



The Vale

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

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Edition 85, December 2021

Comment

As has been the case for a number of years, The Vale will not be published in January as there will be so little for anyone to report.

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

Coronavirus

Masks are now mandatory in shops, which means that we have to ask all members to put a mask in their golf bags once again, so that you have it to hand when registering for your tee time in the Pro Shop.

Hospitality-wise there have been no changes to the law, so there is no legal requirement to wear one, but obviously members remain at liberty to wear a mask if they so wish.

The Course

The weather has been favourable this autumn, and the greenkeepers have made good progress with the planting of climbers around the buggy park and new laurel hedging around the Pro Shop, down towards the 1st tee and alongside the walkway going towards the 2nd tee. The next issue of The Vale after this will be 1 February, so the remaining winter tasks are renovation of tee steps, more slitting of tees, new recycling bins placed around course, new bridge on the 17th, filling of holes in car park, benches and ball washers.

Winter Tee Bookings

The shortest day of the year is 21 December, so we look forward to lengthening days by the time The Vale is next published. Meanwhile we are getting some last minute cancellations from members who consider that the weather is too poor for golf on a given day. We would urge all members to keep their

eye on the weather forecasts – when members cancel with at least 24 hours’ notice it does give others a chance to re-book those tee slots.

In order to maximise the number of tee slots available in winter, we will not be accepting any society bookings at weekends until March. We will also not be able to accept any society bookings between 24 December and 4 January (that period of time where many members have time off work midweek).

Boxing Day

This year we will open the course on Boxing Day from first light (8:00am) through to dusk. Staff will be given the day off so there will be no catering on this day, but a combination of Chris/Leo will serve at the bar.

Golf Spikes

On the frosty days soft spikes tend to gather crushed ice and the result can be that a green that looks as if someone in football or rugby boots has just walked across it. One remedy is to bang the sole of your shoe with your club before walking on the green. Better still, replace your soft summer spikes with the single winter metal spike that does not build up with crushed ice. We have reduced the price of winter spikes in the shop to assist and you can still pay on your white card.

Pitchmarks

You might not be able to repair pitch marks on semi-frozen or frozen ground as the grass roots may break. However, when the ground is soft and thawed, please assist by repairing a few pitch marks so that the greens run true once again.

Pro Shop

Our ‘winter’ items now include various bobble hats, snoods, padded gilets, club sweaters, long sleeved top layers, waterproofs, winter mitts, handwarmers, carry bags, pencil bags, trolley bags, coloured golf balls and winter spikes.

Staff

We offer our best wishes to Will (green keeper) and Fai (Pro Shop) as they move on to pastures new and thank them for all their efforts during this particularly tricky year.

Lance Redler

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lance for all his efforts in putting The Vale together throughout the year and keeping everyone informed regarding Club matters.

And Finally...

We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas, with plenty of birdies in the New Year!

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

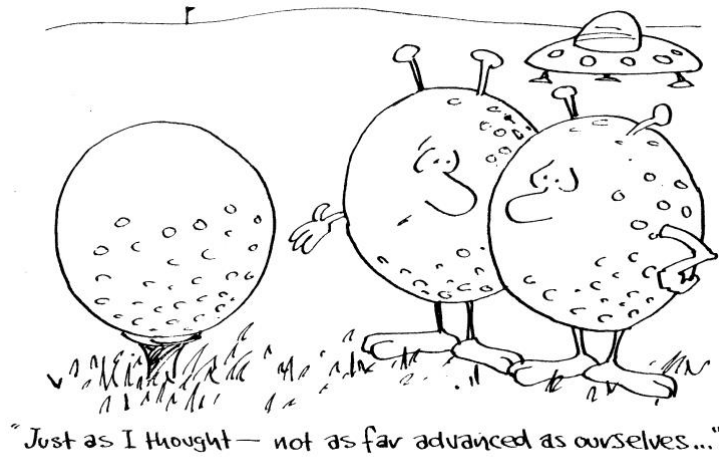
Ball on Putting Green Helping Play (Rule 15.3a). (This Rule only applies to a ball on the putting green)

If you reasonably believe that a ball on the putting green might help someone’s play, such as by serving as a possible backstop near the hole, you may mark and lift the ball if it is your own, or if the ball belongs to another player, require that player to mark and lift the ball.

In stroke play only:

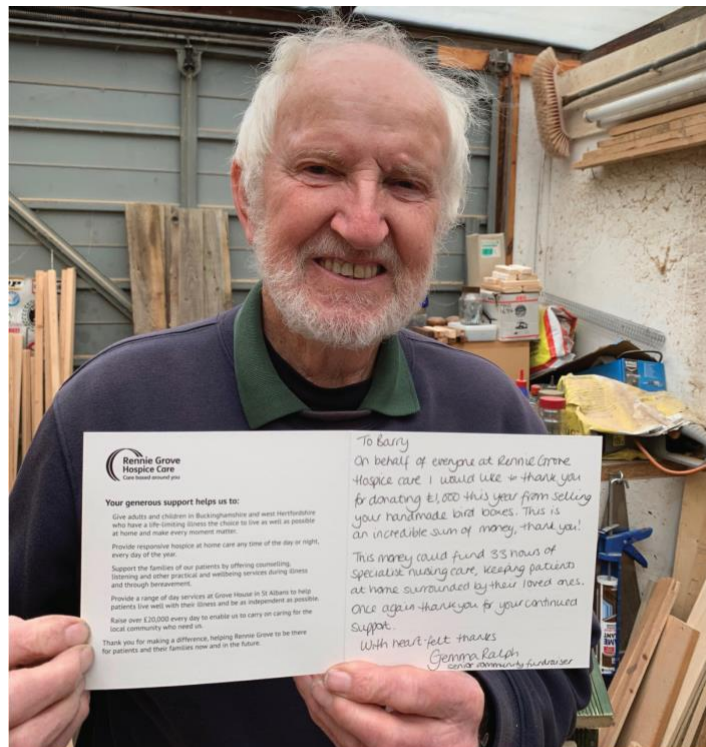
– a player who is required to mark and lift a ball may play first, instead.

- If you and another player agree to leave a ball in place to help one of you, and that player then makes a stroke with the helping ball left in place, each player who made the agreement gets the **general penalty of two strokes.**



From 'Crazy World of Golf' Helen Exley ©

Barry Quantrill's Bird Boxes, Bug Hotels etc



Thank you !!

I have received a handwritten card from Rennie Hospice Charity thanking me for my donations totalling £1000 this year.

I would like to thank the members of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club for their very generous support and also Chris Wright who has allowed me to advertise at the club and bought various items for the club.

I would also like to thank Bob Bacon and John Parmenter and Mike Samuel for their help

I have some stock if any boxes are required as last minute gifts??

Barry Quantrill 01525 374257

Handicap Secretary Report by Alan Connell

You have probably thought I was just moaning about ‘Unsatisfied Score Intents’ (USI) all year, but England Golf have now announced the following alteration to how penalties will be applied, so please pay close attention or you will be suffering as the default position.

‘General Play Scores & WHS

We are making a change to the way general play scores are administered, and we need to make you aware of this change.

From 29 November, any general play scores that are pre-registered by the MyEG app or by HowDidiDo that are not returned within an acceptable period will be designated as a penalty score within your handicap record.

It is your responsibility to ensure any scores that are pre-registered are returned as soon as possible to avoid being designated as a penalty score. Should you have any issues submitting your score or have a reason why the score cannot be submitted, you should contact the Handicap Secretary immediately.

As part of this new process, should your score not be submitted you will receive a reminder email (service email) asking you to complete the process.

If you do not act, an automated penalty score will be applied to your handicap record, which could adjust your handicap index upwards or downwards. The application of automatically applied penalty scores can be reviewed by your club, however changes will only be made at the discretion of the handicap committee.

As well as following the Rules of Golf, as a player you are expected to act with integrity by following the Rules of Handicapping and to refrain from using or circumventing the Rules of Handicapping for the purposes of gaining an unfair advantage.

You are expected, when returning a score for handicap purposes, to have pre-registered that score intent as a general play score prior to play or ensured that you have entered any competition in the required manner.

- 1. When returning a score, you are expected to complete the round and attempt to make the best score possible at each hole.*
- 2. You should submit any pre-registered rounds or competition scores as soon as possible after the completion of play.*
- 3. You should ensure that all rounds for handicap purposes follow the Rules of Golf and are played from a measured course.*
- 4. You should ensure that you certify any scores submission you have witnessed as soon as possible.*

Please note, the My EG app can only be used for submission of general play scores.’

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

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

We are certainly starting to feel the bite of winter, not only in terms of the weather but also in the reduction of daylight hours which automatically puts pressure on the availability of tee times. Whilst I understand the desire to reserve tee slots for friends in case they want to play, I would ask that you free up unused spaces at the earliest opportunity for other members and we should all be prepared to play alongside people we might not know. The winter months will see midweek competitions reduce to one Stableford per month. Please make sure you sign in correctly and note which teeing area is to be used (White or Yellow).

The problems with booking competitions via HowDidiDo continues and we are yet to see any clear indication of a resolution. There is a 'work around' in that, it looks like if we open up the tee sheet (rather than have time zones) the system should be able to cope. However, this will undoubtedly lead to a significant number of people being unable to indicate a preference and ultimately get a tee time that might not meet their desires. There is no doubt that we currently have more people wanting to play earlier in the day than ever before - and certainly more than we have tee slots for. We are continuing to see a significant number of cancellations from competitions. Whilst we are usually able to fill the space it does lead to a significant amount of work. Please try to ensure you are able to play (regardless of the tee slot you get) before signing up for a competition, if you are in any doubt, feel free to ask to go on the reserve list. At the next Committee meeting (5 December) we will be discussing whether those that pull out of competitions repeatedly should be penalised and, if so, how.

With an increased likelihood of inclement weather, most of us realise that the car park tends to shrink in size due to standing water in some areas. This comes at a time when the Club is at capacity and the car park is as full as I have ever seen it. Now is the time to try and guarantee yourself a reserved parking spot until March 2023. During December we will be raffling off the Charity parking space (next to the Captains' spaces) with the winner being drawn during early January. Your chance to enter and ultimately support our charity 'Hospice at Home Volunteers' will be available from early December in the 'cow shed'. I anticipate that the ex-Committee members and past Captains that have made use of it over the last 12 months or so will be keen to retain it and will be digging deep in order to increase their chances of doing so.

The New Year will see the return of the monthly 4-ball prize. In previous years, members who fell foul of certain bunkers and areas of water were asked to donate to the charity pot and enter their name in a book. At the end of each month a name was drawn at random and they won a 4-ball voucher for a local (and some not so local) course. I am unclear how we will do this during 2022, but the opportunity for you to support the charity and win a monthly prize will return.

As with any Club there are always people that are willing to go the extra mile and, while this is said a lot, it really does bear repeating on a regular basis. My thanks go out to all the Committee members for their help and support. But worthy of mention are Mark Mansfield (covering for Dave Lea, get well soon Dave), Brian Smith for his work on the winter knockout competitions, Steve Fox and Claire Garrett (and Leah) for their help during competitions, and finally Nick Bowden whose sterling work and patience keeps the rollup alive and well. Don't be shy, if you want to help out just let a member of the Committee know.

In closing, I hope that the festive period brings you all that you wish for, but probably and most importantly, happiness and good health for the coming year.

Remember, golf is not a matter of life or death, it is way more important than that.

Neil Meldrum

Locker Subscriptions

Locker subscriptions for 2022 are now due, the annual fee being: large locker £25; medium locker £20; small locker £15.

Bank transfers may be made to:

Barclays Bank
Sort Code 20-03-18
AVGC Match Committee
Account 60332585

Alternatively, cash in an envelope stating your name and locker number may be placed in the Men's competition box.

All renewal subscriptions are due **no later than 31 December**. Unsubscribed lockers are subject to being opened, the contents disposed of, and re-let.

Should you not wish to renew, please contact Keith Loxton to arrange for the return of your key and the return of your key deposit.

Competitions

Medal 6 November	Div 1 1 st : Greg Cawthorne nett 69 2 nd : Jon Richmond nett 72 3 rd : Ben McDonald nett 72 Div 2 1 st : Mark Westbrook nett 72 2 nd : Darren Knibb nett 73 3 rd : Adrian Fallon nett 73 Div 3 1 st : David Corkett nett 70 2 nd : Colin Welch nett 72 3 rd : Binzy Bowden nett 73
Midweek Medal	1 st : Nicholas Brewer nett 65 2 nd : Darren Horne nett 71 3 rd : Simon Morgan nett 71
Quota Stableford 13 November	Div 1 1 st : Carl Epominondas +12 2 nd : Kyle Wilks +6 3 rd : Kris Manley +5 Div 2 1 st : Jez Anderson+12 2 nd : Adrian Falcon +6 3 rd : Liam Udall +4
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Nicholas Brewer 39 Pts 2 nd : Jez Anderson 36 Pts 3 rd : Steve Bowdery 36 Pts
Turkey Trot 27 November	Div 1 1 st : John Barker 37 Pts 2 nd : Darren Knibb 32 Pts 3 rd : John Crowson 31 Pts Div 2 1 st : Lee Hutt 31 Pts 2 nd : Alan Connell 30 Pts 3 rd : Graham Hale 27 Pts

	Div 3 1 st : Liam Udall 37 Pts 2 nd : Nick Mayor 35 Pts 3 rd : Tim O'Sullivan 31 Pts
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Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

November has proved to be a relatively benign month, weather wise. We could have expected a few competition cancellations but, thus far, we have been fortunate. We have also benefitted from excellent course conditions, so our gratitude to Luke and the green-keeping team for their efforts.

The Seniors programme of 'formal' competitions has shrunk back to winter mode, with only a Par/Bogie and the third round of the Winter 8 completed. So congratulations to Nigel Welling on the former, with four points attained and Graham Hale with 38 points on the latter.

To fill the Mondays we have introduced a 'Casual League', which is a Stableford more fitting for winter conditions. Basically, there is an individual winner per round, with the top three places recognised at the end of five rounds. It is played on selected Mondays and is free to enter. Wednesdays are set up for team competitions. Winter golf is an acquired taste, not suited to all, but if you require your golfing fix there is always the opportunity to play.

On administrative matters, we have all been affected by the recent 'update' for bookings on HowDidiDo. A key function that we use, zoned bookings, is now flawed and as such unusable. The Seniors have now reverted to the alternative 'tee sheet' forward booking. When booking in (computer, mobile device or PSI screen) please bear in mind you will not necessarily have the tee time or playing partners you have selected on HowDidiDo. The draw is conducted after the competition closes for forward bookings. As always, your important details are those communicated via BRS and it's that system, run via the Pro Shop, is the one that matters regarding your tee booking. We have been in touch with the operator of HowDidiDo, who is aware of the problem but cannot yet provide a date for resolution.

The Seniors' Committee has also changed the arrangements regarding competition entry fees and disbursement of prizes. From 1 January all competitors are required to prepay their entry fees via bank transfer, preferably by opening a Competition Account with the Seniors' Treasurer. Also from that date, all prizes will be disbursed by credit onto the AVGC loyalty card (white card). This information has been previously emailed to the regularly playing Seniors and is available on the Seniors' Website.

As this the last Vale of this year, may I wish you all an enjoyable festive season, however you may celebrate it, and my very best wishes for the New Year.

Keith Loxton

Locker Subscriptions

Locker subscriptions for 2022 are now due, the annual fee being: large locker £25; medium locker £20; small locker £15.

Details regarding payment etc are given above on Page 6.

Competitions

Par/Bogey Singles 1 November	1 st : Nigel Welling 4 2 nd : Larry Goddard 3 3 rd : Neill Brinklow 2
Winter 8 (3) 8 November	1 st : Graham Hale 38 Pts 2 nd : John Draper 37 Pts 3 rd : Larry Goddard 37 Pts

Casual League (1) 15 November	1 st : Rob Proudfoot 42 (10) Pts 2 nd : Neill Brinklow 39 (9) Pts 3 rd : Mike Standy 39 (8) Pts
Casual League (2) 22 November	1 st : Mike Lee 39 Pts 2 nd : Edward Jordan 37 Pts 3 rd : Hugh Frood 36 Pts
Winter 8 (4) 29 November	Cancelled

Ladies

A Word from the Ladies' Section...

As winter bears down on us and the weather is likely to impact our numbers, we will endeavour to continue to offer good golfing options for Monday, Wednesday and weekend slots. As our midweek sessions tend to follow the senior men, please be aware that the Pro-shop staff will look to close any gap between the two Section tee times, so we ladies may have our tee slots moved forward. We ask that ladies remain vigilant to these changes and ensure they get to the Club in good time (any changes to BRS are notified to the affected member via email and will be reflected on the BRS App. If you don't receive email notifications it's probably because you have opted out. Speak to the Pro Shop staff if this is the case).

Bring and Win events - as has become tradition, we will be holding both a midweek and a weekend Bring and Win event in December. On 4 December we have the weekend event, which is a fun 3-ball Florida Scramble. The draw has already taken place, so ladies please bring your wrapped £10 gift on the day. We're hoping to have some homemade mince pies for after the golf!

The midweek Bring and Win will be on 15 December. It's a 9-hole Stableford competition and it precedes the Christmas lunch! Again ladies, please remember your wrapped £10 gift.

As has become tradition, we're hoping to combine our Christmas lunch (cold meats, coronation chicken, hot new potatoes and salads) with fun events such as a sing-a-long and table quiz. We have past members returning and our Captain-elect will make one of her delicious cakes to have with coffee after our meal. I'm sure you'll agree that this event is worth attending.

And finally, we'd like to wish all our members a healthy, happy Christmas and we look forward to lots of golf in the New Year.

Lesley Wright

Competitions

Stableford 3 November	Div 1 1 st : Angela Panes 39 Pts 2 nd : Melinda Arthur 34 Pts 3 rd : Julie Hoar 33 Pts Div 2 1 st : Jan Chambers 34 Pts 2 nd : Danka Lawson 31 Pts 3 rd : Gay Chandler 30 Pts
Medal 6 November	1 st : Clare Garrett nett 79 2 nd : Vanessa Bond nett 81 3 rd : Lorraine Fox nett 86
Stableford 14 November	1 st : Danka Lawson 29 Pts 2 nd : Jan Chambers 28 Pts 3 rd : Lorraine Fox 25 Pts

Medal 17 November	Div 1 1 st : Ghie McGinley nett 72 2 nd : Sheila Perkins nett 74 3 rd : Angela Panes nett 77 Div 2 1 st : Danka Lawson nett 73 2 nd : Jan Chambers nett 77 3 rd : Charlotte Simpson nett 81
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Juniors

We now have 22 Juniors under 18 years old and registered on the handicap system, with a few more progressing through Russell's challenge program. So please don't be surprised when you see them around the course!

Our new Junior Captain is Charlie Gould.

I wanted to thank all the Juniors for their participation this year, and their parents for their help and support.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a great golfing year in 2022.

Kim Burnage

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... **Happy Christmas everyone!**

...and a touch of humour... when completing an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify....', I put "DOCTOR".

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's On This Month and Next?

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

Men

Sunday 5 December – Medal 0730-1130

Saturday 11 December – ‘Beer & String’ 0800-1015

Monday 13 to Friday 17 December – Midweek Stableford

Saturday 8 January – mixed Medal 0815-1200

Monday 17 to Friday 21 January – Midweek Stableford

Seniors

Wednesday 1 December – Stableford 0800-1000

Monday 6 December – Christmas Stableford 0800-1000

Wednesday 8 December – competition 0800-1000

Monday 13 December – Winter Eight (5) 0800-1000

Monday 13 to Friday 17 December – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 15 December – Stableford 0800-1000

Monday 20 December – Casual League (3) 0815-1000

Wednesday 22 December – Stableford 0815-1000

Wednesday 29 December – Stableford 0815-1000

Monday 10 January – Casual League (4) 0800-

Wednesday 12 January Winter League away vs Oakland Park

Monday 17 January – Winter Eight (6) 0800-

Monday 17 to Friday 21 January – Midweek Stableford

Monday 24 January – Casual League (5) 0800-

Monday 31 January – Casual League (1) 0800-

Ladies

Wednesday 1 December – Texas Scramble 1000-1045

Saturday 4 December – Florida Scramble Bring & Win 1000-1015

Monday 6 December – Stableford 1000-1045

Wednesday 8 December – Medal 1000-1045

Monday 13 December – competition 1000-1045

Wednesday 15 December – 9 Hole Bring & Win+Christmas Lunch
1000-1045

Monday 20 December – Stableford 1000-1045

Wednesday 22 December – competition 1000-1045

Wednesday 29 December – competition 1000-1045

Saturday 8 January – mixed Medal 0815-1200

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

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