

Altos ews

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PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Stewart Harper

December is either a month that excites you or alternatively fills you with dread, as there is always so much to do before the Christmas holiday!

As your Captain, I am conscious that I am into the last four months of my year and the time has passed so quickly. I remain optimistic that the New Year will see renewed and increased investment by the management, and that the members can look forward to improvements in all aspects of the club and course.

I am pleased to advise members that David Pirret has agreed to be the Inter Club Captain for 2016; with Geoff Stott as his deputy, and Rie Cherubini and myself assisting with team selection. I see no reason that with support from our best players, we cannot regain promotion to the top division.

The Rose Bowl was eventually played in late November. I played with Declan Quilligan, who played great golf of his 1 handicap to finish second, but was pipped by Thérèse Van Doorn, who won the prize. It shows you cannot keep a “good woman down”; many congratulations to her.

The St Andrews Stableford was won by Robert Lester last Sunday with 34 points. Not a high score, but the conditions were so severe on the day that the competition became a non-qualifier; well done Robert.

The Christmas break has many social and golfing activities, and I hope all members will check the notice board and add their names to make this a great golfing and social holiday.

The Lady Captain and I have had the opportunity to taste the New Year’s dinner menu. We had an excellent tasting and are assured that the talented chef from the Dona Filipa Hotel can maintain the standard and quality (as good as the very best restaurants in my opinion) when it comes to the “big event”. Those who have special dietary requests will be properly accommodated with quality alternatives; please make sure you tell Rui or Christophe your preferred options.

I really believe that the inclusive price is very good value with a live band, champagne and Esporão white and red wines available throughout the night...as well as the four course dinner!

We are lucky to have some of the most loyal and supportive members of any golf course in the Algarve; without you PA would not be what it is! All the staff and indeed the golf committee are dedicated to making your experience better, and 2016 holds out real prospects for all of us.

I know the subscription has gone up but only by a very small amount and for many years the owners have not passed on either the IVA increases or inflation allowed under the contract. It is not cheap but we do get 12 months playing conditions in excellent weather and staff that are consistently helpful and obliging. I do hope members will be patient as I believe better days are ahead of us.

Lastly, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year... and I hope the terrific weather we have been enjoying takes us well into January and beyond.



Club Captain Stewart Harper and Lady Captain Cathy Harper presenting the Foursomes Trophy to the winners Declan Quilligan and Rie Cherubini



Foursomes Best Gross Team Susan and Tim Russell



Foursomes Runners Up Phil and Nancy Schofield



Foursomes 3rd Place Melody Cotterill and Meg Black



Foursomes Best 2nd Day Paula and Tony Hickey



Foursomes Best 1st Day Christian Holst and Nils Leffler

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

November saw the usual Foursomes Championship played over two days. Congratulations go to Declan Quilligan and Rie Cherubini on becoming the new champions with a score of 149 nett, which was fortunately played in magnificent weather. Tim and Susan Russell won the Gross after having fought for the title up to the last green. Congratulations to all participants for taking place in what is the most difficult format of golf.

Congratulations to Thérèse Van Doorn who won the Autumn Medal Rosebowl with a score of 71, and Robert Lester, who was successful in the St Andrews Stableford with a score of 34 points on what was a very difficult day at the office for all players. We are looking to have a change for next year's St Andrews trophy and revert to make it a bigger tournament again, as it has been in the past as the Memorial Trophy.

I must apologize for not mentioning it in the last newsletter, as we had one of our very dear members of the club pass away on 9th October 2015, Mr. Doug Golding. We will miss him dearly in the club and I would like to send my sentiment to his wife Diane and family.

In early December, we hosted two Pro Tournaments from the Portugal Algarve Pro Tour, which has started this year and will be building up over the years to come. We had 40 players; mainly pros and top amateurs. Sam Robertshaw won the first edition with 7 under par in two rounds and Ryan Boyns won the second edition with 9 under par in two rounds. We are looking to develop some tournaments with the Portugal Algarve Pro Tour for next year including some Pro Ams, which will be open at a special rate for Pinheiros Altos members.

The golf course is going to be quiet over the next few weeks, which will allow for it to recover from a very heavy season and also continue to improve the areas that are in need. The greens that we had some problems with are now starting to recover and the over-seed should start to show some positive results on greens and tees.

The Christmas board is now up in the clubhouse for all to sign-in for the many forthcoming events, and I hope to see many of you around for these competitions and social activities.

On behalf of all the staff at Pinheiros Altos, I would like to wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

AT
PINHEIROS ALTOS

Bring in the New Year in Portugal
Join us for Dinner and Live Entertainment
€120 Per Person

Dress code: Black Tie

PRO TIP - Kenny Fairbairn

Putting

Strangely enough, standard length of putters you can buy in the shops tend to be 35 inches, but in general this is too long for the vast majority of players.

Try a little test, grip the putter and try to line up your left and right forearms as a straight extension of the grip. To do



this, you may have to grip down your current putter. This will give you a better guide to the correct length and lie of putter that you should be using.

Competition Results for November

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 4th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Susan Russell	76 Nett	1st Division Sally Evans	77 Nett (<i>bb9</i>)
		2nd Division Pat Murrish	75 Nett		
Sat 7th Sun 8th	Foursomes Championship	Declan Quilligan Rie Cherubini	149 Nett	Tim Russell Susan Russell	164 Gross
Wed 11th	Ladies Day Blue Tees Stableford	Thérèse v Doorn Sue Georges Maried Kooijmans	76 Pts	Zoë Pirret Pat Murrish Ilse Berg	73 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)
Sun 15th	Autumn Medal Rosebowl	Thérèse v Doorn	71 Nett	Declan Quilligan	73 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)
Wed 18th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Thérèse v Doorn	30 Pts	1st Division Rie Cherubini	29 Pts
		2nd Division Meg Black	31 Pts	2nd Division Kathy Grimm	27 Pts
Wed 25th	Ladies Day Team Stableford	Adrienne Buth Ilse Berg Kathy Grimm	76 Pts	Paula Burke Linda Bentley Melody Cotterill	71 Pts
Sun 29th	St Andrews Stableford	Robert Lester	34 Pts	Tony Hickey	33 Pts

Ladies Section - by Cathy Harper

At the beginning of November, we played our last Ladies Friendly of the year against Laranjal. It was played on the day following torrential rain but we were fortunate to play without getting wet. The conditions were difficult as many of the bunkers were flooded, but we remained dry in our defeat! We look forward to playing them at Pinheiros Altos next year and hopefully, reversing the result.

Following the storms, we have enjoyed wonderful weather and ideal temperatures in which to play golf. The Foursomes Championship was played a week later. There was a good entry with the worthy winners being Declan Quilligan and Rie Cherubini, who managed to beat Tim and Susan Russell in a closely fought competition. There was only one all-lady team and congratulations must go to Meg Black and Melody Cotterill for winning a prize with an excellent score on the second day.

Stewart and I should have played three charity challenges this month but two have had to be rescheduled and we look forward to playing them before Christmas. We did play against John and Molly Wainwright, who played amazingly well over the front nine. We had to work hard to pull back the score for a close win. Thanks to the Wainwrights for giving us a good game and an enjoyable morning of golf.

Congratulations to Thérèse Van Doorn on winning the Autumn Rose Bowl competition, which had been postponed twice because of bad weather. Thérèse also won our November Stableford and was on the winning team for our "Blue Tee" competition. Well done on your successes this month Thérèse.

Congratulations must also go to Pat Galloway, who became Lady Captain of Wigan golf club this month. We wish her a successful and happy year ahead.

On a sadder note, Diane Golding's husband Doug died suddenly in October. He had not enjoyed good health since being attacked in his home a few years ago, but he was a brave man who never complained about his injuries and got on with life as best he could. We all send Diane and her family our sympathy, especially as Christmas approaches.

We look forward to the festive season and to welcoming back some of our transient members who will be here to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Hopefully the good weather will continue and we will enjoy our golf in the sunshine.

I wish you all, wherever you are, a very Happy Christmas and healthy 2016.

Report from the Greens Committee

In our November report we detailed the challenges facing the green staff arising from the condition of the course and the "dollar spot" contagion in particular.

Our comments have not gone unnoticed and there has been intensive work on the course to speed recovery. It is a fact, "that before things can get better they often have to get worse!"

The programme agreed to was that after the "dollar spot" had been eliminated, the greens were to be micro tined, followed by an application of feed. Then lightly scarified and followed by an application of top organic dressing and over seeded. A similar programme was put in place for the tees with a general application of fertilizer for the whole course.

This has now taken place. The greens have also been rolled for the Portuguese PGA competition this week and are running at 11 on the stimp, which is "quick"... and the scores suggest the pros are not just coping but enjoying the conditions with first round scores of under par for the top six players.

There is still some way to go and whilst the weather has been helpful to date, colder nights may slow the recovery. Rolling the greens does help to smooth the imperfections.

Turning to the tees, there have been general improvements and some are indeed very good, although others still require more work. The regime of feeding and hand-cutting will recommence, and we expect much better presentation by the spring, if not before!

The fairways are being hollow tined (this reflects a change of mind by management) and whilst we are "placing", this will help to encourage growth and root development, particularly as the fairways have also been fertilised.

There is, therefore a lot happening on the course and we must be patient before we see the results of the work.

Lastly, management is considering the committees suggestions for tightening up the course presentation. I must thank Tony Hickey for all his work in this respect. It will involve more man hours and we understand it requires consideration, but we are already seeing evidence of better presentation.

We believe members will see real improvements when we next report.

Good winter golf and Happy Xmas to all.

Stewart Harper Captain, Gordon Todd, Tony Hickey.

Social Golf by Molly Wainwright

On a beautifully sunny but bitterly cold, very windy afternoon, we played “Yellow Ball” – not to everyone’s liking!!

As ever, there were some brilliant scores despite the conditions. On Pines/Corks the winning score of 142 points came from Sue Georges, Bob Seddon, Meg Black and Peter Mills. In second place were Bertil Wiren, Ingrid Hollier, Cheever Hardwick and Adrienne Buth with 111 points.

On Corks/Olives, the team consisting of David Pirret, Marianne Wiren, Udo Berg and Helen Mills had the winning score of 126 points; with Andy Georges, Susie Hardwick, Nigel Collins and Heidi Ellingsen in second place with 115 points.

The food was good and, as usual, there was a great ambiance and much laughter.

On December 13th, we will have our Christmas competition – four clubs plus a putter. This will be followed by a traditional Christmas meal, after which the San Lorenzo singers will entertain us. The San Lorenzo singers are a very talented choir well worth listening to. The evening will close with the handing over of the Christmas gifts, kindly donated by club members and friends, to Jenny Harrison, the ACCA representative.

Even if you don’t often play Social Golf, you are most welcome to join us for what will be the start of the Christmas festivities at Pinheiros Altos.



Forthcoming Events December 2015 – January 2016

Tues 1st December	Club Roll Up
Wed 2nd December	Ladies Day
Sat 5th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 6th December	December Stableford
Tues 8th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 9th December	Ladies Day
Sat 12th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 13th December	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 15th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 16th December	Ladies Day
Sat 19th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 20th December	Christmas Turkey Flutter
Tues 22nd December	Club Roll Up
Wed 23rd December	Ladies Day
Sat 26th December	Boxing Day American Foursomes
Sun 27th December	December Medal
Tues 29th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 30th December	Ladies Day
Fri 1st January	New Year’s Scramble
Sat 2nd January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 3rd January	Winter Medal
Tues 5th January	Club Roll Up
Wed 6th January	Ladies Day
Sat 9th January	Mens Roll up
Sun 10th January	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 12th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Wed 13th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Fri 15th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL North & SL)
Sat 16th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL North & SL)
Tues 19th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Wed 20th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Thurs 21st January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Fri 22nd January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Sat 23rd January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 24th January	January Stableford
Tues 26th January	Club Roll Up
Wed 27th January	Ladies Day
Sat 30th January	Mens Roll Up



PINHEIROS ALTOS GOLF COURSE
VALENTINES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Guarantee your presence at our III Valentine's Day Mixed Golf Tournament
on the 12th and 13th February 2016,
at Pinheiros Altos GC and San Lorenzo GC.
Accommodation packages available for
Dona Filipa Hotel and Formosa Park Apartment Hotel.

PINHEIROS ALTOS
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