



The Vale

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

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Edition 81, August 2021

Comment

Well-deserved congratulations to the 2021 Club Champions in the variety of annual competitions played during the past month – just the Club Championship to come!

We wish Lady Captain Kath Scott all good fortune, following her departure from the Club to Africa.

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

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

We have consulted with England Golf regarding flags and bunkers. The golfer has the right now to putt with the flag in or out and we have moved back to traditional flagsticks. However, an individual still has the right to refuse to touch the flag and hence we have introduced a local rule not to tend the pin.

The rule regarding placing your ball in the bunker has been removed by England Golf now that rakes have been replaced. We are encouraging all golfers to carry hand sanitiser and to use it when touching rakes, ball washers, bins, divot trowels, broken tee boxes and benches. However, bunkers could now be a problem as it only takes someone in the group in front not to rake the bunker and you could be in an awkward footprint – imagine that being a determining factor in the battle for Club Champion! So we do ask that you do rake the bunkers for the benefit of all and if you don't want to touch the rakes on Covid grounds then buy one of our 'individual rake heads' from the Pro Shop. The Covid section of rake heads, suckers for removing balls from holes and hand sanitisers are all at cost price and you can use white cards.

September Greens Maintenance. The lads will be working on the greens from Monday 6 until Wednesday 8 September. On the Monday and Tuesday members will only be able to play nine holes as the other nine will be closed for that maintenance work.

Safety of Greenkeepers. We would like to remind members never to deliberately hit a shot towards greenkeepers. We had an incident where someone hit a ball onto a green that was being cut and claimed that they were aiming for the other half of the green! It should be obvious that golf balls are hard missiles that can cause severe human injury.

Membership

There is a balance to be struck between the Club taking on new members, to recover financially from lockdown months, and imposing a limit on this to ensure that the existing membership have sufficient access to tee times. As such, we will impose a waiting list for 7-day members to be introduced on 31 August and a waiting list for 5-day members to come in on 30 September. This is also being advertised locally.

There will be no fee to join the waiting list. However, potential new members will have to wait until one of our existing members does not renew, and their membership number is released, before being invited to join the Club.

Kath Scott. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to Kath for her Captaincy of the Ladies' Section over the past 18 months. Kath now leaves us as she moves to Zambia to join her family out there and I know you will all join us in wishing her all the very best for this new adventure.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

The Rule of Golf item in *The Vale* often addresses a question that has arisen at the Club during the previous month; this is one such.

Whilst playing the fairway, if a player's ball in motion strikes another player's stationary ball (also on the fairway), should the stationary ball that was moved be replaced where it originally was? This failed to find agreement amongst a group of experienced members, who had mixed opinions for what was correct but could not find a specific mention in the Rules; the R&A was approached for guidance.

The R&A Rules Manager has responded by saying:

'Under Rule 9.6, if it is known or virtually certain that an outside influence (including another ball) moved a player's ball at rest, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated). For the ball in motion that struck the ball at rest, there is no penalty as well and the ball must be played as it lies under Rule 11.1.'



From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Club Championships

Top placings in the Club Championship competitions played during July were:

Men's Pairs: 1st - Ali Thorne and Ian Lawson; 2nd - Eddie Jordan and Mick Hollins.

Ladies' Pairs: 1st - Jean Barnett and Ghie McGinley; 2nd - Julie Lea and Sue Bellingham.

Midweek: 1st (Gross): Matt Miller; 1st (Nett): Brian Smith.

Seniors: 1st (Gross): Tony Messenger; 1st (Nett): Dave Friend.

*Tony Messenger (left) and
Dave Friend (right)*



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi members,

I promised in last month's newsletter that thanks would be given to those generous members who provided huge support and contributed to the success of Captains' Day, even with all the restrictions placed upon us. We hoped this would be the first opportunity for the Club to come together once more like days of old. However, although restrictions were still in place, we were determined not to let this, or the early morning drizzle dampen our mood.

Friday proved challenging, not least getting the canopy setup on the 7th tee, not helped by someone losing the instructions once again (I got the blame!). Not to be deterred, and with much amusement for those playing golf and watching the performance, we finally succeeded. I do offer apologies for those teeing off in the mid-week competition and the placement of the white markers, which were providing much needed support for the canopy structure. We had some spare parts left over which is probably why we needed to prop up the structure...

Only minor repairs were needed throughout the day, but once the Captains' Day was finished the sadly buckled canopy found a new home in the bin. Neil, you need a new tent!!

Fingers crossed for Nurse Shagwell's return next year in her new Hot Tub (a.k.a. paddling pool). I'm sure Neil will have many other surprises for you all next year; watch this space.

Special thanks for the day go to: Peter Codrai, Steve Chandler, Dave Lea, Nathan Chandler, Mark Mansfield, Neil Meldrum, Jason Thornalley, Dan Lazar and the Men's Committee.

Most of all I'd like to thank all those who took part. I enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet most of you, including many new faces to the Club. I did well, managing to stay away from the pastries and drink throughout the day; sadly, the same could not be said of Mr Meldrum, and he was relieved of his duties very early on to preserve supplies!

The Charity Hospice at Home Volunteers proved to be the biggest winner of the day with a fantastic total of approximately £2,000 raised by members. I'd like to offer a huge thank you from Kath, Abi and myself; the generosity of Aylesbury Vale never ceases to amaze me and is part of what makes our Club very special.

With the restrictions starting to end (for now!), it was also great to see the Seniors' Club Championship went ahead (I just wasn't eligible) and was a great success; Keith Loxton had the opportunity to present the winners with their well-earned trophies in person. Well done to Keith on a splendid speech.

A quick note to close. We'll be holding a Men's Presentation similar to Steve Chandler's format last year, to be held on the practice area on 8 August at 3pm, after the monthly Medal. This will provide us with the opportunity for closure on those competitions played last year, and competitions up to the end of July. Everyone is welcome and it shouldn't take too long to complete.

And finally, keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

The month began with the Pairs Club Championship in four different formats over two days to determine the winners. At the end of it Ali Thorne and Ian Lawson were the winners, with Eddie Jordan and Mick Hollins second, ahead of third placed Binzy Bowden and James Adam.

The monthly Medal saw Ben McDonald triumph in Division 1 with a nett 67, a shot clear of Dan Baldock and with Nick Bowden (nett 69) third. In Division 2 it was 'in form' Brian Smith who took the honours with a nett 69, a shot clear of second placed Peter Ward with Kim Wiggins a further shot back in third. Ian Moodley was the winner in Division 3 with a nett 70. Second place went to Scott Caro (nett 71) with Dwayne Cowans third.

Matt Miller was the winner of the Gross title in the Midweek Club Championship, his score of 77 seeing him a shot clear of runners up Shaun Houghton, Darren Horne and Carl Epaminondas. A nett 68 was enough to secure victory in the Nett championship for Brian Smith, with Michael Pearce a shot back in second and Steve Chandler third.

President's Day saw a large turnout of both Men and Ladies and in the Men's event a countback was required to separate the top three. Dean Ridley was the winner from Bob Doherty, with new member Allen Piercy in third place.

The Professional's Cup - which is a par/bogey competition - was keenly contested with eventual winner Nigel Welling finishing five up to the course. Rhys Coker (4 up) was second with Paul Herridge (3 up) in third.

The monthly Midweek Medal saw Jamie Carlin take the honours with a nett 67, a shot clear of Gary Wiltshire. Joe Langan-Hart (nett 70) was third.

The July Midweek Stableford saw an excellent score of 43 points by Ali Thorne, which was enough to take the honours from second placed Roger Parker, with Richard Davies third. *'Who's Roger Parker?'* you may ask, well he's the man who looks after you in the Pro Shop on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Finally a gentle reminder to all male members who play in competitions. If you have to cancel your tee time please notify the Competition Secretary (Dave Lea) of your intentions. Thankyou in advance for your cooperation.

Competitions

Medal 10 July	Div 1 1 st : Ben McDonald nett 76 2 nd : Dan Baldock nett 68 3 rd : Nicky Bowden nett 69	Div 2 1 st : Brian Smith nett 69 2 nd : Peter Ward nett 70 3 rd : Kim Wiggins nett 71	Div 3 1 st : Ian Moodley nett 70 2 nd : Scott Caro nett 71 3 rd : Dwayne Cowans nett 72
Midweek Medal	1 st : Jamie Carlin nett 67 2 nd : Gary Wiltshire nett 68 3 rd : Joe Langan-Hart nett 70		
President's Day 17 July	1 st : Dean Ridley 40 Pts 2 nd : Bob Doherty 40 Pts 3 rd : Allen Piercy 40 Pts		
Professional's Cup 18 July	1 st : Nigel Welling 5 2 nd : Rhys Coker 4 3 rd : Paul Herridge 3		
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Ali Thorne 43 Pts 2 nd : Roger Parker 40 Pts 3 rd : Richard Davies 39 Pts		

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Hi all,

It's hard to believe we are breaking into August and much of the golf season has passed us by. There're still a few highlights to enjoy; I am thinking of the Club Champs at the end of August and of course the Seniors' Captain's Day before that.

More importantly, last week we finally saw some release from the Covid strangeness we have had to manage. We now have bunkers with rakes and those collars off the flagsticks. All credit to the Club in reacting quickly and coming up with a protocol that incorporates the engagement of our new freedoms, respects the Rules of Golf and provides a safe as possible environment for us all to enjoy our golf.

It's probably mentioned elsewhere but a couple of points to reinforce. Bunkers are best to be avoided. If you are in one, you don't get six inches as they are now gone. Play as you lie. Then rake. If you are concerned about touching the rake, either buy your own portable version from the shop or take some sanitiser out with you, again available from the shop. But please don't ruin someone else's round by leaving craters of footprints in the sand. The flag sticks have been changed and, in my mind, improved. The disks at the bottom will be much appreciated by those of us who play golf when it's colder, and wetter, and will now avoid getting our fingers wet. We can also take the flag stick out. If you do, observe the Club's rules and take care when lying the flag stick down, as the base disk could damage the putting surface. If the flag stick is out, either hold it or place it on the fringe so any risk of damage the green is avoided.

On 24 July we finally got our Seniors' Club Championships played. 2020 didn't happen. It was Covid-deferred and then on the rearranged date we got rained out. So it was with some relief we could again get names on the Board. Many congratulations to Tony Messenger winning the Gross with 77 and David Friend winning the Nett with 66. Worthy winners and many congratulations. David also cleaned up the Veterans Trophy, his nett 66 and his advancing years combining to see off any other contenders.

The results of our regular competitions follow this piece but many congratulations to Ian Pullin and Terry Curtis who won the July Medal and Summer Six (4) respectively. I am sure the results table will

also record the winners of the 3-Man Texas Scramble. Congratulations to Larry Goddard and Clive Gear who overcame the millstone of having the Seniors' Captain with them and secured a win.

As to the Seniors' vs Ladies annual match...what a great day. Thank you all for your interest and participation. Everyone expected turned up, on time, and got themselves out on the course and back again. We had a fantastic field of 66 - 30 lovely Ladies and 36 grizzly Seniors. The Ladies vs Seniors Trophy has always been a difficult encounter (well, for the Seniors it has) and our last success was in 2016. So, there is always hope that the tide will turn. This year it was an emphatic win 6½:9½ to the Ladies, and won in delightful spirit.

Other Seniors events. We have our first AwayDay since 2019, playing at Collingtree Park on 5 August. After that it's Seniors' Captain's Day on Monday 9 August. We have an excellent turn out so please remember to pre-order your food if you plan to eat post-round. The list is in the Clubhouse. Winter League is back, and Peter Nightingale has provided details below.

That's enough for now. See you on the course...cheers.

Keith Loxton

Details of all Seniors matters, including competitions, are posted on the Seniors' website: <https://sites.google.com/view/avgcseniors/home>. Casual information and notices can also be found on the FaceBook Group 'AVGC Seniors Info Page'.

Seniors' Winter League by Peter Nightingale

September is fast approaching, with interest increasing in the return of the Winter League after nearly two years. Several meetings with the Clubs involved have taken place, together with discussions with those concerned at AVGC. However, a lot still depends upon Covid restrictions, which could still affect both the Winter League programme and the catering arrangements. At present we cannot pre-empt what will happen and can only plan for the start of the Winter League in September.

There is a keen interest to start playing competitive inter-Club matches, safely, and all things being OK we hope to play our first match at AVGC on Wednesday 15 September. The programme that affects AVGC Seniors for winter 2021/22 is as follows:

Home matches

Wednesday 15 September...Aylesbury Vale vs Oakland Park
Monday 4 October.....Aylesbury Vale vs Little Hay
Monday 18 October.....Aylesbury Vale vs Weston Turville
Wednesday 3 November.....Aylesbury Vale vs Chartridge Park

Away matches

Thursday 28 October.....Weston Turville vs Aylesbury Vale
Wednesday 12 January.....Oakland Park vs Aylesbury Vale
Tuesday 15 February.....Little Hay vs Aylesbury Vale
Monday 28 February.....Chartridge Park vs Aylesbury Vale

The format has changed slightly. Each game will be match play, with six pairs on each side playing '4 ball better ball'. There will be a 90% handicap allowance for each player, taken from the lowest handicapper in the 4-ball after calculating each player's course handicap. The maximum individual handicap index allowed is 30.4 and matches will be played off yellow tees.

All matches at AVGC will follow the following programme:

07.45-08.15.....meet
08.15-09.00.....breakfast

Tee times

09.06.....first group
09.15.....second group
09.24.....third group
09.33.....fourth group
09.42.....fifth group
09.51.....sixth group

(Please note that the difference between tee times, on these occasions only, are nine minutes). Away match times will start slightly later and be notified by the away Club. The programme at AVGC has been arranged to meet other commitments for both Seniors and Ladies.

I will be putting a request for players on the Seniors' notice board during mid- to late-August.

Competitions

Medal (4) 5 July	1 st : Ian Pullin nett 73 2 nd : Mark Newberry nett 73 3 rd : Keith Loxton nett 74
Summer Six (4) 19 July	1 st : Terry Curtis 41 Pts 2 nd : Mike Boden 38 Pts 3 rd : Brian Hogarth 38Pts
Texas Scramble 26 July	1 st : Larry Goddard/Clive Gear/ Keith Loxton nett 58.4 2 nd : Adrian King/Alan Mungovan/ Tony Phillips nett 59.4 3 rd : Bob Doherty/Adrian Redford/ Nigel Handyside nett 60.7
Seniors vs Ladies 28 July	Lost 6½:9½

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Aren't we the lucky ones! We have been able to play golf in the sunshine and socialize outside on the patio and covered area. The course is in great condition thanks to Luke and his team and the flowers on the eighth are a joy!

Now that restrictions have been 'lifted' it's all change. Back to exchanging cards, entering scores on either your phone or on the screen in the Clubhouse before you leave to go home. Raking bunkers!! I'm sure we'll all take it in our stride.

The highlight this month was our President's Day. A great success, 22 ladies played and our winner of the President's Rosebowl was Charlotte Simpson, coming in with a score of 40 points. Runner up was Ann Pullan with 37 points and in third place Natalie Rendle with 37 points.

The Lady Captain's Fun Day was a lot of fun playing a Florida Scramble, even though it was only a nine hole competition due to extreme heat!!!! Our winners were Pat Connolly, Jean Attenborough and Margaret Askew on a nett 25. Runners up were Sheila Perkins, Corriene Thomson and Hilda Jones.

As always the Seniors vs Ladies competition was a great success. We all got a bit wet but enjoyed our annual battle! The matches were very close, but the Ladies won the trophy with 9.5:6.5 for the Seniors. Thank you to all who took part.

Our AGM has been rescheduled for TUESDAY 3 AUGUST at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Please come and share a few nibbles and drinks.

Most of you know that at the end of this month I am moving far away to be with family and sadly leaving the Club. AVGC has been a big part of my life for the last six years and I have spent many hours with the ladies of AVGC playing the good, the bad and the ugly!!! But there are so many good memories to take with me. I will miss AVGC.

Kath Scott

Competitions

3 clubs + putter 5 July	1 st : Mary Marchant 32 Pts 2 nd : Pat Banister 30 Pts 3 rd : Jennie Morton 28 Pts
Seniors' Shield 7 July	1 st : Sue Goodger nett 76 2 nd : Danka Lawson nett 77 3 rd : Mary Marchant nett 79
Medal 11 July	1 st : Julie Lea nett 74 2 nd : Abi Pearce nett 74 3 rd : Natalie Rendle nett 81
Stableford 14 July	Div 1 1 st : Jean Barnett 38 Pts 2 nd : Ghie McGinley 35 Pts 3 rd : Jane Codrai 33 Pts Div 2 1 st : Mary Marchant 36 Pts 2 nd : Jean Hill 34 Pts 3 rd : Jenny Langford 34 Pts
Lady President's Rosebowl 17 July	1 st : Charlotte Simpson 40 Pts 2 nd : Anne Pullan 37 Pts 3 rd : Natalie Rendle 37 Pts
Professional's Cup 18 July	1 st : Jane Barker 39 Pts 2 nd : Ghie McGinley 34 Pts 3 rd : Lesley Wright 33 Pts
Medal 21 July	1 st : Ghie McGinley nett 75 2 nd : Anne Bridges nett 78 3 rd : Pat Connolly nett 78
Ladies vs Seniors 28 July	Won 9½:6½

Juniors

Junior Activities by Russell Phillips

I am very pleased to announce the next graduates of the Junior Challenge Programme. For those that don't know, the challenge programme consists of 10 levels of progressive challenges designed to target and improve all aspects of golf. These four amazing children have completed all levels and will now be progressing into the squad, getting their handicaps and playing competitively. They are one's to watch out for! Congratulations Archie Parker, Eloise Hammond, Isabel Nelson and Xander P.



Archie Parker



Eloise Hammond

(All 4 photos included with the written consent of the parents.)



Isabel Nelson



Xander P

Junior Matches by Kim Burnage

We are really delighted that we have been able to challenge some of our Juniors with some matches. We have played at Cainhoe Wood and John O’Gaunt in the Tavistock trophy. In addition we have played both home and away matches against Chartridge Park. This has been a great learning experience for everyone that has played and a chance for many to play at other courses. Of course as newbies back to the Tavistock, we came third.

The Juniors that have played at various places are: Alex Robins, Charlie Gould, Rufus Barnes, George Swain, Jamie Spivey, Billy Rudge, Ellis Hammond, Joseph Langan Hart, Leah Burgess and Eloise Hammond.

Our final match is on Sunday 1 August at home.

My thanks must go to all the parents for their support and to Chris Wright for letting us have the home matches.

and in Conclusion...

...**the last word is...** Really looking forward to the Club Championships later in the month!

...**and a touch of humour...** I wish I could play my normal game – just once.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

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

Men

Monday 2 to Friday 6 August – Midweek Medal

Sunday 8 August – Medal 0645-1100

Saturday 14 August – Secretary's Cup 0715-1030

Monday 16 to Friday 20 August – Midweek Stableford

Saturday 28 August – Club Championship (1) 0645-1400

Sunday 29 August – Club Championship (2) 0645-1230

Seniors

Monday 2 to Friday 6 August – Midweek Medal

Monday 2 August – Medal (5) + Ed Burns' Putter 0730-1000

Wednesday 4 August – competition 0730-0930

Monday 9 August – Seniors' Captain's Day

Wednesday 11 August – competition 0730-0930

Monday 16 to Friday 20 August – Midweek Stableford

Monday 16 August – Summer Six (5) 0730-1000

Wednesday 18 August – competition 0730-0930

Monday 23 August – 3 clubs+putter 0800-1000

Wednesday 25 August – competition 0730-0930

Saturday 28 August – Club Championship (1) 0645-1400

Sunday 29 August – Club Championship (2) 0645-1230

Ladies

Monday 2 to Friday 6 August – Midweek Medal

Monday 2 August – Harries Shield 1000-1100

Tuesday 3 August – AGM 1830 for 1900

Wednesday 4 August – Medal 1000-1100

Saturday 7 August – Medal 0930-1030

Monday 9 August – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 11 August – Hi-Lo Pairs 1000-1100

Monday 16 to Friday 20 August – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 18 August – Stableford 1000-1100

Saturday 21 August – Barbara Pincherle Cup 0915-1000

Wednesday 25 August – Barbara Pincherle Cup 1000-1100

Saturday 28 August – Club Championship (1) 0645-1400

Sunday 29 August – Club Championship (2) 0645-1230

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

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