



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club  
[www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)

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Edition 90, June 2022  
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## **Comment**

This is the month of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - the only such event that any of us will see in our lifetime.

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](mailto:lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk)

## **News and Updates from the Club Management**

### The Course

Finally we have had some rain and sun in May, which means happier green keepers! The fairways, approaches and tees have all been fertilised and sprayed for weeds and clover. The greens are next to be due a fertilise and a verti-cut.

We have kept the rough short between the trees. However, those traditional areas of definition that we allow to grow to knee high have grown in height and thickened up over the last few weeks of rain/sun. It

therefore is sensible to play a provisional before leaving the tee if you think that your ball might have come to rest in one of these areas.

We have replaced the broken tee holders on the yellow tees and appreciate it if members can place broken tees in these. We are slowly changing plastic tees for bio-degradable bamboo tees but even the bamboo tees give us issues when they go through the tees mower. Finally, a request to rake bunkers after a visit!

### The Queen's Jubilee Competition – Thursday 2 June

A quick head's up on this competition! This is a new format brought to 'The Vale' by Garry Hutchinson. The key is to have some forethought in how to best utilise your four team members. One player will use the Queen's Ball predominantly on low index par 4s, one on higher index par 4s, one on par 5s and one on par 3s. Your handicap index is applied to the AVGC slope rating which gives you your course handicap (men off whites, ladies off reds). Each individual then has 85% of their course handicap (0.5 rounds up). So the captain needs to consider his team's playing abilities and shots received when allocating names to Player 1, Player 2, Player 3 and Player 4. Finally, remember that a lady plays off the ladies' card and the ladies' stroke index, so the par of a particular hole may be different for her compared to a male team member.

The catering is Coronation chicken, gala pie, potato salad, rice salad and salad at £6 per head, with a signup sheet in the downstairs bar. You can collect your scoresheet on the day along with a sleeve of three Queen's Jubilee golf balls.

### Catering

Bringing the chef in at 7:00am on weekend competition days isn't sustainable, as there was only demand for three bacon sandwiches prior to the last Men's Medal. Hence, during June we will switch the available chef hours from these early weekend times to open later (until 8:00pm) on a Thursday and Friday evening. Thursdays normally have Sundowners, but Thursday 2 June will not have late catering, or Sundowners, as most members will be playing earlier in the Queen's Jubilee.

### Bar

We have opened up the downstairs bar for members to come up and place their order/pay with white cards at the bar. The bar is a spike bar now and for the summer. You are then welcome to take a seat, if you wish, and we will continue to deliver the drinks/catering to the table. We would also like to give a warm welcome to Jess Kingwell who is working behind the bar, usually Tuesday to Friday.

*Chris Wright*

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## **Rules of Golf**

### Lifting Your Ball to Identify It (Rule 7.3)

The Rules were relaxed in 2019 so that you no longer have to have someone observe you lifting a ball to identify it, **but** you still have to mark the ball's position first.

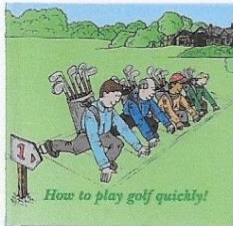
Rule 7.3 states:

If a ball might be yours but you cannot identify it as it lies, you may lift the ball to identify it. **But** the spot of the ball must first be marked, and the ball must not be cleaned more than needed to identify it (except on the putting green).

If the lifted ball is your ball or another player's ball, it must be replaced on its original spot.

If you lift your ball when not reasonably necessary to identify it, fail to mark the spot of the ball before lifting it, or clean it when not allowed, you get **one penalty stroke**.

## How to Play Golf Quickly (4)



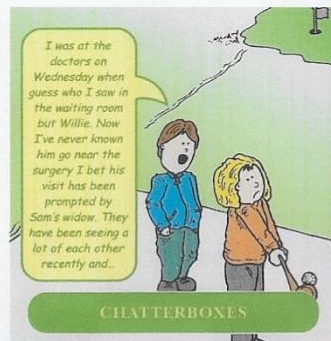
In this fourth part of *How to Play Golf Quickly*, we look at some more quick tips regarding time wasters – and some of the offenders. Yet more next month!

John Timpson, the author of this book, has given the Editor permission to publish extracts from his book in *The Vale*.



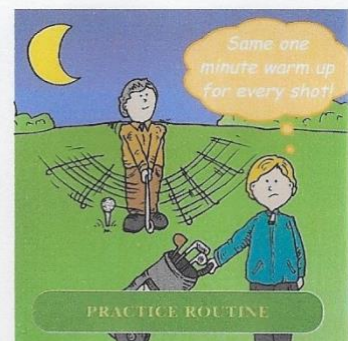
### So Slow

Some people simply don't get on with the game – here are some of the things that hold them up.



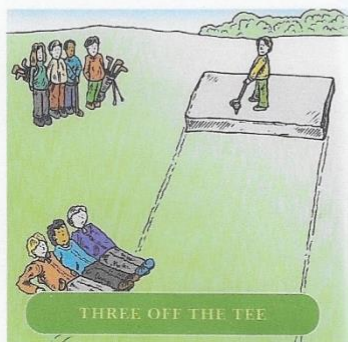
### Stop Talking

If you want a chat, get round quickly so you have plenty of time to talk in the bar.



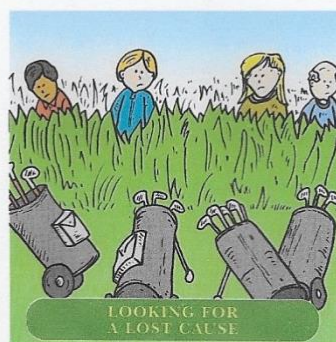
### Fore Play

How long does everyone have to wait for you to hit the ball?  
Two practice swings are enough for anybody.



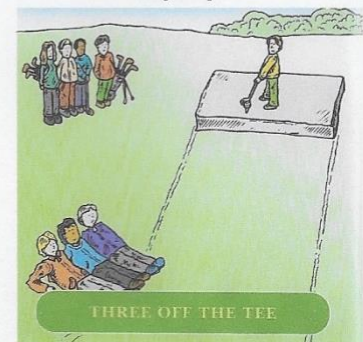
### Formation Fourball

There is no need to walk in formation. If you hit the ball in different directions, walk apart and meet at the green.



### Give Up!

There is no point in wasting time looking in the wilderness – even if you find your ball it will be unplayable.



### Going Back to Play Another

Playing 3 off the tee is only worthwhile if you are well placed in a Medal – even then you probably should have played a provisional



### Sid Saunter

Sid enjoys the golf course – he appreciates the gorse and the Canada Geese. It's great to be out in the fresh air and being close to nature. Occasionally he hits the ball.



### Mrs Quick

A woman on a mission, she hardly stops walking to play a shot – don't get in her way.



### Stubborn Stanley

Stan is a bit of a snob – he has been golfing since childhood and knows all you need to know about the game. He last let someone through in 1976 and is growing more cussed with age.

# Men

## A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi All

Captain's Day is fast approaching on 18 June and booking via HowDidiDo has now closed, however if you would like to play and missed out please contact Dave Lea or myself, we will try to ensure that everybody who wants to play, can. *'Apart from playing is there any other way I can help'* I can hear you all shout - absolutely. I am looking for people to sponsor a hole and/or donate a raffle prize, so please contact me on meldrumnelly@aol.com or 07946 028417. Equally, willing volunteers to help collect money, sell raffle tickets or help man the halfway house would be welcomed.

The day will see the return of Lady in the Lake, Beat the Bar Steward (staffing levels permitting) and the putting competition. There will be prizes for best lady, best gentleman (unfortunately the term gentleman does exclude a large proportion of male members) and best team score. You will be able to purchase 'Mulligans' and a way of gaining extra points (team game only), more details on this nearer the day. The team game will consist of the best 2, 3 or 4 scores on a hole, but the value of each hole will be unknown until you enter your score at the end of the round.

The halfway house will be open with a new gazebo, as Captain Covid (Keith McGoverne) broke the last one, and sweet treats and soft drinks will be available (a few alcoholic beverages might also be available). The food offering will be via a BBQ and further details will be available soon on how to pre-register for. I will be running both a live auction (at the end of the day) and a silent auction (for those unable to stay) for a number of 4-ball vouchers including Gog Magog, Old Ford Manor, East Herts and Stocks, to name a few.

Please remember that this is a cash only day (no white card or credit cards except for bar or shop purchases) so make a stop at the nearest cashpoint and bring across some folding money and change. All proceeds will be heading to Hospice at Home Volunteers.

In other news the Scratch 'A' beat South Beds 5:0 at home, unfortunately the mid-handicap did not fare so well at Dunstable Downs, going down 4:1. Jason and I played in the County Secretary's Day at South Beds. The day was a team event and I'd like to say that we supported our playing partners very well, but unfortunately I can't say that, we were awful.

Enjoy the weather, enjoy the company and try to enjoy your golf.

*Neil Meldrum*

## Competitions

Committee Cup 1 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Gary Stephenson 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Steven Fox 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tim O'Sullivan 41 Pts
Scratch B home match vs Aspley Guise B 2 May	Won 3½:1½
Medal 7 May	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Matthew Moran nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Dean Palmer nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tony Messenger nett 72 Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Greg Young nett 70 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jez Anderson nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Steve Halsey nett 72

	Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Colin Welch nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Gavin Procter nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Ian Pullin nett 73
Midweek Medal	1 <sup>st</sup> : Alister Thorne nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Will Bond nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Matt Taylor nett 71
Scratch A home match vs South Beds 15 May	Won 5:0
Burcott Trophy 21 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Dave Needs and Adrian Fallon 78 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : G Wiseman and G Chambers 77 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : J Hill and R Coker 74 Pts
Mid-handicap away match vs Dunstable Downs 22 May	Lost 4:1
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Mike Joy 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jason Thornalley 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Martin Higgins 35 Pts
Derek Hall Trophy 28 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Julie Lea/Nick Brewer/Clare Garrett/Leah Burgess 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Bond/Mark Leech/Vanessa Bond/Anne Bridges 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Andrew Pearce/Michael Pearce/Declan Hull/Dayle Marshall
Mick Videtta Trophy 28 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Adrian Matthews/Howard Matthews 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nathan Chandler/Steve Chandler 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Andrew Pearce/M Pearce
Neil Thornalley Trophy 28 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Howard Matthews 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Pearce 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Ryan Harvey
Mid-handicap home match vs Aspley Guise 29 May	Won 3½:1½

## Seniors

### A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

Of our regular competitions, we played our May Medal, second round of the Summer Six Stableford and three rounds of the Senior Captain's League, with a final fifth round to play in June. The May Medal was won by Martin Hollands, with a nett 68, seeing off Ian Pullin (70) and Steve Chandler (71). The Summer Six (R2) was hotly contested but won by Brian Hogarth on countback, with 41 points, with Steve Malone second also 41 points and Graham Hale third, with 40 points.

On 16 May we also played our first Honours Board competition, the drawn Greensomes. This always throws out some unexpected results. The winners this year were Brian Hogarth/Adrian Fallon with 43 points. Second place, with 41 points, had to be split on countback with Peter Codrai/Gary Chambers taking that place and pushing back into third Don Huggett/Roy Platten.

Well done to all our Competition winners.

Our short programme of summer friendlies is underway, playing away at Whipnade Park and more recently at home against Weston Turville. As is usually the case we concede plenty of shots and, with the unfamiliarity of the course, we struggled playing away, losing 1:5. Our home match against Weston Turville gave us the advantage, with both the length of the course and the fast greens working in our favour. We won that match 4½:1½.

On 12 May some of the Seniors enjoyed a day out at Dunstable Downs GC. It was a smaller group than usual, affected by Covid and injury withdrawals. However, the weather was kind and the course in excellent condition. We have two other AwayDays lined up so please contact Peter Codrai if you are interested as the lists will be closed soon.

With the spring/summer months come the Club events and it was a pleasure to see that the Ladies celebrated their Lady Captain's Day. Charlotte, aided by many of the Ladies, put on an excellent day, with us playing a less usual twist on the Scramble. The next Captain's Day approaching is the Men's and Captain Neil is actively promoting the day which is on 18 June. Its open to 5-day, as well as 7-day members so make sure you participate in what, I am sure, will be another great golfing day out.

Looking forward into June, the Seniors are hosting the 3-way competition vs Abbey Hill GC and Bletchley GC. The last time we played this we won and so are defending the Trophy. This will be played on 29 June and, due to the field size, there will not be a Seniors Competition organised that day.

The Seniors' Committee has reviewed the practice of returning scores and has concluded that now is the time to revert to having all competition scores (be that played on a Monday or Wednesday) returned on a physical scorecard. Alongside this, the Seniors' Committee has also decided to set up all singles competitions as Qualifiers, where this is permissible.

As a reminder, scorecards constitute the primary record of the player's score. Thus, scorecards must be legible, identifiable (player/competition/date), hold the correct score per hole (and Stableford points) and attested (by player and marker). Should there be any dispute between HowDidiDo and the scorecard, the scorecard is the only valid record. Results returned on incomplete or illegible scorecards will be immediately DQ'd. I am sure you will all get the hang of it, it's not new.

Happy golfing.

*Keith Loxton*

## Competitions

Seniors' Captain's League 1 (2) 4 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Tony Phillips 40 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Neil Haddock 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Don Huggett 39 Pts
Medal (2) 9 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Martin Hollands nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ian Pullin nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Steve Chandler nett 71
Away match vs Whipsnade Park 10 May	Lost 1:5
Seniors' Captain's League 1 (3) 11 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : John Crowson 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Tony Phillips 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Steve Keeper 35 Pts
Drawn Pairs Greensomes 16 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Adrian Fallon, Brian Hogarth 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Peter Codrai, Gary Chambers 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Don Huggett, Roy Platten 41 Pts
Seniors' Captain's League 1 (4) 18 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Larry Goddard 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : John Crowson 40 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Roy Platten 40 Pts
Summer Six (2) 23 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Brian Hogarth 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Steve Malone 41 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Graham Hale 40 Pts
Home match vs Weston Turville 25 May	Won 4½:1½
Jones Drawn Foursomes 30 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Ian Pullin/Steve Keeper 42 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mike Bishop/Terry Neve 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Larry Goddard/Mike Bender 37 Pts

# Ladies

## A Word from the Lady Captain...

Another glorious month of golfing – especially on my Captain's Day on 14 May. A big thank you to all who came and supported my Captain's Day. We had a staggering 120 play and raised just over £1,900 for Macmillan.

Thanks go to those who gave up their time, and some their golf, to help run the day. They include Ann and Ron Haynes, Margaret Jones, Jane Codrai, Jean Hill, Lorraine and Steve Fox, Mark Cowdrey, Lesley Wright, Steve Simpson and my daughter Maddy.

Luckily the sun shone as the Ladies Section introduced the Men's Section to a Florida Scramble. It was a format that was well received by all and kept the course moving.

Congratulations to the winning team of Darren Horne, Matt Green, Kris Manley & Nick Bowden with an amazing score of 58.6 after their huge deduction of 0.4!! Second were Steve Chandler, Graham Lowe, Andrew and Vanessa Bond with 59.3. Our highest scoring all ladies team was Sue Bellingham, Julie Lea, Clare Garrett and Leah Burgess with a respectable 62.5.

We had 10 sponsored holes which were won as follows:

Hole 1 - Steven Chandler	Hole 2 - Nick Bowden
Hole 7 - Mark Westbrook	Hole 8 - Graeme Mackie
Hole 9 - Jason Thornalley	Hole 10 - Eva Neve
Hole 11 - Graham Hale	Hole 12 - Ellen Moret
Hole 15 - Dean Chapman	Hole 17 - Lee Hutt
Hole 18 - Nick Davies	

Thank you again for your support and generosity.

On 9 May we welcomed Leighton Buzzard Ladies for a friendly match. The sun shone and everyone was happy with a draw.

## Results from the Ladies Section in May

09/05	May M/W Medal	Danka Lawson
18/05	May M/W Stableford	Ellen Moret
22/05	May W/E Medal	Charlotte Simpson

Let's hope this weather continues!

*Charlotte Simpson*

## Competitions

Medal 9 May	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Vanessa Bond nett 75 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sarah Walker nett 87 Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Danka Lawson nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jennifer Perkins nett 75 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Pat Banister nett 78
Stableford 18 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Ellen Moret 32 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jenny Langford 31 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Pat Connolly 31 Pts

Medal 22 May	1 <sup>st</sup> : Charlotte Simpson nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Amy Crowson nett 73 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Abi Pearce nett 74
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## Juniors

There is no Juniors report this month.

### and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** enjoy your Jubilee festivities.

**...and a touch of humour...** forgive your enemy (but remember the b.....ds name!).

*Lance Redler*

Editor

cc: Charities

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### ***What's On This Month***

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

#### **Men**

**Thursday 2 June – Platinum Jubilee Team Competition 0600-0825 and 0850-1650**

Sunday 5 June – Medal 0640-1150

**Monday 6 to Friday 10 June – Midweek Medal**

Saturday 11 June – Penny Cup 0745-1000

**Saturday 18 June – Men's Captain's Day**

Sunday 19 June – Foursomes Medal 0730-1000

**Monday 20 June – Seniors' Pairs Championship**

**Monday 20 to Friday 24 June – Midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 22 June – Mid handicap home match vs Dunstable Downs

Saturday 25 June – Men vs Seniors 1255-1455

Sunday 26 June – Mid Handicap away match vs Tilsworth

#### **Seniors**

Wednesday 1 June – Capt vs Vice-Capt vs Imm Past Capt Team 0745-0950

**Thursday 2 June – Platinum Jubilee Team Competition 0600-0825 and 0850-1650**

Monday 6 June – Medal (3) 0745-0950

**Monday 6 to Friday 10 June – Midweek Medal**

Wednesday 8 June – Seniors' Captain's League 2 (1) 0745-0950

Monday 13 June – Summer Six (3) 0745-0950

Wednesday 15 June - Seniors' Captain's League 1 (5) 0745-0950

**Saturday 18 June – Men's Captain's Day**

**Monday 20 June – Seniors' Pairs Championship**

**Monday 20 to Friday 24 June – Midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 22 June – home match vs Silverstone

Saturday 25 June – Seniors vs Men 1255-1455

Monday 27 June - Seniors' Captain's League 2 (2) 0745-0950

Wednesday 29 June – Triangular Cup 0800-0950

#### **Ladies**

**Thursday 2 June – Platinum Jubilee Team Competition 0600-0825 and 0850-1650**

Saturday 4 June – Summer Cup 1055-1130

Sunday 12 June – Medal 0910-0945

**Saturday 18 June – Men's Captain's Day**

Monday 20 June – home match vs South Beds 1200-1230

Saturday 25 June – Stableford 0930-1000

### ***Key Contacts***

#### ***Club Management***

e-mail: [info@avgc.co.uk](mailto:info@avgc.co.uk)

[www.avgc.co.uk](http://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](mailto:r.phillips@avgc.co.uk)

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322

or [terrygolf1965@gmail.com](mailto:terrygolf1965@gmail.com)

#### ***Men***

**Captain:** Neil Meldrum

**Vice-Captain:** Howard Matthews

**Treasurer:** Keith Loxton

**Competition Secretary:** Dave Lea

**Assistant Competition Secretary:** Mark Mansfield

**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

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