

Risk Assessments at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

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1. General

There have been previous risk assessments but these are now superseded by this risk assessment undertaken on 27 June 20 in preparation for the bar and catering opening on 4th July 20. We confirm that up to 4th July 20 the clubhouse, with the exception of toilet and hand washing areas, has and will remain closed and locked.

Individual aspects of this risk assessment will be subject to review at any time in order to enhance safety, given ever changing circumstances. However, in broad terms this risk assessment is designed to cover the summer period up until 1st September 20. On this date another major review will take place as deteriorating weather will place increased demand upon inside areas as people are unable to remain outside.

From 4th July 20 we will require the e-mail address of all golfers. This is to enable 'track and trace' in the event of someone testing positive for the virus who has played at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

If you feel unwell then please stay at home and avoid coming to the club at all. If you start to feel unwell during your round of golf please go straight home. If you feel you will cough or sneeze please attempt to go outside if possible, cough or sneeze into a tissue if possible and turn your head away from others.

These risk assessments are designed to minimise risk. We would applaud all golfer to date for following our guidance and golf played to date has felt 'safe'. However, the introduction of bars and catering inevitably impose greater risk, particularly when the consumption of alcohol could lead to complacency. We still need to make **every** golfer feel safe after 4th July, and hence we do ask everyone to pay attention to the following:

2. The Golf Course

Before leaving home use your own loo! Sounds like the 'nanny state' but it will practically avoid overcrowding in our toilet areas.

Change into your golf shoes at your car.

Follow the one way arrows from the car park to the golf shop

Arrive 12 minutes before your tee time. (earlier if you are pre-booking a bucket of range balls). If you arrive too early either book a range bay or stay in your car.

Only go onto the putting green when the group in front have vacated it and moved towards the 1st tee.

KEEP YOUR SEPERATION DISTANCES AT ALL TIMES ON THE COURSE

Do not touch the flags. Give gimmes within 12 inches. Use your putter to eject the ball from the hole with our Covid-19 disk system.

Bunker rakes have been removed. There is an individual rake head on sale in the shop at trade £7.50 that fits over any club and is your personal rake - not for sharing!

Ball washers and divot trowels have been removed.

There are hand sanitiser stations and washbasins at the clubhouse. We strongly recommend use of these before and after your round.

3. The Pro Shop

How to use the pro shop safely.

The pro shop has large protective perspex screens. A new screened desk has been placed near the open door of the shop so you can announce your arrival to pro shop staff without entering the shop, if you so wish. One member can announce the arrival of all in his group.

A visitor can pay over the phone in advance. Failing that, they can enter the shop and pay at the counter, but we are operating with only one person in the shop at a time. The new contactless limit is £45, but if the total is greater than this we can break it down into multiple transactions.

From 4th July we need contact details from everyone to enable 'track and trace' in the event of someone testing positive who played at AVGC. This can be e-mail or phone number. Once a member has given this to us once no repeat is necessary. Visitors should do this over the phone, if possible, when making the booking. This will be required from people using the driving range as well as the golf course.

If anyone is uncomfortable stepping into the shop, shop staff can put on a pair of fresh gloves and take balls, tees, drinks, chocolate bars etc to our 'Collection Point' table outside the pro shop. You can either pay for this once at the counter, or we can put through a payment taking your card in tissue, or members white card, doing a contactless payment in your full view, and immediately giving you the customer receipt paper copy.

Within the shop the fridge handle is marked "ASK STAFF". We ask you to step back and shop staff will put on a pair of fresh gloves and open the fridge for you and get your drink. If you want a cup of coffee again, please ask our staff for assistance and do not operate the coffee machine yourself. The notice on the coffee machine is there to remind you.

We ask you not to touch items in the shop unless you are going to buy them. Shoes and clothes may need to be tried on. If you do this and decide not to buy please make a member of staff aware. These items will be transferred to a holding area upstairs, with a date attached, and will not be brought back into the downstairs shop until three days later.

We would ask parents to enter the shop and ask that all children under 14 years of age wait outside. This is because children frequently run their hands over golf clubs, golf balls, golf tees etc. Parents are responsible for supervising their children and ensuring that they observe distancing

guidelines. They must be taken home if they are not self distancing. Russell Phillips, PGA Golf Professional at AVGC for juniors, will be responsible for supervising the children during his lessons, but will return the children to parental supervision if they fail to keep socially distanced.

The requirement for everyone in the shop to wear a mask has been removed following government guidelines. However, you are welcome to wear your own, or take one of ours, if you so choose.

4. Tee Booking System.

Please make bookings using our BRS system from home or by telephone, wherever possible. We now require the full names of all golfers in your group to be listed.

Our tee times intervals have been 10 minutes from opening until 30th June 20 but will revert to 8 minutes from 1st July 20. The course passes the risk assessment as groups of golfers are naturally kept apart through the safety of not playing a shot if anyone is within range. We have also made the fairways wider and cut down areas of rough this year to enhance flow. If it is necessary for a slower group to call a faster group through then everyone should ensure that separation distances are maintained whilst this is done, which is easily achieved given the width of our golf holes across the 201 acre site. This gives more people the chance to get the mental and health benefits of playing golf, secures greater income for the club in a year when closures to bar, catering, course and range are detrimental, and gets members closer to their desired tee off time when they book. Currently, if a golfer wants a game within two days notice then the 8 minute interval can make the difference between finding a tee time or not.

From today, under the 8 minute tee intervals, we will not accept any competitions or new society bookings in fourballs. If restrictions ease further in the future, and we do have a fourball competition, then we will revert to 10 minute tee intervals for the duration of that competition. We also open the pro shop and tee times at 0530 hrs each day, and take the last 9 hole bookings 2 hours before darkness, in order to spread play as far as possible throughout the day.

The challenge comes when golfers finish their round which will be dealt with in detail in the following risk assessments.

5. Downstairs Bar

An indoor gathering may only have groups of up to two households. Our risk assessment tells us to begin very cautiously. We reject the option of 1+ metres 'with mitigation' but will insist on the full 2m separation to give everyone as much confidence as possible to use the facilities.

We have fully enclosed the downstairs bar area with perspex. The order and payment point is at the end of the bar nearest the restaurant. We will have a queueing system marked out at 2m intervals but can only have one at the payment point and a maximum of 2 in the queue at any one time. If you approach the bar from outside and see a full queue we would ask you to continue the queue outside in the marked out area under the covered walkway.

The restaurant tables only have one chair at each end, 2 meters apart, with a perspex screen midway. Each table is also spaced 2 meters apart. These tables are reserved for people eating.

The tables opposite the bar have been removed to give additional access space.

The chairs in the remainder of the bar are at 2 meter separation.

The coffee machine is only for operation by staff. Please pay for your coffee with other drinks, in one go, at the pay point.

6. Outside Bar Area.

Outside the maximum gathering is 6 people from any number of households, at a minimum separation of 2 metres. Please head for outside tables if you can as, at least a 3 or 4 ball can have a chat together, even if they are 2 meters apart.

The outside area is going to be our main use area from 4th July 20. We have limitless space. There will be a new one way system to the 1st tee from 4th July. This will mean going from the shop area, around the outside of the laurel hedge to the 1st tee. Access to the putting green will be from the gap in the hedge and not from the astroturf path any longer. This will give greater space for distanced tables and chairs on the outside patio. At the same time we request that this area is kept free from all golf bags, again to stop golfers getting too close to others that are sat on the patio. Golfers can now put their clubs in a new 'Trolley Park' that is within sight of pro shop staff and our security cameras. However, if you still don't want to leave them there then we would ask you to return them to your car.

The exit point from the 18th green will also change. You can now take your trolley around the left hand side of the 18th green and use the newly cut grass path and follow signs for the car park. This will give space for outside tables to be under the shade of trees.

There will be a map of all tables, with the numbering system, displayed both outside and at the payment point.

All tables will have a round wooden block painted red on one side and green on the other. We will be operating staff service to deliver food to tables. A member of staff will have disinfected every table each morning and turn the block to 'green'. As you sit down at a table you should flick it to 'red'. Then, when you leave it will still be red. Other golfers should only sit at a 'green' table. Our staff will turn 'red' to 'green' once they have disinfected again.

We know our members often assist with the return of dirty plates and glasses. We would ask that they are not returned to the bar as this area is a natural 'pinch point' and we need to keep it as clear as possible. We will, however, have a table for dirties just outside the downstairs bar. However, you should only touch your own plate / cutlery / glass if returning it.

We have ample space outside. We will make extra seats, and tables, from cut tree trunks. These will be sanded and covered in 'Yaught Varnish' so they can be disinfected. These will be spread furthest from the clubhouse. In general terms it would be appreciated if the young and fit could go for the tree stumps leaving tables and chairs for our senior members.

7. Upstairs Bar.

Again, being inside, each table is restricted to groups of up to 2 households. The upstairs bar can hold 7 large round function tables. These are normally 10-person tables but 4 chairs, placed north, east, south and west are all 2 meters apart. With one 2-man table this brings the maximum capacity of this room to 30 customers. The 2 household restriction means that even one 3-ball may not be able to sit at the same table. Hence this room will not be routinely open but may be opened in times of inclement weather when shelter is required. We may need to make greater use of this room once the 15th September Risk Assessment is made for the Autumn period.

The bar will be fully encased in perspex. When this bar is in use there is a new one-way system up the main staircase and exiting from the balcony. Please take care on the outside steps, and hold onto the handrail.

8. Bars in General.

It will be apparent by now that just because the bar and catering re-open, things are still far from normal. Service will take longer because of cleaning, ordering and payment by card, service to table, the distance from the bar of chairs and tables, collecting empties etc. In good weather we can expand the patio area outside. However, in poor weather we may simply be unable to provide further service once our inside areas are full. We apologise in advance, but this is one aspect of the risk assessment that fails as we are unable to proceed safely.

The second aspect of bars in general relates to the response of our members and visitors to our guidelines once the alcohol starts to flow! So far the response has been first rate to our requests and we have always felt that we are operating in a safe environment and give our thanks for that to all. However, we will require continued acceptance of the rules as that is the only way we can keep risk minimal to all. Bar staff have been instructed to refuse service to anyone breaching separation distances and hence endangering themselves and others.

9. Catering.

Heinz has produced a new menu of 'take away' style food. The idea is that you can thoroughly wash your hands, then eat food wrapped in paper or disposable tissue without the need for cutlery or plates. Then we have small disposable pedal bins near the tables so you can throw the rubbish away with no mess. So he will be making pizza from scratch, panini, fish and chips etc.

All condiments will now be in individual sachets. Pots of tea are no longer available, however tea will be by individual mugs with milk jiggers and sugar sachets. The tea bag will be separate so you can make it to your own strength.

A new enhanced cleaning schedule has been put in place for the kitchen.

We can no longer offer buffet style catering or breakfasts.

10. Locker Rooms.

The locker rooms fail a risk assessment in that we cannot provide full time supervision to ensure distance separation. We also can not dedicate frequent cleaning time to these large areas when we need greater frequency and depth of cleaning to kitchens, restaurant, bar areas, toilets and the pro shop. The locker rooms are therefore closed. We have already asked all members to empty their lockers back in March, and on 4th July we will be taping up the lockers so that they are unusable. There will be an area of the floor marked out for queueing for the toilets at 2m intervals, so please assist us by not touching the lockers if waiting in the queue.

11. Toilet Areas.

The toilet areas have an enhanced cleaning schedule. However, they are small so we are asking for only one person to enter at a time. There is signage at the entrance. This applies to the gents and ladies. Our earlier requirement for you to wear a mask is no longer in place following recent government guidelines. All doors to the wash basins will be wedged open so there is no need to touch a door handle.

12. Driving Range

The main concrete driving range fails the risk assessment and is shut to golfers as we cannot disinfect each bay in between golfers. The end pro's bay is open only to pros and the person taking the lesson as the pros are responsible for cleaning it down prior to each new lesson. The ball bin is

closed. There are 10 new marked raised grass bays, all at least 4m across and some nearer 5m. These must be booked out in the pro shop in advance to avoid crowding at the bay. Balls can be obtained from the pro shop.

Old driving range tokens can still be used and should be dropped into a box in the shop. We offer new 'driving range passports' for either 10 x 20 ball baskets or 10 x 35 ball baskets. Customers must book the 15 or 30 minute bay slots in advance. There is no cost for bay time, just for the balls.

All baskets and balls in the shop have been cleaned already. Please do not touch anyone else's range balls, baskets, or collect any balls from the range itself. There is an area for 'dirty baskets' out on the range so please help us by leaving your basket there for us to clean.

13. Golf Buggies.

Golf buggies can only contain the driver, unless golfers are from the same household. The buggies parked on the patio slabs have been cleaned. When you return a buggy please go to the 'dirty' area on the grass where staff will disinfect them.

14. Hire Trolleys.

All hire trolleys have been cleaned on the patio slabs. Please return them to the marked 'dirty area' on the wood chip, where staff will disinfect them.

15. Practice Putting Green

This passes the risk assessment as it is so large but it should be used for each group to practice putting immediately before going down to the 1st tee. The maximum number on the green at any one time is 4, with the exception of a pro taking a lesson on the marked off section of the green on the right hand side. Please keep at least 2m apart on the putting green.

16. Practice Pitching Green and Bunker

There is no safe way to keep golf balls separate so this fails the risk assessment and remains closed at this time.

17. Golf Competitions.

There are only two golf competitions being held this summer. One is a stableford, starting Saturday 18th July, held each weekend but alternating between Saturday and Sunday each week. The other is a stableford for senior members, held every Monday morning, starting Monday 20th July. Both competitions will be made available to lady members as well.

The men's section are currently looking at apps that can be used to enter the competitions so that entry is online, no collection of fees is required, scores are sent electronically and results are available electronically.

If any entry fields are very large we do face the situation whereby we could run out of tables after golf. In this situation we may have to ask golfers to move on after two drinks so that we can clean the tables ready for more golfers. Once again, if it looked like we could become overcrowded we reserve the right to close the bar.

18. Functions.

All functions fail the risk assessment so will not be held during this period. We can take provisional bookings for the function room only from late October, once the clocks have gone back, and we will only be able to go ahead and hold them if the general Coronavirus situation in the UK is much improved. In summer evenings we need the function room as a fallback area for members/visitors in the event of poor weather preventing the use of the outside area.

19. Staff

Staff have their own instructions but are generally to encourage everyone to keep their separation distance and keep customers, and each other, safe. Those over 70 years of age are scheduled with the same other member of staff each week to avoid too many contacts.