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Altos *news*



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr. Graeme Thomson

Dear Members,

Following a few days respite to recover from all the festive ongauns, our club activities were kick-started for 2014 with the Social on Sunday 12th January and the Algarve Invitational Seniors Tournament 16th-19th January.

Now in its second year this senior's tournament is going from strength to strength, increasing in popularity with European Tour professionals... along with aspiring professionals seeking their Tour Card from the annual Seniors Tour School later in the month.

This initiative in association with Pinheiros Altos was developed - and has been heavily sponsored by - PA member John Waters, who I understand has already committed to maintaining his sponsorship for January 2015.

Due to a number of factors (not least available light), participant numbers are limited to 72, and this year's field saw 54 professionals - including the top 4 European Seniors, several well-known names and past Ryder Cup team members. It is truly a showcase for the quality of senior golf, and for the growing reputation of Pinheiros Altos within the Professional Golf fraternity.

This year's winner Miguel Angel Martin, who was assisted by a first round course record 63 achieved in difficult conditions, finished on -10, and with a total 206 to take the trophy and 1st prize of 5000 Euros.

In his acceptance speech Miguel was roundly supported by his fellow professionals for his generous acknowledgement of the tournament organization led by Christophe Rindlisbacher, the general condition of the golf course (which had withstood significant rainfall during the competition) and all PA staff for their efforts to prepare the course each morning.

Plans are already in discussion for next year and we hope to build with the positive momentum and develop the Pro-Am aspect alongside the main event.

For my part... I'm seriously indebted to the Lady Captain for her considerable generosity in caddying for me. My playing partners were all very jealous and my clubs have never been cleaner! Wind, rain, early mornings and the lack of 10% of any winnings... what a star! Thank you Rie.

As we are gradually approaching our annual AGM on Thursday 17th April, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you that your committee over the last few months has been considering a refreshment of the Membership rules.

Our existing rules have been evolved over many years and it is now felt appropriate to review, and where necessary, update them. We have sought and taken council from the Portuguese Golf Federation to ensure that going forward we are consistent with other clubs of a similar structure.

Details will be provided to you for your consideration well in advance of the AGM. These documents will reference our intention to form a number of sub-committees, reflecting our desire to improve communication and wider membership involvement in the management of our club activities.

Accordingly, we will be seeking candidates and would appreciate hearing from any interested member, once you've had the opportunity to consider the documents.

Please note that throughout this process we are required to acknowledge that we are a members section operating within a propriety owned golf club, and with the inherent restrictions that involves.



The Captain and his caddy



The Captain first man on the range

Director of Golf – Monthly Report

Dear Members,

It is with considerable disappointment that I am writing to inform you of Mr. Walter Dickson's recent decision to step down from his role as Club President.

Walter was the first official Captain of the Club in 1999, which created the stepping stone to the Club we have today. He became President of Pinheiros Altos Golf Club in 2000 until 2003 and then stood for a second term as President of the Club in 2007 until now.

For a decade and more his steady hand and guidance have been invaluable.

Walter has been a great support for the Members - in a not always easy environment of propriety owned Golf Club - and has always been a master at keeping the balance between the Members Club and the Company. The Membership owe a lot to Walter's input within the Pinheiros Altos Club and his experience and knowledge will be missed on the Committee.

We send our best wishes and appreciation to Walter for his considerable contribution to our club.

Looking ahead... I have the pleasure to announce that the immediate past Captain, Mr. David Markey, has agreed to stand for the Presidency of Pinheiros Altos Golf Club for a mandate of 3 years from the time of this publication until the 2017 AGM.

David joined Pinheiros Altos in 2004 and has been a great supporter of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club ever since.

He became Vice-captain to John Linley in 2011 and the Club Captain at the AGM of 2012.

I have no doubt that David will be exceptional in the position of President and will maintain the right balance between the Club and the Company.

I am also delighted to announce that Stewart Harper has accepted your committee's invitation to become David Pirret's Vice-Captain at the 2014 AGM. Stewart was a little hesitant with his acceptance as the appointment coincides with his wife Cathy also being the incoming Lady Vice Captain for 2014.

This introduces the prospect of a notable first for Pinheiros in 2015, as husband and wife become respective Club & Lady Captains.

Stewart and Cathy have been members of Pinheiros since 1998 and have previously been Respective Captain and Lady Captain of the Wilmslow Golf Club in Cheshire where Stewart was also President in 2001.

I am sure they will both be a credit to our Golf Committee and wish them every success with their new roles and participation in the continuing development of our Club

January 2014 started with a fantastic New Year's Day scramble, and as usual the sun was shining on the 135 players who took part on the day. The good weather kept up until the Algarvian Invitational Golf Championship, which saw the first day of the tournament having to be suspended due to adverse weather.

On the 2nd day of the tournament all the competitors had to go back to the point they stopped when play was suspended, finish their 1st round... and then continue to play straight into their 2nd round. For some this meant playing 34 holes, from 9am until 6pm - non-stop, a real marathon! By the 3rd and final day we still had 5 groups to finish their second rounds before we could kick off the last round at 10am. Luckily, the bad weather held off long enough for all 69 players to finish their complete roster of 54 holes. It took some organization to manage, but I have to congratulate all my staff and especially the green staff for making this tournament possible.

We could not have had a better reward than having the luxury 3 balls playing the last round of the tournament, Miguel Angel Martin (he shot the course record 63 on his first round and was 4th in the Seniors European order of merit 2013), Steen Tinning (2nd on the Senior European order of merit 2013) and Paul Wesselingh (Winner of the 2013 Senior European order of merit). The winner in the end at Pinheiros Altos was Miguel Angel Martin who finished 10 under par for the 3 rounds winning €5,000. The main reason for having such a quality field was due to the large amount of prize money on offer. There was a total of €19,970, mainly thanks to Pinheiros Altos Member Mr. John Waters, who has been the prime sponsor for the first 2 Algarvian Invitationals. Mr. John Waters has already confirmed that he will continue to (very generously in our opinion) sponsor next year's event and hopefully a second event which will be announced soon. A big Thank you to John for his continued support of this event.



José Manuel Carrilles, Miguel Angel Martin, Sebastião Gil and Victor Pinto



Christophe and the Captain with the Algarvian Invitational Runners Up Paul Wesselingh and Steen Tinning



The Captain and the Algarvian Invitational Best Amateur Overall Nigel Sweet

The ladies day medal on 8th January 2014 saw Susan Russell taking victory and breaking a Club record by winning 3 consecutive Medal competitions in a row... having won the December Medal and the Winter Medal before that. This magnificent achievement goes someway to explaining why our handicap computer software advised that she should be cut 1 shot at the annual revision. Well done on your new 9,0 handicap, Susan! What a start to the New Year!

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on

Thursday 17th April 2014 at 10 a.m.

in the Clubhouse.

Agenda

1. 10:00 a.m. Meeting is opened by the Chairman of the AGM
2. The Chairman will introduce the outgoing Captain Mr. Graeme Thomson.
3. Mr. Graeme Thomson summarizes his year and introduces the Captain for the coming year Mr. David Pirret.
4. The Captains acceptance speech.
5. Report from the Director of Golf including the response to written questions.
6. The Chairman closes the meeting.

Questions for the Director of Golf at the A.G.M. should be made in writing and presented at the Golf Office on or before Thursday 3rd April 2014.

Only questions made in writing and presented by the due date will be answered by the Director of Golf at the A.G.M.

If any principal member would like to stand for election as member's representatives to the Golf Committee they should notify the Golf Office, proposed and seconded by a principal member in writing, on or before **Thursday 3rd April 2014.**

It is my pleasure to present a photo gallery of the present and incoming Captains.



Graeme Thomson
Club Captain



David Pirret
Incoming Club Captain



Stewart Harper
Incoming Club Vice Captain



Rie Cherubini
Lady Captain



Adrienne Buth
Incoming Lady Captain



Cathy Harper
Incoming Lady Vice Captain

ANNUAL HANDICAP REVISION

The Annual handicap revision took place in January. Please check your handicap on the handicap board to find out if your handicap has changed after the annual revision.

Competition Results for January

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 5th	Winter Medal	Susan Russell	74 Nett	Sue Georges	76 Nett (bb9)
Wed 8th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Susan Russell	69 Nett	1st Division Nancy Schofields	73 Nett
		2nd Division Marian Hill	72 Nett	2nd Division Lisa Burns	77 Nett
Wed 15th	Ladies Day Team Competition	Pines to Corks Sally Evans	72 Pts	Pines to Corks Thérèse v Doorn	71 Pts (bb9)
		Anne Copestake Pat Murrish Corks to Olives Janice Paterson Sally Ward Stella Jeffrey	75 Pts	Diana Collins Vera Watkins Corks to Olives Zoe Pirret Eva Lamaison Janet Leffler	74 Pts
Wed 22nd	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Florence d'Algue	35 Pts	1st Division Sally Evans	33 Pts
		2nd Division Josie Waddington	32 Pts	2nd Division Adrienne Buth	31 Pts
Sun 26th	January Stableford	Mike Hassid	35 Pts	Nancy Schofield	35 Pts (bb6)
Wed 29th	Ladies Day LC vs LVC	Lady Captains Team	4,5	Lady Vice Captains Team	1,5

Ladies' Section by Rie Cherubini

Our first Ladies Day in 2014 was the 8th. Because of the nasty "bug" going around there were a few withdrawals (including myself. In fact, as I write this report I am still coughing... really nasty!). Eleven healthy ladies played the Medal in the hazy, but beautiful morning. It was a great scoring day lead by Susan Russell who shot her best-ever gross score of 81. 9 ladies played their buffer zone or better which was 47,7% of the field.

On the 15th we played the team competition; 2 best scores to count on par 3s and 4s and all three on par 5s. I had the pleasure to make the draw for a whopping 28 ladies. The sky was covered by heavy clouds from the morning and eventually opened up and made half of the ladies finish in the rain... ensuring that they all gathered around the heater in the tent to dry their hair.

On the following weekend I had the pleasure of caddying the Captain, Graeme, at the Algarvian Seniors Invitation. The conditions were extremely tough. The Captain, David Markey, and John Linley, however, never forgot to be positive and cheerful in the rather miserable conditions... and it was just utterly inspirational!

On the 22nd, 19 ladies played the Qualifying Stableford competition. Despite the heavy rain until early morning, we had the blue sky by the time we started. The course was very wet, but the greens were surprisingly quite quick. 5 birdies were awarded with "birdie ball". Among them was Adrienne who made, on the 8th of Olives, the first-ever birdie in her golfing career. Congratulations, Adrienne, for the first one of many more to come!



Linda Bentley, Denise Reed, Leigh Anderson and Diana Collins

On Monday, the 27th, the last match of the Ladies Friendly Interclub Match took place against Vila Sol on our home soil. After the match planned at the end of September was cancelled due to the bad weather, we were all staring intently at the weather forecast. Although it was drizzling on the hill in the morning, it stayed dried, but the very cold and gusty wind added to the difficulty of having to give so many shots to the opponents. I was delighted that my trusty team perfected our home match record by winning 3-2. Now I can proudly report the results of the year. 8 matches were played and we won all 4 home matches and 2 away matches. I thank all the ladies for playing and supporting this event, the club for the courtesy of the course and Jorge and his team for the great meals and service throughout the year.

The day of Red vs. Orange, Lady Captain vs. Lady Vice-Captain Four Ball Better Ball Matchplay took place on the 29th. The overnight rain stopped at around 5:00 as the forecast said, but it was freezing cold. It was not easy to tell who was in red or in orange as all 24 ladies had to wrap themselves in heavy wind-proofs. 3 matches were halved and the other 3 were all won by... RED!!! All the ladies enjoyed their matches, we had a great time afterwards in the clubhouse... and I promised to organize another matchplay very soon.



Lady Captain Rie Cherubini and the Lady Vice captain Adrienne Buth

Paula Burke Hickey, Margo Fletcher, Lubna Cater and Hilary Jessup



Vera Watkins, Anne Copestake, Jenny Harrison and Yvonne White



Sue Georges, Cathy Harper, Judy Hanson and Marianne Wirén



Pat Murrish, Shirley Griffiths, Barbara Fletcher and Stella Jeffrey

The Ladies Section today has 90 members. We will have the Ladies Foursomes Championship in February and the Madrinha Trophy in early April... the Ladies Major season!?!



Zoë Pirret, Kathy Grimm, Helen Mills and Janet Leffler

Social Golf by Molly Wainwright

“Nine Nine” proved to be a testing competition which still produced excellent scores. The format was teams of four with two scores to count on every hole except - in the format nine - all to count on par 5’s and in the back nine – all to count on par 3’s. Hence – Nine, Nine.

Olives to Pines had the better scores. The winning team of Helmut Schawe, Andy Watkins, Paula Burke and Pat Galloway had 91 points, with the second and third placed teams scoring 88 and 85 points respectively.

On Corks to Olives the winning team with 84 points was Paul Cotterill, Per Anton Kleppa, Linda Bentley and Stella Jeffrey. Second and third were close behind with 82 and 81.

As always at these events there was a great atmosphere in the restaurant, where 39 of us enjoyed a very good supper.

The next Social Golf is on February 9th, at Quinta do Lago – hope you all enjoy!

Interclub by Christian Holst

The AGM of the Algarve Interclub League was held on 15th January. Two new clubs are joining the league this year – Silves International and Espiche. The fixture list is agreed with all parties, subject to one final confirmation. We are playing in the same division as Carvoeiro, Morgado, Parque da Floresta, Alto, Boavista, Palmares, Quinta do Logo and Silves International.

It was also agreed with overwhelming majority, that we return to the “old “ scoring system, which means each team will receive two points for every match won, one for a draw and one bonus point for an away team win.

The fixtures should be on the notice board by the time you read this and I would encourage as many of you as possible to put your names and contact details down as potential players. Individual lists for each match will be put up in due course and I will also be communicating directly if you provide your e-mail address.

If for some reason you prefer to give your details to me directly please use **christian@holst.oslo.no**

Our first match is on 20th March at home against Silves International.

For those of you interested in following the league, you will find details of matches, league standings and other news on **www.interclubalgarve.com**.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the 2014 season.

Forthcoming Events

February and March

Sat 1st February – Mens Roll Up

Sun 2nd February – February Medal

Wed 5th February – Ladies Day

Sat 8th February – Mens Roll Up

Sun 9th February – 18 Holes Social Golf at Quinta do Lago

Wed 12th February – Ladies Foursomes Championship

Fri 14th February – St Valentine's Day

(San Lorenzo and Pinheiros Altos)

Sat 15th February – St Valentine's Day

(San Lorenzo and Pinheiros Altos)

Wed 19th February – Ladies Day

Sat 22nd February – Mens Roll Up

Sun 23rd February – February Stableford

Wed 26th February – Ladies Day

Sat 1st March – Mens Roll Up

Sun 2nd March – St David's Stableford

Wed 5th March – Ladies Day

Sat 8th March – Mens Roll Up

Sun 9th March – 18 Holes Social Golf

Wed 12th March – Ladies Day

Sat 15th March – Mens Roll Up

Sun 16th March – St Patrick's Day Medal

Wed 19th March – Ladies Day

Sat 22nd March – Mens Roll Up

Wed 26th March – Ladies Day

Thurs 27th March – Men Pairs Matchplay

Fri 28th March – Men Pairs Matchplay

Sat 29th March – Men Pairs Matchplay

Sun 30th March – Men Pairs Matchplay

PRO TIP by Kenny Fairbairn

Weight transfer in the downswing

I like to think of the downswing as a chain reaction. The first link in the chain is the left side. It moves into and through the ball, pulling the hands down, also into and through. The hands in turn pull the clubhead down, into and through. The left side must go through the shot. It shouldn't stop at the ball and wait for the hands to catch up. The hands will do that automatically.

