



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

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

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Edition 57, March 2019

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## Comment

This month sees the separate AGMs of all three Sections of the Club (see diary dates on final page). Do try to attend whichever of these is relevant to you, so that you can express an opinion or exert an influence on your Section to the incoming Committee.

Don't forget to come to the Captains' Drive-In on Sunday 31 March, at 2:00pm!



**AVGC GOLF CLUB**  
**PRESENTATION NIGHT**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**A Night of Fun and Celebration**

**Everyone Welcome**

**Fantastic three Course Dinner**

**6.30pm for 7.00pm.**  
**Jacket & Tie / Formal Dress.**  
**Dancing till Midnight.**

**£25.00 per person**

Please enter your names on Table Plan provided  
and put payment made out to  
**"AVGC Men's Match Committee"**  
in an envelope & drop in the Men's or Ladies  
competition box.

**Bookings will be closed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

## News and Updates from the Club Management

### The Course

The greens staff have completed several projects this month and the weather has lent a helping hand.

The greens and tees have all been verti-drained again in February and the greens and collars have just received their first application of fertiliser. The greens and collars have had three cuts this month whilst the tees have been double cut.

The fairways have all been cut and the only four fairways still left to verti-drain are 7, 9, 15 and 18. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fairways have received an application of iron to assist in getting rid of some patches of moss.

Most of the deciduous trees have now been pruned with lower limbs and suckers being removed. The only remaining holes to prune are 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The conifer project on the course is now complete, with the exception of the 6<sup>th</sup> hole, which will be finished this month.

The refurbished bunkers have all received new turf and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (left hand side) bunkers have been re-opened. The re-turfing on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (right hand side) bunkers is now complete but there will still be a couple of weeks before re-opening while the turf takes root. There is fresh turf laid from the 8<sup>th</sup> bridge to the 8<sup>th</sup> Medal tee to enhance a damaged area.

Buggies. We have had our first delivery of four buggies. Unfortunately, due to the previous theft, we can no longer hire electric buggies. The buggies are available to book but we would ask all buggy drivers to give the greens an extra wide berth at this time of year. Ground conditions are currently excellent but we do recognise it is early for the buggies and the weather might yet have a sting in the tail. We would therefore ask those booking a buggy to leave a phone number in case the weather deteriorates and we need to withdraw them from the course.

### New Members

Every year we lose some members in the Winter and need to set about replacing them in the Spring. This is where we reach out to existing members and request that you chat to your friends and see if they would be interested in joining the Club. As an incentive, from 1 March 2019 to 30 April 2019, for each member that you introduce we will put a £20 top up onto your white card.

To assist you in this task the 2019 fees are £895 for a 7-Day member and £640 for a 5-Day member. This is for a rolling year and is well under the going rate for a Members' Club. The course is in great shape for the time of year so ask your friends to keep their green fee ticket if they come up to play the course with you and then, if they join, they can get that green fee refunded off their subscription.

Sunday Roasts. Heinz will be cooking his roasts next on Sunday 10 March. The sign-up sheets are in the bar.

Late Practice Evenings on the Driving Range/Professional Tips!. Russell Phillips will be continuing with his 'Pro's Tips' evenings on Thursday 7 March, from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Please sign up in the bar.

*Chris Wright*

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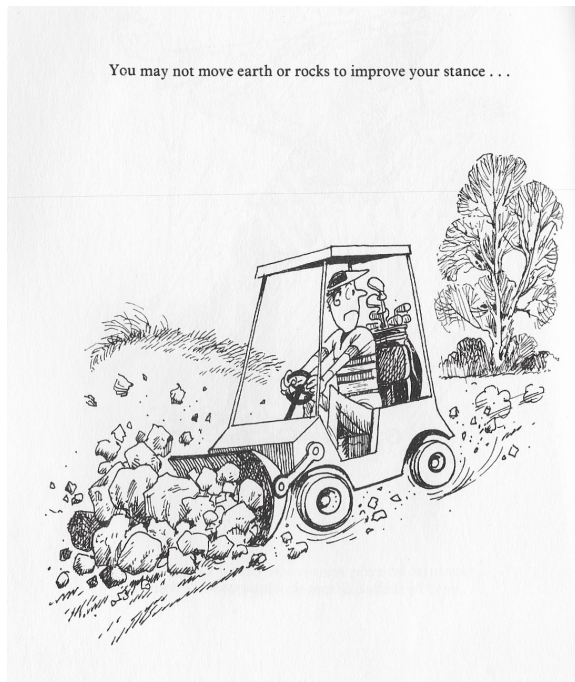
## Rules of Golf

Putting Greens – Rule 13. A key change to the Rule applying to putting greens (previously Rule 16) relates to the type of damage that may be repaired before putting. Rule 13.1c refers to improvements allowed on the putting green, identifying what damage may be repaired without penalty. 'Damage' is defined as damage caused by a person or outside influence, such as:

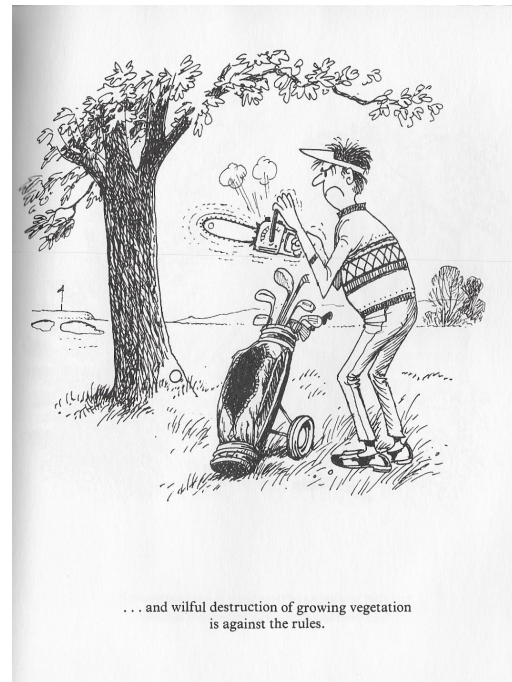
- ball marks, shoe damage (such as spike marks) and scrapes or indentations caused by equipment or a flagstick;

- old hole plugs, turf plugs, seams of cut turf and scrapes or indentations from maintenance tools or vehicles;
- animal tracks or hoof indentations, and
- embedded objects (such as a stone, acorn or tee).

Searching for a Ball – Rule 18.2. The time limit for searching for a ball has been reduced from five minutes to three minutes, BUT the time starts only once the player or the player's caddie has started to search for it. Additionally, a 'reasonable time' is permitted to identify the ball as that of the player, especially if the player is not where the ball has been found.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



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

Worn old grips can often lead to a poor hold of the club, which is too firm adding un-necessary tension in the wrists. This tends to a poor release of the club and a loss of power. If you have not had your clubs regripped in the last two years, this might be an easy solution to stop that slice and gain distance. If the grip is new you can hold the club lightly, relieving tightness in the wrists and allowing the club to naturally square up. This will help you get rid of the nasty slice and improve the distance the ball goes. A full set of 13 clubs can be fitted with new grips from as little as £39, so why wait!

#### **Russell Phillips' Lesson Offer 342 in 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: 07843 692948 or email [r.phillips@avgc.co.uk](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk).

## **March Lesson Offers from Terry Bunyan**

9-hole playing lesson: £45

18-hole playing lesson for two, so bring a friend and share the cost: £40 each

2-hour short game lesson to improve your chipping, pitching, bunker play: £50

8 hours coaching, focusing on a tailored programme to improve your game: £249

Contact Terry Bunyan on 07588 272322

## **Men**

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

February can be an indifferent month when it comes to weather and 2019 has proved to be no different. We started the month with course closures due to snow fall and ended with the last weekend reaching possible record high temperatures. The monthly Medal looked like it was going to have the field decimated due to the forecast of heavy rainfall, but over 60 players took to the tee, which was a great turn out for the time of year.

Along with rule changes the start of 2019 has also seen a new approach for our weekend roll-ups, where we now have a set time. Every member wishing to take part is encouraged to arrive by 08:15, placing a ball marked with their own initials on the table ahead of the draw, ready for the 08:40 first tee time. Before the implementation of the new format, there was much discussion and concern on whether the above set times were going to work. Change is never easy and can cause much debate. However, looking at the increased numbers since being implemented I would say that the early signs are encouraging with the minimum number of players being 23.

Weekend Roll-Up Trophy: an added incentive this year is the introduction of a new Trophy, individuals' best score of the month added together for the next 10 months and total highest score will win the honours. Our thanks and appreciation go to Binzy for the idea, organisation and providing the Trophy.

Moving ahead, we have the end of season Presentation Evening on Saturday 30 March, the table sheet for adding your names is now set up in the bar. Please can you return your menu choices as early as you can. Whether you're picking up a trophy or not it would be great to see as many members attending as possible.

March will see the closure of one chapter and the commencement of another. Sunday 31 March is the all-important 2019 Captains' Drive-In, which is the celebration and welcoming for the incoming Captains who will have the honour of striking that all-important first tee shot. It would be great to see as many members in attendance as possible to support and welcome the new Captains to their 2019 posts. Once the tee shots are struck, it's a return to the Clubhouse for the ceremonial presentation of the Captains' blazers. Good luck with hitting that ball. I had the knowledge that when I looked down last year, I could see three of them, the night before's red wine was not so welcoming at that point!

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

*John Barker*

The February monthly Medal saw an excellent turnout of 66 players in rather wet conditions. Division 1 saw one of the early starters, Nigel Welling, continue his recent good form with a winning score of nett 70. Neil Garrett took second place on countback from Dean Palmer, both players recording nett 75s. Warren Jones was the winner in Division 2 with a nett 72, a shot clear of Bob Doherty in second place. Paul Herridge took third place on countback from Binzy Bowden, both scoring nett 74s. Low score of the day once again came in Division 3 with Jay Hogg recording a nett 67. Mark Searle (nett 70) was second with countback again deciding third place, Dean Ridley edging out Andy Bignell with a nett 75.

## Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal 10 February	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Nigel Welling nett 70 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Neil Garrett nett 75 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Dean Palmer nett 75	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Warren Jones nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Bob Doherty nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Paul Herridge nett 74	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jay Hogg nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Searle nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Dean Ridley nett 75
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## Seniors

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

The Spring-like weather has been with us now for a couple of weeks and seems set to continue for a little while longer. Whilst it can still be chilly, and occasionally foggy first thing, layers of clothing are quickly discarded as the day warms up. Thankfully, prevailing temperatures and our dress code mean that the unveilings do not reveal too much of our ageing bodies!

Despite the good weather the February Winter 8 competition was won with a relatively modest score of 37 points by Richard Braithwaite. With those at the top of the table either not playing or not scoring well, a couple of players like Richard have now put themselves into contention to win the competition overall. It is all very tight at the top, with just three points covering the top six places, and six points covering the top 11 places.

The March Winter 8 also provides the last opportunity for the winner to get a place in the inaugural holding of the Celebratory Cup competition, open to all those Seniors who have won a Senior singles qualifying competition since 1 April last year. The Cup competition will be held on 25 March, with a singles Stableford competition following for non-Cup qualifiers.

The Winter KO Competitions are now coming towards a conclusion, as well as the two divisions of the Eclectic Competition. Hugh Frood seems to have the Under 19 division sewn up. However, whilst Ken Slatter continues to lead in the 19 and over division, current holder Larry Goddard has now narrowed the gap with just a couple of available rounds to go.

I am sure you will have noticed the cutting back of the lower branches to most of the conifers on the course. Some views are that this development serves to make the course easier, others welcome it as helping to speed up play. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth it was my good fortune, having pushed a shot right on the approach to the 18<sup>th</sup> green, to see the ball come through what previously would have been the bottom branches of the conifers. This allowed a simple chip and putt for par. Take all the good luck you get on the course is my motto, as most certainly the bad luck will always find you on other occasions.

Finally, some reminders:

- The AGM Cup will be held on 13 March, followed by our AGM at 3:00pm the same afternoon (see AGM Notices on our notice board and webpage). Please come along to support your new Committee.
- The Club Presentation Evening with meal and dancing will be held on Saturday 30 March at the cost of £25 a head (see flip chart in the bar area). It is rumoured that some Seniors are up for gongs.
- The following day is the Captains' Drive-In in the early afternoon with refreshments later. Please come along to cheer all the Captains and perhaps help form a search party to look for Larry's ball!

*Dave Simons*



## Winter League (by Peter Nightingale)

Our away match at Little Hay this year was played in almost perfect conditions. On a beautiful sunny Winter day our 12 players turned up for a match that would mean we could cement second place in the Winter League table. A win or a draw would result in us maintaining second place.

We got off to a good start with myself and David Simons getting a hard earned 4 and 3 win, with David leading the way. Things started to look less positive as the second team of David Dean and Stasiu Unsing lost, as did the third team of Andrew Bond (who played with Vanessa's clubs as they were in his boot, rather than his) and Tom Hobbs. The fourth team of David Friend and Lance Redler also lost. At this point I was staring at possibly our second defeat, but the fifth team of Barry Stanley and Ken Slatter won their match as did the sixth team of Hugh Frood and Peter Lawrence.

We ended the match with a 3:3 draw, the same result as when Little Hay played us at Aylesbury Vale. We have one final match, on Tuesday 5 March, against Chartridge Park, who so far have not lost a game and look like winning the League this year. I am hoping to inflict their first defeat this time, and a repeat of last year's result of 6:0 would be great!

## Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter Eight (7) 11 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Richard Braithwaite 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Bond 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Barry Stanley 36 Pts
Winter League away match vs Little Hay 19 February	Halved

## Ladies

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

February is a very short month and together with a whole weekend closure due to snow, there isn't so much golf to talk about.

The February midweek Medal was won by Ghie McGinley and Anne Bridges won the weekend February Medal. Well done ladies.

Jean Barnett kindly organized our first 9-hole qualifying Stableford on 20 February. There were only seven entrants but it was interesting to see a good mix of golfing ability. It was won with 18 points, scored by Gina Royffe, whom I had the pleasure of playing with. Well done Gina.

To play in a 9-hole qualifier a different score card is used, with different stroke indexes. There is a chart that was supplied by County to work out your handicap allowance. Jean will be ironing out a minor teething problem prior to the next competition on 13 March.

With the success of this competition the decision was taken to add a midweek 9-hole qualifier every month of the year. At the time of writing, it was not possible to squeeze one into May due to it already being a very congested month, but hopefully by the end of the year ladies will not now find that their handicaps have lapsed. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a 9-hole qualifier regularly. These are aimed at all ladies of any handicap.

We are currently experiencing unseasonably warm weather - long may it continue.

The Ladies Invitation Day is on 6 June 2019. For those of you who have not been to one before I thought I would give you a flavour of the day. You as an AVGC member invite a friend from another golf club to come along and enjoy a day out. You play an 18-hole competition with a half-way house that will be stocked with delicious homemade cakes. The competition is then followed with a buffet lunch upstairs in our function room and the prize giving.

Last year I attended the lunch and was very pleased to find that everyone I spoke to had had a lovely day. For the first time this year, I find myself able to play and I am looking forward to joining in. The day is open to all playing abilities and everyone is welcome. The signup sheet will be in the Ladies Changing Room at the beginning of March. I do hope that you are able to support this event.

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 for 5-Day lady members.

As mentioned above, the AGM will follow the 9-hole competition at 2:00pm and light refreshments will be available on arrival. I look forward to seeing you all there. (Apologies from those unable to attend will be appreciated).

The Club's Presentation Dinner and Dance is on Saturday 30 March. The sign-up board is in the bar together with the menu selection and payment details. It is another fun evening where winners of competitions throughout 2018 collect relevant trophies and then you get to put your dancing shoes on and strut your stuff on the floor (or perhaps propping up the bar is more your thing!). Whether you have won anything or not, it is a great social event. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Jane Barker*

### **Competition and Match Results (Ladies)**

Weekend Medal 9 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 78 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai nett 79 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 80
Midweek Medal 13 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Gegie McGinley nett 73 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 77 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 82
Midweek 9-hole Stableford 20 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Gina Royffe 18 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai 17 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Barker 17 Pts
Midweek Stableford 27 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Sheila Perkins 36 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ann Pullan 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Whigham 35 Pts

## **Juniors**

### Junior Challenge Programme

The start of the new programmes will start on Saturday 16 March and Sunday 17 March. If you are new to the programme then please get in contact with Russell Phillips. The challenge programme is the set pathway to get Juniors into golf at any level and progress them onto membership. Everyone on the Junior mailing list will be contacted with Levels and times, to get your name on the list please contact Russell (see below). Also see the Junior club sale in the Pro Shop.

### Junior Open Day – Easter Egg Special Theme

The Junior 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 10:00am and the day concludes with a presentation of all the prizes at approximately 3:45pm. Players 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!

**Monday 8 April – 10:00am-4:00pm and/or Thursday 18 April – 10:00am-4:00pm**

**You must book your child's place by contacting Russell Phillips on 07843 692948 or email [r.phillips@avgc.co.uk](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk).**

## **Pro Shop**

Shop Sale. This month there is 10% off all clothing. Pay with your white card and get a further 10% reduction.

Ping Sale. The Sale continues for one more month or until stocks last. From now until the end of March all Ping G400 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.

Junior Clubs. All Junior golf clubs are now in the Sales until the end of March. 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.

## **and in Conclusion...**

**...the last word is...** If you would like to be included with those who receive an emailed copy of *The Vale* each month, just ask the Editor ([lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk)).

**...and a touch of humour...** Golfer: *'I wish you wouldn't keep looking at your watch, caddie; it's distracting me.'* Caddie: *'It's not a watch, sir, it's a compass!'*

*Lance Redler*

Editor

### **Something to Sell?**

**If space is available, the Editor will be pleased to include your advertisement in *The Vale*.**

**Contact Lance Redler: [lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk)**

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 2 March – Medal 0700-1230 (shotgun)

Saturday 2 March - AGM

Saturday 9 March – Zodiac Texas Scramble 0745-1000

**Sunday 17 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0840-1000**

**Sunday 31 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400-1430**

Saturday 6 April – Burcott Trophy 0745-1015

Sunday 7 April – Medal 0630-1130

**Friday 19 April – Annette's Hat 0745-1100**

Saturday 20 April – Easter Cup 0730-1000

Saturday 27 April – Committee Cup 0715-1000

### **Seniors:**

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 25 March – Celebratory Cup 0800-0830

Monday 25 March – competition 0830-1000

Wednesday 27 March – competition 0815-1000

**Sunday 31 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400-1430**

Monday 1 April – Medal (1) 0730-1000

Wednesday 3 April – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Monday 8 April – Summer Six (1) – 0730-1000

Tuesday 9 April – away match vs Weston Turville

Wednesday 10 April – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Monday 15 April – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Monday 15 April – WL Awards Day, Chartridge

Wednesday 17 April – Captain's competition 0800-0845

Wednesday 17 April – home match vs Aylesbury Park 0850-1000

**Friday 19 April – Annette's Hat 0745-1100**

Wednesday 24 April – Captain's competition 0800-1000

### **Ladies:**

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 – 9-hole qualifier 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**

Monday 1 April – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 3 April – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1100

Monday 8 April – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 10 April – midweek Medal 1000-1100

Thursday 11 April – home match vs Leighton Buzzard 1030-1100

Sunday 14 April – Coronation Foursomes 0915-0945

Monday 15 April – Midweek Coronation Foursomes – 1000-1100

Wednesday 17 April – Stableford 1000-1100

**Friday 19 April – Annette's Hat 0745-1100**

Wednesday 24 April – 9-hole qualifier 1000-1100

## ***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

[lanceredler@avgcSeniors.co.uk](mailto:lanceredler@avgcSeniors.co.uk)

### ***Ladies (cont):***

Saturday 27 April – Medal 1000-1030

Sunday 28 April – Mixed Invitation 0845-1000