



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 92, August 2022

Comment

July saw some new names proudly bearing the title of various sub-divisions of the 2022 Club Championship competitions – and some familiar ones too; congratulations to them all. Names, with some photos, appear later in this issue of The Vale. For the very serious members the formal two-day Club Championship competition takes place at the end of August.

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

Brian Seaton

We regret to report the death of Brian Seaton, a past Club member. Brian's funeral was held on 20 July, attended by a number of the Club's Seniors.



News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

Smoking on the Course - During this intense dry and hot period we would ask all golfers to be very careful when extinguishing cigarette butts. We have put a bucket of sand by the yellow tee markers on even hole numbers to assist. In particular, please beware of casually flicking a cigarette butt from a buggy – it has been known!

Course Maintenance - Please be aware that we will have pond divers clearing the ponds of reeds on Monday 1 August. Further, we give advance notice of hollow coring and top dressing the greens on Monday 5, Tuesday 6 and possibly Wednesday 7 September. This will mean that the front nine holes will be closed on Monday 5 September and the back nine closed on Tuesday 6 September. Members will only be able to book for nine holes on those days, but once they return to the pro shop, if the tees are available then they can play the same nine holes once again. Wednesday should be available for normal play, but in case of machinery breakdown etc we will only take bookings for the front nine holes and then if everything went to plan we will offer members the option of continuing onto the back nine. Equally, this could be a good period of time to make use of the SmartGolfer network of Clubs.

Summer Party

We are holding a Summer Party on Saturday 24 September in aid of the Captain's Charity. There will be dinner, live music and dancing, but we will need 60 partygoers for the evening to go with a swing, so we would ask members to sign up on the sheet in the lean-to by 16 August. We will count the numbers at that point and go ahead if we have 60 or more names, so please sign up now if you intend to come.

England Golf Fees

We have to make an imminent payment to England Golf for every current member of the Club. We also have to send a corresponding list of current members to them. England Golf uses this information to provide handicapping services for this list of members, and also to give those on that list personal liability golf insurance, which could potentially be of significant value to an individual.

This list can only contain the names of those who are up to date with their membership payments. Hence please do make contact with the Club if you have received your renewal letter but not yet taken any action. Further, if you have changed address but not informed the Club then let us know. Many thanks.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Marking the Golf Ball Position Before Lifting It. Rule 14.1a relates to marking the ball's position before lifting it. The Rule states that when using a ball marker it must be placed right behind or right next to the ball before the ball is lifted. Should you lift your ball without marking it, or mark it in the wrong way, or inadvertently replace the ball and take a stroke without lifting the marker, one penalty stroke is applied. However, when a ball is lifted to take relief under a Rule, you are not required to mark the spot.

2022 Championship Competitions



Ladies' Pairs and Men's Pairs

The first of this month's congratulations go to Charlotte Simpson (Lady Captain) and Pat Connolly (Ladies' Pairs Club Champions) and to Tim Hogston and John Kidd, (Men's Pairs Club Champions).



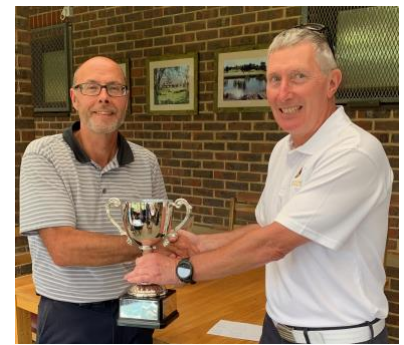
Men's Midweek

Darren Horne is the Men's Midweek Gross Club Champion and it was Gavin Procter who became the Men's Midweek Nett Club Champion for the year – congratulations to them both!



Seniors

The Seniors' Gross Champion for 2022 is Tony Messenger (*pictured right*), with Martin Shefferd (*pictured left*) as the Nett Champion. The over-70 Seniors' Champion is Ian Pullin and congratulations go to all three members.



Juniors

Once again the Junior Gross Champion for 2022 is Alex Robins – and (yet again) the Nett Champion is Eloise Hammond; they are well deserving of their positions.





AVGC GOLF CLUB



Summer Party

In aid of the Captains Charity



Saturday 24th September 2022

Everyone Welcome

Bring your family & friends

Cold Meats & Salad Buffet

Live Music & Dancing

7.00pm till late.

£18.00 per person

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Hi All,

The year is really starting to speed by and the Club Championships will soon be upon us - it seems like only yesterday that Keith handed over the poison chalice. The weather has been good to us of late and Luke and the greenkeeping staff have done a great job given the lack of the wet stuff and the greens have played well. Unfortunately, the lack of rain has led to other parts of the course starting to look burnt out as the greens are given priority. The hard ground is leading to the ball running out much further, so take care when deciding to play a shot and don't forget to play a provisional if you think there is a chance it went in the long stuff. This week I had the pleasure of presenting the trophies at the Junior Club Championships.

For those of you that don't know, Peter Codrai has been unwell. Peter does a fabulous job helping out on big days in the Club, such as Captain's Day and Club Champs (to name just a couple), as well as trying to organise our social calendar. I and the rest of the Committee would like to wish Peter a speedy recovery (otherwise I might need a replacement starter for Club Champs) and wish Jane the best of luck in getting him to take it easy as he recovers and gets itchy feet.

The County 4-ball Championship was held at South Beds on 24 July. We were represented by nine pairs playing 36 holes on the day; well done to all those that went. I tried to keep track of the event via the Beds County website and WhatsApp. The results were posted and the best of the bunch for AVGC were Howard and Adrian Matthews who managed a creditable fourth place. No one was more surprised than Howard, who mentally worked his way through their scorecard on the way home and was convinced something wasn't right. Those who know Howard won't be surprised that he contacted the County Organiser to share his concerns, and after a bit of back and forth it became clear that the wrong score had been entered and the result was amended. This was great honesty and integrity by our next Captain, so best of the day for us in the end were Alex Robins and Charlie Coleman.

The Scratch A team went to Stockwood Park, looking for a victory that would secure them the league. Unfortunately this was not to be and we suffered a 4:1 defeat. It is disappointing that we have had to cancel the internal match against the Seniors and the friendly match against Aspley Guise, due to lack of support. Getting Club matches back on the calendar and organised (well done Howard) has been a challenge. Feedback has been that the timing of matches is a problem for people and Chris has agreed that he is willing to allow some movement on this for next year, and will speak to Howard in due course.

A couple of polite reminders to close. Payment for the Club Championships must be made in advance by 12 August. Anybody who has not paid by then will be excluded from the draw. Payments can be given directly to Dave Lea or placed in the Men's box by the changing rooms (don't forget to put your name on the envelope). Almost every time I come to the Club I receive a complaint about bunkers not being raked. Given the number of people who say that they routinely rake bunkers (whether they've been in them or not) as they go round, I am at a bit of a loss as to when this all happens. Let's make sure we all do our bit.

Neil Meldrum

Competitions

Midweek Medal	1 st : Martyn Gates nett 62 2 nd : Jon Richmond nett 67 3 rd : Steve Willett nett 68
Medal 9 July	Div 1 1 st : Nathan Chandler nett 64 2 nd : Alister Thorne nett 65 3 rd : Nicholas Brewer nett 71

	Div 2 1 st : Paul Herridge nett 67 2 nd : Dean Ridley nett 70 3 rd : Greg Young nett 70 Div 3 1 st : Jason Knox nett 67 2 nd : David Corkett nett 70 3 rd : Nick Mayor nett 71
President's Day 16 July	1 st : Mike Bowes 42 Pts 2 nd : Mark Westbrook 41 Pts 3 rd : Dean Palmer 40 Pt
Greensomes Stableford 17 July	1 st : Brian McCormick/A Wood 40 Pts 2 nd : Alister Thorne/Matt Taylor 40 Pts 3 rd : Gary Clark/Mike Browne 39 Pts
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Mark Hughes 40 Pts 2 nd : Tom Williams 39 Pts 3 rd : Nicholas Brewer 39 Pts
Home match vs Leighton Buzzard 30 July	Halved 3:3
Professional's Cup 31 July	1 st : Dave Bandy 4 2 nd : Nigel Welling 2 3 rd : Brian Furness 2

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

We are on the home stretch. July has been dry and a scorcher. It's amazing that with the fairways firm you gain all those extra yards, but it's the missing inches on the putts that make all the difference.

The Seniors' programme has marched on, the only risk being the rising temperatures.

On Monday 4 July we held our monthly Medal which was won by Hugh Frood, nett 64 and a convincing winner. The Summer Six (4) Stableford on Monday 18 July was won by myself, with 38 points.

We hosted our last home Summer friendly for the year vs Whipsnade Park on 20 July. Alas, our home winning streak came to a halt, losing 2:4. As usual, we had to concede a considerable number of shots - in a couple of cases more than a shot a hole. But that's the way it is.

The Seniors held their Club Championships on Saturday 23 July. It was a good-sized field of 58 players and the Gross champion was Tony Messenger, retaining his title from last year. He scored 76 gross, just holding off Dean Palmer by one shot. By all accounts it was a close run in, as both were in the same group. The nett winner was Martin Shefferd with a nett 63 shots. Well done to both 2022 Champions.

The three-man Drawn Texas Scramble was played out on Monday 25 July and is a format always enjoyed by those participating. It was a close-run result, with three teams sharing the winning score of 60 points. On count back the winning team was declared as 'Team Welling/Hollands/Piddington'. Congratulations to the three of you.

On Wednesday 27 July we played our annual match vs the Ladies. It's a match we approach with some trepidation, not least since we haven't won it since 2016. That was well founded. Again the Ladies were victorious and of the nine groupings, they came out on top in six of them, with the Seniors only making a half in three. However, it was an aggregate of Stableford points and the Ladies amassed 384 points to the Seniors 364 points, a win by 21 points. Well done, Ladies. We will have to wait until next year to have another crack at it.

A modest group of 17 Seniors made their way down to Badgemore Park PC on Thursday 21 July for the Summer AwayDay. It was a cracking day out. Most of us struggled to get any points together, but Adrian Wood and Terry Curtis scored 32 and 31 points for, respectively, the second and third spots. The star of the day, clocking up 41 points, was Steve Foster. An excellent score on an unfamiliar course.

Just a reminder, the Seniors' Captain's Day is on Monday 8 August. The bookings have now been migrated to BRS and we have a great field. However, there may be one or two late withdrawals, so please contact the shop should you be available and able to fill a gap.

Happy golfing...cheers!

Keith Loxton

Competitions

Medal (4) 4 July	1 st : Hugh Frood nett 64 2 nd : Adrian Redford nett 68 3 rd : Walter Huda nett 68
Captain's League 2 (3) 6 July	1 st : Mike Bishop 43 Pts 2 nd : Philip Salt 41 Pts 3 rd : Clive Gear 41 Pts
Captain's League 2 (4) 13 July	1 st : Keith Minor 39 Pts 2 nd : Paul Collins 38 Pts 3 rd : Steve Keeper 37 Pts
Summer Six (4) 18 July	1 st : Keith Loxton 38 Pts 2 nd : Dave Dean 37 Pts 3 rd : Terry Curtis 36 Pts
Home match vs Whipsnade GC 20 July	Lost 2:4
Texas Scramble 25 July	1 st : Nigel Welling/Martin Hollands/John Piddington nett 60 2 nd : Dean Palmer/David Hill/Larry Goddard nett 60 3 rd : Mark Leech/Mike Boden/Lance Redler nett 60
Seniors vs Ladies 27 July	Lost 364:385 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Yet another wonderful month of golfing with the course playing to its best. Many thanks go to Chris and the team for maintaining such a fabulous course that we all enjoy.

July was mother busy month for competitions. The Midweek Greensomes played on 29 June was won by Mary Marchant and Jenny Langford. Well done ladies. We then had the Pairs Championship which was a fun but exhausting weekend. My partner Pat played a lovely steady game and we won by two shots to Danka Lawson and Jan Chambers who were very close on our tail! The Seniors Shield played on 6 July was won by Jan Chambers. We then had a Ladies Invitational Mixed Greensomes – a fun mixed competition which was won by Gail Wickersham and her husband Dave, closely followed by Natalie and Doyle.

President's Day was the last big competition of the month where the Club hosted a lovely day and kindly provided a tasty lunch. Thank you. Clare Garrett was the winner of the Rosebowl with an astonishing 45 points. Well done Clare. Melinda Arthur came second with 41 points.

Due to the very hot weather the Midweek Medal planned for 18 July has been moved to 3 August. We also had to cancel the 3 Clubs and a Putter due to the weather – we will reschedule this for later in the year.

Well played to all the ladies who won the other competitions this month.

We had the very important Ladies v Seniors match on 27 July – we beat them again this year!



Charlotte Simpson

Competitions

Seniors' Shield 6 July	1 st : Jan Chambers nett 69 2 nd : Ann Pullan nett 70 3 rd : Jane Roche nett 72
Medal 10 July	1 st : Natalie Rendle nett 67 2 nd : Hannah Dickens nett 75 3 rd : Amy Crowson nett 76
Stableford 13 July	Div 1 1 st : Charlotte Simpson 43 Pts 2 nd : Jane Codrai 40 Pts 3 rd : Ghie McGinley 38 Pts Div 2 1 st : Jean Attenborough 32 Pts 2 nd : Sue Goodger 29 Pts 3 rd : Jennie Morton 28 Pts
President's Day Rosebowl 16 July	1 st : Clare Garrett 45 Pts 2 nd : Melinda Arthur 41 Pts 3 rd : Julie Lea 38 Pts
Ladies vs Seniors 27 July	Won 385:364 Pts
Harries Shield 30 July	1 st : Anne Bridges nett 72 2 nd : Jane Barker nett 74 3 rd : Lorraine Fox nett 75

Juniors

Junior Club Championship

The AVGC Junior Championship was held on Friday 29 July - a hot and sunny day. Eleven players competed and the Championship was won for the sixth (and final) time by Alex Robins, with a magnificent gross score of 68.

Alex also won the Nett Championship with a score of 67, but he wanted the trophy to go to the next best nett score, which was Eloise Hammond who scored nett 69.

The scores were as follows:

	Gross	Nett		Gross	Nett
Alex Robins	68	67	Billy Rudge	103	79
Joseph Langan-Hart	85	75	Ellis Hammond	112	74
Charlie Gould	97	85	Leah Burgess	113	80
Xander Pool	97	83	Eloise Hammond	116	69
Isabel Nelson	101	73	Lucy Trundley	130	81
			Joshua Edwards-Keay	retired (injured shoulder)	

I would like to thank Ian Gould and Clare Cooper for helping with the day and supplying plenty of water to keep the players hydrated.

This was Alex's final Junior competition before he jets off to his University studies, including golf, in the USA. We all want to wish him all the best for his future and to thank him for being such a great representative for the AVGC Juniors over the years. We look forward to hearing about his adventures and his success in the future.

Kim Burnage

Junior Open Days

Fun days for Juniors aged 6-12 have been arranged. They are for young people of all abilities, so come and give golf a try! The dates are Wednesdays 3, 10, 17 and 24 August and the cost is £30 per child (which includes lunch of nuggets, chips and beans). Anyone can sign up for as many days as they wish and the daily programme is:

- 1000 – arrival and check in
- 1015 – coaching with competitions on the driving range, chipping area and putting green
- 1245 – lunch
- 1330 – golf course games, playing three holes as a team
- 1515 – results and prizegiving
- 1530 – finish

A child's place each day must be booked at least one week ahead, through Head PGA Professional Russell Phillips, on 07843 692948 or r.phillips@avgc.co.uk.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... The secret of golf is tempo, not temper!

...and a touch of humour... Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Lance Redler

cc: Charities.

Editor

What's On This Month

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

Men

Saturday 6 August – home match vs Cainhoe Wood 1230
Sunday 7 August – Medal 0640-1100

Monday 8 August – Seniors' Captain's Day 0720-1100

Monday 8 to Friday 12 August – Midweek Medal

Saturday 13 August – Secretary's Cup 0745-1025

Saturday 20 August – Moorlands Cup 0655-1025

Monday 22 to Friday 26 August – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 24 August – home Scratch match vs John O'Gaunt 1655-1730

Saturday 27 August – Club Championship (1) 0640-1400

Sunday 28 August – Club Championship (2) 0600-1225

Monday 29 August – Club Championship FTQ Plate 1024-1200

Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September – Midweek Medal

Seniors

Monday 1 August – Medal (5) + Ed Burns' Putter 0745-0950

Wednesday 3 August – Seniors' Captain's League 2 (5) 0745-0950

Monday 8 August – Seniors' Captain's Day 0720-1100

Monday 8 to Friday 12 August – Midweek Medal

Wednesday 10 August – Seniors' Captain's League 3 (1) 0745-0950

Monday 15 August – Summer Six (5) 0745-0950

Wednesday 17 August – Seniors' Captain's League 3 (2) 0745-0950

Monday 22 August – Stableford 0745-0950

Monday 22 to Friday 26 August – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 24 August – Seniors' Captain's League 3 (3) 0745-0950

Saturday 27 August – Club Championship (1) 0640-1400

Sunday 28 August – Club Championship (2) 0600-1225

Monday 29 August – Club Championship FTQ Plate 1024-1200

Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September – Midweek Medal

Wednesday 31 August – 3 Clubs + Putter 0745-0950

Ladies

Monday 1 August – Harries Shield 1000-1055

Wednesday 3 August – Medal 1000-1055

Saturday 6 August – Medal 0930-1025

Monday 8 August – Seniors' Captain's Day 0720-1100

Wednesday 10 August – Hi-Lo Pairs 1000-1055

Thursday 11 August – Chiltern League home match vs Whipsnade

Sunday 14 August – Seniors' Cup 1000-1030

Monday 15 August – competition 1000-1055

Monday 15 August – Chiltern League home match vs Chartridge Park

Wednesday 17 August – Stableford 1000-1055

Sunday 21 August – Professional's Cup 1030-1105

Monday 22 August – Medal 1000-1055

Monday 22 to Friday 26 August – Midweek Stableford

Wednesday 24 August – competition 1000-1055

Saturday 27 August – Club Championship (1) 0640-1400

Sunday 28 August – Club Championship (2) 0600-1225

Monday 29 August – Club Championship FTQ Plate 1024-1200

Wednesday 31 August – Stableford 1000-1055

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

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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