



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 70, June 2020

Comment

Many weeks without golf finally ended for us on 13 May. We thank Chris and his team for the very detailed arrangements they put in place so that we can once again play golf, safely. Luke and the greenkeeping team have presented the course immaculately, which everyone will really appreciate. Your Editor tee'd off on the 10th at 0620 on the first day, just to check!

This issue of *The Vale* will inevitably be shorter than usual, especially as no competitions or matches have been played.

News and Updates from the Club Management

I must firstly offer profound thanks to all the support that we have received from you, the members, since restrictive measures have been in place. Late March was a gloomy period in the life of the Golf Club but the response from the members has been tremendous. We have had a flood of volunteers who kept their subs going through lockdown, which enabled us to employ the full greenkeeping team throughout. Further, the membership have embraced all the changes and supported us by following the safety measures and I hope that everyone genuinely feels safe and confident to come and play golf at The Vale.

I am hoping the worst is now past. Play in two balls at 10 minute intervals was very restrictive and I know that not everyone could get 18 holes on the day of their choice. I think the balance between 18 and 9 holes was the best compromise as the primary concern was to get everyone out on the course exercising safely for at least 9 holes each day, following the long lockdown inside your house. Returning to 3- and 4-balls should now mean that everyone can play 18 holes once again should they so wish.

We are now at the stage where we can look to improve the course once again. Luke has the course under control and this early summer will mean that less time will now be spent cutting grass. We will look to improve the look of the pathways, work on some new winter path areas, get some irrigation to the 17th tee and generally look at the finer detail.

The grass tees will be open on the driving range by next weekend. We will issue driving range passports from the shop. The balls will be collected from the shop and we will book out marked grass bays in 15 minute and 30 minute time slots. The idea is that the 30 minute time slots are for practice or lessons and the cheaper 15 minute slots will enable you to have a quick warm up before progressing to

the putting green and then the 1st tee. This will avoid the potential for groups to gather at busy times at the driving range. A more detailed email will be sent later.

I cannot predict the detail and procedures for the bar/restaurant re-opening yet, but I know that Heinz and Lee are champing at the bit and Jason will do whatever it takes to get the Stella flowing again!

We have had a really positive uptake in membership over the last couple of weeks and we welcome many new members to our ranks, including a very healthy input of juniors and young golfers. However, I am conscious that we may have some elderly members, or those with underlying health conditions, who have not yet made it back onto our fairways. Further, there could be some of you who are experiencing employment difficulties as a result of the virus. I have made a special membership suspension category for such situations so, there is no rush, but do make contact over the next couple of months and we will try and assist.

Please be aware to keep yourself hydrated, particularly with more 18-hole rounds now. We have had two instances of heatstroke. We can take water to the Collection Point for you.

Thanks to everyone again.

Chris Wright

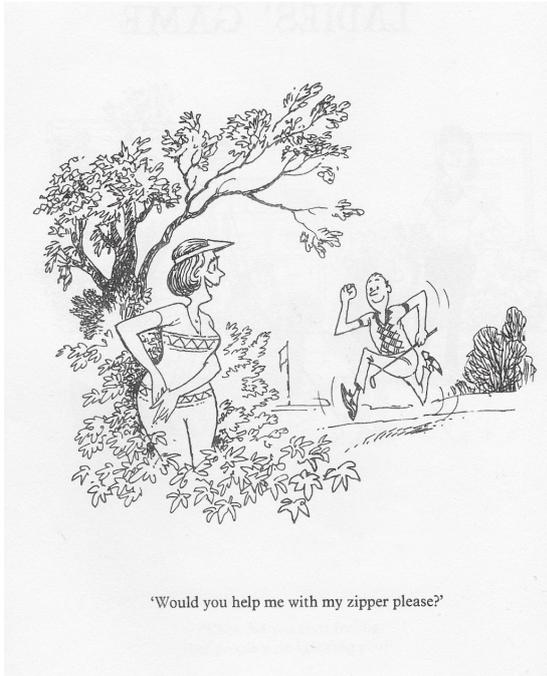
Rules of Golf

When Your Ball is in a Bunker (Rule 12.1). Your ball is in a bunker when any part of it touches sand on the ground inside the edge of the bunker. Your ball is also in a bunker if it is inside the edge of the bunker and rests:

- on ground where sand would normally be or
- in or on a loose impediment, movable obstruction, abnormal course condition or integral object in the bunker.

If your ball lies on soil or grass or other growing or attached natural objects inside the edge of the bunker without touching sand, your ball is not in the bunker.





From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©

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

Short Game Tip

Unless you hit every green from distance you will find yourself often chipping or pitching from around the green, trying to get the ball close to the hole to one-putt. You should take time to select the correct club to give you the best change of get up and down. A less lofted club (7 iron) gives you forgiveness and control while a lofted club gets the ball stopping quicker but can be more prone to miss strikes, thins etc. Look for a flat cut surface to first pitch the ball so the bounce is more predictable. The shape of the shot to land the ball on the flat surface and finish by the hole should tell you which club to use.

To find out more about what club to use and how to use the different wedges, call Russell on 07843 692948.

For Your Safety and the Safety of Others!

Please remember to check the 16th tee before crossing the bridge to the 13th green...



...and check that the 13th green is clear before teeing off on the 16th.





Your Editor photographed this scene of the busy 9th green of the public golf course at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, at sunset on 11 December 2015.

Virtual Golf During the Lockdown by Keith McGoverne

During the last six weeks of lockdown, Club members took part in a virtual golf tournament, comprising Masters and World Match Play Championships. The members also organised daily rollups for anyone who didn't make the cut or was knocked out. The entry fee to play was between 50p and 75p depending on the tournament, and a prize was awarded to each daily winner.

The virtual golf started due to the first charity event of the year falling victim to the Covid-19 restrictions – Annette's Hat Day, which is in support of Breast Cancer Care, in memory of an AVGC member's wife who sadly died of cancer a few years ago. Due to the popularity of the virtual golf draw, and no doubt boosted by lockdown boredom, it became a daily event with members joining the Virtual King (Darren Horne) online, with the aid of his glamorous assistants to draw the results via video link from Chigwell, Essex. The event included live interviews which were uploaded to Facebook by AVGC's own intrepid reporter Andy Bond (who shouldn't give up his day job!).

With the restrictions now lifted for golf, we have wrapped up the virtual golf, having raised the amazing sum of £1,330.75. Due to the fantastic amount raised we've agreed to split the proceeds between three charities: Breast Cancer Care, Hospice at Home Volunteers and the NHS.



I'd like to say well done and many thanks to everyone involved, with special recognition to Darren Horne a.k.a. the AVGC Virtual Hero from King.

The Vale

This newsletter is produced each month for all Club members. If you would like to receive the monthly copy by email, just ask the Editor to add you to his list, that already numbers some 120.

To help add interest, why not send the Editor something golf-related that he can include in an issue – perhaps a review of a course that you've visited.

The Editor can be contacted at: lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk

Holes-in-One!

Congratulations to Tony Foster for achieving a hole-in-one at AVGC on 25 May, closely followed by a very newly-joined member - Ian Lawson - who had an ace on the 17th on 27 May. As a finalé to May, Mark Newberry also aced the 17th on 30 May. What a shame that the bar has been closed all this time!

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

It seems like much longer than two months since we all disappeared into Golfing Lockdown. Now we have emerged, blinking into the sun, from our enforced golfing break, the difference between the cold, soggy conditions we finished playing in and the warm, dry and sunny weather we are currently enjoying is stark. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say it is great to be back!

The course looks to be in great condition with the greens starting to become receptive with a smooth roll. Let's make sure we do our bit by remembering to repair our pitch marks.

Elsewhere in this publication a report highlights the great job Darren Horne did with his marathon stint as the Virtual Golf Coordinator. I would like to add my thanks to Darren and his two assistants, Mark Mansfield and Dan Baldock. At a time when people were stuck at home and needing an outlet, they provided much needed relief from the tedium of the Groundhog Day experience we were all enduring.

The way this summer will play out is still unfolding, with us all having many hurdles to overcome before we finally arrive at the new normal, whatever that is! As far as our golf is concerned, I hope we all take the opportunity to enjoy the golf in the coming months and accept and embrace the necessary restrictions that we need to play under in order for us all to stay safe.

Look forward to seeing you all on the course. Remember to help with social distancing by giving your partner a gimme!

Steve Chandler

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

My first thought when putting together a few words is the hope that this finds all members safe and well and coming through the last 10 weeks or so.

What a pleasure it was to hear that golf could resume and how great it was to get out and play on a course that Luke and his team can be justifiably very proud of. Although a little like 'millionaire's golf, social distancing has brought its own challenges, with most Seniors I have spoken to expressing the view how well the Club's management have handled our return to golf.

The Seniors' Committee have taken the decision to write off the rest of the summer friendly match program as the difficulties of arranging such fixtures are just too challenging and we may be able to make more productive use of the time later in the season.

As I write, England Golf have just announced a resumption of 3- and 4-ball golf and we await to hear exactly how this will be implemented by AVGC, which will, hopefully be explained elsewhere in this edition.

England Golf have also suggested that Clubs can start to consider holding competitions and I know that Seniors will welcome this. This does have more challenges to overcome, but once AVGC gives the green light having weighed all the potential difficulties, the Committee will be happy to help move the dialogue on. We will also look to see what competitions can be played later in the year including some that have already been lost to the current restrictions.

Larry Goddard

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

No report was received.

Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... keep your fingers crossed for the return soon of competitions, matches, bacon & mushroom baguettes and cheese toasties.

...and a touch of humour... Golf is a game invented by God to punish men who retire early.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month and Next?

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

Due to the restrictions on golf competitions still in place at the time of publication, no details can be shown here for June or July.

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 McGoverne

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: Keith Loxton

Treasurer: Mike Boden

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: Abi Pearce

Editor *The Vale*: Lance Redler (01296) 681286
lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk