



The Vale



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

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Edition 76, December 2020

Comment

We offer our appreciation to Chris and his team for all that has been done at the Club and on the course to make our return as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

This newsletter is produced each month (except January) for all Club members. To help add interest to it, you can always 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

News and Updates from the Club Management

Welcome Return to our Members

We warmly welcome the return of members on Wednesday 2 December - tempered by the fact that we are classed as Tier 2! Yes, we would argue that the course need not have been shut in the first place but we are where we are - so what lies ahead?

We are in Tier 2, reviewable every two weeks, starting on 16 December. What next? Everyone will have their own views but I would point to recent answers to questions as guidance:

- A Buckinghamshire MP raised the point that the infection rate was low locally and was informed that the review on 16 December may change things.

- Chris Whitty pointed out that Coronavirus rates had escalated in October yet the annual increase in flu infections has not even started yet. He also pointed out that hospital admission rates pre-Covid traditionally rise to a peak in March, once the effects of normal illnesses and cold temperature accidents accumulate.

Given the above I see AVGC staying in Tier 2 initially (the government will be concerned about a spike over Christmas and won't want to drop the level), and remaining there into January. After that it is hard to see the tier dropping until mass vaccinations begin - there is the possibility of going to Tier 3.

Whilst the above take on things may appear pessimistic, there is some good news. In Tier 3, should we end up there, the golf course can remain open. Mass vaccinations may take a little longer than expected but spring and summer temperatures will greatly assist as they did this year.

So back to the present day and what about Tier 2? In Tier 2 playing golf is no problem, even for a four-ball, provided you all keep at least 2m apart. Unfortunately, you can only socialise inside the Clubhouse with someone that you live with or who is in your support bubble. You can socialise outside, but in groups of no more than six. Alcohol can only be served with a substantial meal and it is table service only.

What do these new rules mean for life at The Vale? The outside extension is nearly complete. This has a perspex roof to allow light and has been designed with doors and perspex windows in frames that are all removable in order to meet the definition of 'outside space'. We will also keep some tables up near the putting green. So you will have a choice of 'completely outside' or 'outside, but under cover'. However, as before and throughout this year, the table and chair organisation is down to our own risk assessment. Once again, we view six chairs around one table as unnecessarily risky, as one person sneezing or coughing could infect several others instantly. Instead we will continue to plump for our more conservative and spacious layout.

But it is winter and could be cold? Yes, it could! There may not be too much we can do about this. We do have propane gas heaters to be built into each corner. These will be great post-Covid as we can keep the doors closed and insert the windows - however, if we do this in winter 20/21 then 'outside' becomes 'inside' again. The best we can do is suggest that you bring warm clothes to play golf in and even warmer ones to have a drink in! We can try the blowers with no doors and windows but can't guarantee success!

The consumption of alcohol is restricted to also having a 'substantial meal'. We will have a range of quick, warm options such as sausage and mash with hot onion gravy, chicken curry and chilli, all at reasonable prices to combine with a pint or two. We will also produce a range of homemade soups and Heinz's special spicy goulash as a warming option in its own right, even if you don't want an alcoholic drink. A hot mulled wine or non-alcoholic equivalent might also be appreciated this year.

We hope that the new extension will at least enable some limited and safe social interaction. We would like to thank Binze and Nick for building it and Brendan and Dave for doing the electrics and lighting. The lights facing the putting green look smart at night so we dream of post-Covid days when you can play skins on the putting green after Sundowners!

The Course

Thanks to the greenskeepers for all working through lockdown once again. The greens look great! They have been fed in three phases, been swished regularly, had the leaves cleared and been verti-drained once again. The grass range tee has been dressed and over-seeded and will remain closed until spring. The main range will now re-open but balls are still obtained from the shop. The potholes in the car park have been filled, several areas have had fresh wood chip, the path is finished around the putting green and this year's cores are now on the practice pitching green to start to form a new surface. The long rough on the course is being cut. In January we will look at building a new men's tee on the 8th, re-surfacing one on the 15th and building the new ladies 'social' tee on the 16th. We will also trim back offending branches on the course in January/February.

Tee Bookings from 2 to 6 December

Due to the high demand for tees after the month's lockdown, we have converted any unbooked tee slots from 2 to 6 December into 'reserved for members'. A member can book one of these slots and bring guests but non-members cannot book on their own.

Boxing Day

The course will now be open on Boxing Day since we can't face shutting for any more days!

Road Closure

Anglian Water have further work on the road between Stewkley and the Club entrance between 1 and 4 December, so bear in mind that you will have to approach the Club from the Wing/Cublington direction.

The Vale

Finally we would like to offer our thanks to Lance for another year of editing The Vale.....and we wish all members a very Happy Christmas!

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

The quiz continues and answers are given just before the Men's Section reports. (Questions and answers have been provided by the R & A.)

Question 1: A boundary edge extends up above the ground, but not below the ground.

A – False. B – True.

Question 2: A player may decline a concession by their opponent.

A – False. B – True.

Question 3: Temporary water includes puddles caused by rain on a putting green.

A – True. B – False.

Question 4: It is permitted for the same caddie to be employed by more than one player.

A – True. B – False.

Question 5: In stroke play, a player swings at and misses a wrong ball. What is the ruling?

A - There is no penalty. B - The player gets two penalty strokes and the stroke at the wrong ball is counted. C - The player gets two penalty strokes, however, the actual missed stroke is disregarded.

Question 6: In foursomes match play, a player whose turn it is to play plays first from the tee then his partner plays from the tee as though it is a four-ball event. What is the ruling?

A - The side loses the hole. B - There is no penalty. C - The side has proceeded under penalty of stroke and distance, and the second ball played from the tee is now in play.

SmartGolfer Cards

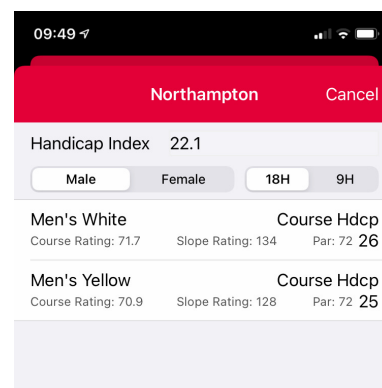
All SmartGolfer membership cards issued by AVGC expire on 31 December, so remember to renew yours!

World Handicap System (WHS) by the Handicap Secretary, Roger White

A month without golf and who knows for December? At least it was a quiet month for WHS so they were able to tackle the ongoing problems that would be expected with a new system.

Over 15,000,000 historical scores were uploaded to the WHS platform with over 200,000 golfers signing up to see their handicaps. We uploaded 458 member's details to be loaded on the WHS platform with only a few problems, which were mainly incorrect email addresses.

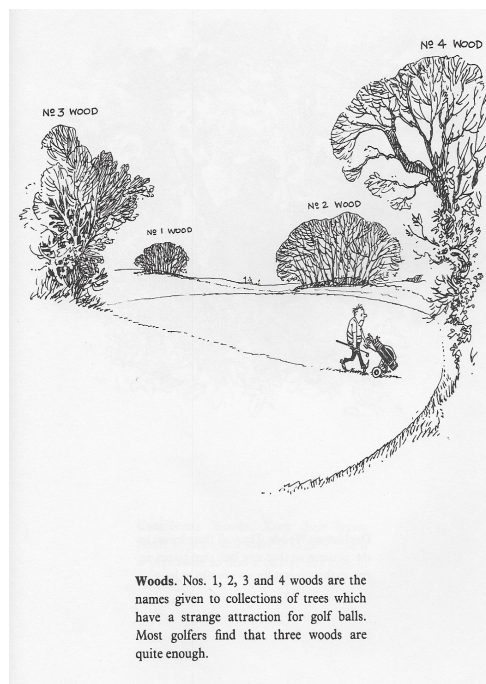
I expect most of you are aware by now that the MyEG (i.e. My England Golf) app is now available for both Android and iPhone. On Google Playstore/Apple Appstore it is MyEG New Zealand Golf Ltd (they designed the programme). One of the benefits of this app is that you can check your playing handicap for other courses before you get there.



Hopefully we will all be out playing again soon, but if not, then a Merry Christmas and Stay Safe!



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Rules Quiz Answers

Definitions and Rules can be found in the Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf.

Question 1. Correct answer A. Explanation: See the definition of Course.

Question 2. Correct answer A. Explanation: A concession is final - it cannot be withdrawn once it is made and it cannot be declined (Rule 3.2a).

Question 3. Correct answer A. Explanation: See the definition of Temporary Water.

Question 4. Correct answer A. Explanation: Two or more players may share a caddie. See Rule 10.3a(2).

Question 5. Correct answer C. Explanation: Since the player made a stroke at a wrong ball, she gets the general penalty (two strokes in stroke play) (see Rule 6.3c).

Question 6. Correct answer C. Explanation: Effectively the side has proceeded under stroke and distance (Rule 18.1). The side's next stroke will be its fourth.

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

With the dreaded second lockdown upon us, we haven't had much in the way of golfing activity over recent weeks. At the time of writing, everyone is busy interpreting the update from Bumbling Boris and his calamitous cronies; hopefully with the lifting of restrictions after 2 December, we will have something to smile about!!

Thankfully, the delayed Masters at Augusta gave us some golfing distraction during lockdown. And special thanks and recognition go to Dan Baldock for taking up the baton from Darren Horne and organising the AVGC Masters; as always, our members showed their generosity, and the charity fund was bolstered by £135.00. Many thanks to all who took part.

Now here comes the difficult part!! Even though I'm such a warm hearted and generous person, it pains me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in November!! That said, I do wish everyone all the best for the Christmas season, and fingers crossed that we will return to some form of normality early in the New Year.

Finally, I know I've said it before, but it really does bear repeating; I'm so grateful for everyone's support during these difficult times, I can't thank you all enough. It truly is a curse to live through (and be a Captain during) interesting times!

And remember, keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

I am sure we are very much looking forward to a return to golf next week and Seniors will know that a Winter 8 was in the calendar for Monday 7 December. Not able to have the usual arrangements for letting Dave Lea if you wish to play, we have made a best guess on who would normally play and you can find the draw on the Seniors Website under Golf-Start Times. If you cannot play or wish to play and have not be drawn please email Dave Lea as soon as possible and he will do his best to accommodate you.

Please let Dave know by email if you wish to play in the competitions on the following two Mondays in December.

Please note from January we will move to booking online via HowDidiDo as the Men now do.

I did promise to update Seniors on arrangements for the Annual General Meeting in March. I have placed under a menu item 'AGM 2021' on the Seniors website, a full document setting out the Committee's current thinking.

In brief, we acknowledge that we will need to be in breach of our Constitution and the Committee has therefore decided on a way forward under three separate scenarios which will operate for this year's meeting only and breach the Constitution by the minimum amount possible.

In all cases:

- We will cause AGM notices and papers to be placed on the website rather than in the Clubhouse;

- We will accept self-nomination for Committee posts by email to the Administrative Secretary, but within normal time limits.

The three scenarios then cover these situations:

- A normal AGM can be held;
- A normal AGM cannot be held but no votes need to be taken as happened for the March 2020 AGM;
- A normal AGM cannot be held but elections are contested and/or further business is submitted.

Please review the page on the website and direct any questions to any member of the Committee.

I very much hope we all stay safe and healthy over the Christmas Period and into the New Year and the Committee joins me in sending all staff and members of AVGC our very best wishes.

Larry Goddard

Competitions

Winter Eight (3) 2 November	1 st : Peter Docwra 36 Pts 2 nd : Nigel Welling 35 Pts 3 rd : Andrew Bond 32 Pts
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Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

What can I say about November except that it is behind us and we can now look forward to some golf. We are at the beginning of a new handicap system which I'm sure we will all get used to (eventually!).

Competitions for midweek and weekends have been set up for December, so to enter you will need to go to the HowDidiDo app.

We are planning to get a diary out for next year, hopefully to get back to some kind of normality. It's been a tough year for all of us but we're getting there and I look forward to seeing you all on the course, fit and well and enjoying good golf.

Kath Scott

Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

Pro Shop

Shop Sale. The shop sale for Christmas begins on 2 December and ends on Boxing Day.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... Happy Christmas to all Club members and to the management and greenkeeping teams. Please note that there will not be a January issue of *The Vale*.

...and a touch of humour... Golf balls are like eggs. They're white, they are sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy more.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

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

Men

Sunday 6 December – Medal 0800-1145

Monday 14 to Friday 18 December – Midweek Stableford

Saturday 19 December – Stableford 0800-1145

Monday 28 December to Friday 1 January – Midweek Stableford

Seniors

Monday 7 December – Winter 8 (5) 0800-1000

Monday 14 December – Covid League (5) 0800-1000

Monday 14 to Friday 18 December – Midweek Stableford

Monday 21 December – Covid League (6) 0800-1000

Monday 28 December to Friday 1 January – Midweek Stableford

Ladies

Sunday 6 December – Medal 0800-1145

Wednesday 9 December – Stableford 1000-1050

Sunday 13 December – Stableford

Wednesday 16 December – fun competition 1000-1100

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: 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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