



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club
www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 72, August 2020

Comment

We appreciate the very detailed care that has been taken by Chris Wright and the management team to ensure our continued health whilst on and around the Club premises, giving us a 'new normality'.

Not only are competitions back, with big entries and some magnificent scores achieved in July, but the Club Championships are being played on the weekend 29/30 August.

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.

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. Golf-related items for sale can also be advertised.

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

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

The weather has remained favourable for course conditions with plenty of mowing required this month. The two larger water tanks have now been finished, so our capacity is now 500,000 litres of storage.

Covid-19 Measures

We would like to thank all members for adhering to our Covid measures over the last month. The various Stablefords were a good testing ground for us to check that everyone could keep a distance apart and that the bar, shop and toilets were not going to become choke points. The last weekend Stableford had over 100 entries, yet everyone kept apart and the tests were successful. As a result, we have slowly introduced Stablefords for men, ladies and seniors, re-started knockouts and made the decision that it will be safe to proceed with the Club Championships on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August. This is always subject to the proviso that a spike in the virus will not force England Golf, through legislation with the government, to ban competitions in the UK. However, if our individual Club is inspected then they should see all necessary safety measures in place.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Dave Lea for assisting everyone with their tee times, order of play and generally helping to keep golfers safe.

Covid reminder - everyone now needs to wear a mask in the Pro Shop. Buggies cannot be shared unless you live in the same household.

Club Championships

In previous 'normal' years members needed to enter five stroke play competitions in the year, starting from Day 2 of the Club Championships, in order to be eligible to enter the following year's Club Championships. Given the disruption to the golfing calendar this year the number of qualifiers has been reduced to three, instead of five, for both men and ladies. There are four more weekend Stablefords that you can enter for qualification: Saturday 1 August, Sunday 9 August, Saturday 15 August and Sunday 23 August (men and ladies). In addition, there are two Midweek Stablefords: one runs from Monday 3 - Friday 7 August and one from Monday 17 August - Friday 21 August (men). These are 'free format' midweek competitions which means you can enter through 'HowDidiDo' on any one day of the week at whatever tee time you book. Payment can be taken from the £20 credit that members have been paying to Men's Treasurer Keith Loxton. These Midweek Stablefords also count towards your three qualifiers. Men over 55 years can also enter the Seniors' Stableford each Monday (qualifiers). Ladies can enter the Ladies' Stablefords on Wednesdays (qualifiers).

New members are warmly invited to take part in the Club Championships but will have to carefully plan their three qualifiers to ensure that they can enter. The past Stablefords in July also count as qualifiers. The Club Championships are run over both days with 18 holes played on each day. There is a Gross and a Nett championship. For those that don't make the cut on Day 1 there is the option to enter the Plate competition on Day 2.

A word of apology to our new members this year - we normally organise a social get together with 9 holes in an evening and some food as a welcome to the Club and a chance to socialise with both existing and new members. This will all have to wait until social grouping is allowed once again.

Again, sad to say, but we won't be having a Christmas Party for members this year. The men will be holding a Prize Presentation for those that have won trophies in the last year. This will be after the Sunday 9 August Stableford. We will have a gazebo half way down the practice fairway with members able to encircle the gazebo but spaced out 2m apart. A similar procedure will be adopted to present this year's Club Championship trophies on Sunday 30 August.

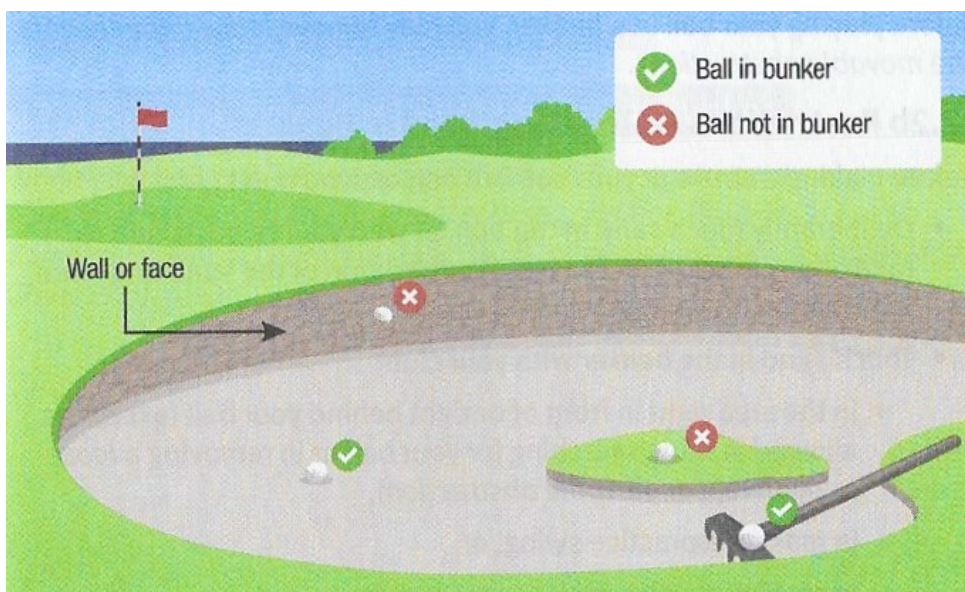
Chris Wright

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.

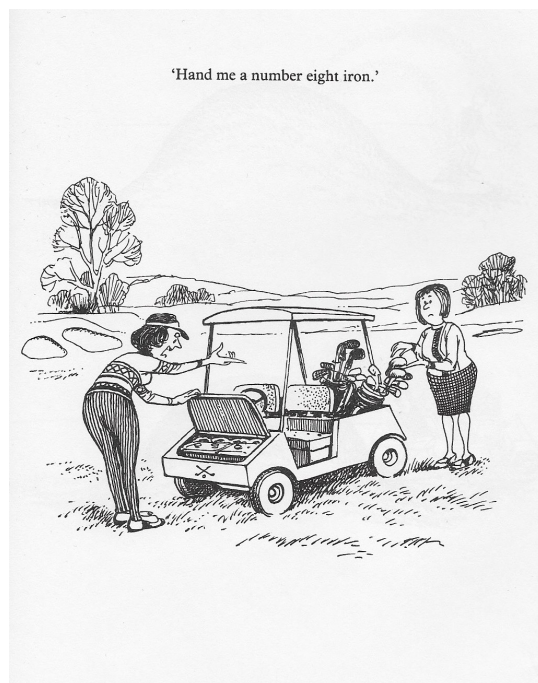


Tip of the Month from your Head PGA Professional, Russell Phillips

Are you struggling with your short range pitch shots around the green? Quite often it is hard to trust a lofted wedge to do its job and pitch the ball high and controlled over a short distance. It is important to create a good controlled ball strike. To do this you need to accelerate through the ball and keep the wedge on a downward angle of attack. It seems obvious but often people flick their wrists and if you let your hands flick the club, instead of pushing the handle through, the clubhead lifts making an upward angle of attack which causes the wedge to lift and thin the ball. Try to shorten the backswing and **push** the handle through to create the power. Do not let the clubhead overtake!



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Winter Knockouts

The Men's Midweek Pairs Winter Knockout competition was finally concluded early in July, with Mark Leech and Lance Redler victorious over Andrew Bond and Bob Doherty. Other Winter Knockout competitions are still being finalised.

A Word from the Men's Handicap Secretary, Adrian Fallon

Welcome back to competitive golf and qualifying competitions. It was hard to imagine in March and April that we would have qualifying competitions again this year. With a tremendous amount of work by AVGC and golf's governing bodies, we now have a process that allows us to have handicap qualifying competitions.

Thank you to the management team and green keeping staff at AVGC for all your efforts to get the course open again, it's much appreciated.

It was great to see the results from the first competitions from all Sections and a lot of amazing scores. There has obviously been a lot of garden practice and putting on the lounge carpet over the lockdown period. Hopefully the scores will continue to be high and your handicaps continue to get lower.

A number of you would have triggered the **Exceptional Scoring Reduction** algorithm with your great scores. ESR will be triggered when a player returns a qualifying score with a nett differential of -4 or lower against the CSS of the competition played. In simple terms, as we are only playing Stablefords at the moment, if the CSS is 72 for the competition played, 40 points would trigger the ESR. An ESR calculation will take place the next time a player returns a qualifying score with a nett differential of -4 or lower. The average of the nett differential scores are compared to the number of scores submitted in the sequence. The fewer the scores returned in the sequence the case for a handicap reduction increases, and the more scores returned reduces the case for reduction.

If you see a * against your name on a competition result sheet this indicates you have received an ESR. ESR does not apply to Cat 1 players and is restricted so that Cat 2 players cannot have a reduction to take them into Cat 1 via an ESR.

World Handicapping System

As you will all know, we are having a change of handicapping system. This event is still planned to take place on 2 November 2020 with no indication it will be delayed or postponed.

The key points of the WHS are to:

- Attract more players to the game
- Make the game more enjoyable
- Make handicapping easier to understand
- Give golfers a handicap that is portable from course to course.

The WHS has been designed to:

- Allow golfers to obtain and maintain a Handicap Index
- Allow golfers to use their Handicap Index from course to course
- Allow golfers to compete or play recreationally
- Unify the previous six handicapping systems.

It was developed by the R&A and USGA in collaboration with existing handicap authorities. The benefit of the WHS over the current system is that it combines the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

England Golf provided educational tool kits to myself and Jean Barnett, the Ladies' Handicap Secretary. We will collaborate together over the coming weeks to provide all members of AVGC with as much information as needed prior to launch.

As with current restrictions I will not be collecting handicap cards from the Club, new members will need to contact the Pro Shop or Dave Lea for my contact details. Member details, CDH ID, previous Club or photographs of handicap cards can then be sent to me via email, text, Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp. I can then transfer CDH details or set initial handicaps and assign a CDH ID. This process has worked very well this month with 19 new members being added to the handicap system.

For Sale!

Peter Reimer offers for sale one pair of HiTec 'Duchess' ladies' golf shoes, size 6 and unworn, at a bargain price of £15. Peter can be contacted on 07376 803506.



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Doesn't time fly when we're having fun?!

With the safety of everyone being our number one priority, restrictions have been implemented to allow members to enjoy their game again. Competitive golf returned to AVGC with the introduction of Stableford competitions alternating between Saturday and Sunday, commencing 18 July. These competitions are classified as mixed, with the men and ladies running their own internal competition. The emphasis is on allowing as many members as possible to play during the favourable hours provided by Club management. Entries so far are proving extremely popular, with 105 members taking part. These competitions are posted three weeks in advance, with a closing date seven days prior to the competition.

Once confirmed, Dave Lea will allocate tee times using the BRS system which can be accessed via the Club's BRS Golf booking page: <https://www.avgc.co.uk/members-book-online/>.

Please disregard the tee times on HowDidiDo, as these are purely used for registering for competitions. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dave Lea or Roger White for further assistance.

The Men's Section have agreed that the first two competitions are free of charge, which allows everyone to familiarise themselves with the online booking and score entry via HowDidiDo, which can be accessed via: <https://www.howdido.com/Account/Login?returnUrl=%2f>. For those wishing to use their mobile, there's also an App available via the Apple Store or Google Play depending on your mobile device type. Alternatively, you can just use the above browser link.

The following competitions will be charged at £5 per entry (this only applies to the Men's Section!). The entry price includes the 2s club, and we'd encourage online payments for anyone taking part. Keith Loxton has kindly responded to those members who've already paid.

Account details for payment:

Barclays Bank
Account name: Aylesbury Vale Golf Club Match Committee
Sort Code: 20-03-18
Account: 60332585

In readiness for the competitions ahead, I'd like to thank Luke and the greenkeeping team for their support in preparing the course.

With the influx of new members, it's a good opportunity to introduce and promote the wider team, who are always available to assist with any queries:

- Vice-Captain Neil Meldrum – Anyone with any bone to pick, please speak with Neil!
- Dave Lea and Roger White – Competition queries.
- Keith Loxton – Treasurer (very important person).
- Adrian Fallon – Handicap Secretary. Adrian will assist those new members looking to gain an official or transfer an existing handicap to the Club.
- Peter Codrai – Event organiser and general helper amongst the Sections, an extremely valuable person who assists with organising events throughout the year.
- Brian Smith and Mark Mansfield – Members post and general ear to the ground representatives of the Men's Section.
- Steve Chandler – Last and certainly not least, the font of all knowledge, and someone I rely on for his wisdom when dealing with certain 'situations'.

I'd like to extend a special thank you and recognition to Andy Ashcroft who is leaving the Club for pastures new. Regarding his new Club, it's currently a toss-up between Caddington, The Oxfordshire and Harewood Downs, depending on whom you speak to!! We all wish Andy the very best as an ex Captain and great committee member. Neil has a tough act to follow to get my fixtures ready for next year!!

Captains' Charity Update – The bonus ball is operational and I'm sure you'll spot Mr Mansfield shaking his tin for those wishing to enter. The entry sheet is located in the shop during the week for anyone wishing to take part. It never ceases to amaze me how generous our members are, and there are far too many names to mention here (but you know who you are), so thank you!

A gentle reminder to members in these dry conditions; the ball has a tendency to travel further during the summer months; please be mindful of greenkeeping staff and other players when playing your shot. There have been reports of several near misses on the course recently, and as noted above, safety is our number one priority and we all have a part to play, so let's play and stay safe.

Thanks go to Abi Pearce, who has offered to assist Russell Phillips with the youngsters and is making her presence felt with the new Junior members joining the Club. Abi is planning to introduce a Friday evening Rollup for the Juniors, which is fantastic news; keep looking over your shoulder boys (Shane and Binzy), you've got some competition!

And finally, keep smiling.....

Keith McGovern

For the first time in the past four months we are back playing competitions, another step toward normality. The Men's and Ladies' Sections joined together for a Stableford on 20 July and it proved to be very successful with over 100 players taking part. Playing from the white tees for the first time since last year didn't prove to be a distraction with eight players recording scores of 40pts and better. The field was split in three divisions and in Division 1 (0-9 handicap) Nathan Chandler came out on top with a score of 40 pts. Alex Robins (39 pts) was second with Will Platten (37 pts) third. Top score of the

day came in Division 2 (10-16) with Matty Taylor shooting 10 under his handicap for a winning score of 46 pts. Countback separated the next players who all scored 42 pts: Dan Baldock, Ben McDonald and Dayle Marshall. Countback was again required in Division 3 (17 and over) with three players scoring 44 pts. Best of these came from new member Ali Thorne in his first competition followed by Declan Hull and Jamie Carlin.

It was great to see 14 ladies taking part and congratulations to Lorraine Fox for her winning score of 42 pts.

The second weekend Stableford for Men and Ladies saw 107 players take to the fairways and in Division 1 it was Will Bond who took the honours with 41pts. Nigel Welling (39 pts) was second with Kris Manley a further point back in third. Division 2 for the second week running saw the best points score, with Alan Connell sealing victory with 42 pts. Warren Jones took second place on countback from Andy Pye, both players scoring 40 pts. Countback was again needed in Division 3 with Bernie Williams edging out Tom Read, both of them scoring 41 pts. Andy Bignell finished third a point further back. Congratulations to Abi Pearce who had the best Ladies score of 39 pts.

Stableford events will continue each week for the moment, alternating between Saturday and Sunday weekend to weekend. The first one to include entry fee and prize money will be on 1 August. Hopefully we may be able to introduce some pairs competitions etc. as we progress. Signing up for these competitions is done via the HowDidiDo app. and you will receive your tee-time via the BRS system once the draw has been made. Anyone having problems entering competitions. please speak to me or any member of the Committee.

Dave Lea, Competition Secretary

Competitions

Stableford 18 July	Div1 1 st : Nathan Chandler 40 Pts 2 nd : Alex Robins 39 Pts 3 rd : Will Platten 37 Pts	Div 2 1 st : Matthew Taylor 46 Pts 2 nd : Dan Baldock 42 Pts 3 rd : Ben McDonald 42 Pts	Div 3 1 st : Alister Thorne 44 Pts 2 nd : Declan Hull 42 pts 3 rd : Jamie Carlin 42 Pts
Stableford 26 July	Div1 1 st : Will Bond 41 Pts 2 nd : Nigel Welling 39 Pts 3 rd : Kris Manley 38 Pts	Div 2 1 st : Alan Connell 42 Pts 2 nd : Warren Jones 40 Pts 3 rd : Andy Pye 40 Pts	Div 3 1 st : Bernie Williams 41 Pts 2 nd : Tom Read 41 Pts 3 rd : Andy Bignell 40 Pts

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

The Seniors' Captain has nothing to report this month.

Happy Birthday Eric!

Eric Browning - our oldest Senior - who still plays in competitions and walks the 18 holes, celebrated his 90th birthday in late July. May he have many more!

Winter League Programme September 2020 to April 2021 by Peter Nightingale

A decision has been made to postpone the Winter League from September. Hazlemere dropped out as they were unable to get 12 players for their matches because of coronavirus worries. Following this each Club was approached to get their reactions to the coronavirus and whether the format of breakfast, match and lunch was possible. It was unanimous that each Club representative saw this as not just a match but a social gathering and, with restrictions, felt that feeding 24 players buffet breakfast and lunch would not be possible for some time. The social dimension to Winter League is very important...the conversations before and after golf form an integral part of the whole experience. It was felt that with

social distancing this would not be possible and, instead of leaving cancellation to the last minute, it was better to cancel this year. It was also felt that the Awards Day (19 April 2021) should remain but that a new competition could take place on that day to which all Clubs will be invited. This would act as the start of the 2021 competition.

Competitions

Summer Six (1) 20 July	1 st : Mark Leech 43 Pts 2 nd : Bob Phillips 42 Pts 3 rd : Don Huggett 41 Pts
Summer Six (2) 27 July	1 st : Philip Salt 41 Pts 2 nd : Clive Gear 38 Pts 3 rd : Keith Minor 37 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

At the start of July we were still enjoying our social golf, but after a few 'test' competitions and a lot of behind the scenes work, weekly competitions were set up. The first was held on Saturday 18th, a mixed Stableford. Ninety nine players entered including 14 ladies. It was a great day with some great scores. Lorraine Fox came in with 42 pts and finished in 7th place. Well done Lorraine. Ghie McGinley, Natalie Rendle and Carol Carlin came in with 39 pts.

Our first Ladies competition was on Monday 20 July with 21 ladies playing. It was very different to how we are used to playing but a huge thank you to Jean Barnett for her work and time spent helping. It ran very smoothly without any hiccups! Lorraine Fox came first with 38 pts, Danka Lawson and Ann Pullan came 2nd and 3rd with 33 pts. Well done Ladies.

The mixed Stableford played on 26 July had a number of ladies playing, coming in with some good scores: Abi Pearce 39 pts, Jean Barnett 36 pts and Lorraine Fox 34pts. Our Ladies Stableford on 27 July: despite bad weather 20 ladies played and well done to Ghie McGinley our winner, with 37 pts. Jane Whigham came second with 37 pts and Lorraine Fox third with 34 pts.

The Committee has agreed that there will be no entrance fees for our competitions until September. We are introducing online banking and ladies wishing to play in competitions will be asked to deposit funds into the account from which their entry fees will be deducted. Once the balance drops below an agreed amount you will be notified and asked to 'top up'.

HAPPY GOLFING

Kath Scott

Competitions

Stableford 18 July	1 st : Lorraine Fox 42 Pts 2 nd : Ghie McGinley 39 Pts 3 rd : Natalie Rendle 39 Pts
Stableford 20 July	1 st : Lorraine Fox 38 Pts 2 nd : Danka Lawson 33 Pts 3 rd : Ann Pullan 33 Pts
Stableford 26 July	1 st : Abi Pearce 39 Pts 2 nd : Jean Barnett 36 Pts 3 rd : Lorraine Fox 34 Pts

Stableford 27 July	1 st : Ghie McGinley 37 Pts 2 nd : Jane Whigham 37 Pts 3 rd : Lorraine Fox 36 Pts
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and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... we trust that you are becoming more comfortable with the ‘new normality’.

...and a touch of humour... The schoolteacher was taking her first golfing lesson. *‘Is the word spelt p-u-t or p-u-t-t?’* she asked the instructor. *‘P-u-t-t is correct.’* he replied. *‘Put means to place a thing where you want it. Putt means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing.’*

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

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

Men

Saturday 1 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Monday 3 to Friday 7 August – Midweek Stableford
Sunday 9 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Saturday 15 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Monday 17 to Friday 21 August – Midweek Stableford
Sunday 23 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Saturday 29/Sunday 30 August – Club Championships

Seniors

Monday 3 August – Summer Six (3) 0730-1020
Monday 3 to Friday 7 August – Midweek Stableford
Monday 10 August – Summer Six (4) 0730-1020
Monday 17 August – Summer Six (5) 0730-1020
Monday 17 to Friday 21 August – Midweek Stableford
Monday 24 August – Summer Six (6) 0730-1020
Saturday 29/Sunday 30 August – Club Championships

Ladies

Saturday 1 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Monday 3 to Friday 7 August – Midweek Stableford
Wednesday 5 August – Stableford 0930-1040
Sunday 9 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Wednesday 12 August – Stableford 0930-1040
Saturday 15 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Wednesday 19 August – Stableford 0930-1040
Sunday 23 August – Stableford – 0700-1140
Wednesday 26 August – Stableford 0930-1040
Saturday 29/Sunday 30 August – Club Championships

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: Keith McGoverne

Vice-Captain: Neil Meldrum

Treasurer: Keith Loxton

Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Admin Secretary: Roger White

Handicap Secretary: Adrian Fallon

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: Kath Scott

Vice-Captain: Post vacant

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

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