



The Vale

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

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Edition 100, May 2023



Comment

Given that this month sees the Coronation of King Charles III – the first Coronation witnessed by the majority of the British population – we trust that you will enjoy both that ceremony and the public holidays that follow it.



Yes, there really have been 100 issues of *The Vale* produced by your Editor since he was invited by Chris Wright and the then Captains to create a Club newsletter, the first of which appeared in March 2014. You can see from the image that the look hasn't changed much since then. The continuing support and encouragement to the Editor throughout all this time from the management, successive Captains, regular contributors and members has been really appreciated and kept the Editor motivated.

The very first issue of *The Vale* opened with the words:

'This newsletter is a new project for the Club, which we intend to publish monthly with both regular and topical items relating to all aspects of the Club, the course, social events, the Rules of Golf, tips from our Professionals and also specific news items regarding each of the Sections. The main purpose is to keep all Club members well informed of what is happening at Aylesbury Vale.'

We have done our best to accomplish this.





Do note the information later on what will be a fascinating evening presentation about Ukraine by one of the Club's Senior Section members, Walter Huda, who has experienced life in Ukraine at various times in its history.

This is *your* newsletter and all feedback, comments, letters and suggestions - especially articles - will be more than welcomed by the Editor, for we want it to be an interesting, informative and helpful monthly publication.

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.

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

The course is now progressing but the rate of improvement is not as great as we were expecting. This is down to a combination of weather and Bank Holidays. The continued rainfall has meant that there have been days when we could not conduct planned machinery work. Bank Holiday-wise, we had two four day working weeks around Easter, with three more to come following the Bank Holidays of 1, 8 and 29 May. We are putting our efforts into groundwork, which will bear fruit as the months pass, but we have additional jobs like digging in the new tee signs and fairway distance markers which we can't get to yet.

As a result of the above we have decided to go for it this year and boost the greenkeeping manpower. Our aim is to become one of the best presented courses in the county by the end of the year – if we do succeed then there should be benefits to offset the larger wage bill.

We welcomed Matt last month and will be welcoming Aiden, Jordan and Jamie before the end of the month. We harbour longer term ambitions of increasing further our teeing grounds and embarking on a few projects, but we will give details of these once we have finished playing 'catch up' and we are ready to actually start work on them.

The raised grass tee at the driving range should be ready to open again within a couple of weeks.

May Bank Holidays

Bank Holiday days are made available for 7-day members to play, but 5-day members can play the course on these days with payment of the reduced green fee in the pro shop. This applies as normal to Monday 1 May and Monday 29 May. However, Monday 8 May is slightly different as an extra Bank Holiday day tacked onto the Coronation weekend. On this day the 5-day green fee will only be charged for rounds booked up until 1pm. Any 5-day members booking a round after 1pm. will be welcome to do so without any further payment.

Men's Medal – Saturday 6 May

We have a chef on from 7.00am on this day to cook a bacon or sausage sarnie for Medal players.

Sundowners

The first 'Sundowners' is on Thursday 18 May. Sundowners is a fun 9-hole format for members each Thursday evening until 24 August, and starts at around 5pm. There is a Facebook group that you can join to register your intention to play, and whether you want the meal on that particular evening after the golf. This fun, social evening is open to all members – for any potential new players, do have a chat with Jason who will explain all!

Walta Huda – Ukraine Talk

Walta Eolodymyr Huda has been a senior member here for many years and is giving a talk at the golf club on Tuesday 23 May at 7.30pm. The talk is “Ukraine: Past and Present”. All are welcome – there is free admission (donations to BAMK charity) and the upstairs bar will be open. There are also tee times available to be booked by members (foc) and guests (£20 for 18 holes and £10 for 9 holes) and all monies collected will go to the charity. The tee times are planned to give the right amount of time to play 18 or 9 holes and then be back in time for the talk at 7.30pm.

Buggies

The fleet has now been expanded from 9 to 11 buggies this year and we are looking for a further summer hire of two buggies from mid-May.

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Club Winter Rules.

Winter Rules have now been rescinded, so no more ‘pick ‘n place’ until next winter!

Relief for Ball in Yellow Penalty Area (Rule 17.1d).

The pond in front of the 13th green is a yellow penalty area, so the following diagram shows that if your ball enters it you have the option of playing the shot again (position 1) or taking relief as in position 2, either costing one penalty stroke.

DIAGRAM #1 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN YELLOW PENALTY AREA

● X Point that ball entered the penalty area
● Reference points
● Relief area

When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a yellow penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **two options**, each for one penalty stroke:

(1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief by playing the original ball or another ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 and Diagram 14.6).

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The spot where the player's previous stroke was made (which if not known must be estimated)	One club-length from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and• Must be in the same area of the course as the reference point

Alternatively, if a player's ball that is played from behind the green overshoots into the penalty area, the same Rule will apply – the ball can be played again for one penalty stroke or the player can cross the water to position 2 and play the ball for the same penalty.

Items for Sale?

If any Club members have items for sale, these may be advertised at no cost in *The Vale*, subject to space being available. Details should be sent to the Editor.



UKRAINE: PAST & PRESENT

Club member Walter (Wolodymyr) Huda will give an overview of Ukrainian history, religion and the current conflict based on his visits to Ukraine.

**Aylesbury Vale Golf Club, Tuesday 23rd May 2023
7:30 pm**

Members, spouses and friends are welcome.
Admission is free - with donations please to *Help
Ukraine BAMK UK.*

Contact walterhuda@hotmail.com or 07709 966892
for more information.

Update from the Men's Handicap Secretary, Alan Connell

There has been an anomaly in the WHS handicapping system since it was introduced, whereby you could only enter scores for rounds played within your home country. England Golf have just announced the following:

England Golf and the GB&I home nations (Scotland, Wales & Ireland) have been working closely with DotGolf to digitise the submission of general play scores via the MyEG app. We are excited to announce this functionality will be going live very soon.

The update will be seamless, and counties/clubs and players do not need to take any further action. Previously, the only way to submit scores were for players to send back their scorecards to their respective home clubs for manual input. With the improved functionality, golfers will be able to use the MyEG app to search for, create score intents and submit scores on any golf course affiliated with England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Furthermore, with this improved functionality, players may have their scores attested by any golfer who is an affiliated member or member of one of the independent golfer programmes within GB&I. This is an exciting time for golfers within GB&I. England Golf are aware of the pressing need for golfers who regularly travel and play golf across the British Isles to have a digital solution to submitting scores and to be able to do it via the MyEG app ensures consistency with the current process for score submission in England. This will again demonstrate the strong working relationships England Golf have with the Scottish, Welsh and Irish nations, enabling us to collaborate to improve the amateur game for all GB&I golfers."

This sounds very positive although no specific date is given just yet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: alanconnellAVGC@outlook.com.

Pre-Round Practice

Just in case you wondered what to do before heading out to the course...



TIGER WOODS WARM-UP ROUTINE

56° WEDGE	18 SHOTS
↓	
8-IRON	10 SHOTS
↓	
4-IRON	9 SHOTS
↓	
5-WOOD	4 SHOTS
↓	
3-WOOD	6 SHOTS
↓	
DRIVER	7 SHOTS
↓	
8-IRON	3 SHOTS
↓	
60° WEDGE	5 SHOTS
↓	
3-WOOD	2 SHOTS
↓	
DRIVER	2 SHOTS
↓	
56° WEDGE	5 SHOTS

Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

As you read this April is over, however it welcomes the start of a 'new golfing season' and, for those who watched The Masters, we saw Jon Rahm put on the green jacket for the very first time in Augusta. Back home, Nicky Bowden ran an excellent 'Masters Fantasy' for charity competition raising £355, so many thanks to him and all those members who took part. Special congratulations to the winner, Tim Hogston, whose four player team selections proved triumphant over four days.

The Augusta weather at times was very similar to the UK, cold, windy and wet which here at The Vale made playing golf a little tricky, although some say target golf is easier. I guess that assumes you can hit the target and maybe going by my recent competition scores I need more warm weather practice, although I must say Portugal in April was very nice.

The early April Medal was won with some very good individual scores despite the conditions, and special congratulations must go to the all the worthy winners.

For those of you who ventured to 'the other Vale' in Wales, I am pleased that all the members who travelled over the bridge had a really good time and another successful tour, which brought both old and new AVGC members together, along with varied feedback regarding the different courses.

The Men's 'friendly' Club matches started with the David Lea Trophy vs Abbey Hill at home on Saturday 29 April, followed closely the next day away to Leighton Buzzard in the Bedfordshire County knockout; results of these are in the table below.

Please can I ask that you ensure you register your interest if you want to play in any upcoming matches via Intelligent Golf, which using a computer gives you a lot more information and detail than just using the IG App.

I am still excited about the year ahead and really looking forward to all the planned golf in May, which introduces a brand new event 'The Captains' Fun Day'. This is a team format competition not to be missed, brought to AVGC by your Lady Captain Jane, which I am sure will have all of us thinking even more about which club or clubs to use, where to hit the ball and how are we ever going to score enough points to win on a course we should all know well. Please sign up your four team members as soon as possible via IG. There are still a few tee times available for either all Men, all Ladies or a Mixed team.

Finally, my first month as your Men's Captain is nearly over, my name is on the board, my picture is on the wall with special thanks to Gary Janes – it's true he really can work wonders with a camera, background and lighting. I understand even more the role to support you the members and your wishes to continue playing enjoyable golf at AVGC.

Here's to hitting more drives straight, chipping even closer to the pin and more importantly sinking those important putts during May.

Howard Matthews

Competitions

Medal 2 April	Div 1 1 st : Darren Horne nett 73 2 nd : Shaun Houghton nett 73 3 rd : Alister Thorne nett 74 Div 2 1 st : James Poole nett 70 2 nd : Ben Stevens nett 71 3 rd : Darren Coleman nett 71
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	Div 3 1 st : Scott Caro nett 75 2 ⁿ : Stephen Cunningham nett 75 3 rd : Gary Tompkins nett 78
Annette's Hat 7 April	1 st : Bob Doherty/Nathan Chandler/Steve Chandler/Graham Hale 89 2 nd : Darren Horne/Nicky Bowden/Binzy Bowden/Kris Manley 88 3 rd : Will Platten/Paul Talbot/Martin Arnold/Nick Russell 85
Easter Cup 8 April	1 st : Nicky Bowden 41 Pts 2 nd : Steve Halsey 38 Pts 3 rd : Andrew Pearce 37 Pts
Midweek Medal	1 st : Tom Davies nett 70 2 nd : Mike Bowes nett 72 3 rd : Craig Hutchinson nett 73
Midweek Stableford	1 st : Jon Richmond 41 Pts 2 nd : Craig Hutchison 39 Pts 3 rd : Darren Horne 36 Pts
Home match vs Abbey Hill (Dave Lea Trophy) 29 April	Halved 3:3. (Return leg away on 21 October)
Away match vs Leighton Buzzard (Beds County Knock Out Champs) 30 April	Lost ½:4½



AVGC and Abbey Hill teams for the Dave Lea trophy on 29 April

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

It was probably not the best start to a new Captain's year!

The day of the Captains' Drive-In was definitely not what I had hoped for or expected. Firstly the course was closed due to torrential overnight rain and the Captains' Drive-In took place in a windy drizzle. Secondly, I proceeded to put my drive out of bounds, to which I might add was a good strike but playing for my usual fade I managed a slight draw and off it sailed into the farmer's field never to be seen again! And then to cap it off I forgot my glasses for my acceptance speech! Apart from all that, thank you to those who turned up to support the new Captains.

The first competition of my captaincy was played the next day under beautiful blue skies, although a little soggy underfoot. The Par/Bogey was won by Bob Phillips with a score of +1, with Hugh Flood second with a score of -1. Congratulations to Bob. The first Senior Medal of the year was played in dryer conditions, but it was still very wet underfoot.

Thursday 6 April saw the last game in the Winter League, away to Princes Risborough. We were once again facing tough matches due to the amount of shots given! The outcome was a 6:0 defeat to what are this year's League winners. Oh well, there is always next year!

The first of this year's summer friendlies - away to Weston Turville - had to be postponed with the hosts citing two days of heavy downpours and gale force winds forecast for the day of the match. This has now been rearranged for early September.

The first of the Summer 6 competitions was played on Monday 17 April in more spring-like conditions, with Larry Goddard's 38 points winning the first round.

The first round of this year's Captains League was contested in dry but blustery conditions which may have contributed to lower scores and only four points separated the top 10 places. This time it was Steve Malone's turn to win, followed by Larry Goddard.

Meanwhile, at Chartridge Park 12 seniors played in a Texas Scramble format to end this year's Winter League. I am glad to say that Adrian King was part of the victorious team.

A summer friendly was played on Tuesday 25 April at Whipsnade Park and a good

day was had by all in fine weather, that was finished off with a lovely two-course carvery.

The result was an overwhelming 6:0 defeat; yet again the shots given were stacked quite heavily against us (89 vs 23)!

My final note in this month's edition is about that old favourite - SLOW PLAY! Please be aware of the players behind if they are catching you up. If you are losing ground, either speed up or let them through if possible (golf etiquette). Don't be offended if they ask to play through if you are holding them up, but if they have to ask it's probably too late as the groups behind will already be backing up!

Happy golfing.

Adrian Redford

Competitions

Medal 3 April	1 st : Gary Mitchell nett 70 2 nd : Larry Goddard nett 72 3 rd : Adrian King nett 73
Stableford 5 April	1 st : Nigel Handyside 38 Pts 2 nd : Ian Stedman 37 Pts 3 rd : Keith Loxton 36 Pts

Winter League away match vs Princes Risborough 6 April	Lost 6:0
Stableford 12 April	1 st : Simon Merritt 35 Pts 2 nd : Larry Goddard 35 Pts 3 rd : Ken Slatter 34 Pts
Away match vs Weston Turville 12 April	Postponed until September
Summer Six (1) 17 April	1 st : Larry Goddard 38 Pts 2 nd : Ian Pullin 37 Pts 3 rd : Steve Malone 36 Pts
Captain's League 1 (1) 19 April	1 st : Steve Malone 35 Pts 2 nd : Larry Goddard 34 Pts 3 rd : Adrian King 33 Pts
Stableford 24 April	1 st : Steve Malone 41 Pts 2 nd : Dave Friend 35 Pts 3 rd : Mike Bender 35 Pts
Away match vs Whipsnade Park 25 April	Lost 6:0
Captain's League 1 (2) 26 April	1 st : Larry Goddard 40 Pts 2 nd : Martin Shefferd 36 Pts 3 rd : Paul Collins 36 Pts

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

Dear ladies,

I'm pleased to say I'm slowly settling into my new role and enjoying being back on the course, playing the game I love. It's good to see everyone coming out of hibernation and the numbers playing, which are slowly increasing in the midweek group.

I'm very relieved to say both myself and Leah Burgess (Junior Captain) found the fairway at the drive-in! Thank you to all of you who took the time and trouble on that miserable, damp day, to come along and support us all.



We recently had a lovely day for the 9-hole fun competition, with 17 ladies playing a 1,2,3 waltz with a pink ball counting double. Each lady had to play the pink ball on three holes. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the format and the new fillings in the sandwiches and the chips! We then all tucked into cake and chocolates, delicious! Jennie Morton and Ann Haynes (*left picture*) - with the help of a ghost card - came runners up to myself, Marion Gogan, who I must say was most helpful on a number of holes, and a great final hole by Danka Lawson! Well done everyone and thank you all for your really kind words.



The birdie tree is now up and running, as is the summer eclectic, with new books in the changing room. Anyone entering that has had any birdies since 1 April, please add these to the tree. There are 'leaves' to write your name, and the date you got the birdie, in the basket next to the tree on top of the lockers. The birdie tree is £3 to enter and the eclectics £5 each. For anyone not familiar with these three competitions, but who may be interested, please drop me an email and I'll explain what to do.

For any issues that may crop up during the year, please contact your representative:

For 5-day members, please contact Jackie Boden: jackieclarendon@gmail.com

For 7-day members, Hannah Dickens: Just_hannah@msn.com

Handicap queries, Sue Bellingham: suebellingham@talktalk.net

On reflection, I have informed the committee that I think it best we leave the Division 1 and 2 cut offs as they were. I can now see the numbers aren't always going to be there and therefore would create more work for the competition secretary and the treasurer. This is with immediate effect.

The Mixed match against Abbey Hill on 18 June will go ahead. Eight pairs from each Club have confirmed they are playing. Thank you to all that have committed to playing. I'm sure we will have a lovely day.

We now have 13 confirmed pairs for the Ladies' Invitation Day. We just need a few more and then hopefully we can host this. The sign-up sheet is in the changing room. Contact Pat Banister banisterpi@aol.com or Mary Marchant dma.marchant@gmail.com for full details.

The Captains' 'fun' day is on 13 May and there are still some spaces left to sign up. This was to be my day, but Howard Matthews (Men's Captain) and I have decided to do a joint day on 17 June, which will include the past Captain's competitions. Sign up is on IG with teams of four of any combination. Lots of different things happening over the 18 holes!!!

Jackie Boden has very kindly agreed to run a 9- and 18-hole summer and winter league for me that I ran at a previous Club. She will be contacting all ladies with full details shortly. This will commence in early June. My aim is to offer all ladies across the Ladies' Section something you can all join in with no matter how you currently choose to play your golf. Best of luck!

My first coffee morning will be on 23 May at 10.30am, meeting in the bar area. This is for all new ladies that have joined in the last year to 18 months to come along and get to know others, and for me to meet you all, and for any lady that is currently unable to play golf for whatever reason but would like to come along for a chat over a cuppa and still feel involved. Also, if you've nothing better to do, you are very welcome to join us and meet your new lady members.

Please email me if you'd like to attend: Janeroche62@yahoo.co.uk

Best wishes.

Jane Roche

Competitions

Annette's Hat 7 April	1 st : Bob Doherty/Nathan Chandler/Steve Chandler/Graham Hale 89 2 nd : Darren Horne/Nicky Bowden/Binzy Bowden/Kris Manley 88 3 rd : Will Platten/Paul Talbot/Martin Arnold/Nick Russell 85
Stableford 9 April	1 st : Lesley Wright 35 Pts 2 nd : Sue Bellingham 34 Pts 3 rd : Julie Lea 26 Pts
Medal 17 April	1 st : Anne Bridges nett 76 2 nd : Lorraine Fox nett 82 3 rd : Charlotte Simpson nett 84
Medal 22 April	1 st : Sue Bellingham nett 75 2 nd : Hannah Dickens nett 75 3 rd : Julie Lea nett 76
Stableford 24 April	Div 1 1 st : Anne Bridges 39 Pts 2 nd : Pat Connolly 31 Pts 3 rd : Melinda Arthur 31 Pts

	Div 2 1 st : Pat Banister 34 Pts 2 nd : Angela Panes 30 Pts 3 rd : Ann Doran 30 Pts
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Juniors

A Word from the Junior Captain

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for attending the Captains' Drive-In. It was very nerve-wracking, but I felt so happy and proud of myself and well supported by the members!

Recently the Juniors have had a busy few weeks. During the Easter holidays, Russell organised fun golf days for the Juniors. This included coaching in the morning and a 9-hole competition in the afternoon. Kim also organised a 9-hole competition and, despite the weather, a few of us still turned out in the tricky conditions.

During spring, Russell offers squad training on Sundays for the older golfers and the challenge programme for younger golfers.

Kim has kindly organised a busy timetable in May and June for the Juniors, with the following Tavistock matches:

Cainhoe Wood – 27 May
Beds and County – 3 June
Aylesbury Vale – 18 June
South Beds – 25 June

Kim organises and runs Friday evenings, when the Juniors play a fun 9-hole competition. This started on 28 April. Lastly, Kim is arranging friendly matches during summer, against Ellesborough and Chartridge Park.

I would like to wish all members of AVGC a fantastic season of golf!

Thank you.

Leah Burgess

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... now to make a start on the next 100 issues...ooh 'eck!

...and a touch of humour... *I want you to know that this is not the game I usually play*, snapped an irate golfer to his caddie. *I should hope not, sir, but tell me*, enquired the caddie, *what game do you usually play?*

Lance Redler, Editor

cc: Charities

What's On This Month

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

Men

Monday 1 May – mid-hcp home match vs Dunstable Downs
Saturday 6 May – Medal 0700-1145
Sunday 7 May- mid-hcp home match vs Aspley Guise
Saturday 13 May – Captains' Fun Day 0700-1100
Saturday 20 May – Burcott Trophy 0745-1015
Sunday 21 May – mid-hcp home match vs Leighton Buzzard
Saturday 27 May – Memorial Day competition 0600-1200
Sunday 28 May – Committee Cup 0745-1000

Seniors

Wednesday 3 May – Medal 0800-0945
Wednesday 10 May – Captain's League 1 (3) 0800-0945
Saturday 13 May – Captains' Fun Day 0700-1100
Monday 15 May – Drawn Pairs Greensomes 0800-0945
Tuesday 16 May – AwayDay - Studley Wood
Wednesday 17 May – Captain's League 1 (4) 0800-0945
Monday 22 May – Summer Six (2) 0800-0945
Wednesday 24 May – Stableford 0800-0900
Wednesday 24 May - home match vs Weston Turville
Wednesday 31 May – Captain's League 1 (5) 0800-0945

Ladies

Thursday 4 May – competition 0950-1025
Sunday 7 May – Helen Rowley Plate 1000-1045
Wednesday 10 May – competition 0950-1025
Saturday 13 May – Captains' Fun Day 0700-1100
Sunday 14 May - Ladies Invitation to Men 1330-1500
Monday 15 May – competition 0955-1025
Wednesday 17 May - competition 0955-1025
Sunday 21 May – Medal 1110-1105
Monday 22 May – Medal 0955-1025
Tuesday 23 May – coffee morning 1030
Wednesday 31 May - competition 0955-1025

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

Maria Tulley 07701 049908
or mariapro@hotmail.co.uk

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322
or terrygolf1965@gmail.com

Men

Captain: Howard Matthews

Vice-Captain: Mark Westbrook

Treasurer: Keith Loxton

Golf Secretary: Dave Lea

Members Asst Organiser: Mark Mansfield

Admin Secretary: John Barker

Handicap Secretary: Alan Connell

5-Day Members' Rep: Peter Codrai

7-Day Members' Reps: Darren Horne, Brian Smith

Seniors

Captain: Adrian Redford

Vice-Captain: Adrian King

Treasurer: Mike Boden

Competition Secretary: Adrian King

Admin Secretary: Mike Pelizzoni

Social Secretary: Simon Merritt

Members' Reps: Jim Gales, Steve Waters

Ladies

Captain: Jane Roche

Vice-Captain/Treasurer: Clare Garrett

Admin Secretary: Natalie Rendle

County Representative: Kim Burnage

7-Day Comp Secretary: Julie Lea

5-Day Comp Secretary: Lorraine Fox

Handicap Secretary: Sue Bellingham

7-Day Members' Rep: Hannah Dickens

5-Day Members' Rep: Jackie Boden

Juniors

Captain: Leah Burgess

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