



# *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 98, March 2023

-----

## **Comment**

This month we celebrate nine years since the first issue of The Vale on 1 March 2014....your Editor is exhausted!

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)

## **David Whinyates**

*David Whinyates, who died unexpectedly at the beginning of February, had been a Club member since 1990/91 and was still playing nine holes each week. David was described by a fellow Senior as 'One of the gentlemen'; he will be missed.*

*David's funeral service took place on 28 February.*



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

### The Course

This is a really busy time for greenkeepers as we ready the course for the first flush of growth that comes with spring. The greens, tees, collars and approaches are all being aerated with the verti-drainer and Luke has reduced the spacing between the holes for additional aeration at this time. The tees and greens will all be fertilised and the fairways scarified. We will also be hiring in the Freddo Seeder, once again, to bury fresh grass seed just below the surface on tees, collars, approaches and high wear areas

around the greens. In around a month's time attention will shift to renovating the greens and the grass driving range bays.

Tree maintenance is nearing completion with just the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> holes left to finish. Lower branches will be removed to promote tree height and canopy development. We will be repairing the roof of the driving range.

We have some new tee signs under manufacture and these should arrive at the end of March. The advertising banner will be offered at a discounted rate to members at £300 + VAT per year. This includes the manufacturer's costs to make the sign but he will need each sponsor to send the artwork design to him. Artwork can include a QR code so that prospective customers can access your company's details. The hole number can be selected on a first come, first served basis.

#### Mens' Medal – 7am Shotgun Start – 11 March

The Mens' Medal on Saturday 11 March has a 7am shotgun start (allow time to get to your tee) and is followed by the AGM and Prize Presentation. This means it will be very busy at the Club from 6.15am and onwards. To ease the crush we will be using the lean-to to lay out vacuum flasks of fresh filter coffee, pots of tea, milk and sugar with an honesty pot based at £1 per drink, a selection of pastries and sausage rolls (cold) all at £1. These will be available before you tee off, but also as a quick take away as you transit from the 9<sup>th</sup> green to 10<sup>th</sup> tee and 18<sup>th</sup> green to 1<sup>st</sup> tee.

#### Captains' Drive In – 26 March

Sincere thanks to Neil, Charlotte, Keith and Charlie as they approach the end of their year. All are welcome to see Howard, Jane, Adrian and Leah drive in at 2pm and all are welcome afterwards in the upstairs lounge for a chat and nibbles!

#### Greens Maintenance

There has been a change in plan for greens maintenance. We have shown Monday 27 March, Tuesday 28 March and Wednesday 29 March as 9-hole only days in the handbook, but this will now change.

Luke is looking to hire in a much bigger and better machine this year (a GKB Sand Filler) that will scarify, plant seed and then sand fill all in one pass on the greens. However, this is only now available on Tuesday 14 March so there will now be disruption only on this day and not on 27, 28 and 29 March when all 18 holes will be available as normal.

On Tuesday 14 March the back nine holes will be available and bookable for play from 6.08am until 10.30am. The back nine greens will be normal as Luke will start on the front nine greens and they won't have been treated yet. The tees will only be available for members on this day. However, only nine holes will be available and you won't be able to play them twice. The front nine holes will remain closed all day. This would be a good day to make use of the SmartGolfer Network!

#### Buggies

We will start hiring buggies out on Wednesday 1 March. We have bought three new buggies, but still have our last four buggies off site being serviced, so we will begin the season with seven buggies available for booking in the normal way. By the end of March it will be getting dark at 7.40pm so this then brings in the option of a nine hole booking after work.

#### Road Closure near Wing 17 March.

A section of road between Wing and the Club entrance is scheduled to be closed on 17 March for the laying of cables. Access to and from the Club would then be from/to the Stewkley direction only on this day.

## Pitchmarks

We have a plea from the greenkeepers for everyone to repair their pitch marks on the greens. We would also like to thank Dave/Barry/Brendan in advance for their offer of filling in divots on fairways with a top dressing/seed mix.

*Chris Wright*

## **Rules of Golf**

Substituting a Ball. Under the Rules of Golf, a ball may be substituted before the start of a new hole, without penalty. Whilst playing a hole, according to Rule 4.2c a ball may also be substituted if it is shown to be cut or cracked – but not if it is scratched, scraped or has damaged paint. However, under Rule 14.3a, if one is taking Relief under a Rule and dropping a ball, either the original ball or another ball may be used.

## **Handicap Secretary's Report**

The switch to Intelligent Golf has generally gone smoothly, but please be aware that you no longer get email notifications of handicap alterations, which occur overnight after submission of the score which affects your handicap index. This underlines the need to always check your handicap before going out to play a round. If you are signing in for a general play or competition round, the system should automatically be updated, however if you are playing match play (or a casual round with friends), you may not be signing in. In such circumstances, please remember that it is your responsibility to check your handicap before playing.

## **A Word from Professional Maria Tulley**

Listed below are the upcoming Pro-Ams for May that I will need to have teams for, before entering.

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>
Hendon GC Pro-Am	Fri 5 May
Sudbury Pro-Am	Mon 15 May
Muswell GC Pro-Am	Fri 19 May
John O'Gaunt Pro-Am	Mon 22 May
Upminster Pro-Am	Wed 31 May

At the moment I don't know the cost of each day's event, but if any Club members are interested, I am looking for three amateurs to make up the team in each one. If anyone is interested, please email me at [mariapro@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariapro@hotmail.co.uk).

Do also remember that if members are looking to book golf trips away, I can get them a very reasonable deal through YGT and VIP treatment.

## **Men**

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

It is a mere 19 months since I took over the Captaincy, but it truly only feels like five years or so. I have really enjoyed my time as the Men's Captain but I am also ready to take the Past Captain's slippers from Keith McGoverne and follow his lead, being late or absent for Committee meetings is the default position. My wife is also looking forward to seeing me more, but I think this is more rose tinted glasses than reality and feel sure I will see a return of "*why aren't you going to golf*" and "*the house was tidier when you were Captain*". I can't wait to just rock up and play golf, dealing with queries in the age old tradition of Past Captains – "*Speak to Howard*" or that other well known phrase "*Tell someone who cares*".

A lot of work has been done to try and return the Club and competitions to pre-pandemic status. I think we have been largely successful with the return of Scratch and Mid-Handicap matches along with a

limited number of friendlies. The majority of competitions returned to their normal status including the Scrambles, a two tee start for Captain's Day and a Shotgun start to the March Medal (albeit at an incredibly early time). I'd like to thank Chris, Jason, Garry and the rest of the Clubhouse team for their support throughout the year.

The course has been incredible all year and my thanks go to Luke and the greenkeeping team, particularly for their support on Captain's Day and Club Championships. The roll up is very unlikely to return in its old format but the 'virtual' roll up run by Nick Bowden has created many other benefits and is well supported by members.

The IG system launch in January was relatively painless, at least for most members and many thanks to Keith Loxton for his help in the set up and launch. We continue to develop and learn about the system and we are working towards making it a one stop shop for competition information, which I am hoping will lead to the demise of the Men's website. Another benefit from the change that we are looking to implement will be a cashless system, along with the label printing function, this should reduce the workload for Dave on competition days.

Cashless will be introduced once we are confident that the majority of members are comfortable using the system for recording scores and normal competition functions. Ultimately, IG is different to our previous system and some of the things we have all taken for granted (email advising you of a handicap change) no longer exist. Whilst some of these changes might feel a little frustrating and humans have a natural tendency to dislike change, it will all feel like the norm before we know it.

I think the year has generally gone well and it would be easy to lay claim to that being down to me. Like any true leader, I will claim responsibility for all the successes and state that any failures sat with other members of the Committee who shall remain nameless. In reality, this Club has always relied on the hard work of many other people.

I would like to thank Dave Lea (nominated for an England Golf award), Mark Mansfield, Peter Codrai, Keith McGoverne, Brian Smith, Darren Horne, Alan Connell, John Barker, Keith Loxton and of course Howard Matthews. Special thanks go to Steve Fox for marshalling, Binzy Bowden for the fantastic work on Sundowners and Winterdowners and Nick Bowden for his hard work running the rollup and for raising charity money running Last Man Standing. I'm sure I will have missed some people out but that is more due to my age than anything else, so, many thanks to those I forgot.

My thanks go to you all for your support and without doubt your generosity with both your wallets and your time. This year's charity will be benefitting to the tune of £7,500, which is a truly stunning amount for which I'm sure Hospice at Home Volunteers will be grateful.

Just a couple of reminders to finish off - the AGM and Trophy Presentation is on 11 March starting at 1.00pm and the Captains' Drive-In for the new season is on 26 March at 2.00pm. Please show your support on the day if you can. You can show support in other ways by having a go on the draw for the 'Charity Parking Space' and 'Guess the Distance' for the combined distance the incoming Captains achieve.

And finally, my thanks to you, the members, for making Aylesbury Vale a very special place to play golf.

Best regards...

*Neil Meldrum*

## Competitions

Medal 5 February	Div 1 1 <sup>st</sup> : Clayton Barlow nett 68 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Martin Higgins nett 70 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Darren Horne nett 72
---------------------	---

	Div 2 1 <sup>st</sup> : James Poole nett 70 2 <sup>n</sup> : Keith Loxton nett 72 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Neil Meldrum nett 73 Div 3 1 <sup>st</sup> : Andrew O'Neill nett 69 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Brian Furness nett 69 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Phil L'Aguille nett 70
Midweek Stableford	1 <sup>st</sup> : Scott Caro 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Nathan Bate 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Brian McCormick 37 Pts

## Seniors

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

February has been unexpectedly good for our golf. We haven't lost any competition days in the month although we did have some cold and icy days to navigate. The course has been in great condition for the time of year and a pleasure to play.

The Winter Eclectic, Winter 8 and the second series of the Casual League near conclusion. The latest round of the Winter 8, round 7, was won by Adrian Redford with 39 points.

We look forward to a busier March and hopefully fairer weather. As well as the final rounds of the aforementioned competitions we have the Celebratory Cup and AGM Cup to play for. Whilst the Celebratory Cup is for those Seniors who have won a major competition in 2022/23 (they will be notified), a parallel Stableford will be available for everyone else.

The Winter League comes out of hibernation in March with our match vs Little Hay being played on 7 March (away).

The Seniors AGM will be held on Wednesday 22 March, which all Seniors are welcome to attend. The preceding AGM Cup is being played in a shortened 9-hole format. The AGM will be followed by the 2022/23 Trophy Presentations and the intention is to complete the AGM Cup, AGM and Presentations in a reasonable time. We look forward to seeing you.

Cheers.

*Keith Loxton*



**AVGC SENIORS**  
**AGM CUP**  
**AGM**  
**PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**  
Wenesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023  
AGM at 12:00  
Presentation will follow AGM  
AVGC Function Room



AGM CUP 9 Hole Qualifier Competition (Free to enter with cash prizes and £1 pot for 2's)

**AGM**

The Committee welcome and appreciate your attendance.

If you wish to make nominations for any of the posts available, please complete the appropriate section of the form on the Senior's noticeboard.

Any questions on the AGM please contact Mike Pelizzoni  
07483 276068

**Presentation & Awards**

Will follow the AGM

Presentation of Trophies/Awards to this year's winners.



Complimentary Sandwiches



## AwayDays

In the likely absence of a Social Secretary for next year, Adrian Redford has booked three AwayDays and, taking into account the increase in costs, has gone for three levels of cost and full details will appear on the noticeboard in good time.

Studley Wood Golf Club, 16 May at £68

Dunstable Downs Golf Club, 14 July at £55

Huntswood Golf Club, 6 September at £40

They all include food to start and finish.

## Competitions

Casual League 2 (2) 6 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Adrian Redford 39 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ken Slatter 35 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Nigel Handyside 34 Pts
Winter 8 (7) 13 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Adrian Redford 39 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Adrian King 39 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Dean Palmer 38 Pts
Casual League 2 (3) 20 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Dave Dean 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ken Slatter 37 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Graham Hale 36 Pts
Casual League 2 (4) 27 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Peter Ward 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Bob Phillips 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Jim Gales 37 Pts

## Ladies

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

It's been a quiet month for the Ladies' Section with only three competitions played. Hopefully as the weather warms up, more ladies will come back out to play and join the hardy few who are out every week.

Dates for your diaries - Saturday 4 March - Ladies AGM 2.30 for 3pm start.

Saturday 11 March - 2pm. Ladies and Gents presentation 2022 Trophies including Club Champs, Pairs Champs, Mixed Pairs Champs and Midweek Club Champs. Please come and support last year's winners.

Saturday 18 March - Mixed Spring Foursomes.

Sunday 26 March - Captains' Drive In 2pm. Come and support the new captains!

Happy golfing!

*Charlotte Simpson*

## Competitions

Medal 5 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Lesley Wright nett 78 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 80 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Abi Pearce nett 87
Medal 8 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Anne Bridges nett 76 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Ghie McGinley nett 82 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Charlotte Simpson nett 94

Stableford 18 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Natalie Rendle 35 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Charlotte Simpson 26 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Clare Garrett 22 Pts
---------------------------	---

## Juniors

There is no Juniors' report this month.

### Competitions

Stableford 16 February	1 <sup>st</sup> : Isabel Nelson 41 Pts 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Lucy Trundle 38 Pts 3 <sup>rd</sup> : Blake Platten 37 Pts
---------------------------	---

## and in Conclusion...

**...the last word is...** Spring has almost sprung, thankfully!

**...and a touch of humour...** If you find you do not mind playing golf in the rain or snow, perhaps your life is in trouble!

*Lance Redler*

cc: Charities.

Editor



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

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

#### **Men**

Saturday 11 March – Medal (shotgun start) 0700

Saturday 11 March – AGM 1300

**Monday 13 to Friday 17 March – Midweek Stableford**

**Tuesday 14 March – hollow coring**

**Saturday 18 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0800-1000**

Saturday 25 March – Zodiac Texas Scramble 0745-0945

**Sunday 26 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

#### **Seniors**

Wednesday 1 March – competition 0800-0930

Monday 6 March – Winter 8 (8) 0800-0930

Tuesday 7 March – Winter League away match vs Little Hay

Wednesday 8 March – competition 0800-0930

Monday 13 March – Casual League 2 (5) 0800-0930

**Monday 13 to Friday 17 March – Midweek Stableford**

**Tuesday 14 March – hollow coring**

Wednesday 15 March – Stableford 0800-0930

Monday 20 March – Celebratory Cup 0800-0930

Wednesday 22 March – AGM Cup (9-hole) 0800-0930

Wednesday 22 March – AGM 1200

**Sunday 26 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

#### **Ladies**

Wednesday 1 March – competition 0930-1000

Saturday 5 March – Medal 1000-1050

Monday 6 March – competition 0930-1000

Wednesday 8 March – competition 0930-1000

Sunday 12 March – Coronation Foursomes 1000-1040

**Monday 13 to Friday 17 March – Midweek Stableford**

Monday 13 March – Coronation Foursomes 0930-1010

**Tuesday 14 March – hollow coring**

Wednesday 15 March – Medal 0930-1010

**Saturday 18 March – Mixed Spring Foursomes 0800-1000**

Monday 20 March – Stableford 0930-1000

Wednesday 22 March – competition 0930-1000

Saturday 25 March – Stableford 1000-1050

**Sunday 26 March – Captains' Drive-In 1400**

### **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)

Maria Tulley 07701 049908

or [mariapro@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariapro@hotmail.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

----

**Editor *The Vale*:** Lance Redler 07769 942951

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