



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

[www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)

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Edition 78, May 2021

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## **Comment**

Welcome to our many new Club members – do make yourself known to other members and join in our rollups, competitions and social golf.

In normal times, 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, or something that you have for sale. The Editor can be contacted at: [lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk)

## **News and Updates from the Club Management**

A very warm welcome back to The Vale to all our members! That last lockdown seemed to go on for an eternity. It was also great to see our staff back, with Heinz and Lee the last to return after the kitchens could resume on 12 April.

We extend our thanks to our Captains and committees for adapting so well and encouraging online entries to competitions during the pandemic. Seek out Jason, Kyle, Dan or Leo in the shop if you require any further assistance to enter competitions.

How has the Club fared? We had to make a policy decision regarding lockdown months and that, as you know, was not to charge members subscriptions whilst under lockdown. This presented its own challenges... a quick bit of maths reveals 600 members, paying an average £850, being discounted by 44% over the last 12 months, reduces income to the Club by £220,000. On the plus side we have been delighted to welcome 85 new members, adding £72,000. Rishi Sunak has also chipped in but there has been a hole to fill, which is why we are grateful to our new members and now face the task of managing a busier Club, whilst still resolved not to place the additional financial burden upon the existing membership.

As a result you will see new membership application forms around the Club from 17 May that show the rate for 7-day and 5-day membership increased by £150. This does not apply to existing members - everyone that has already joined the Club by that date will be re-categorised as 'original members' and your fees will remain at the rates currently displayed on the application forms. The website will need amending as we decided to bring the jump point forward to 17 May from 1 July and to further increase the rate. 'Original members' will retain preferential rates into the future for as long as their membership is continuous.

Some members who paid via direct debits in May 2020 'opted in' or 'half opted in' during the first lockdown. These members will note that we are now calling for £0 (opt in) or half their monthly fee (half opt in) on 1 May, as we promised in an email last year.

The next step in easing coronavirus measures is planned for 17 May. On this date we expect to be allowed to re-open the Clubhouse, changing rooms and showers. The key message that is still being transmitted to Golf Clubs from government via England Golf is to maintain your social distancing - we do not have the staff to monitor the social distancing of golfers in the changing rooms so we ask everyone to use their common sense - if everyone keeps socially distanced we will keep the changing rooms open, if not we will be forced to close them again.

The Club handbooks for 2021 are available for collection from the Pro Shop and the fixture list is found at the back. Please note that there are no longer times reserved on Saturdays or Sundays for Men's rollups - members can still enter the rollups but individual tee times are now booked in the normal way, (from 8:00am 10 days in advance), and you can play in the rollup at any time of the day and not just between 8:00. and 9:15.

In terms of managing the tees generally, 2021 may be the year of highest membership numbers but there are no sheltered tee times for any groups so every member has exactly the same opportunities to book tee times as every other member. Further, this is the time of year where Club matches and various leagues normally take up tee space but we are not holding any of these this summer.

We would like to offer a warm welcome to Andy Hobbs, Will Connor and John Smith who have all joined the greenkeeping team. This extra manpower will enable us to give attention to detail when presenting the course, as well as the option for future projects. The first benefit has been releasing Rob to hand water the greens - who would have guessed there would be a chance of frost throughout April whilst not getting a drop of rain? The second advantage has been more frequent maintenance of bunkers. The next immediate project is to top up our pathways with fresh granite dust.

We have two 'front of house' and one 'Pro Shop assistant' positions available for youngsters between the ages of 17 and 24 under the government 'kickstart' scheme. These are six-month contracts so if you know any friends or relatives who might want such work then do put them in contact with Chris.

Thursday 6 May sees the start of 'Sundowners'. This is a fun 9-hole competition, with a meal, with participants booking a tee time between 5:00pm and 6:30pm. The Sundowner season runs up until the end of August. Finally, Annette's Hat is being played on Bank Holiday Monday 31 May - as this event raises funds for Breast Cancer Awareness the Club will not charge 5-day members for entering.

*Chris Wright*

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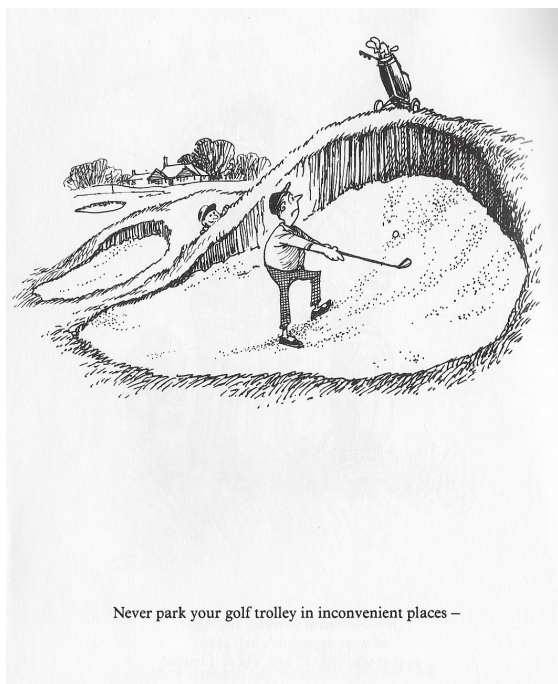
## **Rules of Golf**

Ball Moving on the Putting Green (Rule 9.3). A strong gust of wind caused a player's ball to move on the putting green before s(he) had marked, lifted and replaced the ball. What should the player do?

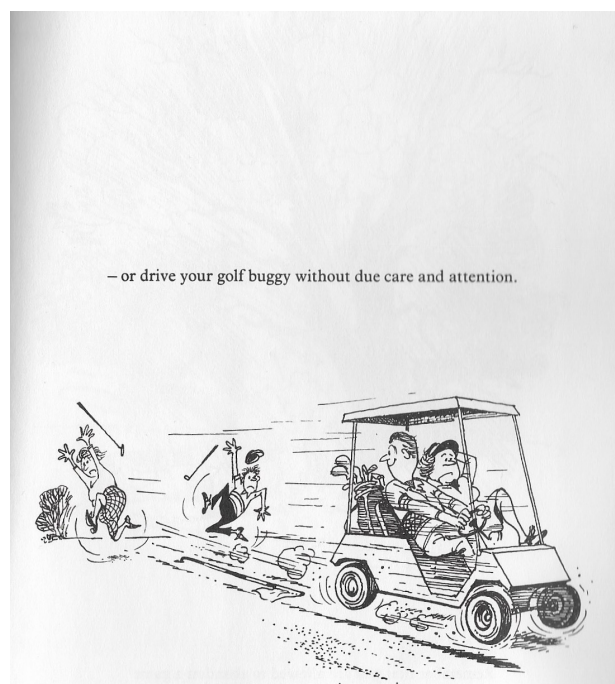
If natural forces (such as wind or water) cause the player's ball at rest to move, there is no penalty and the ball must be played from its new spot. There is an exception to this, which states that if the ball on the putting green moves after it had already been lifted and replaced, the ball must be replaced on its original spot. However, as the ball had not been lifted that does not apply here.

## **Congratulations, Alex Robins!**

At St Ives (Hunts) GC on 18 April, playing in the British Junior Golf Tour, Club member Alex Robins qualified for the World Junior Finals in San Diego CA. Many congratulations Alex!



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



## **A Word from the Handicap Secretary**

I was immediately suspicious when Neil asked me to be Handicap Secretary and said *'Don't worry, it is all done by computer now, so it shouldn't be too time consuming.'* Unfortunately, computers don't always work the way they are supposed to!

Anyway we are now beginning to get to grips with this new World Handicap System, and we are all learning together. I intend to keep a log of the difficulties we experience, so that in due course, we can provide feedback to the system organisers in a positive way to help it improve. The Committee will periodically issue update notes should we find things that people need to know, and we will also use this Newsletter to point out things.

This month, I want to cover two points:

- If you want to submit a card, then you should log in to How Did I Do (HDID) before teeing off. You must check that you enter the correct course - White, Red, Yellow, 18 or 9 (front or back). Please also make sure to select the correct competition to enter, as there are sometimes different ones on at the same time. Recently, for instance, we had a Seniors' competition and a Men's Midweek Stableford on at the same time. Some people entered the wrong competition, and as a consequence played off the wrong tees, so became ineligible for the competition they inadvertently entered. It is really important to get this right, so if you are having trouble, please ask in the shop or ask your playing partner to help.

- The basis of the WHS is that your handicap is based on the best eight of your last 20 rounds. If you have not submitted scores for 20 rounds, the handicap is worked out slightly differently.

The chart below explains how it is calculated. This means that new or returning players in particular may find their handicap is quite volatile at first.

Number of Differentials in scoring record	Score in	Score Differentials(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3		Lowest 1	-2
4		Lowest 1	-1
5		Lowest 1	0
6		Average of Lowest 2	-1
7 or 8		Average of Lowest 2	0
9 to 11		Average of Lowest 3	0
12 to 14		Average of Lowest 4	0
15 or 16		Average of Lowest 5	0
17 or 18		Average of Lowest 6	0
19		Average of Lowest 7	0
20		Average of Lowest 8	0

If you have any problems working out your handicaps or entering scores, feel free to contact me ([alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com](mailto:alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com)).

### AVGC 'Friday Mix Up'

AVGC has provided some tee times, open to all members, for a regular, mixed competition. This is held on Friday mornings, usually starting around 8:00/8:30, depending on other Club bookings. It's a great opportunity to play with members from the other Sections. Booking is via HowDidiDo and opens three weeks before the competition date.

There is a Facebook Group, 'AVGC Friday Mix Up', and details of competition dates and results are published there.

Further information can be obtained from either Keith Loxton ([kgloxtonavgc@aol.com](mailto:kgloxtonavgc@aol.com)) or Jean Barnett.

## Men

### A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi All,

It's great to see that golf is finally back (we missed you!), and many of our members are taking advantage of the dry weather to get in multiple rounds per week; long may it continue.

I managed to venture onto the course over the weekend for the first time since my knee operation, and credit where it's due, the new tees on holes 8 and 15 look fantastic; well done to Luke and the team.

However, a warning - please don't be tempted to venture onto the new tees until they're ready, we don't want any delays for the wider membership. Also, don't forget to repair those pesky pitch marks on the greens, every little helps!

There's been a steady increase in new members during the lockdown period; Aylesbury Vale continues to welcome all, and we look forward to seeing new members take part in competitions and social golf. For anyone struggling with the new World Handicap System (WHS), don't forget that the committee members are here to assist. Alan Connell (Handicap Secretary) has been working tirelessly to ensure new and old members are active on the system. Alan did suggest a name change for his role which is more appropriate, and it's possibly something we could consider during the next Captain's tenure!

A brief reminder to all that the competition list is available on the AVGC Men's' Section website:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/avgc-news/mens-section-diary>

Competitions are also posted five weeks in advance on HowDidiDo - <https://www.howdido.com>

Places for competitions do tend to go fast and it's worth setting a reminder or checking daily for new competitions.

Unfortunately, due to Covid we no longer have the traditional reserve list, however, please don't hesitate to contact Dave Lea (Competition Secretary) if you want to arrange to play. We can't guarantee you'll get the opportunity to play, but Dave will certainly do his very best to accommodate all.

And finally, keep smiling...

*Keith McGoverne*

The Men's Section began the new season with two competitions in April. The first of these was the monthly Medal with Micky Parslow winning Division 1 with a nett 72. Shane Lea and Ben McDonald finished second and third with nett 73s. Declan Hull was a clear winner in Division 2, his 67 putting him six shots clear of Ian Lawson and Tim Hogston. Phil L'Aiguille was the winner of Division 3 with a nett 71, a shot clear of second placed Liam Udall and with Mark Hughes third.

The Easter Cup saw Justin McDonald take the title with 38 points, while Dan Baldock had the best Division 2 score (37 points) and new member Rob Munday had the same score in Division 3.

### Competitions

Medal 11 April	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Micky Parslow nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Shane Lea nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Ben McDonald nett 73	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Declan Hull nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ian Lawson nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tim Hogston nett 73	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Phil L'Aiguille nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Liam Udall nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mark Hughes nett 73
Easter Cup 17 April	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Justin McDonald 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nicholas Vincent 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Will Bond 37 Pts	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Danny Baldock 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nick Paine 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Andy Penfold 36 Pts	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Rob Munday 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mark Williamson 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Gary Wiltshire 35 Pts
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Martyn Gates 42 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Neil Meldrum 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Clayton Barlow 39 Pts		

## Seniors

### A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Hasn't time gone quickly? It was only four weeks ago that we were itching to get out back on the golf course. We came back to dry but cool - and yes frequently cold - weather and it really hasn't changed much over those four weeks. The course was in great shape to welcome us back and, as it has firmed up, some of us are finding lots of extra yards, not always where we want them.

We have now settled into a routine and, for the Seniors, with competitions running twice per week, booking five weeks in advance, it's been an interesting challenge. Thank you all for engaging with the 'new' process and thanks also to the Pro Shop for managing the inevitable changes.

We didn't get the benefit of playing though the winter to get used to WHS, so it's been a bit of a learning curve for us all. I won't repeat the key points you need to remember here, there are plenty of reference points elsewhere. However, I would like to remind Seniors that it's a good idea to sign into the correct competition and to enter their scores, preferably to the correct competition! There are some



who seem to confuse the competition they have signed in to with the one they want to play. And the scores might not end up in the correct competition either. All I can observe is that it's just as well the Ladies' competitions aren't visible too, otherwise it could be carnage. So please be diligent.

We have played two primary competitions. The Seniors' April Medal on 19 April was won by Martyn Gates on nett 69, ahead of Peter Codrai, second on countback and Bob Phillips third, both with nett 73. The Seniors' Summer Six (1) played on 26 April. Bob Doherty, appreciating his new handicap, won on 38 points, Dave Simons second with 37 points and on countback Neill Brinklow, third with 36 points. Congratulations to you all on very nice scores. Both competitions had fields in excess of 50 players, so thank you for your support.

Details of all Seniors' competitions are posted on the FaceBook Group 'AVGC Seniors Info Page', so please join to see what is happening.

Finally, the Seniors' Committee has decided to recommence competition entry fees from 1 June. Further details will be circulated to Seniors but there will be cash and non-cash options. The entry fee will be the usual £5 including '2's' and will only apply to the primary competitions. One-off Stablefords, operating in place of the 'roll up', will remain free to enter with the option of the 'Pound Pot'.

Happy golfing.

*Keith Loxton*



Outgoing Seniors' Captain Larry Goddard presented Keith Loxton at the beginning of April with a very appropriate headcover to celebrate the handover of Captaincy.



## AwayDays

The Seniors' Committee is considering two AwayDays for the Seniors' Section, some time during this summer and autumn at:

Bicester Golf Club, Oxfordshire, and  
Letchworth Golf Club, Hertfordshire.

Due to ongoing restrictions these may not be as you remember previous AwayDays, so if you are interested please enter your name on the list on the Seniors' noticeboard. Although a provisional booking has been made with both of these venues, no more can be done until we have an idea of numbers.

If you have any queries regarding these AwayDays please speak to Peter Codrai (01525 378802) or (07831-316457).

### Competitions

Stableford 12 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Simon Merritt 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mike Samuel 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Brendan Doherty 36 Pts
Medal 19 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Martyn Gates nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Peter Codrai nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Bob Phillips nett 73
Summer Six (1) 26 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Bob Doherty 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Dave Simons 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Neill Brinklow 36 Pts

## Ladies

### A Word from the Lady Captain...

What a lot of smiling faces!! So good to be back on the course.

The Captains and management have put together a Diary for this year. This could be subject to change due to the Covid situation. You can get a copy from the Pro Shop.

We have a friendly away match at Tilsworth on Thursday 27 May. Jean will post it on HowDidiDo so anyone who wants to play can put their names down and Jane Codrai will get in touch with details.

### LADIES COMMITTEE

Captain: Kath Scott  
Vice-Captain position currently vacant  
Treasurer: Lesley Wright  
Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett  
Past Captain: Julie Lee  
7-day Secretary: Sheila Perkins  
5-day Secretary: Jackie Boden  
Members Rep: Jean Hill and Lorraine Fox

Competitions for May are on HowDidiDo. Remember to sign up well in advance as closing dates are two weeks before competition.

Two dates for your diary:

31 May. ANNETTE'S HAT DAY - the first big event for a long time so let's make it a great one. Please support us.

22 June. AGM 7PM - as usual there will be drinks and nibbles, a time for us to get together and find out what's going on.

The competition results for April are given below. Well done ladies.

*Kath Scott*

## Competitions

Stableford 14 April	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jean Barnett 34 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai 33 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lesley Wright 31 Pts	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jackie Boden 29 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jenny Langford 27 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sue Goodger 26 Pts
Stableford 18 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Lesley Wright 36 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Roche 33 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lorraine Fox 33 Pts	
Fun Waltz Competition 21 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jane Codrai, Jennifer Langford, Charlotte Simpson 82 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Roche, Jan Chambers, Avril Gates 82 Pts	
Medal 24 April	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jean Barnett nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lorraine Fox nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Roche nett 77	
Medal 28 April	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jane Barker nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Kath Scott nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lesley Wright nett 74	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jenny Langford nett 73 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sue Goodger nett 77 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Avril Gates nett 78

## Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

## and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** There always used to be showers of rain in April...now it's either a suntan or frozen fingers!

**...and a touch of humour...** What are the four worst words you could hear during a game of golf? *'It's still your turn!'*

*Lance Redler*

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

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### ***What's on This Month?***

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

#### **Men**

Sunday 2 May – Committee Cup 0700-1200

Saturday 8 May – Medal 0700-1210

**Monday 10 to Friday 14 May – midweek Medal**

Sunday 23 May – Penny Cup 0700-1200

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 May – midweek Stableford**

Sunday 30 May – Medal 0640-1200

**Monday 31 May – Annette's Hat 0745-1105**

#### **Seniors**

Wednesday 5 May – Capt vs Vice-Capt vs ImmPastCapt 0745-0950

Monday 10 May – Medal (2) 0800-0950

**Monday 10 to Friday 14 May – midweek Medal**

Wednesday 12 May – Stableford 0730-1000

Monday 17 May – Stableford 0730-0950

Wednesday 19 May – Stableford 0730-0935

Monday 24 May – Summer 6 (2) 0730-0950

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 May – midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 26 May – Stableford 0730-0935

**Monday 31 May – Annette's Hat 0745-1105**

#### **Ladies**

Saturday 1 May – Spring Stableford 1000-1015

Wednesday 5 May – Stableford 1000-1115

Wednesday 5 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1115

Monday 10 May – Stableford 1000-1100

Monday 10 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 12 May – Medal 1000-1100

Wednesday 12 May – 9-hole Medal 1000-1100

Saturday 15 May – Medal 0920-0945

Sunday 16 May – Ping 4BBB Stableford 1000-1050

Monday 17 May – Ping 4BBB Stableford 1000-1100

Monday 17 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 19 May – Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 19 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Monday 24 May – Stableford 1000-1100

Monday 24 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 26 May – May Waltz 1000-1100

Wednesday 26 May – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

**Monday 31 May – Annette's Hat 0745-1105**

### ***Key Contacts***

#### ***Club Management***

e-mail: [info@avgc.co.uk](mailto:info@avgc.co.uk)

[www.avgc.co.uk](http://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](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk)

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322

or [terrygolf1965@gmail.com](mailto:terrygolf1965@gmail.com)

#### ***Men***

**Captain:** Keith McGovern (until 30 Sep 21)

**Vice-Captain (1):** Neil Meldrum (until 30 Sep 21)

**Vice-Captain (2):** Howard Matthews

**Treasurer:** Keith Loxton

**Competition Secretary:** Dave Lea

**Admin Secretary:** John Barker

**Handicap Secretary:** Alan Connell

**5-Day Representative:** Peter Codrai

#### ***Seniors***

**Captain:** Keith Loxton

**Vice-Captain:** post vacant

**Treasurer:** Mike Boden

**Competition Secretary:** Dave Lea

**Admin Secretary:** Mike Pelizzoni

**Social Secretary:** Peter Codrai

#### ***Ladies***

**Captain:** Kath Scott

**Vice-Captain:** post vacant

**Treasurer:** Lesley Wright

**7-day Secretary:** Sheila Perkins

**5-day Secretary:** Jackie Boden

**Handicap Secretary:** Jean Barnett

#### ***Juniors***

**Captain:** Abi Pearce

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