



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 82, September 2021

Comment

Many congratulations to our new Club Champions, who clearly merited their success over the two days of competition at the end of August. This month we bring you Section news as always, together with a helpful update on WHS matters and notification of refinements to the running of the Friday Mix-Up.

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...we're very grateful to Andrew Bond for his contribution this month. The Editor can be contacted at:
lancedler@yahoo.co.uk

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

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. Wednesday normally sees the course fit for 18-hole play once again, providing there have been no machinery breakdowns.

Ponds. We will need to dig out our ponds this year to reduce silt build up and assist drainage. This could be done in September or October.

Clubhouse. The lockers are open and available to use once again. However, with regard to the virus, we would ask members not to spend unnecessary time in the changing rooms. The showers will remain closed.

Membership. We now have a waiting list for 7-day members. New members will have to wait on the list until one of our existing 7-day members does not renew. At that point they will effectively re-use that membership number. The waiting list for 5-day members will begin on 30 September on a similar basis.

Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Friday 10 September is Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Participants are encouraged to wear something pink! Dan will be at hand before you tee off to provide tea/coffee and a bacon bap for £4.50. Following the round there will be a choice of two specials. No pre-booking for catering is required.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Ball Falls off Tee Peg. As you take your swing on a tee, a gust of wind blows the ball off the tee peg just before you make contact with it. Does this count as a stroke? The R&A Rules Manager was posed this question and replied:

'Under Rule 6.2b(5), if a tee'd ball falls off or is knocked off the tee by the player before (s)he has made a stroke at it, it may be re-tee'd anywhere in the teeing area without penalty.'

'But if the player makes a stroke at that ball while it is falling or after it has fallen off, there is no penalty but the stroke counts and the ball is in play. If the ball remained in the teeing area after falling, it may be re-tee'd without penalty before playing again.'

Club Championships 2021



Special congratulations to the 2021 Club Champions:

Men's (Gross): Darren Horne
Men's (Nett): Andrew Bond

Ladies' (Gross): Ghie McGinley
Ladies' (Nett): Jane Codrai

Notes From the Handicap Secretary, Alan Connell

This month, the points I wish to cover are:

General Play Cards/Playing for Handicap. Casual rounds should all be submitted by logging in on HDID either at the screen in the bar, or on your phone before starting; then entering your score and submitting it before leaving the course. A number of people have placed cards in the box in the lobby and this is not the correct course of action. If you have problems with logging in to the screen or app, then please complete a card, get it signed and then scan it/photograph it and email it to alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com. Cards dropped in the box will not be dealt with as promptly.

Completing Cards. I have been surprised how many people do not complete cards correctly. When you submit a card (especially a casual card), please make sure it is clear which score is yours and which tees you played off, preferably scoring through the marker's score, and total your scores. It must be signed by both the player and the marker. Sometimes the legibility is not good, and if the card has been soaked on a wet day, please feel free to re-write it once back in the clubhouse, provided the rewritten version is signed properly.

Holiday Scoring. Part of the idea of the WHS is to make handicaps more reflective of people's typical standards of play, and hence the encouragement to submit scores. I don't have any issues with playing practice rounds or friendly rounds with gimmies and pick ups when you are out of the hole, but if you want to submit scores when playing away from the Vale, you need to follow a few guidelines. Firstly, to submit a score, it must be played under strict rules of golf, and:

Away Clubs (England). Submit your score via the My England Golf app as you might at your home Club. This must be attested (verified) by a playing partner with a WHS index who also has the My England Golf app. If you are playing in any other country, including the rest of GB & NI, you may need to do more. Currently, the interoperability between countries is very poor and the situation is summarized as follows:

Away Clubs (Wales/Ireland). Register your intent to submit a score with the Club you are visiting, then provide them with your scorecard (signed by a playing partner with a WHS index) and membership number. Alternatively, take the scorecard back to your home Club for them to input.

Away Clubs (Anywhere Else). Return your scorecard (signed by a playing partner with a WHS index) to your home Club for them to input. We suggest you also ask the Club you played at to countersign the card.

England Golf are working with the R&A and PGA to ensure complete worldwide functionality and data transfer. Currently America, New Zealand, most of Europe, England, Ireland, and Wales are compatible, but not Scotland. Full integration is anticipated within 12-18 months. In the meantime, if golfers submit scores overseas (which currently includes Scotland), they must return these scores to their home Club as soon as possible after their return. If golfers belong to Clubs overseas, they must ensure that both Home and Away Clubs have an up-to-date scoring history.

Many courses worldwide are listed on the My EG WHS Portal, but in some cases we also need you provide the slope rating, course rating and par of the course being played, together with clarity on which tees you play off. Four of our members played seven rounds in Scotland and, of these, only four were listed on the portal.

If you want to enter your scores please follow the above rules, then scan and email the cards to alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com. On the other hand, if you just want a relaxing game of golf on your holidays...enjoy!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

SmartGolfing at Garon Park, Southend...by Andrew Bond

We were desperate for a golfing break, usually visiting marvellous overseas golf resorts but this year didn't really fancy queuing at the airport, isolating here, isolating there, so I thought up a cunning plan. '*Vanessa, we are going on a golfing break.*' '*Oh great, where are we going?*' '*Southend on Sea*' I shouted. Well, the silence was deafening!

Garon Park is on the SmartGolfer network and the marvellous AVGC staff emailed them to book two rounds, no problem at all and ex-Captains Mr Fallon and Mr Doherty accompanied us.

Garon Park has 3×9 holes, South, East and the West. Mr Doherty played very badly and we could have sworn he was on the North course!

All three nines were in very good condition and are well worth the trip. We stayed in a Premier Inn Hotel approx two miles away for the princely sum of £35 per night.

So a very good golf break was had quite cheaply, with no queuing (M25 permitting) and no isolation on returning home (apart from an untanned wife refusing to cook!).

Friday All Members' Mix-Ups - 'Back to Basics by Mike Boden

I have noted recent disquiet over the Friday All Members' Mix-Ups and also consulted AVGC and the 33 members who played in the Mix-Ups during the last five weeks – receiving only positive comments to my proposed changes. Therefore, with immediate effect, here are the basic operational details:

- AVGC's objective is provide the whole membership with an opportunity for social rounds of mixed golf.
- Not the responsibility of any Section.
- Non-Qualifier. Casual rounds may be played concurrently on any day.
- Booked Names against tee times are to be respected – it's not a roll up. There is no requirement to fill gaps.
- Upon arrival, members are to notify their presence to the Pro-Shop, as normal.
- 'No Shows' are to be notified to the Pro-Shop.
- Up to two days before the event, Pro-Shop may change your tee time.

HDID Booking. In the absence of a volunteer, I am happy to continue managing HDID for the Mix-Ups. HDID can still be used for signing-in, score entry and the leaderboard for non-qualifying competitions.

Competitions. If regular players want a competition, it's up to them to make their own competition, either on the day, or by a regular user offering to run a simple form of monthly competition requiring only hour per month 'on duty' – contact me if you are interested (mbodenavgc@gmail.com)

I hope the above clarifies the way forward...Happy Mixing!!

From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi Members,

August is traditionally a low-key month in the world of golf, with many people on holiday, all searching for a little TLC in the sun. Unfortunately for 2021, most of us will be staycationing in the UK and keeping everything crossed for some good weather. On the plus side, the sun might not have been shining very often but the regular rain has contributed to the fantastic condition of the course. Long may this continue (the course, not the rain!).

A line was drawn under my tenure as Captain for competitions played up until the end of July, with the presentations being made in Binzy's shed. True to form, the inclement weather tried but failed to dampen our moods. The winning medals and trophies were awarded to the lucky few; I continued my tradition of not winning anything during my tenure of being Vice, and now Captain of the Club. Fingers crossed I don't make it a treble during my Past Captain's slog!

I'm grateful for all those who stayed to listen to my ramblings, and I'm thankful that Dave Lea prepared the list of winners. Apologies for those who kept their trophy for less than a minute before it being snatched back to be presented to the latest winner. All taken in good spirit! A special mention goes to Nick Bowden and his award for Clubman of the Year. Very well done, Nick, and thank you to all those who have supported me and the charity over the last 18 challenging months.

For those not aware, my time is almost over (thank whoever, I hear you say!!), and I've partly written my set the scene for our new incoming Captain – Neil Meldrum. Hopefully, it won't include too many expletives. I'm grateful for the kind words spoken by Neil when presenting my tankard; I just need to remember where I left it!

A deserved mention goes to Binzy for organising a fantastic weekend for us at Forest Pines. I for one won't be sad to see the back of those trees, you never know what you'll find lurking in the woods – 222 Chandler, that's all I'm saying for now! For those unsure, I'm sure you'll hear many stories over the forthcoming weeks (we didn't have a clue what it was all about when we first heard it at 2am!).

The Club Championships has once again set a record for numbers of members taking part, with the Plate having to be moved to the Monday to accommodate the larger (cut) field on the Sunday and the winners to return during sunlight.

Fingers crossed that the long weekend passes successfully. I'll provide thanks and congratulations in my final newsletter in September.

And finally, keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

The August Medal saw Nick Bowden take the honours in Division 1 with a fine nett 69, a shot clear of second placed Matt Lea. Will Bond took third place with a nett 73. Steve Fox was the winner in Division 2 with a nett 71. Graham Lowe and Andrew Bond took the minor places, both players recording nett 74s. In Division 3 Jamie Carlin was once again in the prize money, winning with a nett 69. New member Andrew Newman took second place with a nett 71, a shot clear of third placed Michael Bowes.

The Secretary's Cup saw some high scoring from a number of pairings, but it was Mark Adams and Andy Penfold who came out on top with 46 points. Countback was needed to determine the minor places, with four teams all recording scores of 45 points. Andre and Daniel Lotter took second place with Graham Lowe and Will Bond in third.

Dave Harrison was the winner of the Midweek Medal with nett 69, a shot clear of Ali Thorne and Jonny Richmond who took the next two places. The Midweek Stableford was won by Steve George with an impressive 42 points; Kevin Taylor (41 points) was second with Martyn Gates (38 points) third.

Competitions

Medal 8 August	Div 1 1 st : Nick Bowden nett 69 2 nd : Matthew Lea nett 70 3 rd : Will Bond nett 73
	Div 2 1 st : Steven Fox nett 71 2 nd : Graham Lowe nett 74 3 rd : Andrew Bond nett 74
	Div 3 1 st : Jamie Carlin nett 69 2 nd : Andrew Newman nett 71 3 rd : Mike Bowes nett 72
Midweek Medal	1 st : David Harrison nett 69 2 nd : Alister Thorne nett 70 3 rd : Jonny Richmond nett 70
Secretary's Cup 14 August	1 st : Andy Penfold/Mark Adams 46 Pts 2 nd : Andre Lotter/Daniel Lotter 45 Pts 3 rd : Graham Lowe/Will Bond 45 Pts
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Steve George 42 Pts 2 nd : Kevin Taylor 41 Pts 3 rd : Martyn Gates 38 Pts
FTQ Plate 30 Aug	1 st : Dan Baldock nett 73 2 nd : Steve Trace nett 76 3 rd : Andrew Pearce nett 78

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

As yet another month draws to a close, it's time for me to reflect on what has happened and what is to come. Alas, the greater part of the summer is now behind us and with the Club Championships having been played (congratulations to the worthy winners!), autumn beckons.

I think the first thing I would like to reflect on was the Seniors' Captain's Day. It proved to be quite a long but very enjoyable day. It didn't rain, it was a strong field and we could present prizes at the end. There were even some of the winners still there at the end. It almost felt like a day before Covid!

Thanks as always to Peter Codrai and Dave Lea for making sure the day ran as it should, and to Mrs Goddard (Patty) and Mrs Loxton (Maz) for organising the Half Way House. It was also a delight to have Marion Gogan present to award the inaugural Bernie Gogan Trophy to the best scoring 'over 75' (Peter Nightingale, pictured). All the results are on the Seniors' Website. Whilst not a charity event, participants had the opportunity to donate to the Joint Captains' Charity (JCC) for 2021. Barry Quantrill sold garden 'furniture' in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice and raised £100. He also ran his putting competition, raising a further £85 for the JCC. Meanwhile, Sheila



Perkins sold recycled golf balls and raised £68 for the JCC. Finally, the AVGC members showed their usual generosity and dropped £460 into the JCC collection buckets. What a great day.

We had three competitions in the month too. Congratulations go to Adrian Wood, 70 nett (Medal 5); Robert Proudfoot, 38 points (Summer Six 5); and Nigel Handyside, 41 points (3 Clubs & Putter). Results follow below.

The Seniors successfully negotiated their first AwayDay in a long time, at Collingtree, and look forward to their next outing at Bicester. We also have our Memorial Day on 13 September after which will be the presentation of the AwayDay prizes.

As singles competitions come to an end, the Seniors will be running team games. A series of tests using the PSI screen have proved successful and so we will be able to run a variety of 3-ball team competitions through the autumn and winter. You only need to sign up on the usual HDiD Stableford to get a spot; teams will be drawn.

Just a reminder - other than the AwayDay at Bicester, there are no Seniors events at AVGC in the week commencing 6 September due to the programmed course maintenance.

Enjoy what is left of the summer, as the next edition of The Vale will be in the autumn and the return of preferred lies.

Keith Loxton

Winter League by Peter Nightingale

Our opening match for the new season Winter League is due to take place on Wednesday 15 September. A request for players is now up on the Seniors' notice board so, if you are interested in playing, please place your name on the list.

These are pairs matches, with six pairs from each Club taking part in each, hence I require a minimum of 12 players, plus a couple of reserves. Full details are on the Seniors' board. Sheets for the three matches in October will be displayed during September. One further match is scheduled for early November and then there is a break until January.

Competitions

Medal (5) & Ed Burns Putter 2 August	1 st : Adrian Wood nett 70 2 nd : Nigel Welling nett 71 3 rd : Adrian King nett 72 Ed Burns Putter: Nigel Welling 26
Captain's Day 9 August	Best Team: John Harris/Jim Connor/Paul Morgan/Ian Hawley Best Individual: Dave Friend Best Veteran Senior: John Harris Best Veteran Lady: Danka Lawson Best Senior: Mike Standy Best Lady: Jane Roche Past Seniors' Captain Trophy: Peter Nightingale Bernie Gogan Trophy: Peter Nightingale
Summer Six (5) 16 August	1 st : Rob Proudfoot 38 Pts 2 nd : Peter Holland 38 Pts 3 rd : Andrew Bond 37 Pts
3 clubs + putter 23 August	1 st : Nigel Handyside 41 Pts 2 nd : Jim Gales 40 Pts 3 rd : Ian Pullin 38 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Ladies' Section...

At our AGM in early August, we said a fond farewell to our Captain Kath Scott and wished her well as she embarks on her latest adventure in Zambia!

The section will run with largely the same committee and without a Captain for the rest of this period. The Vice-Captain position was vacant throughout Kath's tenure, but Charlotte Simpson has stepped into that role with a view to taking the vacant Captain's position next March. We still seek volunteers to help with competition closure, Handicap Secretary assistance, so please speak to a committee member if you're willing to help.

Ladies' competitions will continue to be run as they have throughout this year with one exception - once competition tee times have been entered on BRS, ladies should no longer contact the Competition Secretary if they need to drop out. They should instead, remove their name from BRS immediately and if they are able, let their playing partners know. The Pro shop staff will re-order the BRS tee sheet prior to the competition so please check BRS regularly to see your finalised tee time. It's also sensible to arrive a little earlier in case late changes have necessitated a further update.

Lesley Wright

Ladies' Section Committee

Resulting from the recent AGM, the Committee effective from 1 August is:

Captain: post vacant
Vice-Captain: Charlotte Simpson
Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett
Treasurer: Charlotte Simpson
Midweek Comp Secretary: Jackie Boden
Weekend Comp Secretary: Sheila Perkins
Past Captain/County Rep: Kim Burnage
Admin Secretary: Lesley Wright
Members: Jean Hill, Lorraine Fox

Competitions

Harries Shield	1 st : Mary Marchant nett 78 2 nd : Pat Connolly nett 78 3 rd : Jane Codrai nett 78
Medal 4 August	Div 1 1 st : Ghie McGinley nett 70 2 nd : Jan Chambers nett 75 3 rd : Sheila Perkins nett 76
	Div 2 1 st : Sue Goodger nett 74 2 nd : Pat Banister nett 82 3 rd : Christine French nett 84
Medal 7 August	1 st : Natalie Rendle nett 71 2 nd : Jean Barnett nett 72 3 rd : Sheila Perkins nett 75
Hi-Lo Pairs 11 August	1 st : Sheila Perkins/Janet Ewart 41 Pts 2 nd : Jean Hill/Pat Banister 40 Pts
Seniors' Cup 15 August	1 st : Anne Bridges nett 74 2 nd : Jean Barnett nett 77 3 rd : Danka Lawson nett 77

Stableford 18 August	Div 1 1 st : Jean Barnett 37 Pts 2 nd : Jan Chambers 32 Pts 3 rd : Ann Pullan 32 Pts Div 2 1 st : Mary Williamson 34 Pts 2 nd : Jane Whigham 32 Pts 3 rd : Jean Hill 30 Pts
Barbara Pincherle Cup	1 st : Jane Roche 37 Pts

Juniors

We will be holding Junior Club Championship the weekend after the Club Championship. It's great to see we will have 13 players, all with handicaps, participating and we also have another two who will be doing more cards for their handicap. The results will appear next month. Let's hope they all have an enjoyable experience.

Kim Burnage

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... as cool summers go, this one finished a winner!

...and a touch of humour... If you're afraid that a full shot might reach the green while the foursome ahead of you is still putting out, you have two options: you can immediately shank a lay-up or you can wait until the green is clear and top a ball halfway there.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?
 (All-Section and Club events are in **bold**)

Men

- Saturday 4 September – Medal 0645-1100
- Friday 10 September – Breast Cancer Awareness 0600-1300**
- Sunday 12 September – Moorlands Cup 0700-1030
- Monday 13 to Friday 17 September – midweek Medal**
- Saturday 18 September – Medal of Medals 0745-0900
- Monday 20 to Friday 24 September – midweek Stableford**
- Saturday 25 September – Four Nations Trophy 0845-1100
- Sunday 26 September – Burcott Trophy 0715-1030

Seniors

- Wednesday 1 September – Par/Bogey competition 0800-1000
- Friday 10 September – Breast Cancer Awareness 0600-1300**
- Monday 13 to Friday 17 September – midweek Medal**
- Monday 13 September – Memorial Day 0800-1000
- Wednesday 15 September – competition 0730-0930
- Monday 20 to Friday 24 September – midweek Stableford**
- Monday 20 September – Medal (6) 0730-1000
- Wednesday 22 September – Four Nations Trophy 0730-0930
- Monday 27 September = Summer Six (6) 0730-1000
- Wednesday 29 September – competition 0730-0930

Ladies

- Wednesday 1 July – Medal 1000-1100
- Friday 10 September – Breast Cancer Awareness 0600-1300**
- Saturday 11 September – Medal 0915-0945
- Monday 13 to Friday 17 September – midweek Medal**
- Monday 13 September – competition 1000-1100
- Wednesday 15 September – Stableford 1000-1100
- Sunday 19 September – Matrimonial Greensomes 0915-1015
- Monday 20 to Friday 24 September – midweek Stableford**
- Monday 20 September – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100
- Wednesday 22 September – Midweek Championship 1000-1100
- Sunday 26 September – Stableford 1030-1100
- Monday 27 September – competition 1000-1100
- Wednesday 29 September – Autumn Cup ‘Iron Lady’ 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: post vacant

Vice-Captain: Charlotte Simpson

Admin Secretary: Lesley Wright

Treasurer: Charlotte Simpson

Weekend Comp Secretary: Sheila Perkins

Midweek Comp Secretary: Jackie Boden

Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett

Juniors

Captain: Abi Pearce

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