



# *The Vale*

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

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## **Comment**

Change is happening for us at AVGC in the New Year, with the introduction of Intelligent Golf as our competition system in place of HowDidiDo (if only we were all able to play intelligent golf!) and the introduction of the 2023 Rules of Golf; more information on these is given on following pages.

This is *your* newsletter and all feedback, comments, letters and suggestions - 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

Rainfall totals over the last couple of months have certainly set a challenge to the greenkeepers but so far, so good. A couple of greens did show signs of disease early in the month, but regular feeding and spiking has kept this at bay. The whole course has now been slit and the leaf collector has been out several times.

We have hired an Air 2 G (air to ground) machine that blasts jets of compressed air to fragment the soil structure. This has been used across all the greens and other areas of tees, surrounds or fairways where compaction looked to be a problem. On the greens you can see ripples of green's grass radiating out away from the machine as it fires! It seems to be working well as the greens have coped with several deluges recently. The first week of December is forecast to be cold, but dry, and if this is the case we will verti-drain the greens and tees and apply their winter feed. In January we will start our winter tree maintenance program.

This winter we are noticing that fewer divots and pitch marks are being repaired. This is a request for all members to assist, as repair is vital when softer ground leads to deeper divots and pitch marks.

## Clubhouse News

Dates for your diaries: Heinz's Sunday Roasts will be on Sunday 29 January and Sunday 12 February, from 1pm.

We require normal shoes in the bar over winter to protect carpets, so please resume changing shoes in the changing rooms once again.

## Shop News

We have fast twist, single metal spikes in the shop. We recommend that all golfers switch away from soft spikes in winter as they fill with ice, frost or mud and then golfers can slip and fall. Please take extra care on slopes and tees.

Our Christmas sale in the shop has now started and finishes on Boxing Day. There is a display island with 10% off all the following items, along with the additional 10% that members get when using their white cards:

- Single metal spikes, FJ rain gloves, umbrellas, mittens, bobble hats, snoods, golf towels, Velo SL650 carry bags, waterproof jackets and trousers (men's and ladies), waterproof hats.
- There are fresh stocks of warm winter clothing in the shop. We also sell Christmas one, three or five round vouchers if you need a gift for a golfing friend or relative.

And Finally...we extend our thanks to Lance for producing this newsletter all year. There is no January edition, so the next copy will be on 1 February. We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a birdie-filled New Year!

*Chris Wright*

## **2023 Rules of Golf**



2023 Rules of Golf. There is good (and some less good) news regarding the updating of the Rules of Golf. The good news is that the R&A's and USGA's four-yearly review of the Rules of Golf has been completed, the updated Rules for 2023 have been published and they become effective on 1 January.

The less good news is that, unlike past years when all Golf Clubs received hundreds of free copies of the revised Rules for issue to members, this will no longer be the case. Forests have been saved from destruction, but golfers now have to access the 2023 Rules themselves via an R&A App, as shown here. The

2023 Rules should be available via the App from mid-December and will include explanatory videos.



To get you started, a couple of the changes to the current Rules are:

- Back-on-the-line relief: if taking relief from an unplayable ball or penalty area by moving back on line, when dropping the ball it may roll as much as one club-length in **any** direction without penalty;
- In stroke play, due to the introduction of the World Handicap System and scores being posted digitally, a player is no longer responsible either for showing handicap on a scorecard or adding up the scores.

There's some reading to be done!



## **Intelligent Golf – Your New Competition System**

Some of you may have already heard that we are moving our competition system from HowDidiDo (HDiD) to Intelligent Golf (IG). This change will take effect from 3 January 2023.

A more detailed communication will follow nearer the go-live date, providing you with access details to the IG website and, should you prefer, the mobile app link. Much of the core functionality is like HDiD, which should help in building familiarity.

We are also upgrading our Clubhouse touchscreen. In fact, there will be two new screens - one will be sited in each of the locker rooms, which will be the new locations for touchscreen entry (sign-in, scores etc).

Core member data has already been copied to IG (so please make sure you let us know if you amend any profile data!) and the Committees are progressing with updating the diary with some of next year's competitions. We are also getting to grips with the finer points of the display tools for the AVGC element of the website. Whilst there is plenty of functionality, it will take a little bit of time to get things looking as we wish.

Meanwhile, continue to use HDiD to book competitions. If any transfers of bookings are necessary across systems, the respective Committees will manage that. The usual rules regarding BRS tee times remain unchanged.

Our last day with HDiD is 31 December, when their service provision ceases, so there is a small service gap on 1 and 2 January. On these two days any general play rounds will have to be submitted via the England Golf app. Thereafter, we are using IG.

Understandably, there will be numerous questions. Whilst we will do our best to respond to informal enquiries, we would recommend waiting until the formal launch communication (which will be sent to your registered email address in the latter part of December). To supplement this, we will also hold support sessions in the Clubhouse to help get you connected.

We are looking forward to introducing you to this new development at our Club.

*Neil Meldrum, Charlotte Simpson and Keith Loxton,  
on behalf of the AVGC Sections*

## **Personal Liability Insurance up to £10m – Free for Club Members**

Because our Club is affiliated to England Golf, all members are automatically covered with up to £10m worth of personal liability insurance.

This core insurance offer, provided by England Golf alongside specialist insurance broker Bluefin Sport, ensures you are covered if found negligent for causing injury to another person or damage to third party property while playing or practising golf at any golf club or recognised practice facility in the UK, Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man.

Do note that this valuable insurance cover only applies to current members of AVGC, thus if you do ever forget to renew your membership, you will not be covered until you have renewed.

# Men

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

Hi everyone,

It would look like winter has truly started. As I write this the rain is pouring down and I think it is reasonable to assume that we will see a spell of "carry only" at some point, but hopefully no closures. We are coming towards the end of the golfing season and there will just be one midweek competition, played from the yellow tees, every month from December through to the end of March.

You will have seen elsewhere in the newsletter that we are changing software provider in January. Whilst change can be scary, frustrating and challenging for all of us, without change we stagnate and fail to move forward to better things. I look forward to the improvements the change will deliver.

The Festive draw is up in the 'shed'. It is £1 a box with a first prize of £100, so dig deep, bring some cash with you and speculate to accumulate. Remember The (Non) Turkey Trot is 3 clubs and a putter. There will be no general entry fee, but you will need to bring £1 for the '2's Club' and a wrapped prize to the value of £10, because everyone's a winner that way. The shop is usually prepared with wrapping paper etc if you neglect to bring a prize. They rub their hands every year as, despite lots of reminders, people still turn up empty handed and surprised.

That just leaves me with a final thank you to everybody for your help and support throughout 2022. I wish you a happy and safe festive season and New Year.

*Neil Meldrum*

## Competitions

Medal 5 November	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Dale Adkins nett 70 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ryan Harvey nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Paul Herridge nett 72 Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Neil Meldrum nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Darren Knibb nett 71 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mark Adams nett 71 Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Des Bill nett 72 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Andrew Newman nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Mark Mansfield nett 76
Midweek Medal	1 <sup>st</sup> : Connor Smith nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jamie Carlin nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Tom Williams nett 71
Quota Stableford 12 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Ali Thorne 44 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Steve Halsey 43 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : David Carroll 43 Pts
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Jez Anderson 36 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Gary Clark 35 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : James Poole 34 Pts
Waddington Shield Texas Scramble 27 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Steve Bowdery/Tom Williams/Stephen Blood/Darren Coleman nett 55.3 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Michael Fenables/Stephen Cunningham/Anthony Kearns/James Adam nett 56.7 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Charlie Coleman/Shane Lea/Matthew Lea/H Dickens nett 57.0

# Seniors

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

The nights are drawing in, daylight hours are at a premium, rain has returned and it's getting colder. Yes, Winter Golf is back with us. We have been very fortunate thus far, the rain hasn't had too much impact after it has passed through, with the fairways and greens holding up well. You may have noticed Luke and his team out with the new leaf collector and giving the greens a blast with the compressed air injector, alongside their usual maintenance routine.

With the reduced light available, golf tee times become scarce. It's even more important to be aware of your position on the course in relation to other players. With a full tee sheet, those out early determine the pace of play for the day. That means someone teeing off at noon, fully expecting to get in 18 holes, probably won't be able to. Quite simply, there are only 30 tee times available per day for those wanting to play 18 holes. It's not a matter of speeding up, although that is a good solution, it's letting through the following group if they, and possibly others, are on your tail. If there is room in front of you, let the following group fill it. Try looking back regularly to see what's happening behind you, there could be a trail of frustrated golfers.

November sees a slowdown in competitions. Weather permitting, we try to get a competitive game out on the Mondays and Wednesdays, with the focus on the Winter 8, Casual League and the Winter Eclectic.

Our winners since the last edition were:

- 07/11 Winter 8(3) - Adrian King 43 pts
- 14/11 Casual League 1(1) - Richard Braithwaite 40 pts
- 21/11 Casual League 1(2) - John Crowson 38 pts
- 28/11 Winter 8(4) - Andrew Bond 40 pts

Well played, all of you.

We have also played our last two matches of the year in the Winter League. In our match vs Chartridge Park we halved, 3:3, and in our match vs Princes Risborough we lost 2:4. Not a strong finish. The Winter League now takes a break, when most courses and players struggle with the weather, recommencing in 2023.

Please note the message earlier in this issue of The Vale regarding the change in your competition system. It's important!

Finally, we have our Seniors Christmas Stableford on Monday 5 December. If you are playing, remember to wear your festive jumper and/or hat.

Cheers.

*Keith Loxton*

## Competitions

Winter League home match vs Chartridge Park 2 November	Halved
Winter 8 (3) 7 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Adrian King 43 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Steve Waters 40 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nigel Handyside 39 Pts
Winter League home match vs Princes Risborough 9 November	Lost 2:4

Casual League 1 (1) 14 Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> : Richard Braithwaite 40 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : David Hill 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Adrian King 38 Pts
Casual League 1 (2) 21 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : John Crowson 38 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ken Slatter 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nigel Handyside 36 Pts
Winter 8 (4) 28 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew Bond 40 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Adrian Redford 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nigel Welling 37 Pts

## Ladies

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

I write this from a very blustery Cornwall, where the local golf course has been almost empty for the entire week – too wet and windy for most – including me!!

It's been a quiet month at AVGC for the Ladies, but we did run a very wet 9-hole fun competition in which nine hardy ladies played. Congratulations go to Pat Connolly, Jennie Morton and Jackie Boden. My thanks go to Jackie for running the competition in my absence.

Some of you might be aware of a weekly event called Winterdowners being run by Binzy Bowden. A group of men and ladies from AVGC have been going to the Kingfisher Driving Range on a Thursday evening at Deanshanger, for golf, supper and social fun all for £10!! Everyone is welcome – just contact either Binzy or myself if you are interested.

As we head towards Christmas I am personally looking forward to our two Christmas lunches. One is on Saturday 3 December and the other on Wednesday 14 December. If you have not already signed up, please contact me. Golf is optional but there is a 9-hole fun competition before each lunch. Don't forget to wear your best sparkly Christmas outfits!!

If I don't see you before Christmas – have a very happy and healthy Christmas, and here's to 2023.

*Charlotte Simpson*

### Competitions

Medal 6 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Lesley Wright nett 71 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Natalie Rendle nett 77 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Julie Lea nett 81
Stableford 7 November	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Jan Chambers 34 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Pat Banister 26 Pts Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : Sue Goodger 29 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Junko Baba 27 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Whigham 26 Pts
Stableford 13 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hannah Dickens 37 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Codrai 32 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Natalie Rendle 31 Pts
Medal 16 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Ghie McGinley nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Jane Barker nett 75 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jane Codrai nett 77
Stableford 26 November	1 <sup>st</sup> : Hannah Dickens 32 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Leah Burgess 30 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Lesley Wright 30 Pts

## Juniors

There is no Juniors' report this month.

### and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** There will not be a January issue of *The Vale*, hence the competition dates for both December and January are included on the following page. **Happy Christmas** to all our readers.

**...and a touch of humour...** Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

cc: Charities.

*Lance Redler*

Editor

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

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

#### **Men**

Sunday 4 December – Medal 0730-1100

Saturday 10 December – Turkey Trot (3 clubs + putter) 0800-0920

**Monday 12 to Friday 16 December – Midweek Stableford**

**Saturday 17 December – Beer & String competition 0800-1000**

**Saturday 7 January – Medal 0715-1100**

**Monday 16 to Friday 20 January – Midweek Stableford**

#### **Seniors**

Monday 5 December – Christmas Stableford 0745-0950

Wednesday 7 December – Stableford + team 0745-0950

Monday 12 December – Winter 8 (5) 0745-0950

**Monday 12 to Friday 16 December – Midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 14 December – Stableford + team 0745-0950

Monday 19 December – Casual League 1 (3) 0745-0950

Wednesday 21 December – Stableford + team 0745-0950

Wednesday 28 December – Stableford + team 0745-0950

Wednesday 4 January – Stableford + team

Monday 9 January – Casual League 1 (4)

Wednesday 11 January – Stableford + team

Monday 16 January – Winter 8 (6)

**Monday 16 to Friday 20 January – Midweek Stableford**

Wednesday 18 January – Stableford + team

Monday 23 January – Casual League 1 (5)

Wednesday 25 January – Stableford + team

Monday 30 January – Casual League 2 (1)

#### **Ladies**

Saturday 3 December – 9-hole Florida Scramble 1000-1030

Saturday 3 December – Christmas Lunch

Sunday 4 December – Medal 0730-1100

Monday 5 December – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 7 December – competition 1000-1100

Monday 12 December – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 14 December – 9-hole competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 14 December – Christmas Lunch

**Saturday 17 December – Beer & String competition 0800-1000**

Monday 19 December – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 21 December – competition 1000-1100

Wednesday 28 December – competition 1000-1100

**Saturday 7 January – Medal 0715-1100**

Wednesday 11 January – Medal 1000-1030

Sunday 15 January – Stableford 0930-1000

**Monday 16 to Friday 20 January – Midweek Stableford**

Monday 23 January – Stableford 1000-1100

### **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 07769 942951

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