



Altos vs

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PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr. David Pirret

The major event in July was, of course, Gala Week, which was played in unusual weather conditions for the time of year. Christophe and the whole team did a tremendous job throughout the week organising the event and decorating the terrace. The prize table was amazing, as was the food by Jorge and his team. There was a good field with only slightly fewer competitors than last year. It would be good to see higher participation and we are seeking inputs on changes that members would like to see to aid us in this. Please make these verbally, or by email, to Christophe and myself, as we want to change the format for 2015. The dates for next year are 26th July to 1st August, but these may be shortened if the new format requires fewer days.

As Paul McGinley and Tom Watson ponder their team selection for the Ryder Cup, our own European and USA captains have been appointed: Melaura Parker for the USA and Stewart Harper for Europe. The signup sheets for this three-day event will be posted later this month and I would encourage you to sign up, as it is always great fun and a good field will make the event as competitive as the real thing. Tee times will be early to enable competitors watch the real thing unfold at Gleneagles after our very own version.

In this newsletter Christian Holst, the interclub league captain, has written a summary of the team selection process he uses to fulfil the mandate from the committee he has worked to over the last three years. The mandate is to win or come as close to this as possible. I have approached other captains to sound out interest in setting up some Social games, but they generally cannot get tee times from their owners, so this effort has not succeeded so far. There are two home social matches for men in the coming months: one game is against Cotswold Hills, and the second is against the MCC. Please watch for the signup sheets, as teams will be selected on a first come basis.

The Greens committee had a meeting with Christophe and Sesinando to understand the regular maintenance and some of the issues faced in presenting the course in top condition throughout the year. From next month's newsletter onwards, there will be a regular posting from the course manager and the greens committee, with the idea of keeping members up-to-date with what is happening on the course.



Vania and Christophe



Winners gross - Rie and Tim



2nd overall - Ryan and Bernadette



3rd overall - John and Sumbaline



4th overall - Ken and Alan



5th overall - John and Sally



Best junior team - Jordan and Karl



Best mixed overall - Marian and Orlando



Best ladies overall - Lisa and Linda



Best guest team - Rhys and Steve



Redemptions stakes winners



4th day winners



3rd day winners



2nd day winners



1st day winners



Nearest the pin - Men



Nearest the pin - Ladies



The German supporter



Sue and Andy



Stella and Douglas



Ronan, Josie and Orlando

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

The month of July was dominated by the Sunshine Classic Members Gala Week, which was another great week, with two members winning the overall prize for the week. Vernon & Denise Reed won the Overall with a two-shot advantage, despite all their social activities away from the golf. They were delighted to win, after 12 years of playing in the Gala Week. Congratulations to them both!

I would also like to point out the fantastic result of Tim Russell and Rie Cherubini, who played 8 over gross for the 4 rounds of the Sunshine Classic Gala Week.

The shoot-out on Wednesday was a great success and everyone made a great effort on their costumes, with many Brazilian shirts as expected, as the theme this year was RIO. Everyone thought they would be a better squad than the actual Brazil team. A certain Irishman, who I won't name, had an official German outfit, which just shows how desperate he was to wear a winning team's shirt.



The Thomson Clan exceeded themselves again with their original costumes of exotic birds, including their newborn in an eggshell. The captain wore his Redeemer Christ outfit, which took him weeks to prepare. I was just very disappointed that he did not play the shoot-out in his fancy dress.

The shootout saw three teams going into a final chip from the back of 9th hole on Olives, and we had three fine chips very close to the hole, which I did not expect as I picked the most difficult place to chip from. In the end, Daniel Waters and Oliver Shepherd were the closest and the winners of the shootout. The BBQ dinner following the shoot was excellent, with some fine samba dancers and capoeira dancers, who tried their best to teach us some moves.

Both dinners were a success, thanks to Jorge and his staff, who served a very good meal at the Gala Dinner, which was followed with dancing, and everyone there seem to enjoy themselves.

I would like to thank all the participants of the Gala Week for making it such a great event and Quinta Properties for sponsoring part of the event. I must thank my staff for the hard work they have put in to make the week such a success again. Next year will see a refreshed format, which I am sure will attract more members and guests to take part in what should be one of the highlight tournaments of the year. In 2015, it will be the 20th Edition of the Sunshine Classic Gala Week and the theme for the shootout will be "Myths & Legends".

July was a perfect month for golf, as the weather was mild and cooler than usual.

Congratulations to Tony Hickey on winning the monthly stableford event and John Scouler who won the Summer Medal prior to the Sunshine Classic Gala Week.

The month of August will already feel very quiet after such a busy week, and I can't wait to organise another event.

September will start with the Match Play Championship, which I hope many members will enter. Also, at the end of the month, the usual Pinheiros Altos Ryder Cup will take place, which will be captained by Melaura Parker for the USA team and Stewart Harper for the European side.

I wish everyone an enjoyable remainder of the summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you for the various upcoming events organised by the Club!



The Thomson's exotic birdies



The Captain Redeemer Christ and his wife



Stewart, Cathy, Denise and Jonathan



Carnival queens



Rio de Janeiro all in one buggy



The gambler and his carnival stars



The Hardies F. C.



Cristiano Ronaldo and Irina Shayk



Fighter John and Brazilian striker Rie Rio



Carmen Mirandas



Brazilian squad and the intruder



Capoeira dancers



Samba show



Indian Brazilian dancers



Shootout finalists



The Samba queens and Brazilian football star Morts



Samba guest star Paula



Top capoeira dancers

Our junior member Angus Flanagan finished with rounds of 70, 68 and 73 off the yellow tees on the Faldo Course at the Oceanico World Kids Championships, finishing on a total of five under par, breaking the record in the competition for his age group (under 16s) and winning by a margin of sixteen shots!

He has been on a great run since being fitted for new clubs at the start of June, and has dropped from 3.4 to 0.3 on a UK handicap basis.

He's another great player taught by Ross Sutherland.

Congratulations Angus!



Angus Flanagan

Competition Results for July

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 2nd	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Nancy Schofield 2nd Division Pat Murrish	75 Nett 81 Nett	1st Division Mai Markey	77 Nett
Sun 6th	July Stableford	Tony Hickey	38 Pts (bb9)	Susan Russell	38 Pts
Wed 9th	Ladies Day	Match play Fourball Better Ball			
Wed 16th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Zoë Pirret 2nd Division Josie Waddington	37 Pts 37 Pts	1st Division Slaney Mullen 2nd Division Adrienne Buth	33 Pts 36 Pts
Wed 23rd	Ladies Day Reversed Waltz	Pines to Corks Christine Soden Cathy Harper Adrienne Buth Olives to Pines Paula Burke Marian Jenkins Pat Murrish	81 Pts 65 Pts	Pines to Corks Rie Cherubini Majida Lester Lisa Burns Olives to Pines Leigh Anderson Fiona Thomson Stella Jeffrey	70 Pts 60 Pts
Sat 26th	Summer Medal	John Scouler	70 Nett	Thom Evans	71 Nett (bb9)
Sun 27th - Sat 2nd	Gala Week	Vernon Reed Denise Reed Tim Russell Rie Cherubini	153 Pts 136 Gross		

Ladies Section by Adrienne Buth

Our charitable work continued in early July, when the Salvation Army of São Brás discovered some local children didn't get any breakfast in their holidays. Normally they get it in their schools. They knew they could ask us to help, Christophe helped us with the posters to advertise the food drive, and the staff of the reception and restaurant made sure everyone knew about it. Yvonne and Kelvin brought the goods to São Brás and just in a few days we collected over 100 litres of milk, more than 60 boxes of breakfast cereals, lots of other canned and dry foodstuffs and cash donation totalling 85 euros. Captain Luis is overwhelmed by your efforts, and on behalf of all those in need who will benefit from your generosity, thanks for caring.

In September/October we will collect clothes and bed linen.

Wednesday the 2nd saw a medal event take place. There were just 13 players. Winner Nancy Schofield and runner up Mai Markey had scores of 75 and 77 nett respectively. Pat Murrish was winner of the second division.

While I was away the following week, Cathy Harper organised a four ball better ball match play competition. There were exactly 16 players and the drinks were offered to the winners.

The 14th July saw the ladies from Benamor come to play. It was a lovely morning followed by a delicious lunch (it was the National Day of France) of blanquette de veau et poire au vin rouge. Nuno once again, proved to be a very good chef. We won the day's event. Well done ladies of Pinheiros Altos!



The stableford competition was won by Zoë Pirret and Josie Waddington, first and second division. They both had 37 points.

We finished the month with a team competition (reversed waltz). Most teams got a prize and my team, featuring Christine Soden and Cathy Harper managed to get 81 points.

July was a short month, with the Gala starting in the last week.

August promises to be very interesting. First there's a medal organised by Cathy Harper (Vice lady captain), followed by a Wednesday in Sao Lourenço Golf, with Rie Cherubini (Past lady captain) taking charge. I will be back for the stableford completion and the friendly match at Vila Sol on the 20th and 21st of August.

Social Golf by Dirk Blaesing

Considering the fairly low season on the golf course, we had a good number of 24 players for the Team Am-Am Social Golf Competition (best two stableford scores on each hole, but three best scores on all Par threes) and 26 enjoying the supper with seabream, salad and dessert on the clubhouse terrace Well done by Jorge and his team.

The first price on Pines/Corks was won by Kelvin White, Mike Shepherd, Roy Baddeley and Stella Jeffrey with 94 points, second price went to David Pirret, Dirk Blaesing, Therese van Doorn and Anne Tucker Brown with 82 points.

On Olives/Pines the first price was won by Nick Tucker Brown, Reo Cherubini, Adrienne Buth and Paula Burke with 92 points, with second being taken by Tony Hickey, Nils Leffler, Brian Scott and Yvonne White.

Thanks for participating without any change or cancellation!

Competition is scheduled for 31st August 2014, and on 5th we will have a special competition to celebrate 10 years of social golf.

Interclub by Christian Holst

I hope you are all enjoying the summer.

We played two matches in early July. We beat Palmares 4-1 at home, lost 1-4 away against Parque da Floresta, and we are currently 4th in our division. Alto seems to be running away a bit, but it is very close between the next 3 or 4 teams, so there is still a lot to play for. Our first match after the summer break will be on 3rd September, away against Carvoeiro.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been looking into the selection process for the interclub team. It had become clear that a clarification on the process was needed, and the issue was discussed by the Handicap and Competitions Committee before the summer break.

The following principles were agreed:

1. The overriding principle is that main purpose is to win matches. Although there is a social element to the matches, the captain will pick team members and pairings among available players with a view of putting together the strongest team possible.

2. The match format is fourball better ball and therefore picking the right pairings and handicap combinations will have a significant bearing on team selection.
3. In order to monitor individual player strengths, team members will be expected to play qualifying club competitions on a regular basis. Implicitly, this also gives preference to players who are more regularly available than those who spend less time here.
4. A panel of players will be established and regular communication on matches, results and team selection will be posted by e-mail, whether panel members are selected or not. This will increase transparency.
5. Other factors of importance will be familiarity of courses (for away matches), as well as general availability and previous results in previous interclub matches.

At the end of the day, the captain of team will have to use his or her discretion, but I trust the above at least address some of the questions I know have been raised.

Greens Committee by Stewart Harper

As Chairman of the Greens Committee I start this report on behalf of my co members Rie Cherubini and Gordon Todd with an apology as it is longer than I would have preferred and I am conscious that many of you will be sceptical as to what we can achieve.

Firstly I must thank Christophe who has been very positive in responding to our critical assessment as to where the course presents itself against some of our competitors and it is by no means all bad news!

The first decision we made as a Committee was to commission a report from agronomists as to the general condition of the course. Christophe readily agreed and the reports (there were two) proved very informative but were to some extent anticipated. It confirms these simple truths:-

1. Kikuyu grass has established itself over the original planted grasses (Bermuda) and this really means only that we need to ensure we work with it. It is of course very common on some exceptional courses in South Africa. The alternative is to dig up all the course (as at Quinta North) and Kikuyu will probably return in any event!
2. We have some outbreaks of very bad grasses which need to be destroyed (this has started)
3. The bunkers have inconsistent stand and need attention. Management have agreed a two year plan to ensure all bunkers have the same sand and play consistently
4. The greens and fairways show poor fertility and some compaction particularly on the fairways

5. The irrigation system in some areas has broken down and as of the last few weeks some 50 sprinkler heads are being replaced!
6. The greens are showing good root depth (6 inch) but too much sand is possibly reducing fertility and therefore possibly good texture and growth: compaction on the fairways needs addressing. Micro tining the greens has a minimal effect on playability.

Our belief is that our greens remain at their best as good as any on the Algarve. They are in the main firm and can be very fast, which is what we want to achieve. However the monthly slitting and occasional tining has possibly been followed by too much sand rather than we believe (on advise) using a “top dressing” which includes fine soil some natural fertiliser and sand. We must however compliment Sisenando our greens and course manager in presenting a much improved course over the last few weeks and in working often with inadequate man power due to illness etc.

Outside the remit of the agronomists are these further ambitions of your Greens Committee:-

1. There should be more definition on the fairways. We should ideally have a first and second cut and a pathway cut from the tee to the fairway through the rough.
2. Poor areas under repair should be designated as GUR for competitions
3. All the tees can be better with a programme of over seeding and feeding (there has been good progress already) we should like to see over seeding of tees in winter (agreed)
4. The new green and bunkers on seven of Olives does not sit well with the rest of the course. Management has agreed to take away many of the pot bunkers and reduce the banking to give a better view for the approach shot and also to give some contouring to the edges of the green to hold balls from inevitably sliding into the water. This will take place this year!

Our belief is that with small but significant maintenance changes we can have a course which will be the envy of others. Needless to say getting irrigation under control is a priority and this is under way.



All golf courses whether they are members clubs or privately owned will from time to time disappoint their members as to the conditions of play. The Algarve has wonderful weather for most but it rains infrequently and has extreme heat and I have discovered there are many diseases and infestations which are very hard to control under the restrictive European chemical rules which apply to Portugal from this year!

We cannot do “miracles” but we are determined to try our best to present a good a course as possible to the members and we are confident Christophe shares this ambition.

I will prepare an up date every month as to how we feel we are progressing. I just hope you will not “shoot the messenger” if progress seems slow!

Stewart Harper
Rie Cherubini
Gordon Todd

On Behalf of Pinheiros Altos Golf Committee and Members

On the 19th of July I received some very upsetting news, letting me know that a member of the club had lost her two beautiful granddaughters, her daughter-in-law and her son.

We send our most sincere condolences to her and her family, and wish them the strength they need.

PRO TIP – Kenny Fairbairn Set Up – Toe the Line

We all do it. You check your alignment by placing a club or alignment stick along your toe line. Sometimes, due to us flaring out the left toe back as much as four to five centimetres from the target line, it makes the parallel toe alignment very difficult.

A more precise way to check your alignment is to lay the club along the heels. They remain more on line and will accurately reflect the actual alignment of your feet.

Try it!

Forthcoming Events August - September 2014

Tues 5th August	Junior Open
Wed 6th August	Ladies Day
Sat 9th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 10th August	August Stableford
Wed 13th August	Ladies Day
Sat 16th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 17th August	August Medal
Wed 20th August	Ladies Day
Sat 23rd August	Mens Roll Up
Wed 27th August	Ladies Day
Sat 30th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 31st August	18 Holes Social Golf

Wed 3rd September	Ladies Day
Sat 6th September	Men's Roll Up
Sun 7th September	September Stableford
Wed 10th September	Ladies Day
Fri 12th September	Match Play Championship
Sat 13th September	Match Play Championship
Sun 14th September	Match Play Championship
Wed 17th September	Ladies Invitation Day
Sat 20th September	Men's Roll Up
Sun 21st September	September Medal
Wed 24th September	Ladies Day
Fri 26th September	Ryder Cup Pinheiros Altos
Sat 27th September	Ryder Cup Pinheiros Altos
Sun 28th September	Ryder Cup Pinheiros Altos



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