



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 66, December 2019

Comment

Happy Christmas wishes from the Editor to all readers.

Mike Videtta

We regret to report the sudden death of Mike Videtta, a popular Club member for many years. He will be missed.

Funeral details are not yet known.

Our condolences go to Mike's family.

News and Updates from the Club Management.

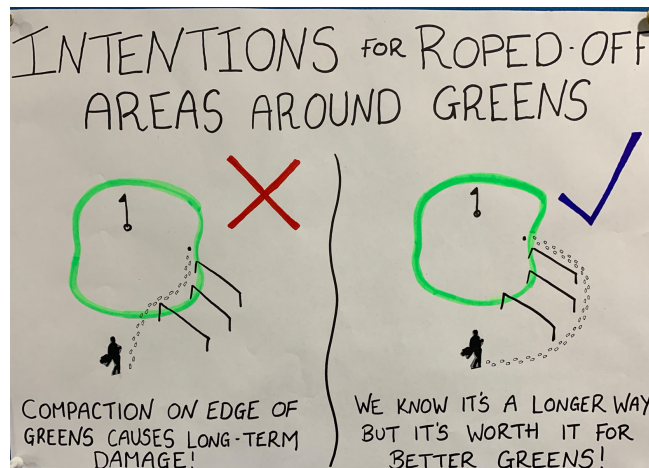
The Course

The course has been getting wetter with persistent rainfall during November. We have introduced incentives for members to carry, by offering a stamped passport system. We offer either three range tokens or a guest pass (valid for a year to use in better weather) for every five carries. This has certainly had an effect with a higher percentage of members carrying, so thanks for that. We also offer a small, lightweight carry bag at trade price (£25) available in the shop now, which will take around eight clubs. A lot of members have commented that carrying a light bag was much easier than they thought so I recommend everyone gives it a go at least once to see. We have a few 'free to hire' carry bags in the shop for that purpose.

So far we have only had to ban trolleys on three days in total and these have been those days when rain was forecast for most of the day. We always look to get them back on the course as soon as a dry spell arrives. If there are any trolley bans you will see prior notice written on the BRS tee booking system, as an information banner on the 8:00am tee slot, and further repeated at 'Today on the Course' which is found on the front page of the website if you scroll down to the bottom of the page.

We are operating 'Preferred lies through the green' for social golf. This basically means you can take a preferred lie on the fairway or in the rough, just not in a hazard.

Luke has roped off areas around the greens so please walk around the outside of these areas and not the inside, on the green – that will just lead to a worn strip around the outside of greens.



Planned Course Improvements for 2020

Water Storage Tanks. We are planning to add further water storage tanks near the 2nd pond. The tank that we put in this year worked well and gave us water through the summer, but we are planning to cope with another severe heat wave like the ones in 1976 and 2018.

Re-laying the 8th and 15th Tees. As a consequence of the severe heatwave in 2018, many Clubs on sand/gravel/chalk suffered with loss of grass. We experienced that on a small scale as the men's 8th and 15th tees suffered badly, and these were the two tees that had a particularly high sand content in the soil. We have therefore decided to re-build these two tees this winter. We are also looking to see if we can add irrigation popups to the 2nd, 8th and 15th tees.

Membership News

The tanks and tees projects mentioned above represent significant capital expenditure that will be necessary to keep the course in fine fettle for many years to come. Many local Clubs are covering similar capital expenditure projects with subscription levies, often in successive years. We have never done this and don't wish to start now. Instead, we will re-open a membership offer that we last offered a few years ago. We will offer five years of golf for the price of four. This can be for 5-day, 7-day, single or husband and wife membership. This up-front payment saves you one year's fees but also saves you any price increases over the five years. This offer is open to all members – come and speak to Chris, Leo, Jason or Garry. There are six of these memberships being offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. Members can apply at any stage, as we will take into account credit from your current membership year. Members currently paying subscriptions by direct debit can also apply.

We are still offering two years of membership at a 5% discount for those who prefer the shorter time period.

Clubhouse Matters

As there is no issue of 'The Vale' in January it is time to mention that we will be adding new lighting and re-painting the dining room in January. We may have scaffolding up, but we will try and keep a clear run to the coffee machine whenever possible, but some meals will have to be served in the main Clubroom near the TV whilst work is ongoing.

Changing Rooms

Please note that on Thursday 5 December we will have all abandoned shoes and clothing removed from the changing rooms. This helps our cleaner to clean! If you have left anything at the Club, come and take it home now!

Seniors' Roll Up

In spring, summer and autumn we have a Seniors' roll up on Monday and Wednesday from 0800 until 1000. The Seniors are reducing the time of this to 08:15-09:30 from 11 December until the end of February next year. This firstly reflects the smaller attendance in winter, but also gives a chance for the 'early bird' member to get out between 08:00 and 08:15, at a time when daylight would otherwise give a problem. Occasionally the Seniors will have a competition shown in the handbook. These take up more time and the tees are booked out on the BRS tee booking system.

Turkey Trots (Men and Ladies)

For all those members who forget to bring a wrapped prize to a maximum of £10 on 7 December, we have a wrapping service in the Pro Shop!

Finally

Please note that the course is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The management wish all members a very happy Christmas!

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

More quiz questions! Once again, if in doubt you may have to refer to the Rule Book. In case you have wondered, this series of quiz questions and answers was obtained from the R&A website: (www.randa.org).

QUESTIONS

Question 1: A player plays her second shot, searches for her ball briefly and then announces that she will go back and play a provisional ball. She drops and plays a second ball from where she played her previous stroke. The player then continues searching for her original ball and finds it within three minutes of when she first started searching for it. What is the ruling? A - The player must continue with the provisional ball. B - The player must continue with the original ball. C - The player may choose whether to continue with the original ball or the provisional ball.

Question 2: A caddie is always permitted to give their player advice. A – True. B – False.

Question 3: The flagstick is a movable obstruction. A – True. B – False

Question 4: A player makes a practice swing and accidentally moves her ball in play on the fairway with her club. What is the ruling? A - There is no penalty but the player must replace the ball. B - There is no penalty, but the movement of the ball counts as a stroke and the ball must be played as it lies. C - The player gets one penalty stroke and must replace the ball.

Question 5: A ball is lost if, after searching for it for one minute, the player declares it to be lost. A – True. B – False.

Question 6: Loose impediments are part of the lie of the ball. A – True. B – False.

ANSWERS

Question 1: Correct answer B. Explanation: As the original ball was found within three minutes, the player must continue with the original ball (Rule 18.3c).

Question 2: Correct answer A. Explanation: See Rule 10.3b(1).

Question 3: Correct answer A. Explanation: See the definition of 'Obstruction'.

Question 4: Correct answer C. Explanation: If a player causes her ball in the general area to move without making a stroke there is a one stroke penalty (Rule 9.4b).

Question 5: Correct answer B. Explanation: See the definition of 'Lost'.

Question 6: Correct answer B. Explanation: See the definition of 'Lie'.

Tip of the Month – by the Club Professional Terry Bunyan

The most important move is the first move away from the ball - the first two feet - everything should move away together, keeping the clubhead outside of your hands and maintaining the 'triangle' created by the arms and the club shaft. DO NOT move the club just with your hands as this will throw the club too far on the inside, creating the so-called Death Move.

ADVANCED GROUP LESSONS with Terry Bunyan

From late January until late March

Concentrating on improving your golf with simple but very effective techniques, helping you to swing the club simpler, to drive the ball straighter and further and, most important of all, to improve your short game and reduce the amount of shots you take. This should really get you playing the kind of golf you know you can. Additionally there will be the 'plus, plus, plus' of on-course course management.

The program will include the following:

- 5 x 1-hour group sessions
- 1 x 2-hour on-course group session
- 1 x 30 minute One to One session

The cost is just £129 for members
£149 for non-members

However, if you bring along and introduce a non-member
you will get a 20% discount on your fee.

Look out for an email which will be sent to all Club members with more details.

Call Terry on 07588 272322 to sign up and register and for a more detailed chat.

Adult Individual Lesson Offers from Russell Phillips The Winter Packs

The winter pack lessons are now underway; you can no longer buy the full pack but the half pack is available until 13 January 2020!

THE HALF PACK - £150 Members (£75 Saving) or £190 Non-Members (£95 Saving)

- 1 x Assessment with goals and targets, so we can work together to achieve them;
- 6 x 30 minute golf lessons to work on your game 1-2-1,
and
- 1 x 9-hole grouped playing lesson!

SmartGolfer – WARNING!

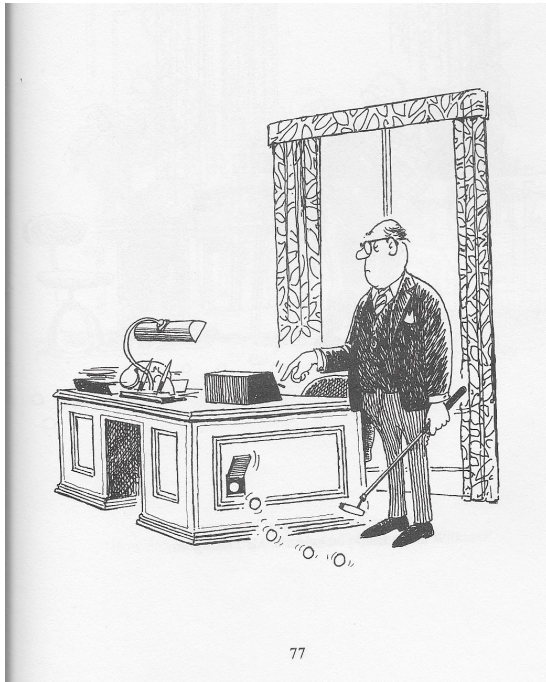
All AVGC-issued SmartGolfer membership cards expire on 31 December.
They can be renewed in the Pro Shop, ready for 2020.

A Message from Russell Phillips – your Head PGA Pro

I will be away for December enjoying the lovely weather in Australia. All regrips and repairs will have to go on hold until the new year. I just want to thank you all for your lovely support each year and I look forward to working with some of you in 2020. If you ever need any help with your swing, clubs, rules, grips, lie changes, repairs, whatever... I am here to help. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Golf Gift Offers

For seasonal golfing gift offers and suggestions, see the Pro Shop section of this issue.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Despite the never-ending rain, November has seen most members out on the course defying the monsoon-like conditions in an attempt to get their weekly fix! I'm sure everyone will join me in congratulating Luke and his team for the way they have prepared the course and made it playable for us all.

The Quota Stableford, due to be played on 16 November, had to be postponed due to unfavourable conditions, but hopefully we will be able to reschedule this competition in February. The Daily Mail Foursomes qualifier went ahead the following day and was won in fine style by Phil Jelley and Nick Paine. They will now go on to represent the Club in the knockout format in the new year.

Sunday 24 November saw the CBL team in action against Chesfield Downs GC in the winter knockout competition, with three pairs playing away and three pairs playing at home simultaneously. Our gallant team went down four and a half to one and a half, thus ending our participation for this year. Well done to Andy Frankum and Mark Westbrook for their win at home and Will Bond and Adrian Fallon for their hard-fought half away.

This month has seen the sad passing of long time member Mike Videtta. He was such a lively presence around the Club and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

December is now upon us and there are two fun competitions running this month; the Turkey Trot is on the 7th of the month and the Beer and String rears its head again on the 14th. The sign-up sheets are in the bar and are open to both Men and the Ladies. There has already been a good response, so if you haven't signed up yet, don't forget!

It's not too late to sign up for the Christmas Dinner-Dance on 7 December. Come and see the incredible 'Recollections' do their thing! There are a few tickets left, snap them up while you can!

Christmas is just around the corner and as this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Remember, a gimmie is not for life, it's just for Christmas!

Steve Chandler

November began with the monthly Medal and, in Division 1, a level par nett 72 was enough to give Martin Higgins victory by one shot over second placed Darren Horne. John Barker finished a shot further back in third place. Kyle Wilks came out on top in Division 2, a nett 71 securing the win. Daniel Lotter (nett 72) took second place with Dan Baldock (nett 73) in third. In Division Mark Mansfield finished five shots clear of the chasing pack with a one under par 71. Brian Smith took second place on countback from Gavin Procter.

The November Midweek Stableford saw Bernie Williams make a return to winning ways, taking the honours on countback with 37 points. Brian Smith was bridesmaid once again, with Craig Hutchinson in third. Gary Wiltshire finished just outside the prizes despite recording the same score as the top three.

The new Quota Stableford unfortunately fell foul of the weather and will be re-arranged in the new year. However, at the second time of asking we managed to get the Daily Mail Foursomes played. The winning pair with a fine nett 67.5 were Phil Jelley and Nick Paine. Justin and Ben McDonald (nett 68.5) were second with Mark Adams and Paul Herridge a shot further back in third.

Competition and Match Results (Men)

Medal 2 November	Div 1 1 st : Martin Higgins nett 72 2 nd : Darren Horne nett 73 3 rd : John Barker nett 74	Div 2 1 st : Kyle Wilks nett 71 2 nd : Daniel Lotter nett 72 3 rd : Danny Baldock nett 73	Div 3 1 st : Mark Mansfield nett 71 2 nd : Brian Smith nett 76 3 rd : Gavin Procter nett 76
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Bernie Williams 37 Pts 2 nd : Brian Smith 37 Pts 3 rd : Craig Hutchinson 37 Pts		

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

The autumn and the winter are a prime time for Captain's Competitions for Seniors and Friday Roll-Ups for all members. You may have noticed a gradual creep towards earlier start times and this has not really been intentional, but clearly enjoyed by those who like to start early whilst perhaps being less popular with the later arrivals.

Having spoken to AVGC Management, we have agreed, starting on 11 December, a standardised start across all three days of 8:15 and we have an hour and a bit to get us away. This is proving to be sufficient during the winter and will be reviewed and extended where necessary when the more clement weather returns in the spring. Competition days sit outside this arrangement and we will negotiate sufficient tee times to get all pre-booked entrants off.

It is always difficult for the organiser to know how long players will keep on arriving on these social golf occasions and it is unreasonable to expect them to stay to the end of our allotted time on the off-chance that someone chooses to turn up late. Organisers will therefore draw the remaining 'balls on the table' at 8:45. It may be possible for you to be included if you do not have your ball on the table by that time but you should be aware that this is not guaranteed, especially where the organiser has a four-ball as the last group drawn. To be clear, please time your arrival between 8:05 and 8:35 to be confident of being able to play.

We welcome all Seniors on Mondays and Wednesdays (when there is no formal competition) and all members on Fridays – if you have not tried us yet, you will be made most welcome.

Our Winter Eclectic competition is well under way and will run until the end of March. There is still time to enter and you may compete by paying the Treasurer and joining in what is looking to be a keenly fought competition in both divisions. We are also interested in any comments Seniors may have for improvement of the eclectics. If you have a view, please find the time to have a word with me or any other member of the Committee.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all Seniors, members, AVGC Staff and their families a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Larry Goddard

Competition and Match Results (Seniors)

Winter League away match vs Weston Turville 31 October	Won 4½:1½
Winter League away match vs Chartridge Park 6 November	Lost 1½:4½
Winter Eight (3) 11 November	1 st : Julian Bamford 39 Pts 2 nd : Peter Arthur 35 Pts 3 rd : Terry Neve 34 Pts
Winter Eight (4) 25 November	1 st : Dave Dean 42 Pts 2 nd : Simon Merritt 36 Pts 3 rd : Nigel Welling 36 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Hi All,

November started off with the Mixed Pairs Club Championship and a very good turn out of 17 pairs. Jane Codrai and Binzy came third, Jean Barnett and Andy Ashcroft came second and Jamie and Carol Carlin came first. They will be presented with a new shield that has been sponsored by two former members.

The midweek free format was won by Jean Cross, Vanessa Bond won the weekend Medal and also the midweek Medal - well played. The 9-hole competition was won by Sheila Perkins, the Winter Stableford by Jean Barnett and the midweek monthly Stableford was won by Sheila Perkins.

We have things to look forward to in December. On 7 December we are having a 9-hole Turkey Trot. This is '3 clubs and a putter' and open to all Ladies free of charge. All we ask is that you wrap and bring a gift up to the value of £10. The winner will win a turkey and first dip into the gift bag. If we get a good turnout, we could have second and third place all winning a turkey - so come on Ladies, let's make it a good turnout. The sign-up sheet is in the changing room and the Turkey Trot will start at

approximately 10:00am. Beer and String is also for the Ladies to play in, with the sign-up sheet in the bar.

If I don't see you before Christmas, I hope you have a Merry one and a prosperous New Year.

Julie Lea

Competition and Match Results (Ladies)

Stableford 4 November	1 st : Jean Cross 30 Pts 2 nd : Sandie Joy 26 Pts 3 rd : Jane Whigham 23 Pts
Medal 9 November	1 st : Vanessa Bond nett 73 2 nd : Julie Lea nett 74 3 rd : Jane Codrai nett 80
Medal 11 November	1 st : Vanessa Bond nett 77 2 nd : Jean Edwards nett 81 3 rd : Jane Codrai nett 83
9-hole Stableford 13 November	1 st : Sheila Perkins 16 Pts 2 nd : Glynis Flack 14 Pts 3 rd : Anne Haynes 12 Pts
Winter Stableford 17 November	1 st : Jean Barnett 31 Pts 2 nd : Danka Lawson 30 Pts 3 rd : Sheila Perkins 29 Pts
Midweek Stableford 20 November	1 st : Sheila Perkins 33 Pts 2 nd : Jane Codrai 32 Pts 3 rd : Danka Lawson 27 Pts

Juniors

Golf Gift Offer

For a seasonal golfing gift offer for Juniors, see the Pro Shop section of this issue.

Pro Shop

We used to start our sale after Christmas. What a waste of time!!! Now we start it around 1 December and end it at close of play on Christmas Eve. There is a 10% discount on all shop items (except for Ping) and a further 10% if you pay with your Members' white card.

As an idea for Christmas you can purchase one, three or five rounds of golf at a discounted price for a friend or family member. New in the shop are navy-coloured Club logo tops and body warmers/gilets.

Christmas Coaching Vouchers

£25 gift voucher - for 1x30minute 1-to-1 lesson

£60 gift voucher - for 3x30minute 1-to-1 lessons

There are only a limited number of these available from the Pro Shop so don't miss out. Vouchers must be purchased before 24 December 2019.



Golf Experience Days - 'Here Come the Girls' – Christmas Gift

This is a day with Russell Phillips, the Club's head PGA Pro, to introduce ladies to this fantastic game. They will have a go at playing the various aspects of golf and finish with a few holes on the golf course. Lunch will be included in the day and vouchers can be purchased from the Pro Shop for £60.

Junior Development Day – Christmas Gift

Juniors aged 8-18 can now buy a day with Russell Phillips, when they will visit all areas of the game to develop their skills. Lunch is included and nine holes will be played on the course. The days are in April half term and vouchers can be bought in the Pro Shop for £40.

Ping Day Trip to Gainsborough by Russell Phillips

Looking for a new set of clubs? Be the first to demo and have the new Ping irons. I am offering a unique experience for anyone looking to upgrade their set. We will head up to the Ping factory in March 2020. You can try the new drivers, woods, hybrids, crossover, irons, wedges and even the new putters! All of these will be custom fitted to you and your swing to give you the best results. Ping is the best driver in the market now for both distance and forgiveness, so what else could you want?

Here is what the day involves (next date in March):

Meet at AVGC at 7am and travel to Gainsborough
Tea/Coffee on arrival
Get 1.5 hours on Trackman with a Ping fitter to demo the clubs
Lunch
9 holes of golf
Leave Gainsborough and return to AVGC at approx. 6pm.

I will be travelling with you and only have space for six players. If this is of interest, please get in touch and I will book your position. Money will need to be paid in advance to secure your position. This experience will cost £70 per person and all above are covered in that cost.

With Christmas just around the corner why not treat someone to this experience?

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... No issue of *The Vale* will be produced for January, so you are wished a Happy New Year.

...and a touch of humour... golfers who try to make everything perfect before taking the shot rarely make a perfect shot.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month and Next?

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

Men:

Saturday 7 December – Turkey Trot 0745-1015

Sunday 8 December – Medal 0715-1100

Monday 9 to Sunday 15 December – Winter Stableford

Saturday 14 December – Buy a Gift (9 holes) 0815-1045

Christmas Day – course closed

Boxing Day – course closed

Saturday 4 January – Medal 0715-1100

Monday 6 to Sunday 12 January – Winter Stableford

Seniors:

Monday 2 December – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Wednesday 4 December – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Wednesday 4 December – Presentation Afternoon 1400

Saturday 7 December – Turkey Trot 0745-1015

Monday 9 to Sunday 15 December – Winter Stableford

Monday 9 December – Winter Eight (5) 0730-1000

Wednesday 11 December – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Saturday 14 December – Buy a Gift (9 holes) 0815-1045

Monday 16 December – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 18 December – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 23 December – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Christmas Day – course closed

Boxing Day – course closed

Monday 30 December – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 6 to Sunday 12 January – Winter Stableford

Monday 6 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 8 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 13 January – Winter Eight (6) 0730-1000

Wednesday 15 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 20 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 22 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 27 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 29 January – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Key Contacts

Club Management

e-mail: info@avgc.co.uk

www.avgc.co.uk

Tel: 01525 240196

Memberships/Shop/Tee bookings: Chris Wright,

Garry Hutchinson, Jason Thornalley, Dan Lazar

Restaurant/Functions: Jason Thornalley, Chris Wright

Head Chef: Heinz Simon

Head Greenkeeper: Luke Foley

Teaching Professionals: Russell Phillips 07843

692948 or r.phillips@avgc.co.uk

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322

or terrygolf1965@gmail.com

Men

Captain: Steve Chandler

Vice-Captain: Keith McGovern

Treasurer: Keith Loxton

Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Admin Secretary: Roger White

Handicap Secretary: Neil Meldrum

5-Day Representative: Peter Codrai

Seniors

Captain: Larry Goddard

Vice-Captain:

Treasurer: Keith Loxton

Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Admin Secretary: Mike Pelizzoni

Social Secretary: Peter Codrai

Ladies

Captain: Julie Lea

Vice-Captain: Kath Scott

Treasurer: Charlotte Simpson

Admin Secretary: Lesley Wright

7-day Competition Secretary: Sheila Perkins

5-day Competition Secretary: Jackie Boden

Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett

Juniors

Captain: Freddie Perkin

Editor *The Vale*: Lance Redler (01296) 681286

lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk

Ladies:

Sunday 1 December – Medal 0845-0930
Monday 2 December – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 4 December – Midweek Medal 1000-1045
Saturday 7 December – Turkey Trot 0745-1015
Monday 9 to Sunday 15 December – Winter Stableford
Monday 9 December – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 11 December – 9-hole competition 1000-1100 + Christmas lunch
Saturday 14 December – Buy a Gift (9 holes) 0815-1045
Monday 16 December – 9-hole competition 1000-1045
Wednesday 18 December – Stableford 1000-1045
Monday 23 December – competition 1000-1030
Christmas Day – course closed
Boxing Day – course closed
Monday 30 December – competition 1000-1030
Monday 6 to Sunday 12 January – Winter Stableford
Monday 6 January – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 8 January – competition 1000-1030
Saturday 11 January – Medal 0945-1030
Monday 13 January – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 15 January – Medal 1000-1030
Monday 20 January – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 22 January – Stableford 1000-1030
Monday 27 January – competition 1000-1030
Wednesday 29 January – 9-hole competition 1000-1030