



The Vale

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

(This is a private publication for Members of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club and may not be reproduced elsewhere in whole or in part, in any form, without the prior written permission of the Club.)

Edition 79, June 2021

Comment

Despite the rain through May, we're back to a much more 'normal' golf experience...hurrah! Many thanks to everyone for abiding by the Covid-19 distancing and safety rules, and to Chris and the management team for preparing them so carefully. Thanks also to Luke and his greenkeeping team for bringing the course to such an amazing condition.

Do send the Editor something golf-related that he can include in an issue of The Vale – 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

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

Who left the tap on during May? Yet another record-breaking month, this time in terms of temperature and accumulated rainfall. In April we had a total of 4mm of rain (right at the end of the month) and in May we had 101mm in our rain gauge after the first three weeks of May. The greens have remained in good shape but we have just had a couple of weeks of banning buggies to protect the fairways.

News from the greenkeepers is that we have applied a new slow-release fertiliser to the fairways, surrounds and areas of rough that will slowly release trace elements throughout a six-month period from June to November. This is a slight gamble - the soil temperature is finally forecast to rise in June and there is plenty of moisture in the topsoil so the grass should flourish. The challenge at this time of year will be to keep right on top of cutting so that the grass doesn't get so long and lush that mowers start blowing gaskets! However, if we have judged it correctly then we may be able to produce stripes or even diamond shapes on the fairways as we mow...fingers crossed!

Patio Shelter

By the time you are reading this some warmer, calmer weather should be with us. We will then look to remove the windows from the patio shelter to give that extra flow of fresh air. I wrote in the last risk assessment e-mail that this would legally classify the shelter as an 'outside' area. However, whilst this would legally allow smoking and vaping, many members wrote in to request that smoking and vaping be restricted to tables beyond the shelter. This is on the grounds that they like to eat in the shelter and do not want to eat in a smoking area. On balance it is logical to grant this request. Sorry to the smokers and vapers amongst you...but decision made (please don't write in!).

Combined Captains' Day – Saturday 26 June

This day is open to all members, 5-day and 7-day, without payment of a green fee.

Recycling Bins

We are having some 'double' bins made from wood for the golf course. One side will be for recyclable materials (plastic bottles, tin cans, cardboard and paper) and the other side for non-recyclable items (banana skins, plastic tees etc). These are being designed so that you can drop your rubbish inside without touching the bin or its contents, for Covid reasons.

Staff

We give a warm welcome to Jack and Joe behind the bar, to Charlie at front of house and to Fai in the shop.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Ball Anywhere on Course Interfering with Play. (Rule 15.3b). If another player reasonably believes that your ball might interfere with his or her play, the other player may require you to mark the spot and lift your ball, which must **not** be cleaned (except when lifted from the putting green). Note that:

– If you do not mark the spot before lifting your ball, or you clean the lifted ball when not allowed, you get **one penalty stroke**.

– In stroke play only - if you are required to lift your ball under this Rule, you may play first instead.

You are not allowed to lift your ball under this Rule based only on your belief that your ball might interfere with another player's play. If you lift your ball when not required to do so by another player (except when lifting the ball on the putting green), you get **one penalty stroke**.

Be Safe, not Sorry!



Please remember not to cross the bridge to the 13th green if players are teeing off on the 16th...and don't tee off the 16th if players are on the 13th green...these notices are there for a reason!



Handicap Secretary's Report

We are all beginning to understand a bit more about the new handicapping system, but it is clear that we are not there yet.

This month, I want to cover two points:

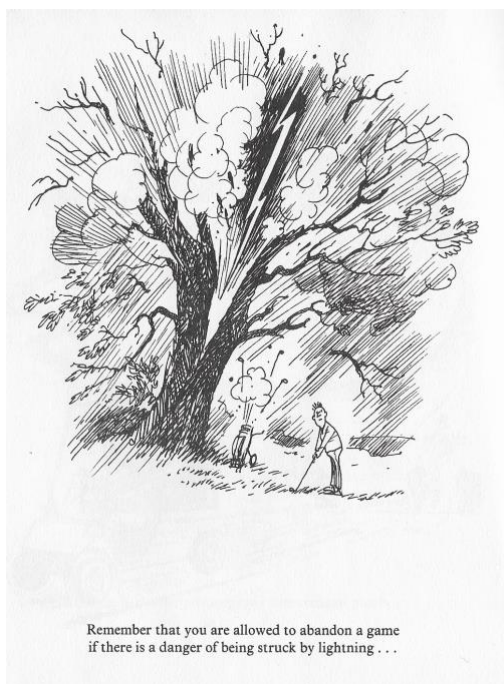
1. If you don't have a handicap but wish to obtain one, or have just joined from another Club, you need to make direct contact with the Handicap Secretary (details below):

- a. If you have joined from another Golf Club, we need your name, date of birth, email address, former Club and CDH (Central Database of Handicaps) number.
- b. If you want to obtain a handicap, you need to complete 54 holes – either 3 x 18 or 6 x 9, playing in the company of a member with a handicap and under strict rules of golf. Then scan/photograph the cards and email them to the Handicap Secretary with your name, email address and date of birth.
- c. Once the information is entered on the system, you will receive an email confirmation and be live on the HowDidiDo system the day after being registered.

2. Unsatisfied Score Intents:

- a. We are continuing to get a number of people signing in to enter a casual round, but not submitting a score (41 in the period 25 April to 21 May). England Golf suggest penalties should be applied, but the Men's Committee have decided to continue the policy of not imposing penalties as many, possibly all, of these are due to problems with submitting the score. This will be kept under review, and England Golf write to us each month.
- b. If you start a round, then realise you have entered the wrong course or wrong tees, please email or text the Handicap Secretary as soon as you become aware, and if available, he will try to delete the erroneous entry and allow you to attempt to login again.

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



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Oscar Wilde may have said '*Conversation about the weather is the last refuge of the unimaginative*', but he wasn't a golfer; how do I know this? Because he also said '*Golf is the best way to ruin a good walk!*' Old Oscar was wrong on both points, in my opinion - I can't help but bemoan this inclement weather that doesn't seem to be moving on. However, being hardened golfers, the challenge for tee

times continues regardless of the weather, and the phrase ‘Mad dogs and Englishmen’ seems justified – as The Beatles told us, ‘*If the sun don't come you get a tan from standing in the English rain!*’.

Bedfordshire County Championship

For those of our members not aware, Aylesbury Vale Golf Club has the privilege to host the 2021 Bedfordshire County Championship on 5/6 June. This is an honour for our Club, providing as it does, deserved recognition for the outstanding progress the Club has made over the years. The course continues to mature, and provides a stern test for all golfers, including those who aim to challenge the course record of 67.

There are two competitions running over the weekend of 5/6 June, with the County & Colts playing 36 holes on Saturday, with a 50% cut for the final round on the Sunday. Sunday provides an additional 36 holes for those competing, with categories set as 4-12, 13-18, and 19-24. Anyone wishing to enter should use the following links; the last day to register is 30 May.

- County & Colts - <https://www.bedfordshiregolf.org.uk/visitoropen.php?compid=1026&stage=details>
- County Handicap - <https://www.bedfordshiregolf.org.uk/visitoropen.php?compid=1027&stage=details>

Good luck to all AVGC members competing!

Captains' Day

Another large event to look forward to is the joint Captains' Day being held on Saturday 26 June; tee times start from 07:04 on the 1st tee. The format has changed for this year, and some of the traditional extras will be missing. However, we can still look forward to the return of Nurse Shagwell, Beat the Bar Steward, and not forgetting Nick's annual contribution to the putting competition returning next year. Prizes will be awarded to both the winning individual and team scores. The Men's Past Captains will also compete for their own trophy and prize. The breakfast will be on Neil next year, so fill your boots!

Highlights:

- The management team will be providing three food options; the list will be available in the Clubhouse for those wishing to pre-order food on the day.
- We'll be supplying refreshments for all taking part, final placement is yet to be confirmed.
- Peter Codrai will be running a 4-Ball raffle; the board will be clear for those wishing to enter (£2.00 per square).
- The men's competition will be £5.00 to enter, this includes your two's money.
- Kath and I have agreed that all monies raised will be donated to the Captains' charity – Hospice at Home Volunteers.

We look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Finally, just a brief reminder to all members; please don't forget your etiquette when on the course. Divots need replacing and pitch marks repairing, no exceptions!

And finally, keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

The month began with the Committee Cup and a field in excess of 100 players. It took countback to split the top three players who all recorded scores of 42 points. Top spot went to Mark Westbrook, with Dave Stonhill and Warren Jones taking the next two places.

The May Medal was hit by the wet weather but 75 players still took to the fairways. In Division 1 Shane Lea was the winner with a nett 72, a shot clear of second placed Martin Higgins with new member Charlie Coleman in third. Division 2 saw Dean Ridley take the honours with a nett 73. Howard Matthews came second with a nett 75 with Declan Hull a shot further back in third. Tim O'Sullivan made a welcome return to the winner's circle winning Division 3 with a nett 73. Jamie Carlin and Ian Moodley took the minor places both scoring nett 74s.

The Penny Cup saw another big field take part and it was SAS regular Mick Fenables with 39 points who came top, a point clear of Ian Lawson. Ben McDonald and Andre Lotter both recorded 37 points to finish third and fourth.

Competitions

Committee Cup 2 May	1 st : Mark Westbrook 42 Pts 2 nd : David Stonhill 42 Pts 3 rd : Warren Jones 42 Pts		
Medal 8 May	Div 1 1 st : Shane Lea nett 72 2 nd : Martin Higgins nett 73 3 rd : Charlie Coleman nett 75	Div 2 1 st : Dean Ridley nett 73 2 nd : Howard Matthews nett 75 3 rd : Declan Hull nett 76	Div 3 1 st : Tim O'Sullivan nett 73 2 nd : Jamie Carlin nett 74 3 rd : Ian Moodley nett 74
Midweek Medal	1 st : Carl Epaminondas nett 68 2 nd : Brendan Langan nett 70 3 rd : Lee Hollick Nett 72		
Penny Cup 23 May	1 st : Michael Fenables 39 Pts 2 nd : Ian Lawson 38 Pts 3 rd : Ben McDonald 37 Pts		
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Steve Bowdery 38 Pts 2 nd : Tom Williams 37 Pts 3 rd : James Kelly 37 Pts		
Medal 30 May	Div 1 1 st : Michael Caro nett 72 2 nd : Darren Horne nett 72 3 rd : Nicky Bowden nett 73	Div 2 1 st : A Waind nett 69 2 nd : Darren Knibb nett 72 3 rd : Brian Smith nett 72	Div 3 1 st : Gavin Procter nett 70 2 nd : Rob Munday nett 72 3 rd : Dave Bandy nett 73

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Well, wasn't May interesting? There certainly was some weather. We went from bone dry end of April through to a very cold and soggy May, with thunder, hail and wind too. At least that was interspersed with some golf. Mind you, those extra yards I was celebrating last month didn't last long. Thankfully, we didn't lose any of our scheduled golf, at least not to the weather.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the recently joined Seniors who are entering our events. I hope you are enjoying the course, the competition and the company of your playing partners. We have enjoyed high levels of participation on both Mondays and Wednesdays and I am sure this will continue. Every effort is being made to ensure those who wish to play get a slot, so if you experience difficulties please let me or Dave Lea know.

We played two primary competitions in May but lost the Drawn Pairs Greensomes to Covid (my fault, scheduled too early in the Calendar, it will be rescheduled though). The Seniors' May Medal on 10 May was won by Adrian Redford on nett 69, ahead of Steve Chandler, second on count back and Graham Tallyn in third place, both with nett 70. The Seniors' Summer Six (2) was played on 24 May

and won by Steve Waters on 39 points. Adrian King was second with 37 points and Mike Boden third with 36 points. Congratulations to you all on very nice scores.

Earlier in the month a fun 'competition' was played, pitching 'Past Captains', 'The Committee' and 'The Rest' against one another. We couldn't run a matchplay format so it was played out as a Stableford with each 'game' awarded points. It was close, but in the end the 'Past Captains' team emerged the winner. I am sure I will be reminded, frequently.

Looking forward, I would just like to remind you of the Seniors' Pair's Championships that will be run on 14 June. It encompasses a combination of pairs formats over 18 holes and is a great test for pairings.

The Ladies and Men hold their joint Captains' Day on Saturday 26 June. It's great to see the resumption of the Club Days such as this. I wish both Captains, Kath and Keith, the very best, that they get to enjoy their day and I hope you are able to support them.

The Seniors have also had confirmed their first AwayDay since 2019. This will take place on Thursday 5 August at Collingtree GC, Northants, and details are in the Clubhouse (Seniors' Board) and the Website. A second will be scheduled for September. If you require additional details please contact Peter Codrai.

I am looking forward to getting back to some drier and warmer weather in June. See you at AVGC.

Keith Loxton

Details of all Seniors matters, including competitions are posted on the Seniors' website: <https://sites.google.com/view/avgceniors/home> .

Casual information and notices can also be found on the FaceBook Group '**AVGC Seniors Info Page**', so please join to see what is happening.

Competitions

Three Team Stableford 5 May	1 st : Immediate Past Seniors' Captain's Team: 51 Pts 2 nd : Seniors' Vice-Captain's Team 48 Pts 3 rd : Seniors' Captain's Team: 45 Pts
Medal 10 May	1 st : Adrian Redford nett 69 2 nd : Steve Chandler nett 70 3 rd : Graham Tallyn nett 70
Summer Six (2) 24 May	1 st : Steve Waters 39 Pts 2 nd : Adrian King 37 Pts 3 rd : Mike Boden 36 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Despite the lousy weather we have managed a full month of golf, and can now look forward to wearing summer clothes!!!!

It is good to see so many ladies playing in the midweek competitions. With big help from Jean Barnett everyone is getting used to the new handicap system and signing in on HowDidDo. Well done ladies, we're getting there!!

Last Sunday the county ran the Past Captains Salver, played at AVGC. The weather was dreadful, wet and windy, but some good scores came in. Our own Abi Pearce played and came in second with 36 points. Well done Abi.

Two reminders for this month:

- AGM Tuesday 22 June 7pm
- Captains' Day Saturday 26 June

Last Wednesday the midweek ladies 'enjoyed' a Waltz around a cold course. Not great scores but well done to Jane Roche, Jan Chambers and Ann Haynes coming first with 64 points.

The Ping competition was played on Sunday 23 and Monday 24 May. The winners were Julie Lea and Sue Bellingham with 35points. In second place were Clare Garrett and Catriona Armor with 32 points. Well done ladies.

Happy golfing.

Kath Scott

Competitions

Spring Stableford 1 May	1 st : Clare Garrett 44 Pts 2 nd : Kath Scott 36 Pts 3 rd : Jan Chambers 36 Pts	
Stableford 5 May	1 st : Danka Lawson 39 Pts 2 nd : Julie Hoar 35 Pts 3 rd : Gay Chandler 34 Pts	
9-hole Stableford 5 May	1 st : Jean Attenborough 15 Pts 2 nd : Sheila Samuel 14 Pts	
Medal 12 May	Div 1 1 st : Jane Codrai nett 72 2 nd : Danka Lawson nett 75 3 rd : Kath Scott nett 76	Div 2 1 st : Pat Banister nett 79 2 nd : Jane Whigham nett 84 3 rd : Jackie Boden nett 85
9-hole Stableford 12 May	1 st : Sheila Samuel 16 Pts 2 nd : Janet Ewart 15 Pts 3 rd : Christine French 14 Pts	
Medal 15 May	1 st : Jane Roche nett 74 2 nd : Julie Lea nett 77 3 rd : Sheila Perkins nett 78	
Stableford 19 May	Div 1 1 st : Jane Roche 32 Pts 2 nd : Jane Codrai 31 Pts 3 rd : Angela Panes 30 Pts	Div 2 1 st : Jackie Boden 30 Pts 2 nd : Mary Williamson 28 Pts 3 rd : Eva Neve 26 Pts
Away match vs Tilsworth 27 May	Won 3 & 1	

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... Have fun!

...and a touch of humour... My uncle, who has golfed all his life, has his own definition of the word GOLF: Getting Old and Living Fine!

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

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

Men

Monday 7 to Friday 11 June – midweek Medal

Saturday 12 June – Greensomes Stableford 0800-1000

Saturday 20 June – Foursomes Medal 0715-1015

Monday 21 to Friday 25 June – midweek Stableford

Saturday 26 June – Captains' Day 0600-1400

Seniors

Wednesday 2 June – Jones Drawn Foursomes 0800-1000

Monday 7 June – Medal (3) 0730-1000

Monday 7 to Friday 11 June – midweek Medal

Wednesday 9 June – Stableford 0730-0930

Monday 14 June - Seniors' Pairs Championship 0730-1000

Wednesday 16 June – Stableford 0730-0930

Monday 21 June – It's Golf, Jim, but... 0730-1000

Monday 21 to Friday 25 June – midweek Stableford

Wednesday 23 June – Stableford 0730-0930

Saturday 26 June – Captains' Day 0600-1400

Monday 28 June – Summer 6 (3) 0800-0930

Wednesday 30 June – Stableford 0730-0930

Ladies

Wednesday 2 June – Stableford 100-1100

Thursday 3 June – Invitation Day

Monday 7 June – competition 1000-1100

Monday 7 to Friday 11 June – midweek Medal

Wednesday 9 June – Medal 1000-1100

Sunday 13 June – Medal 0915-0945

Monday 14 June – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 16 June – Stableford 1000-1100

Saturday 19 June Stableford 0930-1000

Monday 21 to Friday 25 June – midweek Stableford

Monday 21 June – Grandma's Cup 1000-1100

Tuesday 22 June – AGM 7:00pm

Wednesday 23 June – Stableford 1000-1100

Saturday 26 June – Captains' Day 0600-1400

Monday 28 June – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 30 June – Drawn Pairs Greensomes Stableford 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 (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

Editor *The Vale*: Lance Redler (01296) 681286

lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk