

Altos

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PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Stewart Harper

July is all about Gala week and the Lady Captain and I are just recovering now! What a fantastic week of golf and entertainment!

The new format, with three competitions counting for the overall winners, appears to have been well received. Although members could still play four times, and join the fancy dress and procession on the Wednesday complete with BBQ, if they so wished. Congratulations to all the individual winners and especially to Rie Cherubini and Tim Russell, the overall winners who just "sneaked it" despite having the lowest combined handicap. Cathy and I played with them on the Friday and they played some great golf.

I have to commend Christophe and Roger, his new number one helper, in putting together a great programme of golf and entertainment. The BBQ and Saturday dinner were both of the highest quality and the prizes distributed to the many winners were extremely generous. I suspect members do not realise how much this week is subsidised by JJW! Perhaps we should do more to ensure members realise what a great week this is and a real bargain in terms of cost!

As your Captain, and responsible in some part for the course, I felt everyone within the club had gone out of their way to make the week memorable and that means playing conditions and entertainment both within the club and outside. Both the BBQ evening singers and the return of Leandro with a co-singer on the Saturday were excellent, and we will see more of them over the coming months.

Rui and his team worked exceptionally hard and although there were some delays in service at the bar, particularly on shot gun start competitions, service at the dinners was excellent. I was pleased that members were generous in contributing to a voluntary gratuity collected at the Gala dinner for the staff.

That generosity was matched and exceeded by money collected for the child of an employee suffering from a serious neurological disorder, which can be cured by a £12,000 operation only available in the UK. The family were overcome when a presentation of €1,000 was handed to them at the Gala dinner and they have yet to learn that the President was able to collect a further €2,000 from other members who saw the importance of this generous donation. Many thanks to all of you.

As we head into August the weather remains on course for all sorts of heat records and it is testing our stamina. The course and club house remain mine and the committees priority, and I do feel we are making good progress. I want all of us to be able to say with pride that we are members at PA; the best members club in the Algarve!

Much work still to be done, but those going to cooler climes, we look forward to welcoming you back in September, and good golf to all members.









Director of Golf - Monthly Report

July was dominated by the Sunshine Classic Gala week, which was a huge success and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. The format was changed to a three rounds tournament for the team event, which in the end was won by the lowest handicap combination team Tim Russell and Rie Cherubini with a two points lead over Graeme and Fiona Thomson. Congratulations to Tim and Rie on their fantastic achievement during the week. It was Tim's second win of the Gala week after finishing six times in second place! Bernadette Hardie and Ryan Luke just swept in to take the best gross score of the week, winning it on the back nine holes of the last day over Dan Henderson and Debbie Madgett. Also, for the first time we had a ladies team in a top five spot of the Gala week, so well done to Kay and Katie Ford who finished in third place overall.

The Gala week charity was geared to help the grandson of a former employee of Pinheiros Altos and we managed to raise €1,000 during the week. A further €2,000 has been collected since through anonymous donations, and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity towards such a good cause.

On the Wednesday of the Gala week we had our usual fancy dress shoot-out and this year's theme was "Myths and Legends". Everyone there made a real effort to come dressed and made the day a huge success. The cherry on the cake was the victory of Jim Cranwell and Ronan Early in the shoot-out. It was great to see Jim winning something else than the "Mr. Blobby prize" this year.



Shoot-out winners Jim Cranwell and Ronan Early

The Irish Leprechauns, Thomson Tours, Addams family members, Loch Ness monster, Alice in Wonderland, fairies, elves and many more characters really animated the party. We also saw Chico, our magician, doing some tricks around the tables, as well as Ana Sofia with her fire show to re-enhance the party, which followed with our band Ana Newton and Jorge Medeiros, who kept everyone dancing till late.

Karl and Jordan Markey came everyday with outstanding coordinating outfits and congratulations to them! Jim Cranwell and Ronan Early also tried but were not as successful, as I do not think they were communicating to each other what they should be wearing on each day!



Karl and Jordan Markey with coordinated outfits

On the Sunday, we had a flag competition as a practice round and Nick Hardie was the only player who managed to tee it up on the 19th Hole and won the practice round.

Also, in addition, we had a brunch on the Thursday morning, with a blind draw being drawn in public for a scramble competition. Everyone there seemed to really enjoy the format and it is definitely something to repeat for the future.

The Gala dinner was a great success, and once more, the meal provided was excellent. We had the pleasure of seeing Leandro in a singing duo, who kept everyone dancing till late... even after a real long week of golf and social activities.

I would finally like to thank all the members of Pinheiros Altos who took part in the event and allowed us to make it so much fun. I would also like to thank Cristina and Roger, and all my staff, Rui and the bar staff, the catering staff and the golf maintenance staff, who made it possible for the week to run so smoothly. Also a big thank you to Shirley Griffiths who did most of the photos as she has been doing at every single event during the year, and without her the newsletters would be very empty. Thanks also goes to Debbie Madgett, who also provided some of the photos from the Gala week. There are plenty of photos from the shoot-out for you to enjoy in this edition of the newsletter and we will have more photos from the Gala dinner in the next edition.



David Dixon and Rainer Grimm receiving the Roll Up trophy

The Men's Roll Up on the 11th of July saw 32 players playing, which is more than we have had for the last 18 months. Therefore the Roll Up trophy, which was presented by Brian Evans, was played on that day as we need more than 30 players to play it, and it was won by David Dixon and Rainer Grimm who scored 47 points. Congratulations to them!

On 19th of July 2015, we organized a charity tournament for the homeless in Faro and managed to raise €3,000, which is a great help for this worthwhile charity, helping many people in need in our area. Thank you to all who contributed on the day.

The Summer Medal was won by yet another lady, Denise Reed, who managed to win the trophy with a 71, as she had a better back six holes than the men; Mike Hassid and Stephen Nobbs respectively. Congratulations Denise!

The July Stableford was won by Kieran Nagle with a fantastic score of 42 points.

August is normally a quiet month as far as golf is concerned and I know many of the members try to be away to avoid the usual crowds that invade the Algarve for their summer holidays.

However, do not forget the next main event is The President Day and Senior Championship on the 6th of September 2015, and on the following week, the Matchplay Championship, which will start on the 11th of September.

I wish everyone a great month, whether on the golf course or on the beach.

Competition Results for July

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 1st	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Leigh Anderson	70 Nett	1st Division Sally Evans	77 Nett
		2nd Division Pat Murrish	75 Nett (<i>bb9</i>)	2nd Division Stella Jeffrey	75 Nett
Sun 5th	July Stableford	Kieran Nagle	42 Pts	Orlando Hill	33 Pts
Wed 8th	Ladies Day		Matchplay		
Wed 15th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Hilary Jessup	36 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)	1st Division Janice Paterson	36 Pts
		2nd Division Shirley Griffiths	35 Pts	2nd Division Jan Kirk	31 Pts

Competition Results for July (cont.)

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 22nd	Ladies Day Bisque Stableford	<i>Olive to Pines</i> Cathy Harper	38 Pts	<i>Olives to Pines</i> Stella Jeffrey	37 Pts
		<i>Corks to Olives</i> Lisa Burns	37 Pts	<i>Corks to Olives</i> Shirley Griffiths	36 Pts
Sat 25th	Summer Medal	Denise Reed	71 Nett (<i>bb6</i>)	Michael Hassid	71 Nett (<i>bb9</i>)
Sun 26th - Sat 1st Aug	Gala Week	Tim Russell	120 Pts		
		Rie Cherubini			
		Bernadette Hardie Ryan Luke	89 Gross		

Ladies Section - by Cathy Harper

The extremely hot weather continued throughout July and the result of this was that slightly fewer ladies played in the weekly competitions. The first division medal was won by Leigh Anderson with a nett 70 and second division was won by Pat Murrish with a nett 75. The July Stableford was won by Hilary Jessop with 36 points and second division by Shirley Griffiths with 35 points. Well done ladies.

At the beginning of July, Sue and Andy Georges organised a very successful trip to Royal Obidos, where we stayed in a very pleasant hotel. The course was a challenge but everyone enjoyed the outing and I would like to thank Sue and Andy for their excellent organisation.

Stewart and I played two more mixed challenges and managed to win both, but out of politeness we will keep the scores to ourselves!

On July the 16th, the ladies team enjoyed their match against Levante, playing Quinta da Ria, the prettier of the two courses there. When the golf became difficult, at least we could enjoy the lovely views. Their team treated us to an excellent lunch and we returned home happy with the result, which was a friendly draw.

Gala week was better than ever. I won't elaborate too much, as again, no doubt the Captain will, but thanks must go to Christophe and his team for fantastic organisation, to the

restaurant and bar staff who worked so hard to make the week a success and to everyone who dressed up and gave us their interpretation of "Myths and Legends". Congratulations to all the winners but especially to Margo Fletcher who was almost too convincing as Medusa! However no one was turned to stone! Well done to you all.

A big thank you to Shirley Griffiths for the photographs she took during the week.



Report from the Greens Committee

In our last report, I commented upon the work done on the course and that it was in a “recovery” state. Over Gala week I received many complements on the course condition and that the lighter scarifying and the tining followed by feeding has resulted in much improved growth on most fairways. The greens are putting well, but due to the extreme heat, they are not quite as quick as on Captain’s Day!

The Greens Committee has set up monthly meetings with the Director of Golf and Sisenando, the Course Manager. This is proving helpful and we agree on a programme going forward.

The main issues that have affected recovery have been a major water pump breakdown about three weeks ago and another about a week ago! This is in addition to the salt, which has been tainting the water used for Olives!

These problems reflect on the age of some equipment and the need for planned maintenance. They also reflect on the very drought-like conditions over last winter and the heat wave conditions over the last month, which are said to continue!

The course staff have all worked hard and the rough is under control. The fairways will get even better once the quality and water pressure return to normal.

We intend to continue micro tining the greens and there is a programme of tining the fairways later in the year to encourage aeration and improve fertility of the fairways. The tees are much improved. The greens are healthy, but as always, we are vigilant for contamination.

Sprinkler heads continue to be replaced where necessary and bunker sand is being replaced. Excessive sand in some bunkers has been removed.

We may decide to prune some of the overhanging pines over autumn /winter and we may decide to make the long bunker on six of Pines a waste area where you can ground your club as against a bunker. This seems to make sense.

We are perhaps 70% to where we want to be and I suspect 100% is never achievable?

We still believe this can be an outstanding course for members and visitors alike and it offers challenging golf for players of all abilities.

Stay out of the sun! Good golf.

Stewart Harper Captain, Gordon Todd, Tony Hickey.

Social Golf by Dirk Blaesing

Considering the fairly low season on the golf course, we had a good number of 44 players for the American Foursomes Social Golf Competition, played on Sunday the 12th of July. It followed a format that requires some more attention to follow, and 47 enjoyed the supper in lovely weather conditions.

Thanks for participating without any change or cancellation!

We had a great day!

The next competition is scheduled for August the 30th 2015.

PRO TIP - Ross Sutherland LONG PUTTING

*Make a Free, Rhythmic Stroke to
Develop Feel for Distance*



As you get farther from the hole, distance becomes more important than direction. Consequently, mechanics take a back seat to feel. Longer outs require a freer range of motion on both the backswing and follow-through. As a result, your hands can be a little more flexible to impart a liberal amount of swing to your stroke. But that hand action isn't intentional or excessive. I simply let my wrists hinge naturally on the backswing.



Forthcoming Events August – September 2015

Tues 4th August	Junior Open and Club Roll Up
Wed 5th August	Ladies Day
Sat 8th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 9th August	August Medal
Tues 11th August	Club Roll Up
Wed 12th August	Ladies Day
Sat 15th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 16th August	August Stableford
Tues 18th August	Club Roll Up
Wed 19th August	Ladies Day
Sat 22nd August	Mens Roll Up
Tues 25th August	Club Roll Up
Wed 26th August	Ladies Day
Sat 29th August	Mens Roll Up
Sun 30th August	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 1st September	Club Roll Up
Wed 2nd September	Ladies Day
Sat 5th September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 6th September	President's Day Incorporating Seniors Championship & September Stableford
Tues 8th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 9th September	Ladies Day
Fri 11th September	Matchplay Championship
Sat 12th September	Matchplay Championship
Sun 13th September	Matchplay Championship
Tues 15th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 16th September	Lady Captain's Day
Sat 19th September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 20th September	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 22nd September	Club Roll Up
Wed 23rd September	Ladies Day
Sat 26th September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 27th September	September Medal
Tues 29th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 30th September	Ladies Day