barker*

November saw the last of our summer competitions completed with the result of the Daily Mail foursomes. The winning pair were Shane Lea and Johnny Frankland with an excellent nett 70, five shots clear of second placed Steve and Nathan Chandler.

The November Medal saw Alex Robins take the honours in Division 1, on countback from Neil Garrett, both players shooting a nett 67. Matt Miller was third, a further shot back. In Division 2 a nett 68 from Warren Jones was enough to give him victory by a shot over second placed Shanil Patel, with Adrian King a further shot back in third. Brian Furness was the winner in Division 3 with a nett 69. Russell Dunn and Adrian Matthews took the next two places, both scoring nett 72s.

The November Midweek Stableford saw Gary Lee take top spot with an excellent 43 points. John Burrows (41 points) was second with Chris Gibson (40 points) in third place.

All the Summer Knockouts have been completed and the results are as follows:

Summer Singles: Jason Thornalley, runner-up Johnny Frankland.

Summer Pairs: Tony Sadler & Dwayne Cowans, runners-up. Steve & Nathan Chandler.

Mickey Lawlor Trophy: Shane Lea, runner-up Graham Magill.

Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who took part.

### Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal 3 November	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Alex Robins nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Neil Garrett nett 67 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Matthew Miller nett 68	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Warren Jones nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Shanil Patel nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Adrian King nett 70	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Brian Furness nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Russell Dunn nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Adrian Matthews nett 72
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Gary Lee 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : John Burrows 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Chris Gibson 40 Pts		

## Seniors

### A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

The winter chill has finally arrived and golf buggies will not be seen again on the course until the Spring. That said, attendance at the two November Winter 8 competitions has easily exceeded 50 Seniors at each event and very high scores of 46 and 43 points saw Keith Panes and Clive Gear respectively take home the spoils. Spare a thought for Richard Braithwaite, who came second with 43 points in the first of these two events playing off an 8 handicap and promptly got cut a stroke for his endeavours.

The Winter KO Competitions are now underway, as well as the two divisions of the Eclectic Competition. Hugh Frood will be tough to catch in the lower handicap category, whilst Ken Slatter is in pole position in the higher category with a healthy lead over defending champion Larry Goddard. Can those with rounds in hand close the gap on the two leaders?

If you are quick there is still time to book your place at the Club Dinner and Dance on 8 December. A three-course meal with a live musical act for entertainment afterwards is surely good value at £26 a head! More details and booking forms are available in the bar area.

Another date for your New Year diary is a talk kindly organised by Jane Barker and given by the County Ladies Handicap Advisor on the New Rules of Golf. This will take place in the function room in the Clubhouse on 7 January at 2:00pm.

This will be my last contribution to *The Vale* for 2018 as the editor is taking a well-earned rest and there will not be a January edition. Despite all my ‘bah humbug’ thoughts about Christmas, which seems to start in the shops in October, I would like to offer my compliments of the season to all those associated with our Club which makes it such a friendly place to come to, regardless of the weather and the quality of the golf that we regularly produce - despite aspirations to play better!

*Dave Simons*

### Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter League away match vs Weston Turville 1 November	Halved
Winter Eight (3) 5 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Keith Panes 46 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Richard Braithwaite 43 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Larry Goddard 42 Pts
Winter League away match vs Chartridge Park 7 November	Lost 1:5
Winter Eight (4) 19 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Clive Gear 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : John Draper 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mark Leech 38 Pts

## Ladies

### A Word from the Lady Captain...

I would like to correct a mistake written last month! The Christmas Bring & Win, where everyone brings along a wrapped gift and there is a 9-hole competition followed by mince pies and Bucks Fizz is open to all ladies, 5- and 7-day, without a green fee payable. I look forward to seeing you at this event as it will be the last golf outing for many prior to the big day.

In our competition diary there are trophies to be won in the names of various ladies. It turns out that they were donated by founding members shortly after the Club opened. Janet Harries and her husband Shaun were two such members. They were local Leighton Buzzard people, Janet being a schoolteacher. Her husband Shaun went on to be the Men’s Captain in 1994 and Janet was our Club Champion (gross and nett winner) in 2009. The Harries Shield is a stroke play competition and was set up with a maximum handicap of 27 and to be played off ¾ handicap. After this year’s competition the Committee voted to make this competition a full handicap to bring it in line with Golf England Rules for playing competitions. This year I was very fortunate to play a good round of golf and win the Harries Shield.

The County AGM took place on 5 November at Dunstable Downs Golf Club. Myself, Jane Codrai and Anne Bridges went along from Aylesbury Vale. The presentation of trophies took place where the Wand Ward Trophy was presented to Anne on behalf of AVGC Scratch team by Heddwen Molloy, our outgoing County President. Please see the lovely photo below.



As I am sure most of you already know, there are changes to the Rules of Golf that come into effect on 1 January 2019. I have arranged for Cally Hawker, our County Handicap Adviser, to give us a Rules Presentation. Please put this date in your diary – MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019 at 2:00pm – to be held in our function room. She will enlighten us of the changes to the Rules (if you do not already know them) with a short quiz and time for questions.

The winners of summer/winter knockout competitions have their names engraved on the appropriate boards in our function room. Since we only go in there occasionally, I would like to draw your attention to the winners of the 2018 Summer knockouts and congratulate them.

Summer Singles (7-day) – Ghie McGinley  
 Summer Pairs (7-day) – Julie Lea and Sue Bellingham  
 Mixed Summer (7-day) – Jan Chambers and Andrew Pearce  
 Midweek Summer Singles – Anne Bridges  
 Midweek Summer Pairs – Jane Barker and Vanessa Bond  
 Midweek Mixed – Jane Whigham and Barry Quantrill

Our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 12 December and it is lovely to see that so many ladies have signed up. I do hope the weather is kind and those wishing to play are able to get out for nine holes prior to the lunch.

Another date for your diaries: Saturday 9 March 2019. This is the date for our AGM and it will take place at 2pm in our function room, rather than the usual Tuesday evening in February. I am hoping that more ladies will be happy to be driving during the day, rather than on a dark, cold night and I look forward to seeing you there. I have organized a fun 9-hole competition in the morning at 10:30am and there is no green fee payable by 5-day members. There will be a sign-up sheet for this competition but you can always contact Jackie Boden who will add you to the list if you are not able to get to the Club to sign up.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

*Jane Barker*

### Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

Barbara Carr Plate 4 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges 39 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lesley Wright 33 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sheelagh Culverhouse 29 Pts
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Weekend Medal 10 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Sue Bellingham nett 73 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sheelagh Culverhouse nett 76
Midweek Medal 12 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 73 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai nett 75 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Vivien Craker nett 76
Winter Stableford 17 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sue Bellingham 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Natalie Rendle 36 Pts
Stableford 21 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Pat Connolly 35 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai 32 pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sheila Perkins 30 Pts
Weekend Stableford 24 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Julie Lea 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lesley Wright 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Barker 31 Pts

## Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

## Pro Shop

Shop News. Our Christmas Sale is in the shop and finishes on Boxing Day. There is 10% off all shop goods, excluding Russell's Pings and re-grips. Pay with your Member's white card and you will get a further 10% off. So take this opportunity to arrange your Christmas presents. There is a range of winter golf wear, hats and gloves to keep you warm.

Ping. Take a look at some great deals in the shop this month - Ping waterproof jackets from £60 and Ping thermal tops from £42, available while stocks last!



### 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 7:00am 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. 6:00pm

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...** stay safe, warm and happy.

...**and a touch of humour...** be warned. Using an old ball for a shot over water does not mean that you will avoid a splash.

*Happy Christmas  
Everyone!*

*Lance Redler*

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

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

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

#### **Men:**

Saturday 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 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED**

Saturday 5 January – Medal 0815-1000

**Monday 7 January – New Rules of Golf Presentation 1400**

#### **Seniors:**

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 – competition 0830-0915

**25 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED**

Wednesday 2 January – competition 0830-1000

Wednesday 16 January – Winter League away match vs Oakland Park

Monday 7 January – competition 0830-1000

**Monday 7 January – New Rules of Golf Presentation 1400**

Wednesday 9 January – competition 0830-1000

Monday 14 January – Winter Eight (6) 0830-1000

Wednesday 16 January – competition 0830-1000

Monday 21 January – competition 0830-1000

Wednesday 23 January – competition 0830-1000

Monday 28 January – competition 0930-1000

Wednesday 30 January – competition 0830-1000

#### **Ladies:**

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 DECEMBER COURSE CLOSED**

Wednesday 2 January – competition 1000-1030

Monday 7 January – competition 1000-1030

**Monday 7 January – New Rules of Golf Presentation 1400**

Wednesday 9 January – 1000-1030

Saturday 12 January – Medal 0945-1030

Monday 14 January – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 16 January – midweek Medal 1000-1030

Monday 21 January – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 23 January – Stableford 1000-1030

Monday 28 January – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 30 January – competition 1000-1030

### ***Key Contacts***

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

e-mail: [info@avgc.co.uk](mailto:info@avgc.co.uk)

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

Tel: 01525 240196

**Memberships/Shop/Tee bookings:** Chris Wright, 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](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk)

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322

or [terrygolf1965@gmail.com](mailto: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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**Editor *The Vale*:** Lance Redler (01296) 681286

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