



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

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

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Edition 67, February 2020

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## **Comment**

We wish a belated Happy New Year to all readers.

### **David Jones**

We regret to report the death on Christmas Day of David Jones, who was Seniors' Captain in 2007 and the Men's Treasurer for a number of years.

David's funeral took place on 23 January and our condolences go to his widow, Margaret.

### **Brian Scott**

We regret also to report the death on 5 January of Brian Scott, a Club member and husband of our current Lady Vice-Captain, Kath, to whom we extend condolences.

Brian's funeral took place at Eaton Bray Methodist Chapel on 31 January.

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

### The Course

The course survived the early rains (September to November) very well as the greenkeepers had slit and verti-drained the course. This gave the rain somewhere to go. Unfortunately, the above average monthly rainfalls have shown no signs of abating and once the water table has risen to meet the surface at certain points, this negates the effect of slitting and verti-draining. At that stage all we can do is try to manage the situation by closing in the very wettest of conditions, since the damage to the course is far greater in the worst of the conditions. Even Woburn has had its closures this winter - and they probably have the best drainage around.

The good news is that there is still plenty of grass on the tees and fairways, so Luke is still optimistic of a return to good playing conditions for spring/summer. The greens are still in good shape and the lads have continued with a winter program of feeding the greens with nitrogen, potassium and magnesium. The greens are less likely to catch 'winter diseases' when they have the right balance of trace elements within the soil. They have required a little more feed than usual this year as the levels of rainfall have a leaching effect.

If the weather remains wet into February then we will continue with the 'reward passport stamp scheme' for members. We continue to offer small light carry bags at trade (£25), and also offer metal spikes at half price to give you the best possible grip in winter (although it might be better to go back to soft spikes in April).

#### Planned Course Improvements for 2020

Water Storage Tanks. We are planning to add further water storage tanks near the 2<sup>nd</sup> pond in March. 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.

Relaying the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Tees. As a consequence of the severe heatwave in 2018, many Clubs on sand/gravel/chalk suffered with loss of grass. We had two very sandy tees on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> that will be rebuilt this spring.

Irrigation to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Tees. The Men's Section have kindly agreed to have a 'Captain's Project' this year. This will enable us to put irrigation pop ups onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee, and the two new tees to be built on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Clubhouse News

We offer our warmest thanks to Brendan Langan who has fitted new LED lights to the restaurant. This is now far brighter and makes a big difference. We will take the opportunity this winter to repaint the ceiling and walls in the restaurant and are grateful to Andy Bond for the scaffolding.

Sunday roasts will re-start for the year on Sunday 23 February – see the Club noticeboard in the bar.

#### Membership News

We are continuing with the offer to members of five years of golf for the price of four. This can be 5-day, 7-day, single, or husband and wife. This up-front payment saves you one year's fees but also saves you any price increases over five years. This is open to all members – come and speak to Chris, Leo, Jason or Garry. We are offering six of these memberships – four members have already taken it up – which leaves two more available. Members can apply at any stage, as we will take into account credit from your current membership year. Members currently paying subs on direct debits can also apply.

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

These two offers are being made to enable us to make the irrigation improvements.

Weekend Member Roll Ups. Dates and times for the weekend Member rollups from 1 February to 29 March are listed on the What's On page at the back of this newsletter.

*Chris Wright*

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## Rules of Golf

### Ball Resting Against Flagstick in Hole (Rule 13.2c)

If your ball comes to rest against the flagstick left in the hole, and any part of your ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, your ball is treated as holed.

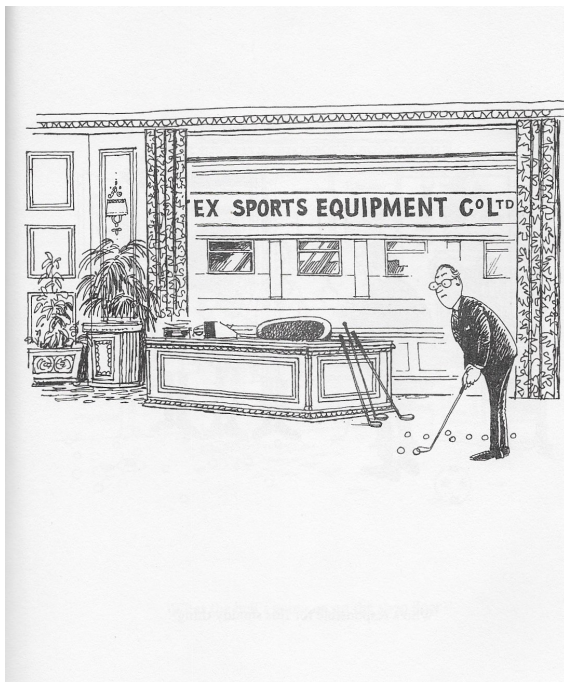
If no part of your ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green:

- Your ball is not holed and must be played as it lies.
- If the flagstick is removed and your ball moves (whether it falls into the hole or moves away from the hole), there is no penalty and it must be replaced on the lip of the hole.

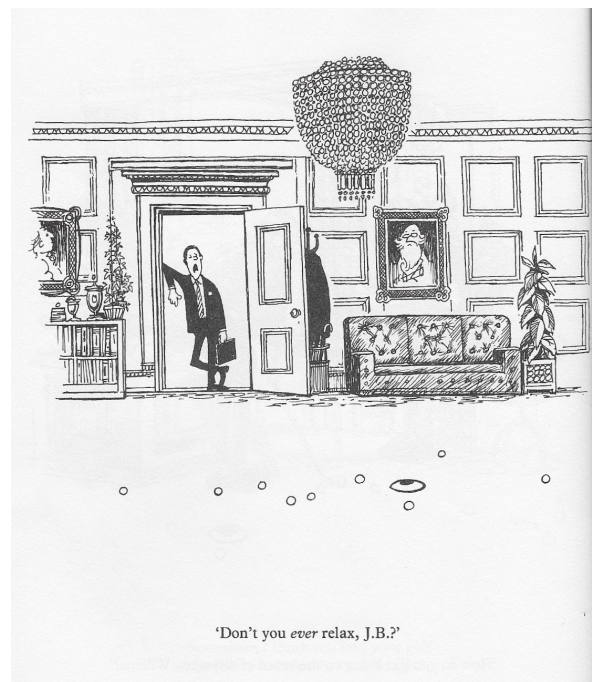
### **Tip of the Month from your Head PGA Professional, Russell Phillips**

Often a good swing thought can be 'swing the handle and not the head'. What do I mean by that? The only part of the clubs that your hands attach to is the handle. The handle is in turn connected to the clubhead. If you think about where the handle is in relation to your body you can then really control the centre of strike, the angle of attack and release of the club.

Have a try and focus on the handle and see if it helps with that consistency! I am offering 342 on any lessons purchased in February and March to help players improve their golf.



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwel ©



### **Adult Lessons by Russell Phillips 342 in February and March!**

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

- 30 mins - £25
- 1 hour - £40

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

## Here Come the Girls – Saturday 18 April 10:00am-11:30am

Here is a free taster for any women who are looking to try golf, improve in golf and even master golf. This free taster will give ladies a brief introduction as to what Here Come the Girls is all about, fun, relaxing and most importantly... enjoyable. If you know anyone who wants to come along, please contact Russell on 07843 692948.

### Handicaps – by Neil Meldrum (Men's Handicap Secretary)

So this is the year? Hopefully, the World Handicap System (WHS) is planned to commence in November 2020. England Golf are running workshops on the system and representatives of the Club will be attending an event on 3 February and hopefully they can provide an update in the next issue of *The Vale*.

The annual review has been completed and a number of players have received the gift of a handicap reduction. There were also a small number of unlucky members who received a handicap increase.

What is the annual review and how is it done? This was a question I wondered about until this year. Quite frankly, I just pull names from a hat. In reality, the software we use to track handicaps and competitions etc produces a recommendation report which includes both reductions and increases. In addition to this we look at competition results that are not captured by the system (e.g. summer & winter knockouts [doubles & singles] and doubles competitions).

I then met with the Competitions Secretary, Seniors' Captain and the Men's Captain to discuss the who, how much (reduction or increase) and when. It cheers up my year and I highly recommend the role of Handicap Secretary to anybody who has a sadistic streak.

There are currently 33 men without a competition handicap. It is particularly important for members to keep a watch on this at the turn of the year, as for the last two years a member of a doubles pairing in the winter knockout has become ineligible to play.

Supplementary cards – this is a difficult area at this time of the year and under the current conditions. I can only accept supplementary cards that I believe have been played under the normal rules of golf. This means if you have done any of the following during a round you should not submit the card:

- picked/placed in the rough,
- cleaned/dropped in the rough,
- picked/placed in the bunker due to abnormal ground conditions (water in the bunker),
- taken free relief from a water-filled bunker or partially-filled bunker (unless the bunker has been declared GUR) or
- submitted a card when all bunkers have been declared GUR (at least one bunker must be in play). You only get free relief from abnormal conditions in the bunker when you drop within the bunker, even if that is just shallower water and, as per normal, not nearer the hole.

The course: for 2019 off the white tees, all holes have played over par during the 2528 rounds recorded on the system. The easiest hole was the 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>. The hardest hole was the 13<sup>th</sup>, followed by the 14<sup>th</sup> and then the 6<sup>th</sup>. Both the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> played more than 1½ strokes over par. The course produced 27 Eagles or better during the year. During the year 134 players have managed to reduce their handicap.

As part of the World Handicap System every course is assessed and given a slope rating. Ideally the assessment is done by a physical visit, however due to the backlog the majority of courses are being done via a desktop review. The aim of the slope rating is to enable players to adjust their handicap when visiting other courses. We have been given a slope rating of 128; apparently this is similar to Millbrook and John O'Gaunt.

## **Letter to the Editor:**

*Hello everyone.*

*My name is John Flack and I am not a very good golfer. Some people might even say I am completely useless. It is a matter of degree and perception.*

*However - I believe I may be the only member of AVGC who cares enough about the course to repair pitch marks. How do I come to this conclusion? The increasing number of unrepaired pitch marks I see on the greens. It must be members causing this damage because there is hardly any corporate traffic at this time of year.*

*Come on folks. Our green keeping staff do a great job in maintaining the course to a very good standard. Is it such a hardship for us members to make a contribution?*

*How about we all make a commitment to ALWAYS repair TWO pitch marks on every green when we get there - even if we know we did not make those pitch marks.*

*I believe this simple action would bring great benefits to all users of the course.*

*Comments and feedback would be greatly appreciated.*

*Best wishes,*

*John Flack*

## **Men**

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

Despite it being nearly two months since my last offering, very little has occurred on the golf course to excite the reader, with play being so restricted by the awful weather and the boggy conditions on the course.

The December and January Medals were played as non-qualifiers, congratulations to the winners!

Many thanks to those members who came to the Christmas Dinner and Dance. A great night was had by all, gyrating to the very entertaining 'Recollections', and a special mention goes to Peter Codrai for organising the event.

The weekend of 18/19 January saw the course closed and meant that Mr McGoverne and I had to do what we have been threatening to do on each occasion that the course has been shut, namely clean out the committee storage cupboard, a feat which evidently hasn't been undertaken since the early nineties!

Despite inadvertently headbutting the joists several times each and spilling Claret everywhere, a very interesting couple of hours revealed many ancient documents, in the form of score cards and result sheets. One of the scorecards showed a picture taken from just in front of the 13<sup>th</sup> pond with the Clubhouse clearly visible in the background! Another scorecard from an up-and-coming golfer, Brendan Langan, showed that his handicap was once as high as 11! Nurse Shagwell now has much more room to breathe and hopefully future Captains will be able to find and store equipment a little easier.

With the weather looking a little brighter and less rain around, hopefully we can all look forward to playing a bit more golf.

Remember when you are playing in January and February, they are gloomy months, with little to smile about, so why not make it a little better by.....making someone happy, give a gimmie today!

*Steve Chandler*

Unfortunately the weather seems to have been the winner over the past few weeks, but we did manage to get two competitions played this month. An excellent turnout of 66 players contested the January Medal and Division 1 provided the highlight, with Darren Horne taking the honours with a superb nett 67. Nathan Chandler took second place on countback from Will Platten, both players recording nett 71s. Handicap Secretary Neil Meldrum was the winner in Division 2, his nett 68 giving him a one shot victory over second placed Mark Adams. New member Vernon Harris took third place with a nett 70. A nett 69 was enough for Phil Clack to win Division 3, with second placed Lee Hutt (nett 72) finishing a shot clear of third placed Tom Read.

Steve Willett was a convincing winner of the January Midweek Stableford with a fine 41 points. Peter Smees and James Kelly took the minor places, both players scoring 37 points.

### Competition and Match Results (Men)

Turkey Trot 7 December	1 <sup>st</sup> : Martin Higgins 40 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Clayton Barlow 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Will Bond 39 Pts		
Medal 8 December	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Paul Herridge nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Dean Palmer nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jason Thornalley nett 74	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew Pearce nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nigel Welling nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jonathan McGough nett 70	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Gavin Procter nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Searle nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Michael Fenables nett 74
Midweek December Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Peter Smees 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Philip Clack 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Danny Baldock 36 Pts		
Medal 4 January	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Darren Horne nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nathan Chandler nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Will Platten nett 71	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Neil Meldrum nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Adams nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Vernon Harris nett 70	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Philip Clack nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lee Hutt nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tom Read nett 73
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Steve Willett 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Peter Smees 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : James Kelly 37 Pts		

## Seniors

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

A long spell of very wet weather and course closures means there is little golf to report on. The committee however has still been beavering away and next year's calendar is now complete and can be viewed on the website for those who like to populate their diaries early.

We have also looked to see if the Rules for Competitions need revising and the budget for this year is under active discussion. More news on both of these matters next month.

February sees the notice of AGM being promulgated and the call for committee posts; please check the notice board on the changing room from the middle of the month on.

Very observant Seniors may have noticed a few less tee times available for Captain's Competitions and the Friday roll-up. This is to ensure that the management can utilise tee bookings to the optimum extent and the Club management and the committee will liaise closely to ensure it works well from both sides. I will continue to report on this to you but we must ensure we use our times.

Finally, I am sure Seniors will wish to join me in sending Hugh Frood our best wishes following a long emergency surgery and hope for a speedy return to the golf course.

*Larry Goddard*

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

Winter Eight (5) 9 December	1 <sup>st</sup> : Neill Brinklow 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Peter Lawson 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nigel Welling 35 Pts
Winter Eight (6) 13 January	1 <sup>st</sup> : Nigel Welling 36 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Simon Merritt 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Dave Needs 34 Pts

## **Ladies**

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

We can't believe that we are at the end of January already. I hope that you all had a great Christmas and good luck to you all in the up and coming year.

Firstly, my condolences go out to Kath Scott on the loss of her husband Brian, a true gentleman who will be sadly missed.

Unfortunately, not much golf was played through January due to the weather and the course being closed. January's weekend Medal was played with the Men and won by Vanessa Bond.

February's weekend Medal is also being played with the Men on Sunday 9 February and our AGM is on Saturday 29 February.

*Julie Lea*

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

Medal 4 January	1 <sup>st</sup> : Vanessa Bond nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lorraine Fox nett 86 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lesley Wright nett 86
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## **Juniors**

### **Winter Junior Open Day – Tuesday 18 February – 10:00am-3:30pm**

This day is for 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 3:15pm. They do not need their own equipment to take part, however if they have any they should bring it along and clothing worn should be smart.

The whole day includes lunch (nuggets, chips and beans) and costs just £25!

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

## **Pro Shop**

### **Ping Demo Day – Monday 20 April 1:00pm-5:00pm**

Morgan from Ping will be coming along to fit players looking for a little bit extra in their game. He will use Trackman to find the best club to suit your swing. It could be the club missing in your game! Time slots are for 40 minutes and if you wish to book one please book in the Pro Shop. Feel free to pop along and try some clubs and Russell will be there to help.

### **Ping Trip to Gainsborough – End of March**

If you want the real experience, then Russell will be going with people to the official Ping fitting centre in Gainsborough. Here you will be able to try a huge variety of clubs, anything from drivers, woods, hybrids, irons, wedges and putters for left and right hand golfers, men and ladies. Gainsborough is approximately 2½ hours' drive away, so to make more of a day of it this is what you'll have:

Tea/coffee on arrival  
1½ hour fitting  
Lunch  
9 holes of golf

This day costs £75 and there are only six spaces available. The date is to be confirmed but will be midweek and towards the end of March. If you are interested and want to book your place, contact Russell on 07843 692948.

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

**...the last word is...**roll on the dry weather!

**...and a touch of humour...** Q: What's the problem with my golf game? A: You're standing too close to the ball ... after you hit it.

*Lance Redler*

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

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

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

#### **Weekend Member Rollups**

Sat 1 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 2 Feb	N/A Quota Stableford
Sat 8 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 9 Feb	N/A Men's Medal
Sat 15 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 16 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sat 22 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sat 29 Feb	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 1 Mar	9:30 – 10:30
Sat 7 Mar	Shotgun Medal and AGM
Sun 8 Mar	9:25 – 10:25
Sat 14 Mar	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 15 Mar	Mixed Spring Foursomes
Sat 21 Mar	Men's Zodiac Texas Scramble
Sun 22 Mar	Videtta Trophy
Sat 28 Mar	8:40 – 9:40
Sun 29 Mar	8:40 – 9:40

#### **Men:**

##### **Monday 3 to Sunday 9 February – Stableford**

Sunday 9 February – Medal 0715-1100

Saturday 7 March – Medal (shotgun) 0600-1230

##### **Monday 9 to Friday 13 March – midweek Medal**

##### **Sunday 15 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0845-1000**

Saturday 21 March – Zodiac Texas Scramble 0745-0945

##### **Monday 23 to Friday 27 March – midweek Stableford**

Saturday 28 March – Presentation Dinner 1900

##### **Sunday 29 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

#### **Seniors:**

##### **Monday 3 to Sunday 9 February – Stableford**

Monday 3 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 5 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 10 February - Winter Eight (7) 0730-1000

Wednesday 12 February Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 17 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 19 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 24 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Wednesday 26 February – Captain's competition 0815-0930

Monday 2 March – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Tuesday 3 March – WL home match vs Chartridge Park 0915-1030

Wednesday 4 March – Captains competition 0800-1000

##### **Monday 9 to Friday 13 March – midweek Medal**

Monday 9 March – Winter Eight (8) 0730-1000

Wednesday 11 March – Captain's competition 0800-0900

Wednesday 11 March – WL home match vs Hazlemere 0915-1030

##### **Sunday 15 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0845-1000**

Monday 16 March – Captain's competition 0800-1000

Wednesday 18 March – Captain's competition 0800-1000

##### **Monday 23 to Friday 27 March – midweek Stableford**

Monday 23 March – Celebratory Cup 0800-0830

Monday 23 March – Stableford 0830-1000

Wednesday 25 March – AGM Cup 0800-1000

Wednesday 25 March – AGM 1500

##### **Sunday 29 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

Monday 30 March – Captain's competition 0800-1000

### **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:** 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

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

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

**Ladies:**

**Monday 3 to Sunday 9 February – Stableford**

Monday 3 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 5 February – competition 1000-1030

Sunday 9 February – Medal

Monday 10 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 12 February – midweek Medal 1000-1030

Monday 17 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 19 February – 9-hole competition 1000-1030

Monday 24 February – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 26 February – Stableford 1000-1030

Saturday 29 February – AGM Cup (9 holes + AGM) 1030-1130

Sunday 1 March – Medal 0845-0930

Monday 2 March – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 4 March – 30+ handicap competition 1000-1030

Monday 9 March – competition 1000-1030

Wednesday 11 March – competition 1000-1030

Saturday 14 March – Helen Rowley Plate 0945-1030

**Sunday 15 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0845-1000**

Monday 16 March – Medal 1000-1100

Wednesday 18 March – Stableford 1000-1100

**Monday 23 to Friday 27 March – midweek Stableford**

Monday 23 March – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 25 March – 9-hole competition 1000-1100

**Sunday 29 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

Monday 30 March – competition 1000-1100