

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK 2019

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WELCOME TO THE 2019 HANDBOOK

1. INTRODUCTION

This handbook contains information from the Club Management and the Competition Committees for you, the Member. It covers a range of club, membership, course and competition matters. Please speak to one of the Management Team regarding club matters, or Committee Members regarding competition matters, at any time for any further information. This handbook can also be downloaded from www.avgc.co.uk

There are many 'do's and don'ts', particularly in paragraph 5 'On the Course' but collectively adhering to club rules / etiquette will lead to a happier and more efficient golfing experience for all!! Sorry for giving you homework but please do read the rules through so that everyone can enjoy their day at Aylesbury Vale to the full!

2. COMMITTEE NEWS

2.1 The Competition Committees for 2019

Post	Men's Committee	Ladies Committee	Senior's Committee
Captain	Steve Chandler	Julie Lea	Larry Goddard
Vice-Captain	Keith McGoverne	Kath Scott	
Treasurer	Keith Loxton	Charlotte Simpson	Keith Loxton
Competitions Secretary	David Lea	Sheila Perkins (7 Day) Jackie Boden (Midweek)	David Lea
Admin Secretary	Roger White	Lesley Wright	Mike Pelizzoni
Handicap Secretary	Neil Meldrum	Jean Barnett	N/A
5 Day Representative	Peter Codrai		Peter Codrai
Member Post	Mark Mansfield		Chris Cox
Member Post	Adrian Fallon		Terry Neve
	N/A	7 day representative Linda Davies	Peter Codrai (Social)
Past Captain	John Barker	Jane Barker	Dave Simons

Junior Organisers – Russell Phillips/Kim Burnage
Junior Welfare Officer – Jane Codrai

Our thanks, as always, go out to our Captains and committee members for all their efforts over the past year.

2.2 Men's Section

The men's golfing calendar can be found at the back of this handbook. We have the usual medals and stablefords and plenty of pairs and individual competitions for you to enter. Keep an eye on the notice board in the locker room for sign-up sheets.

The club matches are enjoyable social occasions. Selection is based upon the ability to enjoy the match and to stand your round at the bar! If you are un-successful once, try again; we do try to include as many players as possible throughout the season. We encourage your

participation – the competitions are good fun and after a beer in the bar results seem meaningless!

Between 8.45 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. on weekend days, where there is no competition, there will be a social members' roll up.

From Thursday 9th May until Thursday 12th September, between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. there will be a Sundowners 9-hole social roll up.

2.3 Ladies Section

Our Ladies Section has a great friendly atmosphere and warmly welcomes new members. We hold a variety of competitions - Stableford, EGU medals, mixed competitions and also numerous fun events including Christmas Bring & Win and Breast Cancer charity day. Julie will be delighted to have a chat with anyone thinking of joining any of the competitions, details of which can be found at the back of this handbook.

We also play in the Chiltern League, open to all lady members. There are also friendly matches against other clubs, at the weekend and during the week. These are social occasions so do put your name down.

Don't forget to look at the boards in the Ladies changing room for the sign-up sheets for any of our club competitions or friendly matches and enjoy the get together afterwards.

On Mondays and Wednesdays ladies tee off after the seniors from 10a.m. These are light hearted gatherings, all ladies are welcome and many will meet for coffee half an hour before the first tee off time. All new members are warmly invited to join in. Please do not worry about your standard of golf, or not having a handicap, as you will be well looked after.

Lady 5-day members are also welcome to enter the following weekend competitions without payment of a green fee: Lady Captain's Day, Captain's Day, Captains' Charity Day, President's Day, Christmas Bring & Win, Good Friday Competition and Medal of Medals.

Terry Bunyan holds regular group lessons during the week, which are very popular and everyone will be made welcome. Finally, many congratulations to the 2018 Ladies Scratch Team who were County Champions!

Enjoy your golf and let's have fun!!

2.4 Seniors Section

The Seniors Section is very active with a full schedule of events. There are numerous internal competitions, club matches, league matches and away days.

We hold regular fun competitions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. On a Friday, if there are no competitions on, the seniors and ladies join each other for a fun roll up from 8.15 a.m. We extend an open invitation to all newcomers to the club to join in and meet the seniors. The section is open to all male members who are 55 years or over.

2.5 5-Day Members.

There is a rotation of midweek medals and stablefords on a weekly basis, spaced one week apart. These are free format competitions and you sign up for them in the pro shop. There are midweek singles and doubles knock out trophies.

Five-day members pay a reduced £14 green fee in the pro shop, before play, if they wish to play the course on weekends or Bank Holidays. This year Easter Monday will require a green fee but Good Friday requires no payment. All members will be warmly invited to take part in Annette's Hat Competition on Good Friday. There are a few other specific competitions, which may detail an exemption on the entry form. These include Captain's Day, Lady Captain's Day, Captain's Charity Day and Presidents Day when all members are welcome to come along and enjoy the day.

2.6 Junior Section

Russell Phillips (the lead junior coach) has a structured coaching plan in place for juniors of all ages and abilities with some fun days in place. We offer either Blue or Red Tee membership to juniors depending upon their playing ability. Red Tee membership is £180 per year and Blue Tee £100 per year.

We have a shortened 'Blue Tee' course available over the front nine holes for young or beginner juniors and you can pick up a separate 'Blue Tee' scorecard from the pro shop.

There are new Junior Blue and Red tee competitions in 2019, on Sundays, as follows:
24th March – 1pm, 14 April 2pm, 19 May 1pm, 9 June 1pm, 21 July 1pm, 11 August 1pm and 16 September 1pm. The Junior Club Champs is Friday 16th August at 10 am.

There is a junior Roll Up every Friday at 5pm. This is free for Red Tee members and £10 for Blue tee members. This will last around 2 hours and runs between 26th April and 25th October. We like to get an adult helper with each group of juniors so any volunteers from the club will be gratefully received. All volunteers will be DBS checked, please contact Kim.

Juniors can enter any of the junior competitions without a handicap, as we will use that round to help you to get your handicap. Please speak to the manager on duty if you would like to know how to put in a card for your handicap.

Parents please note that young juniors need to have a responsible person with them at all times and it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure this before leaving their children at the golf club. The manager on duty cannot fulfil this role. Juniors can be left if involved in a coaching session with Russell, but a register must be signed before parents leave.

We would like to thank Kim Burnage, Bob Phillips, Mike Pelizzoni, Julie Hoar and Jane Codrai for their assistance with the juniors and look forward to the new season. Jane Codrai is our junior welfare officer and juniors or parents with any concerns are encouraged to speak to Jane.

3. MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our ongoing philosophy is to improve the golf course as much as we can each year, to keep member's fees at a rate that offers good value for money and to retain the friendly family feel of the club. We have surveyed the price of other courses in the County and a typical member owned course is £300-£600 more expensive for subs. The club is set up first and foremost to run as a membership club. Within that aim we need to work hard to achieve full membership numbers as that is the way to maintain the £300-£600 price difference between ourselves and other member clubs.

During the month of April 19 we offer a £20 top up to the white card of a member who is present when they introduce a new member to us.

3.1 Types of Membership.

All categories of membership are for a rolling 12 month term. They can be paid for as a lump sum or spread on 12 monthly direct debits. Both methods include all costs, which is approximately £19.50 for EGU and County fees and both are inclusive of VAT. The rates quoted below are for continuous membership. Renewal for a membership that has not been continuous is under different terms – please speak to a member of management.

7 – day membership. £895 for a rolling year or £79 monthly on direct debit.

5 – day membership. £640 for a rolling year or £58 monthly on direct debit.

There are different fees for husband and wife membership, junior membership, university membership and Young Golfer membership. Please see application forms for prices.

Membership comes with many benefits: Competitions and handicaps, (weekend competitions are for the 7-day members), book tee times 3 weeks in advance, sign in guests at 'with member' rates, loyalty card 10% discounts, SmartGolfer access to 34 other courses foc, county card, discounts on driving range, buggies and party room hire.

3.2 Membership Enhancements

3.2.1 *Members Loyalty Card*

Members can receive a loyalty card, free of charge, by requesting one from the shop. Payments will be accepted from these cards from current members.

Rules for loyalty card:

10% discount will be given only when the member's card is used *and* when that card has sufficient credit on it to meet the full payment. The card can be topped up at any time, with a minimum amount of £20, no maximum. Competition credit, once received from the committee, will be transferred onto the winner's card. This does not include 2's club money as Dave Lea hands this out personally.

The discount will apply to:

All catering in the downstairs bar
All bar items
All shop items.

It does not apply to:

Professional services (re-grips, lessons, club alterations)
The coffee machine

Other matters:

The cards can be used to pay for buggies, range tokens and room hire but no further discount applies as members already have special rates over non-members. The cards can only be used in the upstairs bar on Club functions.

All meals for club matches and Sunday roasts have special reduced prices and cards cannot be used for these.

3.2.2 Tee Booking System

The tee booking system operates:

Monday – Friday, dawn to dusk, all year round.
Weekends and Bank Holidays, from 08.45 a.m.

At weekends / Bank Hols before the times shown above, members and their invited guests can roll up and play from 6 a.m. and report to the shop on their return.

Currently at weekends the tees are busy from 0615 a.m. to 0750 a.m. with early golfers looking to get back to their families in reasonable time. The period 0750 to 0845 is mostly empty and then by 0845 there is either a competition or a member's roll up. We will watch how this develops but if the tees remain empty we could allow members to book a tee from 0815 to 0835 with the members roll up following at 0845 a.m. Notification will always be given in the Vale newsletter before any change.

Roll Ups

Roll ups are designed for members to be able to turn up at the club and get an organised game with other like-minded members. Groups are deliberately mixed up each week to keep that friendly vibe between all members. If you would like to play we recommend that you turn

up just before or near the start time of each roll up and announce that you would like to play to the organiser on the patio by the putting green. You will probably be asked to place your ball in the 'hat'.

Keep your eye on the tee booking system. If there is a club competition at the same time as a roll up then the roll up does not take place so that entries to that competition are not affected.

Monday and Wednesday Roll Ups.

Winter	- Seniors 08.30 – 09.45, Ladies 10.00 – 10.30
Spring, summer, autumn	- Seniors 08.00 – 10.00 Ladies 10.00 – 11.00

Friday Roll Ups

Members Roll Up 08.15 – 09.15 when tees are clear of other bookings. (see BRS tee bookings up to 3 weeks in advance). This is for seniors and ladies combined.

Saturday and Sunday Roll Ups

08.45 – 09.45

There is no roll up on days where there is a men's competition. The tee time for the roll up may be revised in the event of a club match or ladies competition. The times will be shown on BRS up to 3 weeks in advance.

How to book online tee times on the AVGC Website

1. Open the AVGC website (www.avgc.co.uk). On the top line of the web page click 'Online Tee Booking', the next page displays 'Internet Reservation Service'.

2. To **Register as a Member** click on the 'Members Click Here' icon and follow the instructions. An e-mail will be generated from the golf club confirming receipt of your registration details and a further e-mail forwarded to confirm your eligibility for member's privileges.

3. You only need to register once. Then, **to book a time**:

Click on the circle for 1,2,3 or 4 players, then click on 'Book Tee Time'. The next page will show your booking summary and the total price for payment, insert the details requested to confirm the booking. Please detail the names of all players. (No cost if you are all members).

Members can book a tee time up to 3 weeks in advance.

If you don't have a computer you can call 01525 240196 and we will book the time for you.

Your assistance for the system to run smoothly.

1. Reporting in to the shop.

This should be done as soon as you arrive at the club, and must be done a full 10 minutes before your tee off time.

Explanation:

a). It can take 10 minutes for golfers to prepare prior to tee off. Golfers should strike their tee shots on their tee times.

b). If we know that you are already here well in advance, and we also know that one of the party in the tee time booked ahead of you is not here yet, then we can offer your group the chance to take the earlier time. This can assist us greatly, as the late comers can take your slot, where otherwise they would have to take the next free one which could be a considerable wait.

2. I'm going to be late. What do I do?

Telephone the shop on 01525 240196 as soon as possible, even if you have to pull off the road to use a mobile. This gives us more chance to allocate you a later free tee slot, before that slot is booked by someone else.

3. No Shows.

'No shows' are bad news for other members as a whole. They can waste a tee time that sometimes cannot be filled by others. The tee booking operators have a system to identify those that book a tee time, but then don't show, and have not contacted us to cancel it. We basically click on each individual as 'arrived' in the shop, and there is a summary report produced each day of 'no shows'. We can then assess the reasons for no show and the frequency of no shows. If we detect that the system is being abused then we can deny the ability for that person to book for a set period of time, or permanently.

Non-members will be required to pay their full fee in advance which serves to reduce no shows.

4. Starting from the 10th Tee.

All members are to obtain permission from the shop prior to starting on the 10th tee. Subject to the 9th fairway and green being clear, members can then proceed to the 10th tee, however, any golfers that catch you up need to be waved through without delay.

If you are planning to play 18 holes you will need book a tee time from the shop for your front nine holes. This needs to be a 'generous time gap'. You can always putt for 10 or 15 minutes, waiting for that time slot to become available, but if you assume that you will play your first nine quicker than you actually do, you could miss your only available tee slot altogether.

3.2.3 The SmartGolfer Network

The network continues to grow and offers great 'added value' to your membership. As a full 7-day or 5-day member of AVGC you are able to have 2 free rounds per year on these golf courses and possibly more, subject to the host club's acceptance. The following is a current list of network clubs, but do check the website below as other clubs are added during the year.

www.smartgolfer.co.uk provides information and access to each club website. Courses can change within the year so the website will be the most up to date.

Easy Guide to Network:

- **1. Get your FREE network ID card from the pro shop**
- **Valid from 1st January to 31st December each year to ensure that only current members can benefit.**
- **2. Book your tee time with host club.**
- **3. Play golf and enjoy!**

1. Take a small photograph (2.5cm x 2.5cm) of yourself to the pro-shop, and we will make up your network identity card for 2019. The card will state whether you are a 7-day or 5-day member. There is no charge for the card.

2. All 7 and 5-day members can play for free on the other courses, Monday to Friday. Seven-day members can also play for free at weekends and bank holidays, subject to availability at

the host club. Then book your tee-time with the club of your choice between 5 and 2 days in advance.

The more detailed rules of the network are available from the pro-shop and from the website at www.smartgolfer.co.uk

GOLF CLUB	WEBSITE (www.)	TEL No
BARNHAM BROOM, Norfolk	barnham-broom.co.uk	01603 759393
BOURN, Cambridge	bourngolfandleisure.co.uk	01954 718057
BRAMPTON PARK	bramptonparkgc.co.uk	01480 434700
BUSHEY HALL, Watford	busheyhallgolfclub.co.uk	01923 222253
CHALGRAVE, Toddington	chalgravegolf.co.uk	01525 876556
CHARTRIDGE PARK, Amersham	cpgc.co.uk	01494 791772
CLACTON ON SEA	clactongolfclub.com	01255 421919
COLNE VALLEY, Colchester	colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk	01787 224343
DRAYTON PARK	draytonparkgolfclubabingdon.co.uk	01235 528989
ENFIELD	enfieldgolfclub.co.uk	02083 623223
EPPING, Essex	eppinggolfcourse.org.uk	01992 572282
EPSOM, Surrey	epsomgolfclub.co.uk	01372 741867
FARTHINGSTONE	www.farthingstone.co.uk	01327 361291
FINCHLEY, N London	finchleygolfclub.com	02083 462436
GARON PARK, Southend	garonparkgolf.co.uk	01702 601701
GIRTON, Cambridge	girtongolf.co.uk	01223 276169
GREAT YARMOUTH & CAISTER	club-noticeboard.co.uk/greatyarmouth	01493 728699
HAZLEMERE	hazlemeregolfclub.co.uk	01494 719306
HEACHAM MANOR, Norfolk	heacham-manor.co.uk	01485 536030
KINGSTHORPE, Northants	kingsthorpe_golf.co.uk	01604 710610
LONDON SCOTTISH, Wimbledon	londonscottishgolfclub.co.uk	02087 891207
MITCHAM	mitchamgolfclub.co.uk	0208 6402480
MOUNT PLEASANT	mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk	01462810100
OUNDLE, Northants	oundlegolfclub.com	01832 273267
PAVENHAM, Bedford	pavenhampark.com	01234 822202
RAMSAY	ramseyclub.co.uk	01487 812600
REDHILL & REIGATE, Surrey	rrgc.net	01737 240777
ROYSTON	roystongolfclub.co.uk	01763 242696
RUSHDEN	rushdengolfclub.org	01933 418511

SOUTH KYME, Lincs	skgc.co.uk	01526 861113
STANMORE, N London	stanmoregolfclub.co.uk	02089 542599
WOOLSTON MANOR, Essex	woolstonmanor.co.uk	0208 500 2549
WYKE GREEN. Middx	wykegreengolfclub.co.uk	02085 608777

SmartGolfer Network Societies

When more than 4 network golfers want to play at a host course together, this is deemed as a 'Network Society'. There are special reduced rates for these. For example, a club may quote their rate for a network society as £12. However, the first 4 golfers can be free on the network. Hence, in this example, if 9 AVGC network members wanted to this club then they would pay $9 - 4 = 5$, @ £12 each, totals £60 for the 9 players. Please enquire with your chosen host club what their terms are in advance.

Barnham Broom

Barnham Broom, near Norwich, has a hotel, swimming pool and spa, gym and restaurant. Whilst you will pay for the hotel the free golf on the SmartGolfer card makes the break good value.

3.2.4 Courtesy Golf at Chartridge Park Golf Club

If we have a particularly busy day at the Vale then have a chat with Chris to see if a few more than four might play at Chartridge Park. We have some good past links with this club and we can help each other out sometimes if there is availability at the other club.

3.2.5 County Card

There are many more local courses in the County Card Scheme. We are affiliated to Bedfordshire but this scheme also covers many other counties. This card can be obtained from the pro-shop. You can play the member courses at either 50% fee or 'with member' rate, as dictated by the host club.

3.2.6 'The Vale' Newsletter.

Lance Redler kindly puts together a monthly newsletter for members. This includes items from all sections of the club as well as a helpful 'What's on this Month'. A hard copy is available in the bar at the start of each month. This is then also available as a downloadable attachment from the website.

3.2.7a Six Years for the price of Five

We offer six years of membership for the up-front payment of five times the current membership fee. We reinvest these funds into course improvements. The investing member also gets a really good deal with one free year of membership, and fixed prices for the full term of the membership. These savings have greatly outstripped possible returns from savings accounts and investments in recent years.

The offer is open to all categories of membership including new members. Please speak to Chris if you are interested and we will give you a copy of the written guarantee that comes with the offer. This offer is subject to availability.

3.2.7b 5% Discount for two years membership

A member can pay for two years and receive a 5% discount

3.2.8 Members' Discounts and Guest Rates

Driving Range tokens are discounted from £2.90 to £2.20 for a bucket of 35 balls. You can purchase six tokens for £10 (£14 for non-members).

Buggy hire is reduced from £24 to £17 for 18 holes. Members can also have a buggy season ticket for £350 for a year.

Any member can sign in up to three guests at the 'with members' rate provided that they are playing golf with them in the same fourball. Five-day members can also sign in guests at this rate on weekends and bank holidays and the five-day member pays a £14 fee. The 'With member' rate is £22 at weekends and £19 midweek. Members can hire the upstairs lounge for their own parties in 2019 from £150, non-members from £250. Please seek out Jason or Chris to plan your party.

3.2.9 'Member Only' time periods 2019

'Member only' time periods: (Subject to competitions, matches etc.)

(This allows members to bring guests, provided that they are playing golf with them)

Weekends and Bank Holidays from 0600 to 1100hrs

(We are looking for another 35 members to replace winter loses. If we can achieve this then 1100hrs will become 11.30hrs. This would be published in The Vale).

3.3 Meeting Other Members

New members can now join our 'members roll ups' as a way of meeting other members. See 3.2.2.

An 'Availability Book' is with the other files, above the pigeonholes. Please add your name, preferred playing time and contact telephone number to the file. You can then take a look at the other entries and give someone a ring to arrange a game. Please remember that the member of staff in the pro shop is always on hand to fix you up with a game, so let us know that you are seeking playing partners as soon as you arrive and we will do our best.

You can enter a men's medal without a handicap, as a vehicle to submit a card for handicap. You will be paired up with someone that already has a handicap and they will mark your card. You will also be given an exact tee off time. Obviously you cannot take part in the competition itself until the handicap secretary has allocated your handicap.

3.4 Avoiding the Busy Times

In the hallway, just outside the downstairs bar, are lists of all competition and society tee bookings for the subsequent three weeks. The Vale newsletter will include the next month's forthcoming fixtures, and will include the variable scratch match and mid-handicap dates, if we have received the information in time. If you would like to see all bookings on a particular day then log onto the club website for tee bookings. This will give you good visibility of bookings and hence the information required to select a quieter time for yourself.

Monday and Wednesday mornings have booked tee times for our senior and lady members. Monday and Wednesday afternoons, in contrast, are the quietest times of the week.

3.5 Young Golfers

Juniors	Age 7 to 18	£100	Blue Tee membership
		£180	Red Tee membership

Intermediate Age 19 – 32 See Below

<u>Age</u>	<u>% of Full Fee</u>
19-21	50%
22	60%
23	65%
24	70%
25	75%
26	80%
27	85%
28-31	90%
32-33	95%

All juniors / youngsters will be invited to join in club competitions provided they have a handicap. Tee off time restrictions for under 13's will not apply if they are taking part in an official club competition off medal tees.

Russell Phillips, PGA professional, holds many group lessons for different ages. Pick up his information flyers from the shop. Members – if you know a young neighbour that might be interested in golf then give them one of Russell's fliers!

Russell will be running some junior / beginner sessions on published dates, late in the day across our shortened front nine 'blue tee' course.

4. CLUB INFORMATION

4.1 The Pro Shop

Thank you to all members who have used the shop over the last year. We try to keep all prices that little bit lower than other pro shops - check it out when you play an away course! Members paying by their Loyalty Card will have a 10% discount, regardless of how much you spend. We do not give any IOU's from the shop - if you don't want to carry any cash then simply ensure that your white member's card has credit and is in your golf bag. Cashback may be available, but requires a minimum £2 spend.

Russell offers a club custom fitting service with PING clubs. We have a launch monitor to ensure you get the right clubs for distance and control. There is no substitute to having your clubs 'made to measure' for your individual swing.

SHOP OPENING HOURS: Summer - March to November 7.00 am – 5pm
(6.45 a.m. W/E)
Winter - December to February 7.15 am – 4pm
(7.00 am W/E)

Once the shop has closed please ask the duty manager in the clubhouse if you require anything.

4.2 Club Professionals:

PGA Professional - Russell Phillips
Golf Professional – Terry Bunyan

4.2.1 Lessons

We benefit from 2 professionals at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club, each with their own unique style of coaching. Russell is a PGA qualified professional who moved to AVGC midway through 2011. He uses some of the most recent methods of coaching including his Video Equipment, Launch Monitor, **Explanar** Swing Ring and biomechanics of the golf swing. Russell is keen to develop the junior activity at the club and therefore offers a large variety of sessions to suit all

ages and abilities. Terry has been with the golf club since 2002. His golfing success includes making the cut for the first stage of qualifying for the British Open and has over 30 years coaching experience. Terry plays on the senior golf tour and his own tournament experience can greatly benefit your golf game through advanced coaching and the mental side of golf.

Both professionals teach adults individually or in groups and both have their own tailor-made lesson programmes to suit your budget and lifestyle. Players who have lessons are seeing the benefits with good competition results and lowering their handicap. There are often promotions for lessons throughout the year. These can be found displayed in the bar, changing rooms and other notice boards. So keep your eyes open and don't miss out!

ALL MEMBERS GET 20% OFF STANDARD LESSON PRICES

Individual Lessons. This is the most effective way to better your game. Having an individual lesson gives you the professional's full attention to look deep into your swing and to find the key swing faults that need rectifying. These can be used to develop your long game, approach shots, bunker play, chipping, putting, course management, rules and etiquette.

Individual 9-hole playing lesson. Here you will play with one of our club professionals through 9 holes of golf. This gives them the chance to assess your game strategy on the course and gives you the chance to see how a professional plays. These are very popular!

Ladies Group Session. Terry runs ladies group sessions throughout the year. Keep an eye out for his chalkboard to find out when the next one is taking place. Russell runs his 'Here Come the Girls' fun, relaxing group sessions, perfect for any new ladies looking to take up golf.

Junior Lessons. Russell runs beginner sessions, advanced sessions, grouped or individual sessions, young sessions, older sessions, all for members and non-members. To find out more contact Russell.

CONTACT EITHER OF OUR CLUB PROFESSIONALS BELOW:

Russell Phillips; 07843 692948; r.phillips@avgc.co.uk; www.rpgolfacademy.co.uk

Terry Bunyan; 07588 272322; terrygolf1965@gmail.com;

4.2.2 Club Repairs and Re-Grips

Russell offers a full service of club repairs from broken shafts to club extensions or shortening. If you have a club that needs fixing bring it into the pro shop.

How often should you get your grips changed?

Often a question that players don't know the answer to, the table below shows when:

Average rounds played per week	How often should grips be replaced?
3+	12 months
1-2	15 months
<1	18 months

Are you guilty of having old grips? It's a little known fact that part worn grips or grips moulded by the hand through pressure cannot be used in competitions as they can be classed as a 'training aid'!

New grips can have a dramatic impact on your performance. Russell has a large selection of grips in stock from as little as £5 per grip! If it's not in stock then Russell can order ANY grip you like from a huge catalogue of grips. He will attempt to complete all re-grips and repairs within 48 hours!

4.2.3 Custom Fitting Service

Russell can fit your current clubs to suit your swing by altering the lie angle and loft or your clubs. Having the correct lie angle is critical to help ensure the ball flies towards the target.

The professionals emphasise the importance of having the correct equipment to suit your swing. Simple checks can be done to see if your clubs are set up correctly to get the best out of the swing you have. It is important to have the correct grip size, shaft length, shaft flex, shaft torque, shaft bend point, iron head style, lie angle and loft, so make an appointment with one of our professionals now to find out more information.

Whether you are short, tall, old, young, fade, draw, steep swing plane or shallow, slow club head speed or fast, etc. etc. get the clubs that will be 'made-to-measure' for you.

4.3 Captains' Charity

The three main sections of the club all combine together to support our charities. Last year the main charity was Florence Nightingale Hospice and whilst we await the final total it is already in excess of £5,000. Thanks to all who have hit wayward shots! There are charity bunkers and ponds ready to catch you! This year the main Captains' Charity is Hospice at Home, with one-off days like Breast Cancer Awareness Day and Annette's Hat.

4.4 Member Charity Days

Many of our members are involved with fund raising for their own projects. We have held events such as raising funds for a children's play area, church steeple, cystic fibrosis, cancer care etc. Should anyone wish to organise a fundraising golf day with us in 2019, Monday to Friday, then we will donate £5 per player to your cause from the green fee. A golf day can be one of the easier and more pleasurable methods of fundraising! See Chris, Jason or Garry for more details.

4.5 Catering

Thank you to the many members who regularly use the catering provided by Heinz, Lee and Dan. Watch out for the Sunday roasts! Also, if you would like to use the club for a meeting and a meal we have the ideal room upstairs so come and have a chat. Examples of those using us now are business groups, choirs, and cheese and wine tastings. Some members bring small groups to the club from time to time and we could provide you with an evening meal if you plan it with us in advance.

Please note it is not appropriate for members or visitors to bring their own food or beverages into the clubhouse or onto the patio by the putting green.

4.6 Member's Parties

The upstairs lounge is a stylish venue for your party with great views over the course. You can choose between round, rectangular and horseshoe table settings. Heinz can cater for your parties, weddings, anniversaries, christenings, societies or work events. Have a chat with Jason or Chris if you would like some price quotations. We can hold weddings with all the

style that you expect from a typical wedding venue but leaving you enough in the coffers for a fantastic honeymoon afterwards!

The room is also excellent for training courses or business conferences, so let us see if we can save your business money too! You might need a room for Pilates, weight loss groups, wine tasting etc. etc. so speak to Jason or Chris for further details. We offer party special deals to members in January and February 2020.

4.7 Club Opening Hours

This year we are going to open the shop/clubhouse by 7.00 a.m. rather than 7.15 a.m. midweek. We will be open by 06.45 a.m. at week-ends and Bank Holidays. Golfers teeing off earlier than this are welcome to leave their shoes undercover, by the back door, and we will transfer them to the changing room for you as we open up. You can pre pay for free format competitions, men's and seniors, and obtain your date stamped scorecard in advance.

The latest time the gate will be open is as follows (but often earlier) 6.45 a.m. during BST (6.30 a.m. at weekends) and 7.30 a.m. during winter (7.00 a.m. at weekends). The gate is not locked until the last car has left the car park and it is therefore imperative to speak to the manager on duty if you need to leave a car here overnight.

We remain open as long as there are golfers still on the course, driving range or in the Clubhouse. Please ensure you contact us if you are planning a special event that would require a very early start or late finish and we will assist.

4.8 Social Events

Please do come and have a chat with Jason or Chris if there are any members or committee members would like to organize a race night, casino night etc.

4.9 AVGC Website

The website is www.avgc.co.uk and the e-mail address is info@avgc.co.uk.

4.10 Advertising

There are opportunities for members to advertise their business in the clubhouse or on the driving range. Please see Chris or Jason for more details.

4.11 Personal Property and Golfing Insurance

Unfortunately, in common with other clubs, we cannot watch items of personal property and the management cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to property or vehicles on the premises. We have discussed the matter of security with our local crime prevention officer and most of the advice is common sense preventative measures:

- Always lock your car. Use steering locks, immobilizers etc.
- Never leave anything on display but lock it in the boot. Laptops, mobile phones, sat nav's and golf clubs are particularly at risk.
- Do not leave any items of value unattended. This applies to items left within your golf bag as well as items left unattended in the changing rooms. Pay particular attention to your car keys, especially those with a remote unlock button. A thief with these keys can identify and unlock your car in an instant and will drive straight off.

There are far higher occurrences of thieves breaking into work vans to try and steal tools, generally in the area. These can have their doors or windows broken just so thieves can see if there are any tools. We would recommend bringing your car to golf and not a work van. If you do bring a van then don't have tools inside and consider leaving the back of an empty van unlocked so the rear doors are not damaged, provided they can't get access to the front.

Once you have finished golf for the day please ensure that you have taken your belongings home. We will have a periodic complete clear-out of all abandoned items in the changing rooms, store them in black bin bags for one month and then dispose of them.

On a more positive note we would recommend the use of lockers. There is a letter in the changing room regarding the rental of lockers for men.

Small lockers rent for £15, Medium for £20 and Large for £25 per calendar year. (All lockers do not take clubs). Please contact Keith Loxton at keithloxton@avgcseniors.co.uk for more information. There is a key deposit of £20 which is refunded when the locker is no longer required and the key is returned. Small items of extreme value can be handed to management and locked away if required.

We strongly recommend that all members take out a golfers' insurance policy since everyone needs cover in the event of injuring someone on a golf course or sustaining injury yourself. There are policy leaflets from Golf Plan and Golf Care in the changing rooms. On the course, from the health and safety aspect, nothing changes! Do not strike the ball if you are in danger of hitting a human being!

4.12 Emergencies and First Aiders

Many members of staff, including green keepers, are qualified in first aid. There is a defibrillator in the downstairs bar. In the event of fire the emergency evacuation point is the grass by the Captains car parking space in the car park. Intermittent blowing of the air horn is the signal to walk into the clubhouse in the event of lightening, general weather conditions, or a flooded course. Lightening is the one weather condition that needs great respect so simply walk in if you think lightening is coming our way, regardless of whether the horn has been blown.

Members and visitors are asked not to park in the staff car park area in front of the clubhouse. Emergency vehicles require access to the clubhouse and the ability to turn around at all times.

5. ON THE COURSE

5.1 Course News

Once again the weather has played a key role with course conditions. We began the year with a wet spring before going into a June and July that was comparable with 1976. Whilst this did affect course conditions badly for around three weeks, in comparison to other local courses we emerged mostly unscathed. The clay content within our soil meant that the fairways and rough remained green where some courses simply lost their fairways. Also, the Greenstaff were quickly on the case and we used an over-seeder that placed the grass seed one inch into the soil. This was done early in September and before long the grass was re-established. We also used more drought resistant grass seeds so those areas prone to losing grass in a drought should fare better in the future.

The weather from September to February could only be described as great golfing weather! In every winter to date we have had to ban trolleys for at least a couple of days following heavy rainfall and this has been the only year when trolleys have been on the course every single day. Indeed, the last week of February had golfers humming 'Oh, I'm going to Barbados!'

One result of the good weather is that we have managed to keep the verti-drainer running in autumn and winter. This has two benefits – drainage is improved and also the grass roots grow deeper into the soil which helps us both in wet and dry times.

March has been a wet month but at the time of writing the forecast is looking better.

On the course one of the main changes was bringing up the bases of the conifers across the course. This gives the golfer the option of a low punch shot if their ball finishes behind

conifers. Last year we hired a Graden machine to remove thatch from the greens instead of the traditional hollow core. This worked very well so we will repeat this exercise when it comes to the major spring maintenance on the greens. All the tee boards, which show the pictorial view of the hole, were replaced with new boards this year.

We have a few requests for members using the new pitching green!

- When you have finished playing your chips or pitches to the green please pause and **replace all the divots that you have just taken!**
- Please don't hit long shots from the pitching area across onto the driving range. You can use the range, the new grass tee on the range or grass areas at the side of the range.
- Please consider the safety of others when practicing in this area. Common sense dictates that if someone is already using the practice bunker then you need to wait until they have finished before sending high balls in. Equally, if someone else is already chipping then find yourself a spot where you don't endanger them or yourself.

5.2 General Course Matters.

Play from White Tees – White markers on the grass tees remain **exclusively for competition play.**

Signs “Greenkeepers have Priority” – We have signs on the course stating that greenkeepers have priority. We have already liaised with the greenkeepers and set up a system whereby the most intrusive jobs are completed first thing in the morning (cutting greens and surrounds) so that disruption to golfers is minimized. Then, if mowing the rough or mowing around trees is left until later in the day, there is more scope for the greenkeeper to move out of the way.

However, the task of maintaining and playing the course will inevitably clash at some point and we cannot stress strongly enough that a ball should never be struck if there is a chance of hitting a greenkeeper. Also, early birds teeing off before 8 a.m. should note that this is crucial greenkeeping time and that you may experience slight delays whilst greenkeepers finish off greenside work.

Members' Assistance is required to progress the huge task of presenting the course well at all times. A plea from the Greenstaff - please replace divots, repair pitch marks, rake bunkers and do not discard rubbish around the course. The bins at each tee provide convenient rubbish disposal points. Please use the seed and sand mix provided on par three tees to help divot marks recover. There are small boxes on some tees for broken tee pegs. Please avoid standing right next to the hole cups.

The crows sometimes flick a repaired divot back out to eat the grubs and worms beneath. The tell-tale sign of this is the sod lying right by the divot, whereas the sod would normally be some yards further forward. Please assist by quickly treading the divot back in if you see this!

Trolleys Please keep all trolleys at least 10 yards away from the greens to protect the fine turf fringes. Trolleys should NEVER pass between the green and an adjacent greenside bunker. We all play golf for the exercise – please walk a little further to ensure good lies for those following.

5.3 Spikes and secure footing.

Although we do not insist on the wearing of metal spikes for winter, and leave the choice to each individual, it is strongly recommended that metal spikes are used.

We believe they give better grip in wet or icy conditions on slopes and on tee steps. There are certain ground conditions where ice can be crushed and picked up under the splayed soft

spike. These small lumps of ice then resemble rugby studs offering reduced grip and damaging greens. Please take extra care on all wood, sleeper or concrete surfaces when wet or icy. You are always at liberty to walk on the grass and avoid these steps altogether in extreme conditions. Please use the steps for gaining access to the 1st tees and don't try to step on top of the brick walls.

5.4 Etiquette

The maintenance of good standards of etiquette on the course is for the benefit of all. Avoiding slow play and calling through is probably of greatest importance. Please take time to read carefully through the rules of etiquette for our club.

**RULES FOR CALLING THROUGH:
Slower groups should call faster groups through.
Call through the following group if you are searching for a ball.**

The maximum number of golfers allowed to play together is four. Five-balls, or more, are strictly prohibited.

Amplification of 'Calling Through Rules'.

Slower groups should call faster groups through, even if the slower group thinks that they are playing at a reasonable speed. Letting golfers through depends upon their speed, not their sex! When searching for a ball, call through *immediately* and then use your 'three minutes' to continue your search as the others are playing through.

'But they had nowhere to go!' How often have you heard this lame excuse given by a fourball? The course is clear in front of Fourball A. Fourball B is playing behind them at the same speed. Twoball C come up behind Fourball B but are not let through because Fourball B thinks there is 'nowhere for them to go'. Fourball B is breaching golfing etiquette. They should let faster Twoball C through, then Fourball A can do likewise and Twoball C can be on their merry way.

Civility and Good Manners when Calling Through.

Communications between golfers is all a part of good etiquette. Ideally golfers should call through without a request needing to be made. However, if a request is necessary then a polite request will succeed where a rude request fails.

Competitions and Calling Through.

The fact that you may be playing in a competition off medal tees in no way excuses you for slow play or failing to call through. One slow fourball could hold up many, many golfers. Thus competitors in medals or individual matches, where you arrange your own start time (e.g. knock outs or mixed league matches), must either keep up with the pace of play or call faster groups through.

Competition Committees.

The management offer all sections the use of a buggy for marshalling their competitions. If the marshals find a group that have lost a hole they should be encouraged to make up the ground. If they fail to do so then the committees should consider giving penalty shots to the offending group.

Divots. Please replace and press firmly down. On the tees, divots should be filled with soil / seed mix if available. Please warm up and take practice swings away from the tees.

Bunkers. Please rake thoroughly after use and leave the rake within the bunker. Push sand up bunker slopes.

Pitch marks. It takes 20 minutes for the grass to die in winter or summer so please repair your pitch marks as you play. Ease the grass back towards the centre of the pitch mark – don't lift up the turf as it rips the roots.

Standing close to the hole Please reach out to take your ball out of the hole. This avoids any footprints right next to the cup and helps others following with their putting.

Starting on the 10th tee Provided that you first check with pro shop staff, you may be permitted to start on the 10th tee. The 9th hole needs to be clear and then, if you are subsequently caught up by golfers already 'well into their stride', then simply stand aside and call them through. The chain across the path to the 10th tee with the 'closed' sign will indicate that all golfers must start from the 1st tee only.

Dress. The rules regarding dress on the course are as follows: jeans, denim, tee shirts, tracksuits and non-tailored sports shorts are not appropriate. Golf shoes are required on the course. In the clubhouse jeans are allowed. This means parents waiting for juniors in their group lessons can sit in the clubhouse and have a drink.

Indoor shoes are required within the Clubhouse (no golf shoes or stocking feet) outside of British Summer Time. Indoor shoes are also required in the upstairs lounge at all times. In BST the downstairs bar will be a spike bar unless signs on the doors indicate otherwise. Outdoor waterproofs should be left in the changing rooms and not brought into the bar. All members should also inform their guests of the dress standards. However, should a guest be genuinely unaware of the required dress on their first visit then they will not be turned away. Please bring them to the pro shop where we have a range of clothing, as well as second hand golf shoes, that they are welcome to use for the day without charge. A member of the Management will request appropriate dress on subsequent visits.

Dogs Dogs are banned from the course. Guide dogs and detection dogs are allowed with prior permission.

5.5 Trolleys

Whilst we appreciate that many members rely on trolleys to carry their bags, there are certain conditions which necessitate "Carry Only" rules to be enforced. We want our members to play as often as possible, so this rule will only be implemented when the trolleys would cause long term damage to the course.

The course is assessed at 7a.m. each morning to determine the trolley status. Telephone calls are welcomed after 7.30a.m. to discover the ruling. A note is put on the BRS tee booking system for the day concerned if trolleys are banned.

All trolleys should be kept at least 10 yards away from the greens, all year round, to ensure that the fine fringe grasses are not flattened for your delicate chip shots.

5.6 Buggies

Buggies can be booked on 01525 240196 or in the pro shop. There was a spate of burglaries of electric buggies last year which is why we have switched to hiring petrol buggies only.

5.7 Rules of Golf Changes

Several changes to the Rules of Golf were introduced in January 19. The main changes are summarised on the notice board in the bar. We have a copy of the new rules booklets available in the clubhouse for all members. These are easier to follow with helpful diagrams to illustrate rules. We welcome these changes as they combine to both simplify and speed up golf. The rule enabling golfers to putt with the flag in combined with 'ready golf' (always with the caveat when safe to hit) have probably speeded up a four ball by 15 minutes.

6. GOLF COMPETITIONS

There is a file entitled 'AVGC Men's Competitions' on the shelf above the main large competitions box. This explains all competition formats. You can take this file through to the bar to read, if you wish, but please ensure it is returned back to the file rack above the pigeon holes.

6.1 Golfing Calendar 2019

The BRS system, accessible through the website, shows members available bookable tee times as well as those block booked for competitions. The times given represent our best estimate, based upon the number of entries for each competition in 2018. The exact time taken up for competitions in 2019 will be known when the entry list comes down and Dave Lea sees the number of entries. At this point we will update BRS and the Tee Reservation Board, in the clubhouse, with the more accurate information. (for example, how much tee time a men's medal may occupy).

We encourage all members to look at the website or read the sheets in the corridor just outside the downstairs bar. It will also detail times of visiting societies and club matches (Scratch matches, Mid - Handicap League, Ladies Scratch League etc), which are not included in this handbook. Members can also telephone 01525 240196 for information or log onto www.avgc.co.uk and click on the BRS Booking System or the AVGC Golfing Calendar for up to date information.