



The Vale

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

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Edition 87, March 2022

Captains' Drive-In

Sunday 27 March at 2:00pm

Be there!

Comment

Once again we have the AGMs for two of the three Sections of the Club - and of course the Captains' Drive-In, so 'normality' of life at AVGC is starting to return. Hopefully members will attend their Section's meeting and the Drive-In!

This has been such a quiet and wet month for all golfers, but hopefully with March upon us better weather will once again appear.

Don't forget that 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 deal with all of that.

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



News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

The frequency of storms and weather fronts over the last couple of weeks has forced us to be protective of the playing surface and to switch to making range/meal deals. The greens staff did manage to verti-drain the greens and tees following the dry spell earlier in the month.

We offer a warm welcome to Tom Neal who has recently joined us as a full time greenkeeper. Equipment wise, a greens mower will arrive shortly to add to the recent fairway mower and trailer acquisitions. We will hire the Vredo seeder once again on 7 March – this was the machine that placed a line of grass seed at the bottom of 2inch slits last year and made a big difference. It will sow seed on the tees and general areas of wear and tear and high traffic. We will conduct our greens maintenance between 4 and 6 April – the front nine will be closed on Monday 4 April and the back nine on Tuesday 5 April for this work. We have now labelled the new double bins on the course with “General Waste” and “Recycling”.

Pro Shop

The new tees that we buy in the shop this year will be bamboo with 100% recyclable packaging. The Masters and Mizuno gloves are the first manufacturers to move to recyclable packaging.

We now have Club logo sweaters in the shop for the new season.

Catering

We ran a trial last month by opening the kitchens early over the weekend for bacon/sausage baps and breakfasts. This was supported very well by the members so we will be looking to do this more regularly from Saturday 19 March.

We will be looking to have one chef in early and one late so that members will be able to order breakfast, lunch or supper at weekends in spring and summer.

General

Please do come and support Neil, Charlotte and Keith as they ‘Drive-In’ at 2pm on Sunday 27 March.

We now have 11 members of staff qualified as first aiders. (This sentence is not meant to be connected to the previous one!)

Please remember to insert the names of other members in your tee time to your BRS booking, five days in advance.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

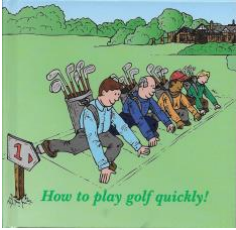
Bridge to the 13th Green

Do please remember not to cross over the bridge to the 13th green if players are teeing off on the 16th! The notice has been there for ages, but is not always remembered.

...and don't forget about the related sign on the 16th Men's tee!

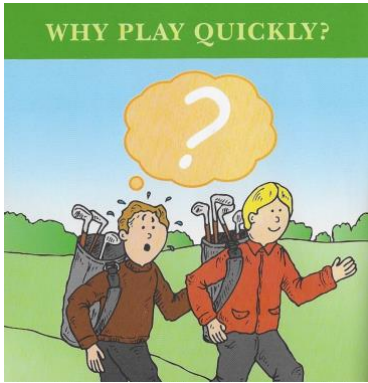


How to Play Golf Quickly (1)



'Slow play!' is the cry of desperation heard in every golf clubhouse and there is very standard etiquette guidance to help overcome this. The late journalist and TV presenter John Timpson published his variation of this etiquette, which might inspire you to improve the speed of play that some players need to achieve to please their Captain and other Club members.

John Timpson's estate has given the Editor permission to publish extracts from his book in *The Vale*. Let's look first at why we should play more quickly:



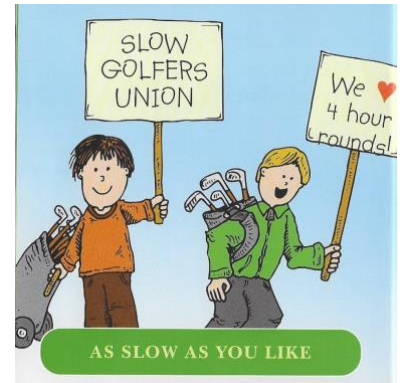
Sensible Speed

Before signing up to the Society of Quick Golfers, it's worth asking why it is a good thing to spend less time on the golf course.



Pure Pleasure

It's more fun getting on with the Game and spending less time between shots.



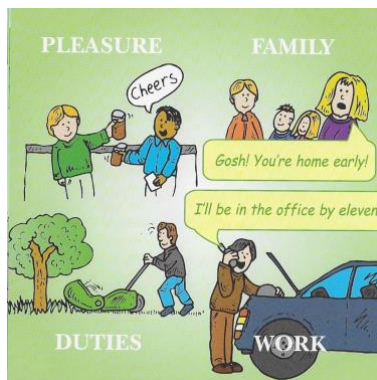
No Speed Limit!

Play slow golf if you want... but let faster players through!



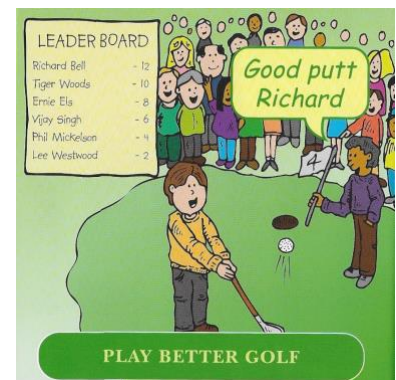
More Energy

Quick golf is a lot less tiring – it's the time you spend on your feet that makes you weary and after 3 hours fatigue sets in.



Creates More Time

You can put time saved on the golf course to positive advantage. Quick golfers get more out of life.



Success Rate

During a quick round you keep your concentration and your swing – there is no doubt about it, the faster you play the better you

Captain Valentine Baker MC AFC



In last month's issue we talked about the bust of Valentine Baker that has been donated to the Club by the Martin-Baker ejection seat company. The cabinet containing the bust has now been built and installed on the upstairs landing; it awaits decoration.



Hole-in-One

For a second month we have a hole-in-one to mention.

This time the player to be congratulated is Brian Porter, who is pictured victorious at the 8th on 7 February.



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Dear Members.

Unfortunately the weather during February has not been kind to us and there has been little in the way of golf. Having played some other courses whilst AVGC has been shut, all I can say is that most of them shouldn't have been open and they will probably suffer during the spring with the damage caused during this period. Hopefully by the time you read this we will all be back playing.

The golf season will soon commence in earnest with the return of Scratch and Mid-Handicap matches. We have two teams entered in the Scratch League and Darren Horne will be Captain for both. The A team have been drawn with Leighton Buzzard, Stockwood Park and South Beds, whilst the B team have been drawn with John O'Gaunt, Millbrook and Aspley Guise. Darren Horne will be in contact with those that are eligible and selected to play. Brian Smith will Captain the Mid-Handicap team, so please contact Brian if you are interested in playing. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the notice board at the Club where you can express your interest. In the Mid-Handicap we have been drawn with Aspley Guise, Dunstable Downs, Tilsworth and Chalgrave. Please note that team selection for all these matches will be based upon performance.

On a lighter note the Captains' Drive-In will take place at 14.00 approx on Sunday 27 March. I look forward to keeping the ball in bounds, if not the fairway. As usual Peter Codrai will be organising a sweepstake on the combined distance achieved, so please remember that I routinely drive the ball around 300yds when making your selection.

The Men's Section AGM is traditionally held after the March Medal, however the constitution requires us to provide members with a minimum of 42 days' notice. Unfortunately my support staff failed to post the necessary notice. I am happy to take sole responsibility for this failure but will also state that my support staff include Mr McGoverne and Mr Barker, so I will leave it to you to decide where the problem lies. The AGM will now be on Saturday 16 April at 14.30.

Lets hope we see some better golfing weather in the near future and remember that the most important shot in golf is the next one.

Take care, enjoy the game and the company.

Neil Meldrum

Competitions

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <p>Medal 6 February</p> | <p>Div 1 1st: Nicky Bowden nett 74 2nd: Ryan Harvey nett 75 3rd: Kris Manley nett 75 Div 2 1st: Howard Matthews nett 77 2nd: Andrew Pye nett 77 3rd: Steven Fox nett 78 Div 3 1st: James Hutchins nett 75 2nd: Gary Wiltshire nett 77 3rd: Gary Pidgeon nett 77</p> |
|-----------------------------|--|

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

After a promising start we have had a quiet month, what with all the wind and rain. Golf was available for the first nine days and thereafter, for the Seniors, cancelled. We also had postponed our two away Winter League fixtures, again due to waterlogged courses. At the end of this month our Winter Eclectic closes and with little golf there has been scant opportunity for those with cards in hand to encroach on the current leaders.

During the winter Terry Neve organised a panel of volunteers to ensure that the Monday and Wednesday competitions got away in an orderly fashion. This has worked well and an updated rota is being compiled for the Summer Season. Many thanks to those who have responded positively to Terry's request to participate. The more that are involved the lighter the burden. It's never too late to get involved so, if you missed the opportunity, please contact Terry to let him know of your interest.

I will, in early March, be posting on the notice board a list of our Summer Friendlies together with a sign up sheet. If you are interested in playing please indicate your interest. Details of our schedule is on the Seniors' Website, as is our 2022 calendar.

Our AGM takes place on Monday 21 March. The Committee is up for election and the nomination form has been posted on the Seniors' Notice Board. All materials relevant for the AGM will be held on the Seniors Website.

The AGM will be preceded by the AGM Cup. Further, the AGM will be followed by presentation of the 2021 competition awards.

Hopefully, we will soon see a return to fairer weather and we can get back on the course.

Cheers,

Keith Loxton

Seniors' AGM

The Seniors' AGM will take place on Monday 21 March. The AGM will follow the AGM Cup and is expected to start at 2:30pm in the function room; it will be followed by the Presentations and Awards for 2021/22.

Winter League by Peter Nightingale

The weather this year has not been kind to us and resulted in our three away matches at Oakland Park, Little Hay and Chartridge Park having to be rearranged. The new dates are as follows:

Little Hay Tuesday 22 March, meet at 8:00
 Chartridge Park Tuesday 29 March, meet at 10:30
 Oakland Park Wednesday 6 April, meet at 8:15

I have several names already, from previous selections, but may require other names to add to the list. A full list of all the players and matches will be placed on the Seniors' notice board in the course of the next few days. If you are available, and would like to play, please add your name to the list as the dates I need to supply our team to our opposition, at the latest, is seven days before the match.

The league table below shows our standing so far this season:

| Team | Played | Home Wins | Home Draws | Home Losses | Away Wins | Away Draws | Away Losses | Points |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Oakland Park | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7.5 |
| Weston Turville | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7.5 |
| Chartridge Park | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Little Hay | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Competitions

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Casual League 2 (1) 31 January | 1 st : Micky Parslow 38 Pts 2 nd : Keith Minor 36 Pts 3 rd : Clive Gear 35 Pts |
| Casual League 2 (2) 7 February | 1 st : Steve Malone 36 Pts 2 nd : Dave Dean 36 Pts 3 rd : Adrian King 35 Pts |

Ladies

A Word from the Ladies' Section...

It was very pleasing to see 15 ladies sign up for the weekend February Stableford, after an extended period where numbers signing up for weekend competitions had been disappointingly low. What a shame then that storms Dudley and Eunice and their aftermath meant we couldn't play! However, it is greatly encouraging that our weekend competitions will be competitive again - please keep signing up ladies.

Competitions for March, both midweek and weekend, are on HowDidiDo, so as we move towards longer days and better weather, we look forward to seeing a great turn out for them all.

Please mark in your diaries the date of the AGM (Saturday 5 March, 2:30pm for 3pm). You should have received an email inviting you to attend and notifying you that all the associated paperwork can be found on our website, under 'documents', and how you can table matters for discussion or nominate someone for a role on the committee.

Another date for your diaries is the Captains' Drive-in which will take place on Sunday 27 March - details will follow shortly but please pencil it in so you can welcome the Captains in the time honoured way.

Happy golfing!!

Lesley Wright

Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... without rain there are no rainbows.

...and a touch of humour... if you lend somebody £20 and never see them again, it was probably well worth it!

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's On This Month

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

Men

Saturday 5 March - Medal 0650
Saturday 5 March - ~~AGM 1430~~ changed to 16 April
Monday 14-Friday 18 March Midweek Stableford
Sunday 20 March - Spring Foursomes 0840
Saturday 26 March - Zodiac Texas Scramble 0730
Sunday 27 March - Captains' Drive-In 1400

Seniors

Wednesday 2 March - Casual League 2 (4) 0745
Monday 7 March - Winter 8 (8) 0745
Monday 14 March - Casual League 2 (5) 0745
Monday 14-Friday 18 March Midweek Stableford
Monday 21 March - AGM Cup 0745
Monday 21 March - AGM & Prizegiving 1430
Tuesday 22 March - WL away match vs Little Hay 0800
Sunday 27 March - Captains' Drive-In 1400
Monday 28 March - Celebratory Cup 0745
Tuesday 29 March - WL away match vs Chartridge Park 1030

Ladies

Saturday 5 March - AGM 1430 for 1500
Sunday 6 March - Medal 1000
Saturday 12 March - Helen Rowley Plate 0945
Sunday 13 March - Coronation Foursomes 1000
Sunday 20 March - Spring Foursomes 0840
Sunday 27 March - Captains' Drive-In 1400

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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