



The Vale

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

(This is a private publication for Members of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club and may not be reproduced elsewhere in whole or in part, in any form, without the prior written permission of the Club.)

Edition 89, May 2022

Comment

What an amazing April this has been, with few April showers and the course looking magnificent, as was reflected in some impressive scoring.

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

This month's additions to the course include new flags/flag sticks and fresh sand added to the bunkers. Brushes have now been fitted to the fairway and surround mowers to give a better cut and the irrigation is up and running on the greens. The fairway fertilisers have arrived, but we won't spread this until there is some rain in the forecast.

I guess we are never happy with the weather, but it has been 'all or nothing' for some time now. We either get a month of rain or a month of dry – we still await the typical British spring of 'sunshine and showers' for green keepers and gardeners alike!

Safety on the Course

A member has written to us raising concerns about dangerous play and golfers not waiting until it is safe to play. This month seems a good opportunity to expand upon this.

This can be divided between common sense/courtesy and the law.

Taking 'the law' angle first, golf balls are hard and potentially lethal projectiles and golfers have landed themselves in very hot water in legal cases where it has been proved that they deliberately hit a shot when it was not safe to do so. Further, the shout of 'FORE!' no longer absolves legal responsibilities.

Taking the common sense/courtesy angle, it is perhaps time to think about this subject. We haven't had any major rainfall for about a month now so the ball will bound on and travel further. You often hear golfers say 'Sorry, that one came out of the screws' or 'I didn't expect it to go that far'. The point is that golfers need to wait until the group ahead are out of range of their very best shot, and then give them a buffer zone on top so that the ball does not roll up behind them. However, in the event that you have hit a shot that is going near to someone on a different hole, the shout of 'FORE' is still recommended, even if it does not afford legal protection. It gives others a chance to protect themselves.

Finally, there can occasionally be individuals who are simply unreasonable. This can lead to some striking a ball when it is not safe to do so. In this event we have to eliminate such risks to others and can take the ultimate sanction of banning such an individual from the Club.

Sundowners

The Sundowners League starts again on Thursday evenings from 5pm, with the first evening on Thursday 19 May. This is a fun 9-hole event, open to all members and with the option of a meal afterwards. To enter this event go onto Facebook and search for 'AVGC INFO GROUP' and join that group. The Sundowner organiser will then accept you. A post goes up (usually on a Monday) and closes at around 12 noon on the Wednesday and you can message the post for 'golf' or 'golf and food'. We have planned a variety of meals for Thursday evenings already. We have periodic tee times booked for Sundowners between 4:52pm and 6:30pm and golfers gather in the bar when they have got away from work. The organiser on the day then forms groups and sends them out in the next available Sundowners tee slot. There are weekly winners as well as a season winner, with the final Sundowners meeting on Thursday 25 August.

Catering

Catering is available from 7:45am on Sunday 1 May (Committee Cup), Saturday 7 May (Men's Medal), and Saturday 21 May (Men's Burcott Trophy).

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Ball Resting Against Flagstick in Hole (Rule 13.2c)

If your ball comes to rest against the flagstick left in the hole, and any part of your ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, your ball is treated as holed. If no part of your ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green:

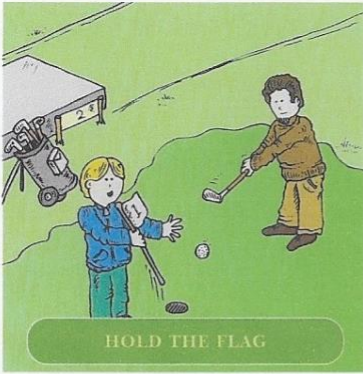
- Your ball is not holed and must be played as it lies.
- If the flagstick is removed and your ball moves (whether it falls into the hole or moves away from the hole), there is no penalty and it must be replaced on the lip of the hole.

How to Play Golf Quickly (3)



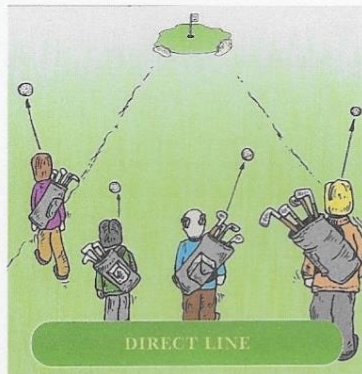
In this third part of *How to Play Golf Quickly*, we look at more quick tips – and some of the offenders. Even more next month!

The late John Timpson's estate has given the Editor permission to publish extracts from his book in *The Vale*.



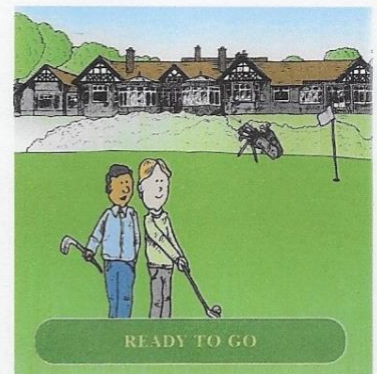
Standard Bearer

If you've putted out, take charge of the flag. It's good form, saves time and takes your mind off the worry of the next drive!



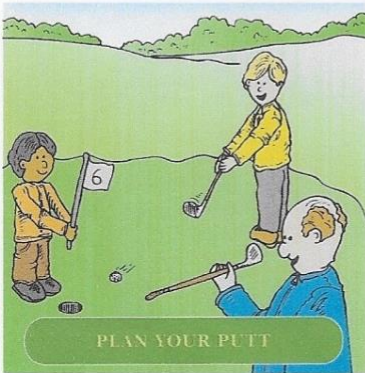
Walk Straight to Your Ball

Never mind about anyone else – take a direct line towards your own ball – it's the quickest route around the course.



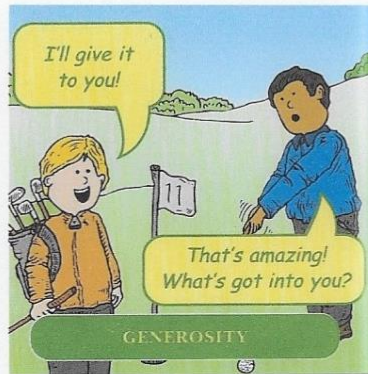
Bag Positioning

Leave your bag or trolley on the right side of the green – on the way to your next destination.



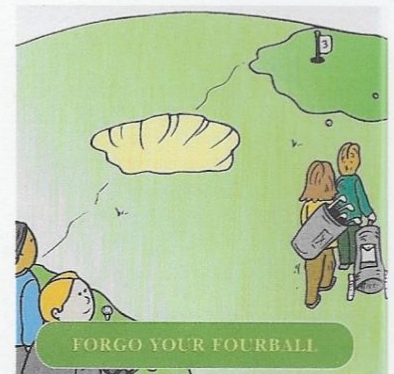
Be Prepared

Work out the line of your putt while you are waiting for your turn – it cuts putting time in half!



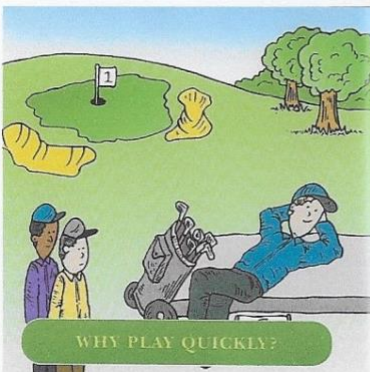
Give Putts

Holeing out putts takes a lot of time – it's often a good idea to give some missable putts and claim the moral high ground.



Play Foursomes

If you want a really quick game of golf, play foursomes – it's the best test of golf and a lot of fun.



Society Simon

Society Simon is in no mood for quick golf, having looked forward to this outing for weeks. He is going to make a day of it – dinner isn't until 7:15.



Harry Hacker

Harry claims to enjoy golf enormously – but only plays twice a year. Says sorry 100 times a round and often competes in AwayDays.



Fidgeting Frank

Frank drives partners round the bend. On your back swing Frank suddenly gets a tissue out and blows his nose. He spoils your swing, slows your play and increases your score – but is totally unaware!

Hole-in-One

Justin McDonald receives this month's congratulations for his hole-in-one, achieved on 16 April on the 17th.

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi all,

The delayed AGM was held on 16 April; the minutes will be published in due course and will be available on the Men's website. The main talking points were around the £5 levy and whether the current system we use is value for money. We are in the process of comparing systems to assess whether another provider can offer better value for money and will provide an update on that in due course. The levy, simply put - those members that play in competitions are paying for the system (and always have done), but there are now a large number of people who use the system who do not contribute towards its upkeep and as such are simply 'having a free ride'. The levy aims to ensure that all those who wish to use the system contribute to its upkeep.

It is good to see that the course is recovering from the recent essential work on the greens. I know this was frustrating for many and we all (myself included) appear to be closet greenkeepers who know how best to go about these things. We seem to quickly forget that this activity takes place every year and that we benefit later in the year when we are fortunate enough to play on some of the best greens in the area.

The Club matches have resumed, but sadly not in the way we had hoped. The Scratch A lost 4:1 away at Leighton Buzzard and Mid Handicap lost at home to Chalgrave by the same number. Unfortunately Tilsforth have pulled out of the Mid Handicap and as such the number of opportunities to play in the team has been reduced. By the time you read this we will have played our first friendly match of the season against Abbey Hill and the Scratch B will be playing their first match on 2 May. If you would like to play in matches look out for sign-up sheets in the changing room foyer or speak to a member of the Men's Committee.

It was good to see the Easter draw relatively well supported, with £90 heading for the charity pot. My thanks go to all those that took part and those that organised it and encouraged people to take part, including Peter Codrai and Mark Mansfield. My thanks to Nick Bowden for running the 'Masters Fantasy' league, and his continued work on 'Last Man Standing' and the virtual roll up.

We are becoming more and more cashless in our lives and we can see evidence of the impact of that on our fundraising when it comes to things like the Easter Draw and the 'Captains Bunker'. Indeed the charity box behind the bar has a thick layer of dust on it as it has seen so little use in comparison to pre-pandemic times. This month will see the start of a series of 'Silent Auctions' of 4-ball vouchers. From Sunday 1 May we will be accepting bids for a 4-ball at Kirtlington. Simply put your name, 'Silent Auction' and the amount you wish to bid on a piece of paper in one of the brown envelopes and post it in the Men's box in the changing room foyer. Details of this will also be posted around the Club, on Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

Please remember that we are holding our first Memorial Day competition this year on 28 May. The competition will consist of singles, pairs and best 3 of 4 team competition in memory of members who are no longer with us, but the specific trophies up for grabs are: the Derek Hall, the Neil Thornalley and the Mick Videtta trophies. I really hope you can join us and make it a great day.

Finally, remember that golf is a game to be enjoyed even when it feels like an endurance test.

Neil Meldrum

Competitions

Scratch A away match vs Leighton Buzzard 2 April	Lost 4:1
--	----------

Mid-handicap home match vs Chalgrave Manor 3 April	Lost 4:1
Medal 10 April	Div 1 1 st : Matt Green nett 70 2 nd : Shaun Houghton nett 72 3 rd : Nicholas Davies nett 73 Div 2 1 st : Steven Fox nett 71 2 nd : Dave Needs nett 73 3 rd : Martin Arnold nett 73 Div 3 1 st : Neil Meldrum nett 68 2 nd : Nick Mayor nett 71 3 rd : Bob Parish nett 72
Midweek Medal	1 st : Matt Green nett 67 2 nd : Matt Young nett 71 3 rd : Nick Russell nett 72
Easter Cup 16 April	1 st : Ian Pullin 39 Pts 2 nd : Shaun Houghton 38 Pts 3 rd : Dave Welling 37 Pts
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Steve Simpson 44 Pts 2 nd : Mark Hughes 42 Pts 3 rd : Nicky Bowden 41 Pts

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Having navigated the Drive-In, our Summer Season is now well under way. We have played our first Medal and Summer Six Stableford. Well done Micky Parslow recording a nett 71 and Terry Neve scoring 38 points, respectively. We also played our first Summer Friendly vs Weston Turville away. Alas, we lost 4½:1½ but all enjoyed their individual matches.

At the last Committee meeting the Competition Rules were refreshed and the terminology aligned to that used in WHS. Once these are published, please familiarise yourself with them. A copy will be available on the website and on the Seniors noticeboard.

Our Competition Secretary has written to all regular competitors in the Seniors competitions reaffirming the correct procedures to be followed. Please pay attention to the matters regarding recording and evidencing scores, since this will reflect a return to pre-Covid practice.

The Seniors have their first AwayDay in May at Dunstable Downs. If you have missed this one, the sign-up lists are now on the noticeboard for the Summer and Autumn events.

Finally, the draws for the Summer Singles and Pairs KOs have been made. Please ensure you complete your matches by the designated deadline.

Keith Loxton

Competitions

Medal (1) 11 April	1 st : Micky Parslow nett 71 2 nd : Martin Shefferd nett 72 3 rd : Steve Chandler nett 73
Summer Six (1) 20 April	1 st : Terry Neve 38 Pts 2 nd : Don Huggett 38 Pts 3 rd : Steven Foster 37 Pts

Away match vs Weston Turville	Lost 4½:1½
Seniors' Captain's League 1 (1) 27 April	1 st : Mike Bender 41 Pts 2 nd : Gary Chambers 41 Pts 3 rd : Steven Foster 41 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Well we certainly can't complain about the weather in April – perfect golfing conditions!!

County 4BBB - on 13 April AVGC hosted the Bedfordshire Ladies County 4BBB. Having never attended one of these I understand the turnout wasn't large (26 ladies), but the sun shone and we all had a lovely day. The competition was won by a team from Beds & County with 46 points. The Aylesbury Vale team came in with 43 points and came 5th (I think, as they have never posted the results!).

Annette's Hat – the highlight of the month must be Annette's Hat played on Good Friday. The sun shone and everyone had fun – once they had got their wallet past Jean Barnett! She raised an amazing £1,227.90 for Breast Cancer, and it was won by three Pearces and a Hutt! Many thanks to Jean Barnett for all her hard work.

Ladies Spring Lunch was held on Wednesday 20 April – we played a fun 9-hole competition with three hidden holes. Well played to Jan Chambers on winning, even with her arm strapped up! Julie Hoar came a close second. 31 ladies came to the lunch where we chatted, completed quizzes, and ate a delicious meal thanks to Heinz and the team. Many thanks to Jean Hill for organising all the birthday gifts and setting up the room so beautifully.

Let's hope this weather continues – at least for my Captain's Day on Saturday 14 May!!

Charlotte Simpson

Competitions

Stableford 9 April	1 st : Clare Garrett 41 Pts 2 nd : Amy Crowson 40 Pts 3 rd : Carol Carlin 36 Pts
Medal 11 April	Div 1 1 st : Pat Connolly nett 78 2 nd : Ghie McGinley nett 78 3 rd : Abi Pearce nett 80 Div 2 1 st : Charlotte Simpson nett 82 2 nd : Lorraine Fox nett 83 3 rd : Sue Goodger nett 87
Medal 23 April	1 st : Jane Codrai nett 74 2 nd : Jean Barnett nett 75 3 rd : Sheila Perkins nett 78
Medal 25 April	Div 1 1 st : Jane Codrai 35 Pts Div 2 1 st : Jane Whigham 36 Pts 2 nd : Charlotte Simpson 36 Pts 3 rd : Margaret Askew 34 Pts

Juniors

There is no Junior report this month.

Competitions

Stableford 14 April	1 st : Isabel Nelson 45 Pts 2 nd : Leah Burgess 44 Pts 3 rd : George Seward 41 Pts
------------------------	---

and in Conclusion...

...**the last word is...** enjoy Lady Captain's Day on 14 May!

...**and a touch of humour...** the best things in life aren't 'things'.

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's On This Month

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

Men

Sunday 1 May – Committee Cup 0700-1105

Monday 2 May – Scratch B home match vs Aspley Guise B

Saturday 7 May – Medal 0700-1130

Monday 9 to Friday 13 May – Midweek Medal

Saturday 14 May – Lady Captain's Day 0600-1200

Sunday 15 May – Scratch A home match vs South Beds

Sunday 15 May – mid-handicap away match vs Chalgrave Manor

Saturday 21 May – Burcott Trophy 0720-1030

Sunday 22 May – Scratch A home match vs Stockwood Park

Monday 23 to Friday 27 May – Midweek Stableford

Saturday 28 May – Memorial Day 0600-1200

Sunday 29 May – mid-handicap home match vs Aspley Guise

Seniors

Wednesday 4 May – Seniors' Captain's League 1 (2) 0745-0950

Monday 9 May – Medal (2) 0745-0950

Monday 9 to Friday 13 May – Midweek Medal

Tuesday 10 May – away match vs Whipnade Park

Wednesday 11 May – Seniors' Captain's League 1 (3) 0745-0950

Thursday 12 May – Spring AwayDay @ Dunstable Downs

Saturday 14 May – Lady Captain's Day 0600-1200

Monday 16 May – Drawn Pairs Greensomes 0745-0950

Wednesday 18 May – Seniors' Captain's League 1 (4) 0745-0950

Monday 23 May – Summer Six (2) 0745-0950

Monday 23 to Friday 27 May – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 25 May – home match vs Weston Turville

Monday 30 May – Jones Drawn Foursomes 0745-0950

Ladies

Sunday 8 May – Stableford 1000-1030

Monday 9 May – home match vs Leighton Buzzard

Saturday 14 May – Captain's Day 0600-1200

Sunday 22 May – Medal 1015-1050

Monday 23 May – home match vs Tilsworth

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: Adrian Redford

Treasurer: Mike Boden

Competition Secretary: Adrian King

Admin Secretary: Mike Pelizzoni

Social Secretary: Peter Codrai

Members' Reps: Jim Gales, Steve Waters

Ladies

Captain: Charlotte Simpson

Vice-Captain: Jane Roche

Secretary: Lesley Wright

Treasurer: Clare Garrett

County Representative: Kim Burnage

7-Day Comp Secretary: Sheila Perkins

5-Day Comp Secretaries: Jackie Boden, Jean Hill

Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett

7-Day Members' Rep: Lorraine Fox

5-Day Members' Rep: Jean Hill

Juniors

Captain: Charlie Gould

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

lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk