



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 103, August 2023

Comment

As ever, congratulations to the 2023 champions of the various championship competitions played during July, some in appalling weather; the names of each champion are given on page 3.

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 are needed by 26th of a month and 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.

Alan Mungovan

It is with regret that we report the death, on 21 July, of Alan Mungovan following a lengthy illness.

Alan had been a Senior member at the Club for many years, playing regularly until quite recently. Our condolences are expressed to his family.

News and Updates from the Club Management

The Course

The summer rainfall has meant that the team have been cutting fairways, tees, collars, approaches and rough on all five days of the week. The extra manpower this year has also assisted us to spend additional time verti-cutting the greens and tees in order to promote more vertical growth of grass and, subsequently, smoother surfaces.

This month is a good time to make our plea for everyone to pay attention to repairing their pitch marks. The softer greens are more readily marked.

The new fairway distance markers are now in place. These indicate yardages to the centres of the greens. There are also new markers for the young junior forward course.

Our new sprayer should arrive in early August.

Pro Shop News

We have finally managed to source take away cups, lids and sleeves that are 100% compostable. There is now no plastic contained within the lids and these can be thrown in the 'recycle' side of the bins on the course.

Staff

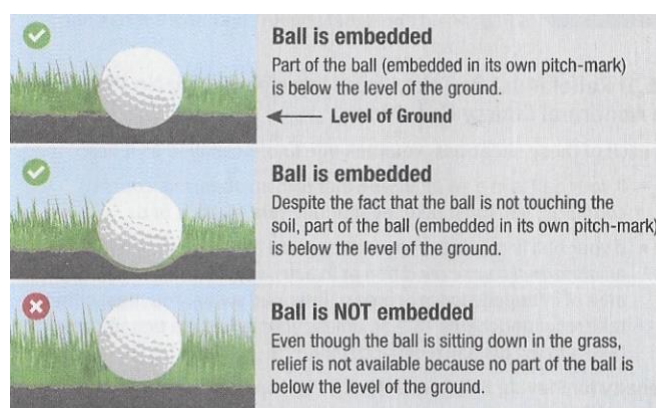
We welcome Jordan to the team. He is tasked with the upkeep of the grounds and buildings around the clubhouse. Aiden has been greenkeeping with us for four months now and has progressed well. He has now accepted a full time position with us. You will see Regan more frequently in the pro shop from August.

Chris Wright

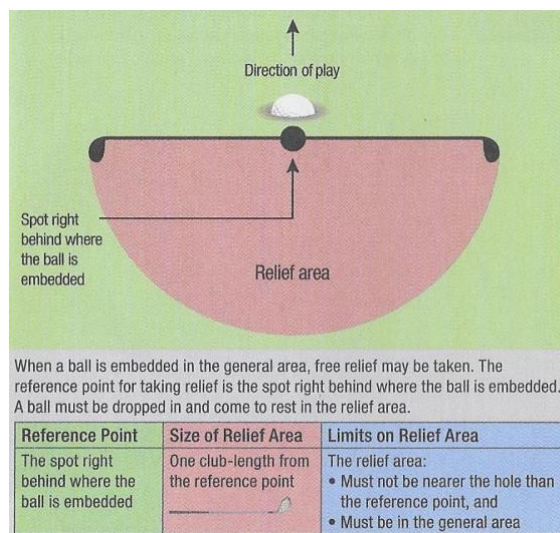
Rules of Golf

Embedded Ball (Rule 16.3).

Relief is only allowed for a ball that is embedded in the General Area (i.e. the entire course *apart from* the teeing area, all penalty areas, all bunkers and the putting green). The diagram shows how to identify whether a ball is embedded.



The diagram below illustrates how embedded ball relief is to be taken; under Rule 14.1c the ball may be cleaned before it is dropped in the relief area:



Championships 2023

Congratulations to the following champions for 2023:

Pairs Championship (Men)

Ben Stevens & James Poole

Pairs Championship (Ladies)

Ghie McGinley & Jean Barnett

Midweek Men's Championship

Gross Champion: Alex Robins

Nett Champion: Andrew Pearce

Seniors' Championship

Gross Champion: Tony Messenger

Nett Champion: Jamie Carling

Junior Championship

Gross Champion: Xander Pool

Nett Champion: Leah Burgess

Charity Golf by 'The Bar Man – The Old Man – The Bald Man – The Scots Man'

Congratulations to the four members (Jason Thornalley, Gary Janes, Martin Higgins and Brian Smith) who completed four rounds in one day in aid of our Club charity, *Hospice at Home Volunteers*, raising a superb £2002.73.



Martin.....

Jason

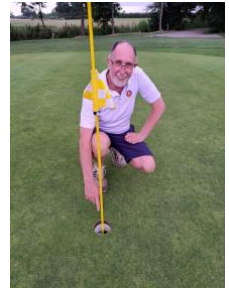
Brian

Gary

After their four rounds!

Hole-in-One

Our Men's Vice-Captain, Mark Westbrook, had both the pleasure and the pride of a hole-in-one on the AVGC 2nd hole on 8 July.



Men

A Word from the Men's Captain...

Well July wasn't quite the dry month we expected or hoped for. I can't quite remember the amount of times I have seen my clubs drying in the garage, not to mention the two busted umbrellas - all to play a game we all enjoy.

Talking about enjoyment it would appear that the three most talked subjects are currently not included in the forthcoming ballot but:

- the increasing number of unrepaired pitch marks on the green, yet again!
- fairway divots not being replaced or repaired. You create them, so please take the time to put the grass back wherever it goes.
- the latest hot topic is the total lack or inability to rake greenside or fairway bunkers. You create the craters, so please rake them afterwards.

I know most of you reading this do everything correctly, but please could I ask - for the few seconds it takes - please be considerate to the greenkeepers and your fellow members following behind you. Leave the course as you found it, or if you found it in a bad state contribute to making it better.

There has been a lot of golf played with some excellent scores recorded in competition and in the weekend roll ups, but it would be wrong of me not to mention the excellent efforts of Brian Smith, Jason Thornalley, Gary Janes and Martin Higgins raising £2002.73 for the *Hospice at Home Volunteers Charity* and my Vice-Captain 'Westy's' Hole-in-One on the 2nd at the beginning of the month.

I had the pleasure to walk the 4-hole playoff (10,11,17 & 18) between Alex Robins and Ben McDonald to decide the Gross Midweek Club Championship, with Alex the winner, and we must not forget the Nett Midweek Club Champion Andrew Pearce, who played extremely well on the day. Congratulations to the winners and to all the players who took part in this Midweek Major.

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

Howard Matthews

Competitions

Midweek Medal (1)	1 st : Jordan Murphy nett 62 2 nd : Tom Williams nett 69 3 rd : Steven Allen nett 70
Medal 8 July	Div 1 1 st : Nicky Bowden nett 68 2 nd : Nick Russell nett 69 3 rd : Andrew Pearce nett 69 Div 2 1 st : Jez Anderson nett 70 2 nd : Andrew Bond nett 70 3 rd : Tim O'Sullivan nett 71 Div 3 1 st : Martin Hollands nett 73 2 nd : John Kidd nett 73 3 rd : Anthony Foster nett 74
Midweek Medal (2)	1 st : Nick Russell nett 66 2 nd : Andy Wood nett 67 3 rd : Tom Williams nett 68
Professional's Cup 30 July	1 st : Kris Manley +3 2 nd : Lee Hutt +2 3 rd : Alan Connell +2

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

The first competition of July was a Medal, played on Monday 3rd in blustery winds with the odd shower thrown in. With a field of 41 players, on fast hard greens and fairways it was a day for the lower to mid handicap golfer. The winner of the gross competition was Nigel Welling with a score of 79, with Adrian Wood in second place on 83 and Steve Malone third on 83 (countback), which gave Steve the winning score in the nett competition with a score of 68 beating Nigel Welling and Terry Curtis 69 and 71 respectively.

Captains League (2) round 3 was played in a mixed bag of weather, with Bob Parish coming out on top with 40 points, John Crowson with 39 points and Tim Doran's 38 points.

Monday 10 July was the Men's Midweek Club Championship with a field of around 70 taking part and a good showing of Seniors. The Seniors put in some good performances against 'the young 'uns' with quite a few featuring in the top 20. The winner was Andrew Pearce (67) with Ben McDonald (68) and Steve Chandler (69).

Friday 14th saw the second AwayDay of the summer. I use the word summer very loosely as the majority of the round was played in torrential rain and blustery winds at Dunstable Downs Golf Club! Fifteen players took part, with the last fourball out retiring to the warm dry clubhouse after nine holes, accusing the other groups in front of allegedly slow play and nothing to do with the conditions 🤔👨. The winner was Jim Gales, with Richard Braithwaite and John Crowson in podium positions. Well done to all who braved the elements.

Monday 17th was Summer Six round 4. This was played in much more favourable conditions and the winner with 37 points on countback was Richard Braithwaite, from Ken Slatter and Peter Ward. The event took place with a certain amount of controversy and complaints regarding that old chestnut 'slow play', people crossing the bridge on 13 without checking 16th tee where apparently those on the tee were waiting for an acknowledgment from a greenkeeper on 16th fairway to go ahead! Oh happy days which, due to a meeting for a new winter league at Flackwell Heath (well worth a visit) my Vice-Captain and myself missed all the fun.

Saturday 22nd was the Seniors' Club Championships, played in extremely inclement weather for most of the day. The gross competition was decided with a play off after both Tony Messenger and Andrew Pearce had tied with a gross score of 77. The eventual winner was Tony Messenger. The nett competition was won by Jamie Carlin with a score of 65, with Andrew Pearce in runner up spot. The winner of this year's Veterans trophy for over 70s was that stalwart of the Seniors, Martin Shefferd. Well done to all the winners and all who braved such awful weather.

Monday 24th was the annual three-man Texas Scramble. Again this was played in glorious July sunshine...no, sorry, rain! The winners with a gross of 68 and a nett 58 were Jim Gales, Martin Hollands and yours truly! Runners up with a score of 73 (nett 62) were Roy Platten, Dave Hill and Martin Shefferd.

The annual match between the Ladies and the Seniors took place on Wednesday 26 July with 39 players taking part (Mike Standy an unusual lady to say the least!). With the usual odds stacked against the Seniors, unbelievably we managed a resounding victory - the first for seven long years. Top pairing with a magnificent score of 49 points were John Crowson and Ken Slatter. A special thanks to all who took part.



The last of the Seniors' AwayDays will take place on Wednesday 6 September (the hollow coring week at AVGC). The venue is Huntswood Golf Club near Slough and the cost is £45, which includes prize fund, coffee and bacon baps, 18 holes with ham, egg and chips afterwards. The notice is on the Seniors' board, so get your name down!

The final word this month is a reminder to please rake the bunkers after you play out of them - and even rake other footmarks left by less considerate golfers.

Make the most of this glorious summer and Happy Golfing!

Adrian Redford

Competitions

Medal (4) 3 July	1 st : Steve Malone nett 68 2 nd : Nigel Welling nett 69 3 rd : Terry Curtis nett 71
Capt's League 2 (3) 5 July	1 st : Bob Parish 40 Pts 2 nd : John Crowson 39 Pts 3 rd : Tim Doran 38 Pts
Capt's League 2 (4) 12 July	1 st : Tim Doran 44 Pts 2 nd : Ian Stedman 43 Pts 3 rd : Peter Docwra 41 Pts
Summer Six 6 (4) 17 July	1 st : Richard Braithwaite 37 Pts 2 nd : Ken Slatter 37 Pts 3 rd : Peter Ward 36 Pts
Stableford 19 July	1 st : Neil Haddock 41 Pts 2 nd : Paul Collins 41 Pts 3 rd : Mike Standy 41 Pts

Texas Scramble 24 July	1 st : Jim Gales, Martin Hollands, Adrian Redford nett 58 2 nd : David Hill, Roy Platten, Martin Shefferd nett 62 3 rd : Eddie Jordan, Adrian King, Bob Phillips nett 62
Seniors vs Ladies 26 July	Won by 37 Pts
Stableford 26 July	1 st : Roy Platten 40 Pts 2 nd : Ian Stedman 37 Pts 3 rd : John Draper 36 Pts
Stableford 31 July	1 st : Ian Stedman 39 Pts 2 nd : David Hill 36 Pts 3 rd : Nigel Welling 34 Pts
Home match vs Silverstone 31 July	Halved

Ladies

A Word from the Lady Captain...

I'm very pleased to report that my away trip at Minchinhampton GC was a great success. We played both courses over two days and enjoyed a two-course meal together after the first round. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the overall winner was Matt Green. Well played Matt.

I'm in the process of organising another trip in September/October to go back and play Avening again and this time play the old course, which is on the common and the cows will still be out! Great fun. Hope you'll consider joining us again, or if you couldn't make the first one. This will be the last as I've only organised them for my Captaincy year. Details to follow.

Unfortunately, the Ladies' Invitation Day had to be cancelled due to a few late withdrawals. My thanks go to Pat Banister, Mary Marchant and Chris Wright for your time and effort trying to make it happen.

Congratulations to Jean Barnett and Ghie McGinley, the winners of the Pairs Club Championship. After lying down the field after day one, they put in a great round on day two to take the title. Well played ladies 🏆🏆.



Well played also to Vanessa Bond who, despite the weather, won the Lady President's Rose Bowl on President's Day - and then went on to win the Ping Betterball with playing partner Natalie Rendle, with 41 points. Good luck to you both if you get through to the next stage.

On 26 July the Ladies vs Seniors annual competition took place, with 40 players entered. It was a pairs Stableford Betterball (cumulative scores). Finally, the Seniors took the trophy back and on behalf of the Ladies' Section, I'd like to pass on our congratulations! A few Seniors played their best

rounds to help their team beat the ladies by 37 points! We look forward to taking it back next year 🙌🏆.

I know this is more Junior news and will be of course mentioned by the Junior Organiser, but I feel it most important to support our Juniors as they are potential adult members of AVGC in the future. So I was thrilled to learn that Leah Burgess, our Junior Captain, won the Junior Nett Championship. Congratulations Leah from all the Ladies' Section. You and your family, especially your very supportive mum, must be so proud. We look forward to watching your golfing journey progress 🏆.

A Few Dates for the Diary

Sunday 13 August - mixed summer greensomes. Open to all and 5-day members are most welcome, but a green fee will be required from them. There are no restrictions with regards qualifying rounds, but the competition entry will be 'capped' at 20 pairs. Roast chicken and cheesecake will follow: £12.50. Coffee will be £1 extra. Sign up is open on IG. The same details as above (different menu) has been booked for 12 November.

Monday 14 August - M/W Lady Captain's Day. Open to all ladies that would normally play 18. I've made it only nine so that all ladies can play. So please if you're free, I'd really appreciate if you can come along and join in and enjoy some sandwiches and chips together afterwards, and there may even be a few prizes and gifts!

Jane Roche

Competitions

Seniors' Shield 5 July	1 st : Sheila Perkins nett 78 2 nd : Danka Lawson nett 78 3 rd : Pat Banister nett 80
Medal 9 July	1 st : Hannah Dickens nett 67 2 nd : Natalie Rendle nett 71 3 rd : Jane Roche nett 75
Stableford 10 July	1 st : Charlotte Simpson 37 Pts 2 nd : Ghie McGinley 35 Pts 3 rd : Lorraine Fox 35 Pts
Stableford 9-hole 12 July	1 st : Elsa King 17 Pts 2 nd : Ann Haynes 16 Pts 3 rd : Gina Royffe 14 Pts
Medal 19 July	1 st : Gail Wickersham nett 71 2 nd : Pat Connolly nett 73 3 rd : Danka Lawson nett 77
Stableford 9-hole 19 July	1 st : Ann Haynes 22 Pts 2 nd : Mary Marchant 16 Pts 3 rd : Jackie Boden 16 Pts
Ping competition 23 July	1 st : Vanessa Bond & Natalie Rendle 41 Pts 2 nd : Sue Bellingham & Julie Lea 40 Pts
Ping competition 24 July	1 st : Jean Barnett & Ghie McGinley 40 Pts 2 nd : Jane Barker & Lorraine Fox 37 Pts 3 rd : Julie Hoar & Gail Wickersham 36 Pts
Ladies vs Seniors 26 July	Lost by 37 Pts
Harries Shield 29 July	1 st : Natalie Rendle nett 73 2 nd : Julie Lea nett 75 3 rd : Anne Bridges nett 75
Harries Shield 31 July	1 st : Ghie McGinley nett 72 2 nd : Pat Connolly nett 75 3 rd : Ann Lee nett 81

Juniors

We had an excellent Junior Club Championship on Sunday 23 July - not only a great competition, but also it stayed dry.

For the first time ever we had a playoff for the champion between Xander Pool and Billy Rudge. The sudden death playoff ended after two extra holes, with Xander being the eventual winner. The Nett championship was won by our Junior Captain Leah Burgess.



*Kim Burnage Xander Pool Men's Captain
Howard Matthews*



*Kim Burnage.... Leah Burgess... Men's Captain
Howard Matthews*

Congratulations to all the winners and to all the participants, who all played well and were very supportive of each other. Thanks also to the adult helpers David Lea, Steve Burnage, Claire Garrett and Claire Cooper, who ensured the juniors all had a great day.

Kim Burnage

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... enjoy the Club Championships weekend (and do well if you are an entrant!).

...and a touch of humour... He who dies with the most toys...still dies.

Lance Redler, Editor

cc: Charities

What's On This Month

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

Men

Saturday 5 August – home match vs Cainhoe Wood 1250-1345
Sunday 6 August – Medal 0640-1105
Saturday 12 August – Secretary's Cup 0745-1030
Saturday 19 August – Moorlands Cup 0655-1030
Monday 21 to Friday 25 August – midweek Stableford
Saturday 27 August – Club Championships (1) 0630-1400
Sunday 28 August – Club Championships (2) 0640-1230

Seniors

Wednesday 2 August – Captain's League 2 (5) 0750-0950
Monday 7 August – Seniors' Captain's Day 0700-1140
Wednesday 9 August – Captain's League 3 (1) 0800-0950
Monday 14 August - Medal 5 & Ed Burns Putter 0800-0950
Wednesday 16 August – Captain's League 3 (2) 0800-0950
Monday 21 August – Summer Six 0800-0950
Monday 21 to Friday 25 August – midweek Stableford
Wednesday 23 August – Captain's League 3 (3) 0800-0950
Saturday 27 August – Club Championships (1) 0630-1400
Sunday 28 August – Club Championships (2) 0640-1230
Wednesday 30 August – 3 clubs+putter 0800-0950

Ladies

Wednesday 2 August – social Stableford 1000-1040
Wednesday 2 August – 9-hole social Stableford 1000-1040
Saturday 5 August – Seniors' Cup 0930-1030
Wednesday 9 August – Greensomes 1000-1040
Saturday 12 August – Medal 1040-1115
Sunday 13 August – mixed Summer Greensomes 1000-1040
Monday 14 August – Lady Captain's Day (9-hole) 1000-1040
Sunday 20 August – Professional's Cup 1025-1105
Monday 21 August – Stableford 1000-1040
Monday 21 August – 9-hole Stableford 1000-1040
Wednesday 23 August – Medal 1000-1040
Saturday 27 August – Club Championships (1) 0630-1400
Sunday 28 August – Club Championships (2) 0640-1230
Wednesday 30 August – 3 clubs+putter 1000-1030

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

Cloakroom/noticeboard: Janet Ewart

Juniors

Captain: Leah Burgess

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