

Altos

Nº 131 . MARCH 2015

news



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr. David Pirret

February's main event was the St Valentine's held at both San Lorenzo and PA. Although a bit windy, the weather was generally kind on the Saturday and 80 members and guests attended the excellent dinner in the clubhouse. March will be a busy month with Social Golf, St Patrick's Day Medal and the Mens Better Ball Matchplay to be played.

As the A.G.M approaches and my year as Captain draws to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, our members, for your support throughout the year. I would also like to thank Christophe, who has done an outstanding job ably supported by his team, and all the committee members for

their work. Their input has made the new structure, which was implemented after the A.G.M, come to life and improve the operation of the club for its members. I will report fully on this at the A.G.M.

As the weather continues to improve we will also witness continued improvement in the course – great golfing conditions for the start of the new season. Finally, many of you will be returning from your winter break during this month and it is timely to remind everyone of the need to bring handicap records from any clubs outside Portugal to enable us to update and validate handicaps at PA.



The Captain, Lady Captain, Christophe and overall winners Alan and Linda Bentley



Runners Up and Best Gross Team Susan and Tim Russell



Best Members Team Karl Markey and Shirley Griffiths



Best Guests Team Janet and Alan Snowball



2nd Place Members Sue and Andy Georges



2nd Place Guests Bob and Sandi Beatson



3rd Place Members Denise and Vernon Reed



Best Score at San Lorenzo Sally Evans and John Linley



Best Score at Pinheiros Altos Adrienne Buth and David Walker



*Mai and David Markey receiving the 7/6 Trophy
from John Linley and Rie Cherubini*

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

February 2015 saw the second edition of the St. Valentine's weekend, which was a great success once more with 32 couples members and guests taking part. The event was played on both Pinheiros Altos and San Lorenzo Golf Course. The social activities were very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy

themselves. Congratulations to Alan and Linda Bentley who had the best round on both courses to become the rightful winners of the tournament. I was lucky enough to be sitting at the same table as Alan and Linda at the gala dinner on the Saturday night, where plenty of Champagne was served to celebrate the victory.

Congratulations to Leigh Anderson and Barbara Kyne, who won the monthly Medal and the monthly Stableford respectively in February.

The Mens Pairs Matchplay is on from 19th March - make sure you sign in for that and at least we can guarantee that tournament will be won by men.

Also keep an eye open for the Easter board, which will be up in the clubhouse and sign-up for the various Easter tournaments and activities. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you at Pinheiros Altos for the Easter break.

As a reward for an excellent 2014 golfing season, our current Pinheiros Altos Club Champion is to be honoured by Loch

Lomond on March 28th. As the 2014 Club Champion, they have been asked to “drive in“ the new season. This is the first time Loch Lomond (known to many Pinheiros Altos members) has opened its season this way and there is some irony here. Tim, Captain of Pinheiros Altos in 2005, introduced the Captain’s drive in for the first time and as a result, all future captains from 2006 have had a nervous Easter moment when taking office.

But Tim managed to escape. However, not this year and to add to the slight tension, he will be led from the clubhouse to the tee by a full pipe band together with the club’s official starter Wallace Mitchell and the Club’s General Manager Bill Donald.

We hope he wears a Pinheiros Altos cap along with the waterproofs!

A.G.M.

The AGM of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on
Thursday the 2nd April 2015 at 10am in the Clubhouse.

Agenda

- 10am: Meeting is opened by the chairman of the AGM
- The chairman will introduce the outgoing Captain, Mr. David Pirret
- Mr. David Pirret will summarize his year and introduce the Captain for the coming year, Mr. Stewart Harper
- The Captain’s acceptance speech
- Report from the Director of Golf, including the response to written questions
- The Chairman closes the meeting

Written Questions

Questions for the Director of Golf at the AGM should be made in writing and presented at the Golf Office on or before Thursday the 19th of March 2015.

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

If any principle member would like to stand for election as Incoming Vice-Captain, they should notify the Golf Office, proposed and seconded by four principle members in writing on or before Thursday the 19th of March 2015.

It is my pleasure to present a photo gallery of the present Captains and incoming Captains, Lady Vice-Captain and proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain.



*David Pirret
Club Captain*



*Stewart Harper
Incoming Club Captain*



*Knut Pederson
Proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain*



*Adrienne Buth
Lady Captain*



*Cathy Harper
Incoming Lady Captain*



*Mai Markey
Incoming Lady Vice-Captain*

Handicap Records from U.K. and Ireland

All members of the Club are required to bring their handicap records to the Golf Office when playing competitions in their clubs in U.K. and Ireland. This is so that the Pinheiros Altos EGA handicap can be adjusted accordingly. Any member failing to do so will be in breach of the handicap rules.

Please make sure you do bring handicap records and if in any doubt, do not hesitate to contact the Golf Office.

NOTICE

Please note that the President's Day Incorporating Seniors Championship and September Stableford has been changed to be played on 6th September and the September Medal will be played on September 27th.

Competition Results for February

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 7th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Florence M D'Algue	79 Nett	1st Division Helen Mills	83 Nett (bbn)
		2nd Division Melody Cotterill	76 Nett		
Sun 8th	February Medal	Leigh Anderson	74 Nett	Tony Hickey	75 Nett
Wed 11th	Ladies Foursomes Championship	Sue Georges Hilary Jessup	33 Pts	Molly Wainwright Vera Watkins	30 Pts (bn15)
Fri 13th Sat 14th	St Valentine's Day	Alan Bentley Linda Bentley	78 Pts	Tim Russell Susan Russell	75 Pts (and Best Gross)
Wed 18th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Sally Evans	30 Pts (bbn)	1st Division Sue Georges	30 Pts (bbn)
		2nd Division Judy Hanson	34 Pts	2nd Division Pat Murrish	30 Pts
Sun 22nd	February Stableford	Barbara Kyne	35 Pts	Geoff Stott	34 Pts
Wed 25th	Ladies Day Team Competition	Sally Evans Sandra Little Ingrid Hollier	75 Pts	Zoë Pirret Marian Jenkins Meg Black	71 Pts

Ladies Section - by Adrienne Buth

February started with a very cold and windy Medal competition for the ladies. Florence Mourgue d'Algue won in the first division with 79 nett, while Melody Cotterill did very well in the second division with 76 nett. It is good to see that she is recovering well from her Segway accident and all the ladies hope that she will spend more time in the Algarve!

Wednesday 11th February saw the Ladies Foursomes Championship. It was introduced 10 years ago and Shirley Griffiths is still very proud to present the beautiful trophy.

Hilary is holding it on one of the pictures and she won that day with her partner Sue Georges. I believe that they decided to play together after their match for the Wainwright trophy. Each year you see some pairings who have played together for ages and other ones who decided last minute or have been put together. Debbie Madgett and Christine Soden wanted to play golf the Wednesday before St Valentine's and it was good that they made the numbers of players right for that competition. Marianne Wiren was asked last minute to join and I was very happy that she won a fourth prize with her partner Kathy Grimm.



Shirley Griffiths and Lady Captain presenting the Foursomes Championship Trophy to the Winners Hilary Jessup and Sue Georges



Lady Captain and Foursomes Championship Runners-Up Molly Wainwright and Vera Watkins





Many members came to play in the St Valentine's tournament and that meant that ladies signed up for Wednesday's competitions, another form of synergy.

Our Past Lady Captain, Rie Cherubini, whose Almond trees (tees of 7th of Pines and 5th of Corks) were finally blooming today, took care of the Stableford competition on 18th February. Well done Judy Hanson who won in the second division with 34 points! The three prizes in the first division went to ladies with 30 points. Sally Evans managed to have a better back nine than the two others. Sally was also Captain of the team that won with 75 points on 25th February with Sandra Little and Ingrid Hollier. The format was two best to count of three. Sandra had a hole-in-one on Friday 27th February. Unfortunately, it wasn't an official competition but she had many witnesses.

While I was playing Margo Fletcher in the semi-final of the Wainwright match, her ball was picked up by a little white dog and thanks to the quiz I sometimes play on the computer, I was pretty sure what to do. The site is <http://www.randa.org/en/Rules-and-Amateur-Status/Rules-Quiz.aspx> and the rule in this case is 19-1a. Margo lost that hole, but she won the match and she will be in the final against Sally Evans. Hilary Jessup and Denise Reed will fight for the Plate.

I hope all four can play on Wednesday 23rd March, when the other ladies will play for the Madrinha trophy.

That will be my last Wednesday as Lady Captain and I am confident that I will leave the ladies in the very capable hands of Cathy Harper.

Report from the Greens Committee

Last month we reported that the course was improving, but essentially it was still "work in progress". It is much better than it was six months ago; the greens are fast and firm, and the tees are much improved with hand cutting, over seeding and feeding.

The difficult issue the club faces is how we deal with course maintenance over the coming year. I will try to highlight the areas of concern:

1. We need more investment in machinery to keep the Kikuyu grass looking and playing like a top course. Christophe has recognised the need for investment and applied for an increased budget. Modern machinery is expensive and the figures are high!

2. Drainage on Olives is poor, as is fairway growth. Either we need new drains or, as suggested by our consultant agronomist, an application of calcium has greatly improved drainage on other courses with a similar problem. We are going to try it!

3. The greens are fast but still lack fertility, in some cases at root level. We have been advised that we should hollow tine the greens (not micro tine) and apply an organic dressing

ideally once or twice a year. Micro tining works with sand but not so well with organic material. The problem is that this is disruptive and nine holes may need to be closed for several days at a very busy time for the club. The committee would support temporary disruption but it is an obvious issue! Sisenando suggests using injected liquid fertiliser but the writer is not convinced it is as good?

4. We are changing all the sprinkler heads, which is both a huge job and expensive. The new heads are much better but it takes time - at least another 12 months.

5. The fairways have all been hollow tined for the first time, in some cases for many years. We need warm weather and rain with a planned feeding regime to see how we can get improved growth. Another two months will give some indication as to whether we are on the correct path!

Finally the Captain and I met our agronomist who remains very interested in the course and wants to help with its recovery. The writer hopes to meet Carlos Rocha in the next few weeks to discuss budgets.

We have had a cool and very dry winter and still no sign of rain. The green staff are working hard with a tidy course

and new nesting boxes in some trees to encourage caterpillar eating birds (yes, really). We cannot alter nature but we could use the help!

Gordon Todd has been targeting some cosmetic changes on the course, which will improve visibility and course

appearance. Tony Hickey is already adding his experience as a golf course owner, which is to be welcomed.

Next month the writer will have the job of possibly preparing two reports so please bear with us!

Stewart Harper, Gordon Todd and Tony Hickey

Interclub by Christian Holst

There is not much new to report since the February Newsletter.

I have already received indications of availability from a good number of you, but I still encourage as many as possible to either enter on the respective entrance sheets as they are posted, or contact me directly. An updated match schedule is on the board in the clubhouse.

Our first match is on 26th March against Boavista at home, with the next match the week after Easter, on 9th April, against Quinta do Vale away.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible as the season starts properly.

Interclub 2015 Fixture List

Date	Club	Venue	1st Tee time
Thur 26th March	Boavista	Home	8:42
Thur 9th April	Quinta do Vale	Away	
Thur 16th April	Parque da Floresta	Home	8:42
Thur 14th May	Quinta do Vale	Home	8:42
Thur 28th May	Alto	Away	
Thur 4th June	Alto	Home	8:42
Thur 11th June	Boavista	Away	
Tue 8th Sep	Vila Sol	Home	8:42
Thur 17th Sep	Parque da Floresta	Away	
Thur 24th Sep	Vila Sol	Away	
Thur 1st Oct	Levante	Home	8:42
Thur 8th Oct	Levante	Away	

Team Uniform: White
Shirt, Beige/Khaki Trousers/
Skirt and Navy Jumper

PRO TIP - Kenny Fairbairn

Starting the Downswing

The correct start down begins in the lower half of the body – the legs and the hips.

That is why telling clients to “stay sat down” in the backswing and to “get the left heel down first” in the downswing, is

often good advice. Doing so consolidates the anchor point of the feet and starts the hips swinging back into and through the address position early.

This automatically begins to pull on the arms and hands, and unwinds them towards the ball. The perfect sequence.

Social Golf by Molly Wainwright

We had a very enjoyable day at Quinta do Lago. For most of us 'Pinheiros' players, it was our first time playing the refurbished North Course, which is in excellent condition. It's a shorter course for ladies, hence we lost shots but to compensate, the greens are large and tricky.

We were made very welcome and enjoyed a very good chicken pie for lunch.

Unfortunately, due to an error when the cards were put into the computer, one team was disqualified rather than receiving second prize. A pity as that was the only glitch on an otherwise excellent day.

1st Prize	Richard Harrison Tony Hickey Stella Ferreira Zoe Pirret	83 points
2nd Prize	David Markey Martin Wilson Stella Jeffrey Paulette Wilson	

Cathy Harper, Robert Seddon, Diana Mucklow and Rupert Mucklow were the team who had 81 points and should have been in second place.

Our next Social Golf is a Waltz on 8th March and you are most welcome to join us.



Forthcoming Events March – April 2015

Sun 1st March	St David's Stableford
Tues 3rd March	Club Roll Up
Wed 4th March	Ladies Day
Sat 7th March	Mens Roll Up
Sun 8th March	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 10th March	Club Roll Up
Wed 11th March	Ladies Day
Sat 14th March	Mens Roll Up
Sun 15th March	St Patrick's Day Medal
Tues 17th March	Club Roll Up
Wed 18th March	Ladies Day
Thurs 19th March	Men Pairs Matchplay
Fri 20th March	Men Pairs Matchplay
Sat 21st March	Men Pairs Matchplay and Mens Roll Up
Sun 22nd March	Men Pairs Matchplay & Stableford
Tues 24th March	Club Roll Up
Wed 25th March	Madrinha Trophy
Sat 28th March	Mens Roll Up
Mon 30th March	Ladies AGM & Drive In
Wed 1st April	Ladies Day
Thurs 2nd April	Golf AGM & Captain's Drive In
Sat 4th April	Spring Medal and Past Captain's Day (No Mens Roll Up)
Sun 5th April	Easter Scramble
Tues 7th April	APPA AGM, Competition and Dinner (No Club Roll Up)
Wed 8th April	Ladies Day
Sat 11th April	Strokeplay Championship (No Mens Roll Up)
Sun 12th April	Strokeplay Championship
Tues 14th April	Club Roll Up
Wed 15th April	Ladies Day
Sat 18th April	Mens Roll Up
Sun 19th April	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 21st April	Club Roll Up
Wed 22nd April	Ladies Day
Sat 25th April	Mens Roll Up
Sun 26th April	St George's Stableford
Tues 28th April	Club Roll Up
Wed 29th April	Ladies Day