



The Vale

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

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Edition 74, October 2020

Comment

Even more 2020 Championship competitions were played during September, results of which follow later in this newsletter. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated.

News and Updates from the Club Management

Club Championship. It was great to see the Club Championship being held once again and we hope it was enjoyed as an occasion by one and all, regardless of your score! We would like to pass on our thanks to all helpers - organisers, assistants, starters and ball spotters - who make those days special.

New Government Regulations and Resulting Changes

The latest regulations require golfers to wear a mask in the shop, toilet areas, changing rooms and Clubhouse now. Golfers should now find a seat and attract the barman's attention as table service is now required. Once sat at the table you can remove your mask to drink or eat.

As we say a sad farewell to Jack, Sam and Joe following the resumption of university/school, and to Jack and Tye as they follow a career in landscaping, we find a need to recruit more staff. Certainly extra bar staff will be required on busy days to manage 'table only service' and an extra bar person will be required when we open the upstairs lounge for members in the colder days. We will look to take advantage of the governments 'Kickstart' scheme. Candidates must be between 18 and 24, currently in receipt of Universal Credit, and with the prospect of being unemployed for the foreseeable future. They must be available for a six month term and able to work 25 hours per week. Training is also available within this scheme. If any members know of someone that might be interested then please ask them to make contact with us.

Another change is that we will cover the patio with a perspex roof and removable side panels. This will enable members to have the option of sitting outside but sheltered from wind and rain. We are also buying some better tables and chairs to make internal Club layout improvements. These will be more comfortable, easier to clean and help us to seat people at a safe distance from others.

The Club Going Forward into 2021. This has been a testing year for the Club, but the course has given an opportunity for people to have a few hours of 'near normality' at a time when most aspects of life are far from normal. As such, we have seen a welcome boost to membership. We have our final Club advert published on 1 October as we make the final push to fill membership and move to a waiting list. There have been negatives this year (bar/catering, functions, match team events) but visitors and societies have been up (they will drop away after mid-October) and this has given us the resources to

make new plans and carry on improving the Club. As such, the following are on our ‘wish list’ for autumn/winter projects:

1. Trim the hedges around the course boundaries.
2. Trim hedges near the Clubhouse and 17th hedge.
3. Dig silt out of ponds and drainage ditches.
4. Build a larger 8th yellow tee with irrigation.
5. Build a new alternative tee for ladies down by the 16th pond to assist social golfers.
6. Improve the area to the rear of the 3rd green.
7. Trim annoying trees and branches (willow LHS 16th, inner branches approaching 13th green, trees and shrubs by 12th pond, tree near alternate medal tee on 7th etc).
8. Improve granite pathways and extend some pathways.
9. Replenish wood chip areas with fresh wood chip.
10. Cut the long grass down for winter.
11. New slope index board for the 1st tee.
12. New Club board outside the pro shop.
13. Improve the grass tees on the driving range.

Current Course Matters - Greens

The greenkeepers did well with their maintenance programme this year. The thatch removal, vertical-draining and dressing went smoothly with little disruption to the playing surface. Members ask ‘Why work on the greens when they are good?’ and the answer is:

1. It is essential for the long-term health of the greens.
2. The better the condition of the green when the work is done, the quicker it recovers afterwards. The surface is less likely to ‘heave’.
3. Those who wait until late autumn have to move tons of dressing over soft ground.
4. The greens drain better as soon as work is complete.

We are still going to blast compressed air into the greens and tees this autumn. You can see the greens swell upwards when this is done but they recover instantly and there are only further drainage and aeration benefits to follow. Finally, we will be applying a slow release fertiliser that is mixed with a worm suppressant to minimise the number of worm casts when putting.

County Championships - 5 and 6 June 2021. We are delighted to have been selected by Bedfordshire Golf County Union as the host course for the main 2-day County Championships. We hope that our members will get amongst the prize winners on home turf!

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

The quiz is continued with answers given just before the Men’s Section reports. (Questions and answers have been provided by the R & A.)

Question 1: Any bush or tree growing in ground under repair is not part of the ground under repair.

A – False. B – True

Question 2: The stroke includes the backward movement of the club.

A – False. B – True.

Question 3: In stroke play, if a player, when starting a hole, plays from outside the teeing area, the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and the ball must be played as it lies.

A – True. B – False.

Question 4: Manufactured ice is not temporary water.

A – True. B – False.

Question 5. In a match, a player's ball comes to rest beside the steps attached to a boundary fence. The steps interfered with the player's swing, so he takes free relief. What is the ruling?

A - There is no penalty. B - The player gets two penalty strokes. C - The player loses the hole.

Question 6. When playing the 1st hole, the green for the 2nd hole is part of the general area.

A – True. B – False.

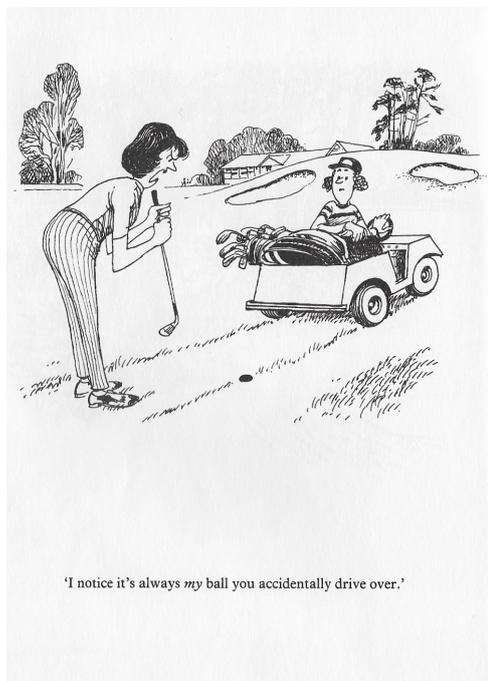
Tip of the Month from your Head PGA Club Professional, Russell Phillips

Struggling to get over the 13th pond on the downhill lie?

When you come to your ball on uneven terrain it is much harder to get the nice clean ball strike you seek. Most of the time players fail to get the ball up in the air because they hit the ground before the ball, lifting the leading edge of the club to thin the ball. Try placing the ball slightly further back in the stance and slightly lean ahead of the ball (60% on your left leg for a right handed player) to help get a crisp pinch on the back of the ball without hitting the ground first!



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Adult Lessons by Russell Phillips

THE WINTER PACKS

The popular winter packs are starting **this month!** This playing season is coming to an end and now is the time to start working on your game over the winter ready for next year! I will be working with you on a fortnightly basis to develop your game over the winter period. The aim is to complete the package by April 2021. We will set some personal goals/targets, work on the range, short game, putting, bunker play, course management....whatever we need to get you the results!

Past players who have purchased winter packs have gone on to win competitions, lower their handicap and play better than ever before!

What you get:

THE FULL PACK - £250 Members (£175 Saving), £325 Non-Members (£215 Saving)

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

THE HALF PACK - £150 Members (£75 Saving), £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 lessons!

Not quite what you were looking for, or want to share a winter pack with your partner? I can create a package to suit your goals and needs.

Winter packs need to be ideally started before 1st November 2020 so don't miss out.

To book or discuss, contact Russell Phillips on 07843 692948 or at r.phillips@avgc.co.uk.

Champions

September has seen a number of Championship competitions played within the Club:

- Many congratulations to Alex Robins, **Junior Club Champion** for 2020, winning with a nett 72, two shots ahead of Abi Pearce;
- Congratulations are also extended to Pat Connolly, who beat Lesley Wright on countback to become the AVGC **Ladies' Midweek Champion** for 2020;
- Jane Codrai and Lorraine Fox were victorious in the **Ladies' Doubles Club Championship**, with Sue Bellingham and Julie Lea in second place;
- Lee Hutt and Bob Parish became the **Men's Pairs Champions**, followed by Brendan and Joe Langan, and
- In the **Men's Midweek Club Championships**, Darren Horne was the Gross Champion with Jon Clements the Nett Champion.

Mention must also be made of the Club teams playing in the County Fourball at Aspley Guise at the end of last month. Third place was taken by Dayle Marshall and Declan Hull.

Update from the Handicap Secretary, Roger White

The World Handicap System (WHS) is nearly here and comes into force on 2 November. That was the good news, unfortunately the EGU in their infinite wisdom have decided that they need all player's email addresses and dates of birth to enable them to access their Handicap Index. We have been able to deal with the email addresses but we do not know all our members' dates of birth. Hopefully you will have received an email asking you for this, but in case you haven't can you please send your full name and date of birth to avgchandicaps@gmail.com

From 2 November the Competition Handicap will disappear and score entries will either be by Competition or General Play. When you play in a competition then it will be the same as now, sign in before you play and enter your score upon completion of the round. For General Play, this will be as the Supplementary is now, sign in before you play and enter score upon completion of the round. In both cases it is essential that you enter your score as soon as possible after the round as handicaps will be updated at midnight.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us in October so that we can all enjoy our golf.

The Vale

This newsletter is produced each month to help keep all Club members informed of events. 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.

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

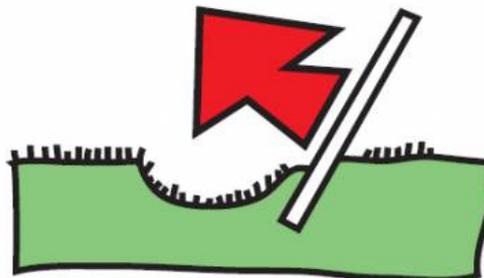
Repairing Pitchmarks...DON'T LIFT!

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

Right: Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre



Wrong: Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression



Rules Quiz Answers

Definitions and Rules can be found in the Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf (a free copy can be obtained from the AVGC Pro Shop).

Question 1. Correct answer A. Explanation: Any grass, bush, tree or other growing or attached natural object rooted in the defined area, including any part of those objects that extends up above the ground

outside the edge of the defined area, but not any part (such as a tree root) that is attached to or below the ground outside the edge of the defined area. See Definition of Ground Under Repair.

Question 2. Correct answer A. Explanation: See the definition of Stroke.

Question 3. Correct answer B. Explanation: If a player, when starting a hole, plays a ball from outside the teeing area, he or she incurs a penalty of two strokes and must then play a ball from within the teeing area. If the player does not correct the mistake before making a stroke to begin another hole or, for the final hole of the round, before returning his or her scorecard, the player is disqualified. See Rule 6.1b(2).

Question 4. Correct answer A. Explanation: Manufactured ice is an obstruction. See the Definition of Temporary Water.

Question 5. Correct answer A. Explanation: See definition of Boundary Object. Boundary objects do not include any steps, bridge or other construction used for getting over the wall or fence.

Question 6. Correct answer A. Explanation: See definition of Putting Green.

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hopefully, you've enjoyed the Indian Summer while it lasted; there's a nip in the air as we move towards October. The course continues to look good, and the greens are recovering after the recent work carried out in preparation for the winter months.

The committee is always looking at ways to improve communication, and the recent launch of the AVGC News website certainly seems to be gaining traction by providing regular updates. We've recently added our Code of Conduct (Men's Section) to ensure all players understand their role in making competitions enjoyable for everyone taking part. These rules only apply to competitions; however, we do expect all members to adhere to the code of conduct whenever and wherever they play representing AVGC. I'd like to extend my thanks to Brian Smith for updating this page; it's a good bedtime read! View the Men's Code of Conduct here: <https://sites.google.com/view/avgc-news/code-of-conduct>

We've had a relentless round of competitions lately, which has helped make up for time lost earlier in the year. Club Champions have been crowned for all Sections, including the Pairs Club Champions, which happens to be one of my most enjoyable weekends. My playing partner, Graham Lowe, might disagree though; sorry Graham!!

Competitions have been set for October and the signup sheet is accessible via HowDidiDo.

With the increase in new members to the Club, we've taken the decision to adjust the divisions to allow a more even spread. The mid-Section division will remain the largest, and I like to think the most competitive (I'm biased); it won't be long before I'm joining the higher sloggers if my current rich vein of form continues (yes, I did recently come last!). Reviews will be completed by Dave Lea, who as always has his finger on the pulse.

A timely reminder to all in these continuing uncertain times: please ensure you socially distance both during and after your round of golf. We need to protect and support each other to ensure we can all continue to enjoy our game.

And finally, keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

Club competitions continued to be played throughout September beginning with the Professional's Cup, the format being Matchplay against the course. Andy Penfold was the winner finishing six up on his round with Declan Hull (5 up) and Gary Fox (4 up) filling the next two slots. The second singles event of the month was the Penny Cup with Steve Fox taking the honours with a score of 43 points. Second place went to new member Tim Spokes (42 points), with Rafe Birch-White (41 points) in third.

There were the usual two Midweek Stablefords in September and in the first of these Brian Smith was a clear winner with 43 points, four ahead of second-placed Simon Morgan and with Brendan Langan third. The second Midweek event was a closer run affair, with Martin Arnold taking the honours on countback from Gary Brazier, both players scoring 41 points. Rafe Birch-White continued his recent good form with another third place finish.

The Pairs Club Championship continues to rise in popularity and this year saw 49 pairs take on the challenge of the four different formats. Day one on the front nine began with 4BBB, followed by foursomes on the back nine. Leading at the end of the day were Bob Parish and Lee Hutt closely followed by Michael and Andrew Pearce in second. Day two began with Greensomes, to be followed on the back nine with aggregate scoring where scores can change quite dramatically. Midway through the afternoon George Cowley and Richard Davies came in with an excellent overall score of 174.50 against a par of 180. Could anyone in the final two groups top that? Brendan Langan and grandson Joe gave it their best but just came up short, so it was left to the final pairing to see who could hold their form. The Pearce brothers scored well to finally finish third but it was 'Uncle Bob' Parish and Lee Hutt who triumphed by the narrowest of margins (.40) to take the title.

The winners of the Greensomes Stableford, with an impressive 41 points, were Steve Fox and Gavin Procter. Four pairs had scores of 38 points. but the best pair on countback to take second place were Adam Lawrence and Kyle Wilks with Shane Lea and Alex Robins in third.

The Midweek Club Championship attracted 87 players on a perfect day for golf and in the gross competition it was Club Champion Darren Horne who completed the double with a level par 72. Alex Robins finished second just two shots back, with former champion Adam Lawrence a further shot back in third. Countback decided the outcome of the nett competition with Jon Clements edging out Ian Moodley for the title, both players recording nett 67s. Third place went to Keith Loxton (nett 68), again on countback.

Dave Lea, Competition Secretary

Competitions

Midweek Stableford (1)	1 st : Brian Smith 43 Pts 2 nd : Simon Morgan 39 Pts 3 rd : Brendan Langan 38 Pts
Professional's Cup 5 September	1 st : Andy Penfold 6 2 nd : Declan Hull 5 3 rd : Gary Fox 4
Penny Cup 13 September	1 st : Steven Fox 43 Pts 2 nd : Tim Spokes 42 Pts 3 rd : Rafe Birch-White 41 Pts
Midweek Stableford (2)	1 st : Martin Arnold 41 Pts 2 nd : Gary Brazier 41 Pts 3 rd : Rafe Birch-White 40 Pts
Greensomes 26 September	1 st : Steve Fox & Gavin Procter 41 Pts 2 nd : Kyle Wilks & Adam Lawrence 38 Pts 3 rd : Shane Lea & Alex Robins 38 Pts

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Good weather in September has produced some great golf and some remarkable scores. October sees more competitions for us to play in our Monday slot and please contact Dave Lea to book a place in these if you have not done so already.

The first two Mondays are Rounds 1 and 2 of the usual Winter 8 Stablefords. The third Monday (19th) is the Seniors Pairs Championship which has yet to receive many entries. A repeat of last year's very successful inaugural event will see self-selected pairs play six holes of better ball, six holes of greensomes and six holes of aggregate scores (this year will be a Stableford format). Please enter as soon as you can – if you do not have a partner, enter as a single and Dave will endeavour to match you up with any other singles.

The last Monday in October sees the first round of the Covid League. A round of this new competition will be played every spare Monday through the winter. In essence this is a single Stableford qualifier. Scores from each competition will determine your league position based on your total cumulative score, with promotion and relegation from the three divisions that will emerge over the first few weeks. If you miss a week or have a bad score don't worry, as you will automatically be awarded a minimum of 28 points whether you play or not.

Remember also to get your entries in for the Senior Pairs Knock Out to Dave Lea – again if you do not have a partner, enter as a single and Dave will try to pair you up.

Finally, 1 October sees the start of this year's eclectic competitions which will be slightly different this year. There is no need to formally enter or to elect beforehand that a round will count. As long as you have played a round to normal rules of golf (i.e. putted out each counting hole), you may select that round as one of your 10 scoring rounds. Simply complete a scorecard, remember to date and sign it and add the name of a player in your group who would be able to confirm your scores as Marker. Post your card in the Seniors' box in the entrance to the changing rooms.

Larry Goddard

Competitions

Medal & Ed Burns Putter competition 3 September	1 st : Keith Loxton nett 65 2 nd : Julian Bamford nett 67 3 rd : Dave Needs nett 69 Ed Burns Putter winner: Keith Loxton
3 clubs + putter competition 14 September	1 st : Graham Tallyn 39 Pts 2 nd : Ken Slatter 38 Pts 3 rd : Simon Merritt 37 Pts
Drawn Greensomes 21 September	1 st : Dave Dean & Lance Redler 50 Pts 2 nd : Larry Goddard & Brian Hogarth 40 Pts 3 rd : Clive Gear & Peter Nightingale 40 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

September has been a month of good weather and lots of good golf, with thanks to Luke and his staff for keeping the course looking great. Thanks also to the management for the smooth running of the Clubhouse in these social distancing times. All this work enables us to play and enjoy our golf.

Highlights of the month:

In glorious sunshine 20 ladies played in the Midweek Championship. It was won by Pat Connolly coming in with a nett 70. Runner up was Lesley Wright also with a 70 nett. Well done ladies.

The pairs weekend was a huge success, good weather and good fun. After two days Jane Codrai and Lorraine Fox came in as winners (pictured) with a score of 90 points and Julie Lea and Sue Bellingham were runners up with 87 points. Well done ladies.



Our website is up and running. To access it go to the AVGC website and click Ladies Section and there you are.

Monday 2 November is the day we start the World Handicap System (WHS) and Jean Barnett has been working hard behind the scenes to make sure the changeover works smoothly. Information will be out very soon to help us all adjust to the changes

Competition results are shown below. Well played to all ladies taking part. It's good to see so many ladies entering the competitions.

Happy Golfing.

Kath Scott

Competitions

Stableford 2 September	1 st : Anne Bridges 37 Pts 2 nd : Lesley Wright 34 Pts 3 rd : Avril Gates 32 Pts
Midweek FF Stableford (1)	1 st : Anne Bridges 36 Pts 2 nd : Lesley Wright 31 Pts 3 rd : Charlotte Simpson 31 Pts
Stableford 5 September	1 st : Vanessa Bond 36 Pts 2 nd : Lesley Wright 33 Pts 3 rd : Jan Chambers 32 Pts
Stableford 13 September	1 st : Carol Carlin 37 Pts 2 nd : Lesley Wright 35 Pts 3 rd : Julie Lea 33 Pts
Midweek FF Stableford (2)	1 st : Gill Brazier 40 Pts 2 nd : Charlotte Simpson 35 Pts 3 rd : Pat Banister 30 Pts

Stableford 23 September	1 st : Pat Connolly 38 Pts 2 nd : Ann Pullan 38 Pts 3 rd : Jean Barnett 35 Pts
Drawn Greensomes 26 September	1 st : Natalie Rendle & Kath Scott 2 nd : Lesley Wright & Jan Chambers
3 clubs + putter 30 September	1 st : Jenny Langford 38 Pts 2 nd : Jan Chambers 34 Pts 3 rd : Sandie Joy 30 Pts

Juniors

A Word from the Junior Captain...

Dear Juniors,

Well done to everyone who took part in the Junior Club Championship; special thanks go to Michael Pearce and Steve Burnage for chaperoning the Juniors playing 18 holes for the first time.

We appreciate Kim and Russell for their ongoing support in developing the Juniors.

I'm taking part in the Ladies and Junior County Championships on 26 and 27 September. Fingers crossed I do myself and AVGC proud.

Thanks, *Abi*



It was really good to see so many new Juniors playing in the Junior Championships this month as well as a few familiar faces. Congratulations to Alex Robins who won both the gross and nett, with Abi Pearce coming second in both.

This was the last year for both Abi and Freddie Perkin as inevitably as is always the case they are now too old to play next year, so thanks to them for supporting the Juniors over the last few years and wishing them well in the future. Thanks also go to Russell for developing for us a number of new ones who are now obtaining handicaps and we will see more of them next year.

The Juniors will have a couple of competitions in half term and continue their roll ups throughout the autumn. Please contact Kim Burnage for any more information.

Congratulations to Rufus Barnes, Ellis Hammond and George Seward, the latest three graduates of the challenge programme run by Russell Phillips. These three members are going to be ones to watch! Well done!



Pro Shop



It is great to see the workshop being so busy and lots of members getting fresh grips on their clubs.

For those who may not know, Russell Phillips is doing regrips and reshafts on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings. Grips can be purchased and fitted for as little as £5 per grip and a display of stocked grips can be seen in the Pro Shop. Simply select the grip you want and leave the clubs you want doing and Russell will contact you once they are done. Payments can be made in cash or transferred online. New grips can make a huge impact to your game and should be replaced every couple of years at most. If you are in need of new grips then head to the Pro Shop or contact Russell.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... we extend a huge welcome to all Club members who have joined us since we reopened after lockdown. If you play with a newly or recently joined member, do tell them about our monthly newsletter and encourage them to read it.

...and a touch of humour...the secret of good golf is to hit the ball hard, straight and not too often.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

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

Men

Saturday 3 October – Seniors' Club Championship

Monday 5 to Friday 9 October – midweek Stableford

Sunday 11 October – Medal 0730-1100

Sunday 18 October – Committee Cup 0745-1145

Monday 19 to Friday 23 October – midweek Stableford

Saturday 24 October – Foursomes Medal 0800-1030

Sunday 25 October – Mixed Pairs Championship 1000-1200

Saturday 31 October – Stableford 0715-1130

Seniors

Saturday 3 October – Seniors' Club Championship

Monday 5 to Friday 9 October – midweek Stableford

Monday 5 October – Winter 8 (1)

Monday 12 October – Winter 8 (2)

Monday 19 to Friday 23 October – midweek Stableford

Monday 19 October – Seniors' Pairs Championship

Monday 26 October – Covid League (1)

Ladies

Wednesday 7 October – Stableford 0930-1030

Saturday 10 October – Medal 0930-1000

Wednesday 14 October – Medal 0930-1050

Saturday 17 October – Stableford 0930-0950

Wednesday 21 October – Texas Scramble 0930-1050

Sunday 25 October – Mixed Pairs Championship 1000-1200

Wednesday 28 October – Stableford 0930-1050

Key Contacts

Club Management

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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: Roger White

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: TBA

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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