



# *The Vale*

## Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 56, February 2019

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### Comment

Wow! Who could possibly have foreseen that, since the winter started, the course has been closed only briefly and otherwise all trolleys have been allowed throughout? This good weather has given Luke and the greenkeeping team the opportunity to maintain and improve the course to an even higher standard, for which we are most grateful.

### Frank Dunbar

We report, with regret, the death in December of Frank Dunbar.

Frank – a Senior – had been a Club member for a relatively short time, together with his wife Carolyn, to whom we extend our condolences.

### News and Updates from the Club Management

#### The Course

The course is still holding up remarkably well and the greens are as good as they have ever been for mid-winter. The fairways are still firm and we still have had no trolley bans. The lads have reduced the height of the hedge on the 17<sup>th</sup> and are currently trimming the lower branches off conifers. Fresh woodchip has been added around the Clubhouse and they are half way through the bunker renovations. We need to order in some more turf to finish the renovations, but Luke is just waiting until the weather forecast gives us a run of frost free days.

At this time of year we are always conscious that soft spikes can be slippery when they get filled with snow, ice or mud. The wooden sleeper steps can then be slippery. We offer two suggestions:

1. Should you feel conditions getting slippery underfoot, then we have no issue with golfers accessing tees via the grass banks at points where they are least steep. This will be most relevant when temperatures are close to or below freezing.
2. We offer metal spikes at half price in the shop for February and March if you wish to switch to metal spikes. You can always change back to your soft spikes in spring.

Finally we would ask members not to take a trolley onto a green or tee. This should be obvious but tracks in the frost tell a different story!!

### Rules of Golf 2019

The new Rules are now in force! The Local Rules have been re-written for the course and are on the noticeboard. There are still copies of the new Rulebook available from the Clubhouse so help yourself to a copy. The diagrams help to explain the new Rules and make for less painful reading!!

Following discussion with the Captains of the Club a concern was raised that if we adopted the 'drop rule' for social golf when a player went OOB, then that drop might be taken by accident in a 'qualifier' and potentially disqualify the golfer. Hence we are going to meet with the Captains again in July and discuss whether to introduce this Local Rule then. In the meantime there are plenty of other new rules to get used to!

Sunday Roasts. Heinz will be cooking his roasts next on Sunday 3 February. The sign-up sheets are in the bar.

### Late Practice Evenings on the Driving Range / Professional Tips!

We have made improvements to the lighting on the driving range for evening/night practice and Russell Phillips will be continuing with his Pro's Tips evenings. The next dates and times for the evenings are as follows:

Thursday 21 February – 6pm to 7pm

Thursday 7 March – 6pm to 7pm

The cost is £14 per head and there are a maximum of eight places for each hour. For this you get three range tokens each, Russell's tips on your swing, and a meal in the Clubhouse. The meal will vary from week to week but will be like chicken curry or sausage, mash and onion gravy. Dan has volunteered to run these evenings so the Clubhouse will remain open until 8pm. If these evenings prove successful then we are happy to continue them into the spring. It is a relatively cheap way to get regular professional tips on your swing that you can work on before booking onto another session. There is a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard in the bar.

*Chris Wright*

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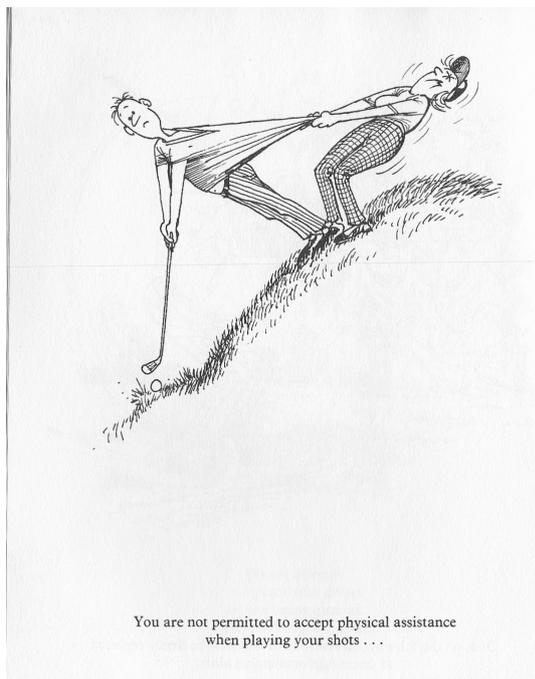
### **Rules of Golf**

As the previous edition of the Rules of Golf said: *'Play the ball as it lies, play the course as you find it, and if you cannot do either, do what is fair. But to do what is fair you need to know the Rules of Golf.'* Having read that, don't forget that updated Rules came into effect on 1 January; here are two that have been amended:

Ball in Motion Accidentally Hits Person or Outside Influence (Rule 11). Rule 11.1a states: If your ball in motion accidentally hits any person or outside influence, including you, any other player or any of your caddies or equipment, **there is no penalty to any player.** Note however: **Exception – Ball Played on Putting Green in Stroke Play:** If your ball in motion hits another ball at rest on the putting green and both balls were on the putting green before your stroke, you get the general penalty (two penalty strokes).

'Club-Length' (Definition). When measuring one or two club lengths for relief purposes, 'club length' is now defined in the Rules as *'The length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs you have during the round, other than a putter.'* However, a headcover is not allowed to be used as part of the club when using it to measure.

**Local Rules.** The Club's updated (on 10 and 11 January) Local Rules following the introduction of the 2019 Rules of Golf are posted on the usual notice board in the changing room lobby. Do check periodically to make sure that you remain up to date with any changes, such as the very short-term one posted on 25 January regarding relief in respect of the piles of branches.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



### Tip of the Month from your Club Professional, Terry Bunyan

With the season only a couple of months away, this is now the time to work on your game.

Set yourself a couple of simple achievable goals. Maybe something as simple as going to the driving range for an hour a week, also practice your putting at home on the carpet if it's too cold outside.

Also seek some professional guidance. Take a lesson to help point you in the right direction of what you need to be working on. Happy golfing!

#### Lesson Offers for February from Terry Bunyan

9-hole playing lesson now just £40  
A great way to assess your whole golfing game

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Game changer programme  
On course playing lesson assessment  
6 one-to-one lessons, working on your swing.. Includes iPad video analysis  
2-hour short game lesson

All for just £199!  
Call Terry Bunyan on 07588 272322

**Something to Sell?** If you have any golf equipment to sell, you could advertise it free of charge, space permitting, in *The Vale*. Contact the Editor.

## **Adult Lessons from Russell Phillips**

### **342 in February and March!**

For each of the following lessons, if you buy two you get the same for free.

- 30 mins @ £25
- 1 hour @ £40

(Lessons must be used before the end of May.)

Contact Russell Phillips on 07843 692948

### **Hole-in-One**

Congratulations are extended to Barry Andrews, our latest member to ace the 8<sup>th</sup> hole, achieving this on 20 December.

## **Men**

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

Firstly, may I wish you all the very best for the forthcoming 2019 golf year.

However, before starting on the forthcoming year, there's still a couple of matters I'd like to cover before 2018 ended, which already seems quite a while ago.

November's Medal marked a milestone score for young Alex Robins. Whilst playing alongside Paul Robson and myself, Alex completed his first AVGC Medal gross score of 72. Well done Alex.

For me, one of the most interesting competitions of the year is the Turkey Trot, an event where we're restricted to three clubs and a putter, played in less than favourable conditions, and yet every year the winners need more than 38 points, 2018 being no exception. Mm, does raise the intriguing question on how many clubs do we really need?

We then move on to the Christmas Dinner, which turned out to be a great success, with the live act ensuring that all who attended joined in and enjoyed a very entertaining evening. These events don't just happen and take considerable effort beforehand, so a big thank you to Peter Codrai.

2019, yes, those new Rules are now in place. It was good to see so many members at the County Rules Presentation, glad to say that all three Captains and Men's Vice-Captain scored 10 out of 10 in the concluding quiz.

Moving ahead, two dates for your diaries - the Men's AGM meeting on Saturday 2 March, as usual held after the Monthly Medal which will be a shotgun start - and then the end of season Presentation Evening on Saturday 30 March. It would be good to see both these attended with as many members as possible.

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

*John Barker*

The January monthly Medal saw 64 players tee up and in Division 1 it was Men's Captain John Barker who came out on top with a fine nett 68. A shot further back in second place came Johnny Frankland with Nick Davies edging out Nick Bowden for third place on countback, both players scoring nett 71.

Mark Adams took the honours in Division 2, his nett 68 securing a one shot victory over Paul Robson who took second place on countback from Peter Ward.

In Division 3 the fast-improving Ian Moodley shot a best of the day nett 67 to comfortably win by six shots from second placed Jon Read. Tim O'Sullivan finished in third spot on countback from three other players all recording nett 77s.

### Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal 9 December	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Lee Sarmple nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nicholas Davies nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Will Shackleton nett 73	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Peter Howarth nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Keith McGoverne nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Paul Herridge nett 71	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : John Kidd nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Searle nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tony Foster nett 73
Medal 6 January	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : John Barker nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Johnny Frankland nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nicholas Davies nett 71	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Mark Adams nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Paul Robson nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Peter Ward nett 69	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Ian Moodley nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jon Read nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tim O'Sullivan nett 77
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hugh Gallagher 42 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Michael Caro 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Craig Hutchinson 35 Pts		

## Seniors

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

We have been blessed with largely dry if occasionally cold weather through December into January and the course and greens have been playing very well. That said, as I look out of the window whilst writing this, the first snow of the Winter is falling, which I hope is just a temporary blip.

The good weather has seen large turn-outs in both the December and January Winter 8 Competitions, won by Simon Merritt and Nigel Welling respectively. We have also seen the outcome of the annual club handicap review which brought joy to some and sorrow to others.

The Winter KO Competitions are now well underway, as well as the two divisions of the Eclectic Competition. Hugh Frod and Ken Slatter continue to lead the way in their respective divisions. The competition to decide the overall winner of the Winter 8 is wide open with two rounds still to go. Just seven points cover the top 11 places in the table, determined by the best three Stableford round scores of each player.

Larry Goddard has completed the Seniors' calendar for 2019/20 and this will soon be incorporated in the whole Club handbook. In the interim a copy of our events has been posted on our webpage.

The talk on the new 2019 Rules of Golf organized by the Ladies was very well attended and provided for interesting interpretations on the various scenarios presented or raised in questions from the floor. The top 20 rule changes can be found on our webpage and a hard copy is on the notice board. Amongst the highlights I would particularly draw your attention to the new rules that require players to drop the ball from knee height instead of shoulder height and restrict the time allowed to look for a ball from five to three minutes. The latter situation really does underline the wisdom of hitting a provisional ball when locating your first attempt may be in doubt. Finally, is reference to 'Pace of Play' and the recommendation that players take no longer than 40 seconds to take a shot. Forty seconds seems an eternity to me in virtually every playing situation. Your Committee advocates 'ready golf', i.e. getting on with the playing of the game if it is safe to do so. Remember that just a little bit of time saved here

and there adds up to perhaps 15-30 minutes during the course of a round and sometimes even more!  
***Time to get down from my soap box.***

A reminder that the nomination form for available Committee posts to be filled for next season has now been posted on our notice board. This is your opportunity to get involved and help with the running of the Section. An Agenda for our AGM has also been posted on our webpage. The meeting will take place on 13 March at 3pm.

*Dave Simons*

### **Seniors' Committee**

The nomination sheet for membership of the 2019 Seniors' Committee is on the Seniors' noticeboard in the changing room (adjacent to Locker 1) and will remain there until 23 February, when nominations close.

Please think what *you* could bring to the Committee to help make golf even more rewarding and fun for our members. If there's already a name down for a post, don't let that dissuade you from adding yours – in fact the more the merrier! Should there be more than one nomination for any Officer or Member post, the decision is made by election during the AGM on 13 March.

### **Seniors' AGM**

The Seniors' AGM takes place on Wednesday 13 March, starting at about 3:00pm following completion of the AGM Cup. The agenda and other paperwork are on the Seniors' noticeboard in the changing room.

### **Seniors' Website**

Don't forget that the Seniors' Section has its own website, linked to that of AVGC. This is kept up to date and contains current news, the season's calendar of events, allocated individual tee times for competitions, competition results, match teams and lots more. To access it, go to the Club website ([www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)), hover over 'Members Information' and click on 'Seniors'.

### **Seniors 'Do the Double' (by Peter Nightingale)**

Normally, our first Winter League away match of the year at Oakland Park tends to be postponed because of weather conditions, but not this year.

On a pleasant January morning, slightly overcast and with a light rain falling, our team of six pairs went out in a positive, but apprehensive, mood. We had not won an away match since I have been looking after the Winter League in 2013, or done the double on any team. Today, it was going to be different, although we did not know it at the time. The first match of myself and Chris Cox took on their Captain and his partner. The game was very tight, neither pairs getting away and it was all square on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The 18<sup>th</sup> was Chris's hole, having put his second shot - thanks to a ricochet - about three feet from the green. He also had a shot and ended up with a 4 (nett 3) to win the hole and match. The second match, Richard Braithwaite and Ken Slatter won their match 7&5, although Richard was giving 17 shots to one of their players. Game three was also really tight with Barry Stanley and Keith Minor winning by one. Game four (Keith Loxton and Tom Hobbs) and game six (David Dean and Hugh Frood) ended in halves, with the final game Steve Waters and John Parmenter ending in a loss. It was a terrific match, hard fought, which ended in a 4:2 win for Aylesbury Vale.

Our next match is against Little Hay, who are at present holding up the table, not yet having won any match, but have a draw only against us. The current results table is:

Chartridge Park	played 6	15 points
Aylesbury Vale	played 6	9½ points
Oakland Park	played 6	4 points
Weston Turville	played 5	3 points
Little Hay	played 5	1½ points

A minimum of a draw at Little Hay will mean we finish second, our highest ever. Unfortunately, no-one can catch Chartridge Park as they have won all their matches so far. However, we can dent their 100% record by beating them at AVGC on 5 March.

### Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter Eight (5) 3 December	1 <sup>st</sup> : Simon Merritt 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nigel Welling 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mark Leech 41 Pts
Winter Eight (6) 14 January	1 <sup>st</sup> : Nigel Welling 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Simon Merritt 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Don Huggett 37 Pts
Winter League away match vs Oakland Park 16 January	Won 4:2

## Ladies

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

Happy New Year to you all, even though it seems a long time ago now!

The talk of the Club after the Christmas dinner dance was the entertainment. A duo called Recollections came along and what a fantastic job they did. They managed to include just about everyone in the room. The feedback concluded it was one of the best 'do's' ever (well at least in my time which is since 2011!).

Below is a photograph from our Christmas Lunch. It was lovely that 56 ladies came along to enjoy a buffet lunch followed by one of Charlotte Simpson's delicious carrot cakes and coffee. I would like to thank Judy Fagan for all her hard work to make it such an enjoyable event and everyone else who helped out. The entertainment was nothing less than expected. There were four different quizzes on each table to attempt, and a jigsaw to do, then a chance to acknowledge all the birthdays ending in a '0' and not forgetting our singalong. A lovely opportunity for a pre-Christmas social.



The Bring and Win took place on a grey day and unfortunately only eight ladies supported the event. Nevertheless we all enjoyed several glasses of Bucks Fizz and mince pies whilst opening our Secret Santa gifts.



I was very pleased with the New Rules Presentation afternoon given by Cally Hawker and Di Little from County and felt that they gave a very valuable presentation. It was very pleasing that 70 people attended and hopefully the afternoon has helped everyone understand the changes.

I am writing this on the first day of snow closure at the course, when the Ladies were due to be playing the January monthly Stableford. Let's hope there are not too many closure days before the Spring.

Do sign up for the fun 9-hole competition at 10:30 on Saturday 9 March in advance of the Ladies' AGM. No green fee is payable by 5-day lady members.

As mentioned above, the AGM will follow the 9-hole competition at 2pm where light refreshments will be available on arrival. I look forward to seeing you there.

Save the Date! Please take note that the AVGC Ladies' Section Invitation Day is on Thursday 6 June. Make a note in your diary and do your best to 'find a friend' to invite.

*Jane Barker*

### Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

December FF Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Danka Lawson 33 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jan Chambers 27 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Codrai 19 Pts
Midweek Stableford 19 December	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges 33 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jan Chambers 31 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Whigham 26 Pts
Weekend Medal 12 January	1 <sup>st</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 75 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Abi Pearce nett 80

## Juniors

### Junior Open Day – Monday 18 February

This Open Day is aimed at all Juniors who are involved in the challenge programme, go to Swanbourne 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 10am 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 £30! You must book your child's place by contacting Russell Phillips on 07843 692948 or emailing [r.phillips@avgc.co.uk](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk)

Also see the Junior club sale in the Pro Shop.

## Pro Shop

Shop Sale. This month there is 10% off all Masters bags and trolleys. Pay with your white card and get a further 10% reduction. All Junior golf clubs are now in the sales until the end of February and you can SAVE £100 off some sets. Visit the Pro Shop to find out more. We have size fitting charts in place to make sure we get the right size for them.

### Ping Sale

There is currently a sale on Ping golf clubs and Ping bags in the shop. From now until the end of February all Ping clubs and bags will be in the sale. They are now cheaper than anywhere on the internet. It's a great chance to upgrade your gear at this incredible price. The sale only applies to stock we have left in the shop, so don't miss out! We have lots of demo clubs that can be used if you want to try it before you buy it.

Russell can also take a few players to the Ping Fitting Centre in Gainsborough to get fitted for the new Ping club range that will be launched on 1 March. This trip involves being fitted by Ping's own fitting specialists using their £20K launch monitor 'Trackman'. This trip costs £70 and includes tea/coffee on arrival, 1½ hour fitting, lunch and nine holes.

Russell will be with you to assist with any questions and the fitting. The next visit is Friday 1 March, 7am to 6pm. Russell can only take six players, so call him on 07843 692948 for more details.

Grips. All grips are now in the Sale and are up to **70% off**. The price includes fitting and grips will be fitted within 48 hours. Have a look at the display in the shop, choose your grip and leave your club(s) in the Pro Shop. The sale is due to end at the end of February so don't miss this great chance to get your clubs fitted with fresh grips ready for the new golf season. A full set of new grips could cost as little as £40.

## and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** May 2019 bring you all the good golf that you hope for.

**...and a touch of humour...** Golfer: *'The doctor says I can't play golf.'* Caddie: *'Oh, he's played with with you, too, eh?'*

*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:**

Sunday 10 February – Medal 0730-1100  
Saturday 2 March – Medal 0700-1230 (shotgun)  
Saturday 9 March – Zodiac Texas Scramble 0745-1000  
**Sunday 17 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0840-1000**  
**Sunday 31 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400-1430**

#### **Seniors:**

Monday 4 February – competition 0830-1000  
Tuesday 19 February – WL away match vs Little Hay  
Wednesday 6 February – competition 0830-1000  
Monday 11 February – Winter Eight (7) 0830-1000  
Wednesday 13 February – competition 0830-1000  
Monday 18 February – competition 0830-1000  
Wednesday 20 February – competition 0830-1000  
Monday 25 February – competition 0830-1000  
Wednesday 27 February – competition 0830-1000  
Monday 4 March – competition 0830-1000  
Tuesday 5 March – WL home match vs Chartridge Park  
Wednesday 6 March – competition 0830-1000  
Monday 11 March – Winter Eight (8) 0830-1000  
Wednesday 13 March – AGM Cup 0900-1030  
Wednesday 13 March – AGM 1500  
Monday 18 March – competition 0830-1000  
Wednesday 20 March – competition 0815-1000  
Monday 24 March – Celebratory Cup 0800-0830  
Monday 24 March – competition 0830-1000  
Wednesday 27 March – competition 0815-1000  
**Sunday 31 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400-1430**

#### **Ladies:**

Monday 4 February – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 6 February – competition 1000-1030  
Saturday 9 February – Medal 1000-1030  
Monday 11 February – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 13 February – Medal 1000-1030  
Monday 18 February – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 20 February – competition 1000-1030  
Monday 25 February – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 27 February – Stableford 1000-1030  
Sunday 3 March – Medal 0845-0930  
Monday 4 March – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 6 March – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1030  
Saturday 9 March – 9-hole competition 1030-1130 +AGM  
Sunday 10 March – Medal of Medals 0845-0930  
Monday 11 March – competition 1000-1030  
Wednesday 13 March – competition 1000-1030  
Saturday 16 March – Helen Rowley Plate 0945-1030  
**Sunday 17 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0840-1000**  
Monday 18 March – Medal 1000-1100  
Wednesday 20 March – Stableford 1000-1100  
Monday 25 March – competition 1000-1100  
Wednesday 27 March – competition 1000-1100  
**Sunday 31 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400-1430**

### **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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