



The Vale

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

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Edition 84, November 2021

Comment

As you will read in this issue of *The Vale*, work to improve our course never stops. As ever we are grateful to Luke and his team for their expertise and enthusiasm in undertaking these tasks, and to the management for approving and funding the changes.

This is *your* newsletter! All feedback, comments, letters and suggestions - and especially articles - will be more than welcomed by the Editor for we do wish it to be interesting, informative and helpful. Articles for possible publication can be handwritten, typed or sent by email. Please don't worry about spelling, layout, use of English etc, for the Editor will sort that out.

The Editor can be contacted at: lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

As ever, we have a long list of winter projects. We are making improvements to the outlook of the course from the Clubhouse. As such we have added flower boxes around the lean-to, we will plant climbers up the buggy park walls and we will plant more laurel hedging towards the 1st tee. After that we will plant small clusters of bluebells alongside the path in the 1st-2nd wood.

This year has seen very strong grass growth which has delayed our project work. However, now that the rate of growth is slowing you will see the re-cycling bins, benches and ball washers all making a re-appearance. There are two bins per unit, one side is 'Recycling' for plastics, cardboard, paper and tin cans and one side 'General Waste' for all other waste. The tees and fairways will continue to be slit for aeration whilst weather conditions allow. Renovation work will take place on tee steps and Luke will build two new bridges on the 17th hole. Finally, any pot-holes in the car park will be filled.

The out-of-bounds has been extended on the 18th to remove the possibility of a big hitter deliberately trying to play via the 10th fairway. These white stakes only denote OOB when playing the 18th hole – it is not OOB if you cross these stakes when playing the 10th hole.

Have a think about using a yellow ball for the next month. The small white leaves make it really difficult to see white balls currently, but the yellow balls stand out more.

Finally, a word on greenkeeper safety. Your ball is a dense, high velocity missile. If a greenkeeper is working, for example, on the green then *'Whoops, I didn't think I could hit it that far!'* is a waste of

breath. The correct thought process before playing should be ‘*How far could I hit this if I hit my best ever shot with this club?*’ - and then add a 30 yard buffer zone.

Date Change

Please note that the Mens’ Turkey Trot has been brought forward from Saturday 4 December to Saturday 27 November. This is part of an ongoing effort with our Captain, Neil, to re-schedule next year’s fixture list so that each weekend has just one day of Mens’ competition and one day left clear for social golf. Further, the Club will no longer be taking new society bookings at weekends between November and February inclusive (there is just one long-standing booking on 19 February 22 to honour). We will also refuse society bookings during the week 27 December - 3 January, when many members will have the week off work.

Heaters

Many thanks to Brendan Langan, once again, for wiring up heaters in the lean-to.

Coronavirus

We do have stock of the standard blue mask, if required, in the shop (foc). We are also selling the 5-ply FFP3 mask in the shop for the trade price of £1.40 – this is the mask that is meant to protect the wearer in addition to the person opposite.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Local and Winter Rules

Do you know where to look for the Club’s Local Rules? They are issued by the management and are always published on the noticeboard in the lobby, adjacent to notices from the Men’s Section.

Winter and other Local Rules may be modified temporarily at times, according to course conditions; in such cases the change is written on the chalkboard that faces you, on the Clubhouse wall, when using the footpath from the car park.

This season’s first Winter Rule was introduced at AVGC on 3 October. However, the more perceptive Club members will have noticed that this Rule was changed on 27 October and remains operative until 31 March.

This winter’s changed Local Rule says:

‘Winter Rules (Preferred Lies). If a ball is lying in a part of the General Area cut to fairway height or less, the player may take relief once by placing the original ball or a substituted ball in the Relief Area and playing it from there.

Key Points to Preferred Lies:

Before lifting the ball, the player **MUST** mark the spot of the original ball (i.e. the Reference Point).

Relief Area is six inches from the Reference Point, but no nearer the hole than where it originally lay.

The ball may be cleaned and replaced (under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e).

The ball is in play when placed and cannot be lifted again.

If a player **fails to mark** the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with the club, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball is not played within the Relief Area, the player incurs a General Penalty i.e. two strokes for playing from the wrong place.

PLEASE NOTE: new Rule 16.3 Embedded Ball – when a ball is embedded in the General Area (i.e. fairway or rough), you may take relief by dropping within one club-length behind the Reference Point, no nearer the hole – see p101 of the new rule book. Rule 16.3 applies all year.’



From 'Crazy World of Golf' Helen Exley ©



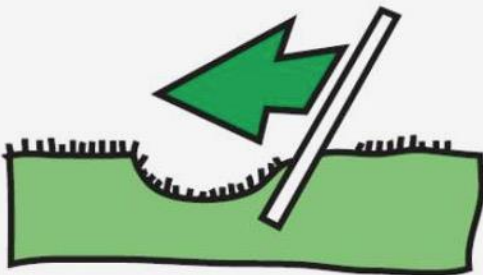
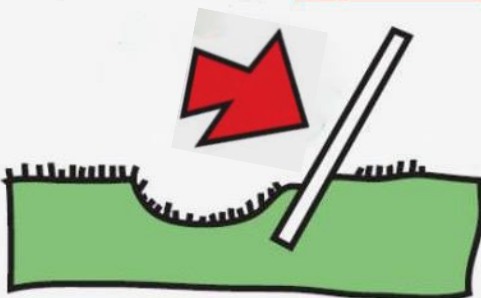
Club Championships

The last of the various 2021 Club Championship competitions has now been completed. Congratulations to:

Mixed Pairs Club Champions: Debbie and Geoff Wiseman

Don't be a Lifter! Repairing Pitchmarks

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

Right: Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre		Wrong: Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression	
			

Handicap Secretary's Report by Alan Connell

You may have noticed that HowDidiDo now refers to 'General Play' rounds, where it used to say 'Casual Rounds', to align with the more traditional golfing language. For General Play rounds to count as a qualifying round for handicap over the winter, a few simple rules need to be applied:

- Preferred lies are permissible, but only on the fairways.
- If any winter or temporary tees are in use, the total course length must not be reduced by more than 100 yards from the recognised markers (at AVGC this should not generally be relevant).
- It is permissible for all bunkers to be declared GUR, but it has to be announced as a local rule by the Club Management in advance. It is also permissible to declare a set number of bunkers as GUR, but they must be specified in advance.

You should consider carefully whether you intend to complete a round - and only sign in to submit a General Play score - if you are confident that you will indeed complete your round and submit. Any unsubmitted scores after signing in are likely to lead to penalties being imposed. It must be more likely that bad weather will set in over the winter months, so please consider this in advance. There should be no need to sign in before leaving your house as the PSI screen in the Clubhouse is operational. I realise that not all members have signals on their mobile phones whilst at the Club, but they can enter their scores on the PSI screen, so there should be no reason for scores not to be submitted. Remember that for an 18-hole round to be classed as a qualifying score, you only need to enter scores for 10 holes. This means that up to eight holes can be entered as 'no scores'. If you enter 'no scores', it is automatically classed as a nett double bogey.

As always, if there are genuine reasons why you were unable to submit your score, please send me an email and I will endeavour to manually intervene.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com)

Holes-in-One

Congratulations this month go to Keith McGoverne, for achieving his hole-in-one on the 8th hole on 16 October, and to Kris Manley for his at the 17th on 30 October.

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi all,

For those of you that don't know, Dave Lea has been unwell for the last few weeks and was admitted into hospital on 19 October for observation. I, the Committee and I'm sure all members wish him a speedy recovery.

In consultation with his son (Shane) it has been agreed that Dave will step back from organising and running competitions until the New Year. Please ensure that all competition enquiries (late additions, reserve lists, cancellations etc) are sent to Mark Mansfield (millwallmansfield@gmail.com or 07873 916621) or me (meldrumnelly@aol.com or 07946 028417) in the short term. Please do not contact Dave, or ask the shop to do these things, as they should refer you to us anyway.

So what can you do to help? Please ensure you arrive in plenty of time for your tee time, register with the competition official of the day, make sure you are aware of the rules of the day, take responsibility to ensure you are ready for your tee time, feel free to chivvy the group in front of you to be at the tee on time, enter/submit your score straight after finishing your round. If you need to pull out of a competition please let us know as soon as possible.

Is there anything else you can do? Absolutely. We need volunteers to help ensure the smooth running of competitions both now and in the future. If you wish to help out by ushering people to the tee, ensuring that they know the rules of the day etc, then please let a member of the Committee know and we will add you to a rota. What you get out of it is a guaranteed place in the competition (albeit a later tee time) and your entry fee will be waived and of course having the satisfaction of knowing you have helped us keep competitions going at this Club.

Pace of play is always a subject of concern, particularly with the course so full. Autumn is definitely here and winter is fast approaching. I'm sure I don't need to tell you (but I will anyway) that the number of leaves on the course means it is easy to lose a ball that you have assumed is in no trouble. If you intend to use the allocated three minutes to find your ball, please call the group behind through and please consider playing with a high visibility ball at this time of year.

By the time this is published Brian Smith, Matt Green, Heinz Simon and Dan Lazar will probably already have their hands and lips around the alcoholic beverage of their choice after doing 'Dry October'. I'm not sure that they look any better for their month-long abstinence, but the charity pot will be, and for this I thank them for their efforts and your kind donations. A quick thanks to Nick Bowden who is running a 'Last Man Standing' competition and has given £150 to the charity account from the funds raised. I will let everyone know the grand total as soon as we have it.

The Waddington Shield (3-man Texas Scramble) was held on 24 October. It was a well-supported event which everyone seemed to enjoy. The standard of golf on the day was amazing with all teams registering a score under par. The winners were Tom Williams, Steve Bowdery and Steve Blood with an outstanding 57.4, which was met with the usual call of "Well played chaps" or more accurately "Your horse needs feeding" and "That sombrero really suits you". We also played the Neil Thornalley Trophy, which this year was a pairs competition won by Andre Lotter and Mark Westbrook with a creditable 65.2.

Finally, remember that golf is supposed to be fun, we should all have more important things in our lives than whether we play well (don't tell my wife I said that).

Neil Meldrum

Competitions

Medal 3 October	Div 1 1 st : Kyle Wilks nett 67 2 nd : Nigel Welling nett 69 3 rd : Brett Robinson nett 70 Div 2 1 st : Greg Young nett 69 2 nd : Rob Munday nett 71 3 rd : Darren Coleman nett 72 Div 3 1 st : Bob Parish nett 70 2 nd : Martin Hollands nett 72 3 rd : Gavin Procter nett 73
Midweek Medal	1 st : Jamie Carlin nett 67 2 nd : Mike Joy nett 69 3 rd : Simon Morgan nett 69
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Justin Biggs 39 Pts 2 nd : Gary Clark 38 Pts 3 rd : Nicholas Brewer 37 Pts
Waddington Shield Texas Scramble 24 October	1 st : Tom Williams, Steve Bowdery, Steve Blood nett 57.4 2 nd : Ali Thorne, Ian Lawson, Matthew Taylor nett 60.2 3 rd : Will Platten, Darren Horne, Charlie Coleman nett 60.4

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

October proved to be another busy month with a 'formal' competition held each week and two Winter League Club matches.

Congratulations first, though, to Mike Boden, the 2021 winner of the Summer Six series and the esteemed Order of Merit. These both concluded in September. To win both in the same year is a rare event and a demonstration of considerable consistency across Stableford and Medal formats.

Our first competition of the month was a drawn pairs better ball, the Lawson Shield. The winning pair was Larry Goddard and Clive Gear with 44 points. This was followed by the opening round of the Winter 8 Stableford series. The winner of this was Allan Rushton with an excellent 42 points. Our third competition of the month, the Trafalgar Salver, had to be abandoned due to heavy rain overnight and then a top up downpour just after we started. Our last competition of the month was the Winter 8(2) Stableford. Graham Hale emerged the winner on 40 points. Well done all.

We have a full programme of golf to take us through to the start of the warmer weather. To supplement the Winter 8 we are introducing the 'Casual League'. It will be run in two series of five Stablefords. Although free to enter, they will have a small prize for the winner of each round and the top three places of each series. The cumulative scoring will be different to the Winter 8, so hopefully we will have some different winners. Full details are on the Seniors' web page/FaceBook/notice board.

With Dave Lea out of circulation (but thankfully making progress), Terry Neve has been looking out for volunteers to join a rota of starters to ensure that we get everyone out in good time and configured in the correct size groupings. He is making good progress and I thank those who have already put their name forward. The more that help, the easier it is, so please consider offering your assistance and time. In the end, it's to help you get the best out of your golf, so don't leave it to someone else to carry your share.

See you at the Vale.

Keith Loxton

Winter League by Peter Nightingale

We had two more games in the Winter League during the early part of October. Our first match was at home against Little Hay, where we suffered again with the number of shots we had to give. Our team of six pairs received 48 shots against the 108 shots we gave to Little Hay. In five of the six games one member of their team had 14 or more shots from our lower handicapper - a lot to deal with. We ended up losing 2-4

Our second match was again at home against Weston Turville, where handicaps were much fairer and each game could have gone each way. We ended up with a 3-3 draw in what was a great performance by each team, with three of the six matches being finished on the 18th.

Our final match in October was at Weston Turville on Thursday 28 October. It turned out to be yet another tight match, following the earlier draw at Aylesbury Vale. The first match with Peter Nightingale and Mike Samuel ended in a draw, and the next two matches ended in a 2-1 loss, although one of our players, Richard Braithwaite, was giving 18 shots to one of his opponents. Matches four and five ended in wins for us - Adrian Redford/Steve Foster, and Mike Standy/Tom Hobbs. We awaited the result of the last match, hoping for at least a draw but we ended up losing the final one...resulting in a 3½:2½ loss.

Our final match for 2021 is against Chartridge Park, at Aylesbury Vale, on Wednesday 3 November. Then we have three away matches at Oakland Park in January, Little Hay in February and finally Chartridge Park in March.

Competitions

WL home match vs Little Hay 4 October	Lost 2:4
Lawson Shield 6 October	1 st : Clive Gear/Larry Goddard 44 Pts 2 nd : Neill Brinklow/Keith Wallace 40 Pts 3 rd : John Draper/Simon Merritt 40 Pts
Winter Eight (1) 11 October	1 st : Allan Rushton 42 Pts 2 nd : Nigel Welling 41 Pts 3 rd : Adrian Wood 41 Pts
WL home match vs Weston Turville 18 October	Halved
Trafalgar Salver 20 October	Cancelled
Winter Eight (2) 25 October	1 st : Graham Hale 40 Pts 2 nd : Larry Goddard 36 Pts 3 rd : Hugh Frood 36 Pts
WL away match vs Weston Turville 28 October	Lost 2½:3½

Ladies

A Word from the Ladies' Section...

2021 - Lady Captain Kath Scott's Trophy

As most of you know, Kath left the Club early in August to go to live in Zambia with her son, his wife and her three grandchildren. Before she left she donated a new trophy to the Ladies' Section, with the format of the game being a Florida Scramble.

The results of the competition, which was played on 8 October, were

- 1st: Janet Ewart, Sheila Perkins, Hilda Jones
- 2nd: Mary Marchant, Mary Williamson, Jane Codrai

The competition was enjoyed by everyone and we look forward to the next fun scramble.

Mixed Pairs Club Championship

The Mixed Pairs Club Championship was played on Sunday 17 October, when 18 teams competed on a surprisingly pleasant day. Garry Hutchinson kindly created the cards for all competitors, who played six holes of foursomes, six holes of greensomes and six holes of aggregate Stableford. Afterwards, most sat down and enjoyed a delicious two course meal prepared by Heinz, declaring the competition and social gathering a great success.

Four pairs had 49 points, but the winners pipped the group by one point, with a winning score of 50 points:

- 1st - Debbie and Geoff Wiseman - 50 points
- 2nd - Jan Chambers and Andrew Pearce - 49 points
- 3rd - Lesley Wright and Nick Bowden - 49 points
- 4th - Jean Barnett and Adrian Fallon - 49 points
- 5th - Jane Codrai and Mark Newberry - 49 points

Lesley Wright

Competitions

Stableford 6 October	Div 1 1 st : Anne Bridges 30 Pts 2 nd : Sheila Perkins 28 Pts 3 rd : Jane Roche 27 Pts Div 2 1 st : Danka Lawson 33 Pts 2 nd : Jackie Boden 31 Pts 3 rd : Sue Goodger 27 Pts
Medal 16 October	1 st : Sheila Perkins nett 72 2 nd : Lesley Wright nett 79 3 rd : Lorraine Fox nett 84
Barbara Carr Plate 23 October	1 st : Sheila Perkins 38 Pts 2 nd : Carol Carlin 28 Pts 3 rd : Lorraine Fox 24 Pts
Barbara Carr Plate 25 October	1 st : Vanessa Bond 29 Pts 2 nd : Jane Codrai 28 Pts 3 rd : Mary Marchant 27 Pts

Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... stay healthy and happy!

...and a touch of humour... you're never too old to learn something stupid.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's On This Month?

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

Men

Saturday 6 November – Mixed Medal 0715-1100

Monday 8 to Friday 12 November – midweek Medal

Saturday 13 November – Quota Stableford 0700-1030

Monday 22 to Friday 26 November – midweek Stableford

Saturday 27 November – Turkey Trot 0800-0920

Seniors

Monday 1 November – Par/Bogie Singles 0800-1000

Wednesday 3 November – competition 0730-0850

Wednesday 3 November – Winter League home match
vs Chartridge Park 0900-1000

Monday 8 November – Winter 8 (3) 0800-1000

Monday 8 to Friday 12 November – midweek Medal

Wednesday 10 November – competition 0730-1000

Monday 15 November – Casual League (1) 0800-1000

Wednesday 17 November – competition 0730-1000

Monday 22 to Friday 26 November – midweek Stableford

Monday 22 November – Casual League (2) 0800-1000

Wednesday 24 November – competition 0730-1000

Monday 29 November – Winter 8 (4) 0800-1000

Ladies

Monday 1 November – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 3 November – Stableford 1000-1100

Saturday 6 November – Mixed Medal 0715-1100

Monday 8 November – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 10 November – Stableford 1000-1030

Sunday 14 November – Winter League 1000-1030

Monday 15 November – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 17 November – Medal 1000-1030

Monday 22 November – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1100

Wednesday 24 November – Stableford 1000-1030

Saturday 27 November – Stableford 0930-1000

Monday 29 November – 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: Neil Meldrum

Vice-Captain: Howard Matthews

Treasurer: Keith Loxton

Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Admin Secretary: John Barker

Handicap Secretary: Alan Connell

5-Day Representative: Peter Codrai

Members' Reps: Darren Horne, Brian Smith

Seniors

Captain: Keith Loxton

Vice-Captain: post vacant

Treasurer: Mike Boden

Competition Secretary: Dave Lea

Admin Secretary: Mike Pelizzoni

Social Secretary: Peter Codrai

Members' Reps: Jim Gales, Terry Neve

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

Members' Reps: Lorraine Fox, Jean Hill, Jane Roche

Juniors

Captain: Charlie Gould

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

lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk