



# *The Vale*

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

[www.avgc.co.uk](http://www.avgc.co.uk)

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Edition 94, October 2022

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## **Comment**

In September we bade farewell to our much-respected Queen, HM Queen Elizabeth II, and greeted HM King Charles III...*'Long Live The King!'*.

Winter Rules will apply at the Club from Saturday 1 October.

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

We have finally seen some rain showers and the course has stood up fairly well to the hot, dry, summer. We were pleased with the way that the greens held up and putted well, thanks to the greenkeepers hand watering and applying water retentive products at times. However, the fairways had to stand alone and as such we still have some areas that need further attention to encourage more growth. Two weeks ago we hired in the machine that cuts a two inch slit in the fairways/approaches and leaves a line of grass seed. These areas are only just starting to germinate but this process should gather momentum with a return to normal rainfall patterns in October.

We have bid a sad farewell to Nathan and Adam this month and thank them for their past endeavours.

However, Adam could return so we will keep you posted! In the meantime we have contracted out a couple of tasks, so the hedges and areas of long rough have been maintained by a local farmer. We are looking to sign up Rob, Tom and Freddie to their next level qualifications in horticulture. We will take on new greenkeepers in February to bring the full time team back up to six.

Luke has new blue tee marker tee plaques for the young juniors that have been laid on the fairways of the front nine. The new yardage marker plaques (200, 150 and 100 yards) have now been delivered and will go out in due course. We will also be designing new tee furniture (tee signs with hole detail and map of the hole) to be brought in ready for the start of next season.

## Captains' Charity Day

Captains' Charity Day is on Saturday 8 October. Dan will be firing up the BBQ after the game and catering details are on the noticeboard, but please sign up for orders by 6 October – payment can be made on the day.

## Memberships

We are currently only taking on new 7-day members to replace existing 7-day members who have let their membership lapse. A number of membership renewals are coming up at this time of year, that would normally have come up in spring or early summer, due to additional months that were added on for lockdown periods. Members who are now due will have received a renewal letter in the post. A few members are now past their renewal dates, so we do prompt you to make contact a.s.a.p. if you are intending to renew before we re-allocate your membership number. Please make contact with either Garry or Chris in the office.

## Buggies

There is no set date for buggies coming off the course, as this is always determined by ground conditions. At present the ground is still firm so hires can continue. We stop hiring them out when there is danger of the wheels locking or sliding and the buggies overturning.

*Chris Wright*

## **Rules of Golf**

### Relief from Embedded Ball (Rule 16.3).

Relief is only allowed when your ball is embedded in the general area, and then only if it is embedded in its own pitch-mark made as a result of your previous stroke. The diagram below shows how to tell if a ball is embedded.



## Winter Rules

Winter Rules will commence at the Club on Saturday 1 October. These are unchanged from those published for the 2021 winter season and can be read on the noticeboard in the changing room lobby.

## **Handicap Secretary's Report**

Please note that General Play rounds are not submitted by placing cards in the box in the lobby. The only way to submit a score is to sign in on HowDidIDo or MyEG (on phone or in the main bar) before starting a round and submitting it electronically. If you are playing stroke play, or Stableford, provided you play with a member with a registered handicap, you can submit the card.

It is perhaps time to remind people how the handicap system works. Your handicap index is the average of your best eight scores out of your last 20. This means that you may submit a good score, and see your

handicap go up, if an even better one is no longer within the last 20. The reverse can also be the case, when you submit an average one, but a poorer one is no longer within the best eight.

Some members have asked how to get their handicap altered, when they feel that injury, illness or simply bad form means that they can no longer play to their handicap. The simple answer is, that they should submit cards and the method of calculating handicaps will mean that the average of the best eight scores goes up and their handicap will correct itself. At the end of a calendar year, we also carry out a handicap review and may make minor adjustments (up or down) to some people. Typically, these are not likely to be more than a one shot adjustment, so the best thing is to submit cards reflecting your current form.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: [alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com](mailto:alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com)



*"Our company is giving you 10,000 free golf balls with our company's info on them. Since you'll lose everyone of them, it'll be good advertising for us."*

## Men

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

I'm not sure where the last 12 months have gone. As you read this there will be a little over 12 weeks to Christmas and the pandemic is beginning to feel like a distant memory.

It seems appropriate as we come into Autumn to provide a couple of obvious reminders - the leaf drop has already commenced and finding balls (even on the fairway sometimes) can be challenging. If you have hit the ball in the rough (particularly the longer grass) then you should play a provisional ball, remembering you only have three minutes to find it from when you start looking. If you failed to find your ball and decide to return to the tee, you have essentially declared the ball lost. If your original ball is found after you have made the decision to re-tee, you cannot play it as it is lost, so please ensure you invite any waiting players to play through. If you decide to abandon the hole you can mark it as 'not completed', but you should play out and score the rest of the round as normal, including submission of the scores. Remember there is no real NR anymore. Remember that when deciding that a ball has entered a penalty area you need to be certain or virtually certain that this is the case. In the coming weather I would respectfully suggest that any player can't be virtually certain of this in some cases, such as the ditch on 11 when teeing off or the pond on 13<sup>th</sup> when teeing off.

I have had a small number of people suggesting that a rule infraction or mistake has been made during a competition or conforming General Play round. However, the vast majority of these have been raised after the competition has closed and, in some cases, days and weeks after the alleged infraction. All suspected rule infractions should be challenged on the course at the time. If an agreement cannot be reached on the appropriate action, every effort should be made to contact a member of the committee

straight away for help with a resolution. It is almost impossible to address infractions that have not previously been challenged on the course.

The All Captains Charity Day is on 8 October and all members are welcome. There is no green fee to pay for 5-day members. Entry is £5 cash including the '2s club' and whilst HowDidIDo booking has closed there are still spaces available. If you contact a committee member we will help sort it out for you. The event is a 4-person team playing a standard Waltz (1 score, then 2, then 3). There will be a prize for the winners (4-ball at De Vere Staverton - December 22) and runners up (4-ball at Aldenham - December 22). If you fancy sponsoring a hole for a bit of fun, the sheet is up in the bar. Darren Horne, six-time (consecutive) Club Champion will be manning the 17<sup>th</sup> tee. For £1 you can see if you can beat him and go into the prize draw, or for £5 if you beat him you can go in the draw for a 4-ball at Brickendon Grange, valid until March 23. Please bring any spare change you have as we will be rattling buckets and we are hoping to run a raffle, so prize donations for the raffle would be gratefully received.

The Four Nations was held on 24 September. A great day was had by all and for me it almost like the AVGC of old. There was plenty of banter, some great fancy dress and the drinks flowed freely. The Irish had a great start and looked like they were romping it, however most teams rallied to peg them back, with the Scots overcoming them and winning. There were calls for the resignation of the England captain who had managed to steer a team to a resounding loss on consecutive weekends. As last year's winners the Welsh captain had to present the trophy to the new victors, but sadly he had to leave early and this great honour was bestowed on me. There were rumours that the Welsh captain had resigned, but this is yet to be confirmed

Finally, play with yellow balls but don't eat yellow snow.

*Neil Meldrum*

## Competitions

Medal 3 September	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew Pearce nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Darren Horne nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Matt Green nett 70 Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew Pye nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andy Penfold nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : James Adam nett 71 Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Garry Beasley nett 66 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Newman nett 68 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Keith McGoverne nett 73
Midweek Medal	1 <sup>st</sup> : David Harrison nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Peter Smees nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jez Anderson nett 75
Medal of Medals 25 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Greg Cawthorne nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nathan Chandler nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Austin Brandt nett 73
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Steve Simpson 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Steve Willett 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : John Burrows 36 Pts

## Seniors

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

With October now here, we are into 'Winter Rules' again. For those who are interested, England Golf have issued their revised guidance notes for playing in winter. Much of it is technical, but the important

thing is to keep an eye on the local rules in place, both for the course generally and the competition you entered.

Whilst on the detailed points of playing, don't forget about your own safety on the course. With autumn leaf fall, finding a wayward ball may prove a little more troublesome. Instead of all the playing group and their equipment disappearing into the trees, think about leaving a trolley or two in the middle of the fairway. That way, a following group will be aware you are there. Even better, call the following group through while you execute your search.

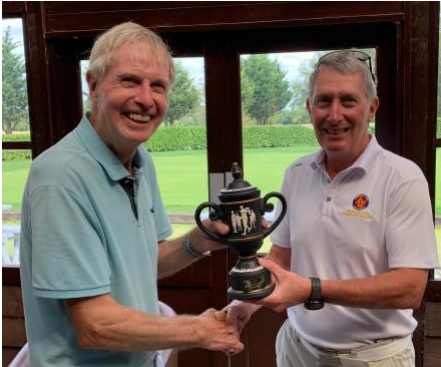
On matters of safety, the playing order protocol of the 13<sup>th</sup> green and 16<sup>th</sup> tee cannot be repeated enough. It applies to everyone on the course. Also, with the dry summer, the 13<sup>th</sup> has brought its own problems with players finding extra yards off their tee shot. Be mindful that, if you are still on the fairway but out of sight of the 13<sup>th</sup> tee box, the following players there will tee off. Should you be waiting for the 13<sup>th</sup> green to clear, ensure one of your group remains in sight of the 13<sup>th</sup> tee box so that the following group is aware that the fairway is occupied.

The Starter's rota has been set up for the winter months. Steve Waters looks after this and if you wish to be involved, please get in touch with him. It does make a difference having someone marshalling competitions and the Committee appreciates the efforts made. As a small gesture of thanks, those on the Starters rota will be entered free into a future competition. Further details will be given nearer the time.

As September included a week of green maintenance, it was a shorter month for Seniors' golf.

I should start with our last competition in August, which was still to be played when copy had to be submitted. This was 3 Clubs and a Putter. Always a round of choices, or lack of them, pending on your club selection. This year's winner was Clive Gear who scored an impressive 43 points and proved that 10 clubs usually carried are surplus to requirements.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> we held the annual Memorial Stableford, in reflection of Seniors Golfers passed, won by Tony Phillips (pictured). We cancelled the last round of the Summer Medals, due to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, marking the day of the late Queen's funeral. The last of the Summer Sixes was played on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. The winner was Don Huggett, with 40 points.



*Memorial Trophy Winner – Tony Phillips*

With the close of the 'summer season' our series competitions ended. The mark of a good summer of golf is the winner of the Order of Merit. It requires consistency in Medal and Stableford formats and is a much-prized honour. This year's winner is Richard Braithwaite, a very worthy winner. The Summer Six is a separate Stableford series. Again, it requires consistency over the six rounds and it's no surprise that the Order of Merit winner was in close contention. However, this year's winner is Don Huggett. Another worthy winner. Congratulations to you both and may your good golf continue.

Whilst we have a couple of this season's competitions to complete in October, our winter competitions start. As I write, we will be starting our Winter League matches and in early October the Winter 8 Stableford will commence. The Winter Eclectic will be run again, starting from 1 November. Remember to keep an eye on the Seniors' notice board for details - not everything is on HowDidIDo! Happy golfing!

*Keith Loxton*

**Competitions**

<p>Three clubs + putter 31 August</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup>: Clive Gear 43 Pts 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steven Foster 40 Pts 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mike Bender 36 Pts</p>
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Memorial Day 12 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Tony Phillips 42 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nigel Welling 40 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Graham Tallyn 40 Pts
Medal (6) 19 September	Cancelled
Captain's League 3 (4) 21 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Richard Braithwaite 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Don Huggett 40 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Hugh Frood 40 Pts
Four Nations 23 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Wales 58 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Scotland 48 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : N Ireland 42 Pts 4 <sup>th</sup> : England 32 Pts
Summer Six (6) 26 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Don Huggett 40 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Keith Loxton 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lance Redler 37 Pts
Winter League away match vs Chartridge Park 28 September	Lost 0:6

## Ladies

### A Word from the Lady Captain...

The Midweek Club Championship has just been played, and congratulations go to Sue Goodger on a fabulous nett 67. Jane Roche came second with a nett 72, closely followed by Sheila Perkins who also scored nett 72.



This month we have also had a Medal of Medals – this year opened up to anyone who had won a Medal since July 2019 (the last time this competition was played) and the winner was.....Lesley Wright with a nett 72. Well played Lesley!

As I write this I am just home from playing this year's 3 Clubs and a Putter – an interesting format and not helped if you take a 9-iron out instead of a 6-iron, Lorraine!! This was also won by Lesley Wright with 38 points.

Whilst I was on holiday, three of the committee ladies ran Breast Cancer Charity Day and raised a staggering £1,700 for the charity. Thank you to Jean Hill (our raffle queen), Jean Barnett and Lorraine Fox for running a fantastic day and to all those who put their hands in their pockets and raised such a staggering sum of money. Thank you everyone.

We have our last charity event of the year on Saturday 8 October – All Captains Charity Day. It's open to all and, if you would like to play, please contact one of the Captains and they will get you slotted in. If anyone can spare one last raffle prize, please leave it in the Clubhouse. Thank you.

*Charlotte Simpson*

### Competitions

Stableford 31 August	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jane Whigham 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai 36 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mary Marchant 35 Pts
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Medal 10 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hannah Dickens nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jean Barnett nett 76
Medal 14 September	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jean Barnett nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Roche nett 79 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sarah Djuric nett 80 Div 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> : Christine French nett 83
Stableford 19 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jean Cross 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sandie Joy 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Charlotte Simpson 30 Pts
Midweek Championship 21 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Sue Goodger nett 67 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Roche nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 72
Medal of Medals 25 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Lesley Wright nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sheila Perkins nett 74 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lorraine Fox nett 76
Stableford 25 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Sarah Djuric 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Leah Burgess 33 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Clare Garrett 26 Pts
3 Clubs + Putter 26 September	1 <sup>st</sup> : Lesley Wright 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sue Goodger 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jan Chambers 35 Pts

## Juniors

We are coming to the end of the summer now. We have had a busy time, playing three matches in the Tavistock, the girls attending the county academy training and many Friday night roll ups.

Our thanks for help at the roll ups must go to Jane Codrai, Clare Garrett, Amanda Croft, Ian Gould and Matt Hammond. On average we have had nine juniors every Friday since the start of May. Thanks must also go to Russell for his monthly training at the roll ups, plus bringing us in more juniors. Russell also ran very popular summer fun days, so we also have thanks to Jane Codrai, Bob Phillips and Abi Pearce for their help with those.

We will run a few competitions during the winter before we begin again next April.

Congratulations must also go to Leah Burgess, playing in Bedfordshire schools, and Isabel Nelson who played in the County Junior girls team matches with Essex, Herts, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

Finally, we have now lost Alex Robins to his University studies and golf in the USA and we wish him every success.

Kim Burnage

## and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... no rain, no rainbows.

...and a touch of humour... They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

*Lance Redler*

cc: Charities.

Editor

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

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

#### **Men**

Saturday 1 October – away match vs Abbey Hill

Sunday 2 October – Medal 0655-1055

**Saturday 8 October – Joint Captains' Charity Day 0800-1330**

**Monday 10 to Friday 14 October – Midweek Medal**

**Saturday 15 October – Mixed Pairs Club Championship 0800-1000**

Saturday 23 October – Waddington Shield Texas Scramble 0720-1025

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 October – midweek Stableford**

#### **Seniors**

Monday 3 October – Stableford 0745-0850

Monday 3 October – WL home match vs Little Hay 0900-0955

Wednesday 5 October – Lawson Shield 0745-0950

**Saturday 8 October – Joint Captains' Charity Day 0800-1330**

Monday 10 October – Winter 8 (1) 0745-0950

**Monday 10 to Friday 14 October – Midweek Medal**

Wednesday 12 October – Captain's League 3 (5) 0745-0950

Friday 14 October – away match vs Silverstone

**Saturday 15 October – Mixed Pairs Club Championship 0800-1000**

Monday 17 October – Stableford 0745-0850

Monday 17 October – WL home match vs Weston Turville 0900-0950

Wednesday 19 October – Trafalgar Salver 0745-0950

Monday 24 October – Winter 8 (2) 0745-0950

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 October – midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 26 October – Stableford 0745-0950

Thursday 27 October – WL away match vs Weston Turville

Monday 31 October – Par/Bogie singles 0745-0950

#### **Ladies**

Saturday 1 October – Barbara Pincherle Cup 1000-1030

Monday 3 October – Barbara Pincherle Cup 1000-1055

Wednesday 5 October – Stableford 1000-1055

**Saturday 8 October – Joint Captains' Charity Day 0800-1330**

Sunday 9 October – Barbara Carr Plate 1000-1030

Monday 10 October – Barbara Carr Plate 1000-1055

Wednesday 12 October – Stableford 1000-1055

**Saturday 15 October – Mixed Pairs Club Championship 0800-1000**

Sunday 16 October – Medal 0910-0945

Monday 17 October – Medal 1000-1055

Wednesday 19 October – competition 1000-1055

Saturday 22 October – Daily Mail Foursomes 1000-1030

Monday 24 October – Daily Mail Foursomes 1000-1055

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 October – midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 26 October – competition 1000-1055

Monday 31 October – competition 1000-1055

### **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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