

Nº 162 . OCTOBER 2017

Altos news



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr David Ford

Hi everyone

The golfing inactivity that characterised August was replaced by a very busy September. Following the Matchplay Championship, which I commented on in the last newsletter, producing victories for David Light and Leigh Anderson, we were quickly into Lady Captain's Day. I know that Zoe will report on her day fully, but from the perspective of Honorary Starter (no uniform provided), it was clear that it was a well organised, well supported, fun occasion.

President's Day as normal incorporated the Senior Championship and I was fortunate to play in the three-ball that produced the two winners. As neither of them was me, it says more about my ability to lead and motivate than it does to play, but more of that later. Dan Henderson won the President's Trophy by a country mile and having witnessed it first hand, if six putts hadn't lipped out, it would have been even more convincing. It's very rare these days to win a trophy for being old, but the Senior Trophy affords you that privilege. This year the title was won by Neil Bamber, who, when he wasn't trying to convince his partners as to what a terrible putter he was, proceeded to putt himself to victory.

September concluded with the long established competition of the Hillbillies versus the Sand-Dancers. This was a seminal moment for me, as it represented the first time during my Captaincy to register a win in a team competition. The blessed Hillbillies did not let me down and it means that we don't have to move the criteria for being a Sand-Dancer to living on the beach! This is one of the great traditional competitions of the Club, started by Martin Murrish, and now that it's biennial, I would ask everyone to support it in 2019.

Early October saw the Pink Day Charity Event at the Club; unfortunately my own charity commitments in the UK precluded me from being present, but clearly a great time was had by all and my thanks go to Shirley Griffiths, David Markey and Vice-Captain Michael Collins in raising the fantastic sum of €6,400 for the Oncology Association in Faro.

Finally, the 6th October saw the highly competitive Wooden Spoon Competition of Men v Ladies. Whilst the Lady Captain reminds me that overall the men have won on significantly more occasions than the ladies, recent years have seen the ladies on a roll and dominating the event, something had to be done. I decided on a strategy of intimidation and big hitting and loaded the early part of the draw with the big guns. Unfortunately, in true PA style, this was undermined by people changing the timings, because of excuses such as they had to take the dog for a walk. My other strategy of pairing people who were stone deaf bore greater fruit as they were impervious to the complaints of their opposition! In the end the men won by the giant margin of 8 to 7 and full marks to the Lady Captain for grace in defeat.

One of the successful features of the Hillbillies/Sand-Dancers event was a shotgun finish, i.e. anyone finishing outside a reasonable timeframe was disqualified. Slow play is becoming a curse for golf and is actively discouraging people from playing the game. We will be looking to incorporate this principle into many of our high profile events going forward such as our scrambles and gala week.

I would also ask everyone who spends a significant time playing golf outside Portugal to always supply us with their up to date playing record when they return to PA, thus ensuring that handicaps are current.

Pop Quiz

Congratulations to Stuart Knox who last month correctly identified that Norah Jones's father was Ravi Shankar. Many people responded from all over the globe, but Stuart was the first. As I believe that the recent Pop Quiz's have been too easy, try this:- Which rock band was being described when one of it's members said this -

"The critics may not like us - as Angus said, we put out the same album every year with a different cover! But the kids still like it"

First correct answer to d@vidford.com wins a sleeve of balls.



Matchplay Championship Prize Winners



President's Day and Seniors Championship Prize Winners



President's Day and Seniors Championship



President's Day and Seniors Championship



Hillbillies Vs Sanddancers Prize Winners



Hillbillies Vs Sanddancers



Hillbillies Vs Sanddancers



Club Captain and Captain of the Hillbillies Team David Ford receives the Trophy from Mike Collins Club Vice-Captain and Captain of the Sanddancers Team



Pink Day 1st Place Peter Seabrook, Wendy Evans, Jill Miller-Cheevers, John Brooke with Lady Captain Zoë Pirret, Club Vice-Captain Mike Collins and Director of Golf Christophe Rindlisbacher



Pink Day 2nd Place Nils Leffler, Remo Cherubini, Knut Pedersen and Per Anton Kleppa



Pink Day 3rd Place Ken Irving, Sumbaline Waters, Barry Hawley-Green and Janine van de Ree

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

September started with the usual Match-play Championship which with 18 entries for the men and 12 entries for the ladies. A better entry than last year but still not as well supported as we would wish for probably due the amount of golf played over the 3 days combined with playing the back tees. Congratulations to David Light & Leigh Anderson both new Champions of the Match-play.

Congratulation Captain on winning the Hillbillies V Sanddancers Trophy for the Hillbillies! This tournament will

now be played on a bi-annual basis and will be played again in 2019 with a few twists.

On 17th September we had our President's Day & Senior Championship which was very well supported with 76 players and 95 for lunch. It was a very enjoyable day followed by a lunch in the Clubhouse chosen and largely sponsored by the President Mr. David Markey. Dan Henderson was the big Champion on the day by playing 3 under par gross and winning

the President's Prize and Neil Bamber was the 2017 Senior Champion. Congratulations to both on some great golf!

The Monthly Stableford was won by Graham Lee while the September Medal was won by Sue Georges.

On 4th October we held the Pink day and we had a great turn out and thank you to all the support in raising over €6.400 which was a record and will be directed to the Oncology Association in Faro. The usual input of Shirley Griffiths & the President were very important and much appreciate.

October is the busiest month of the year on the Golf Course therefore I would recommend all members playing during this month as much as possible to play in 4 balls as the pace of the golf course will be slower and will be more enjoyable as 4 balls group and it looks like this will go on in November as we are hosting the TAP Open and the course will remain busy.

Our tees on the golf course have badly suffered from worm cast infestation and tees will be sanded and seeded during October with ray grass which will resist better in the winter. I would like to ask everyone to be patient while these works are taking place and apologies for some disturbance that this may cause.

I wish all of you good golfing in a continuous sunny Algarve!



Mens Roll Up September Winner Tim Moores receives his Voucher for Casa dos Pinheiros

Pinheiros Altos Golf Club

New Year's Eve Party



In the Pinheiros Altos Clubhouse from 7h30 for 8h00 p.m.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

€120 per Person

Live Entertainment with Pedro Mariani

Please book at the Golf Office



Competition Results for September

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 3rd	September Medal	Sue Georges	70 Nett	Robert Lester	73 Nett (<i>bb9</i>)
Wed 6th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Chie Crowdey	70 Nett	1st Division Paula Burke	72 Nett
		2nd Division Josie Waddington	74 Nett	2nd Division Lisa Burns	76 Nett
Fri 8th	Matchplay Championship	Men		Men	
Sat 9th		David Light		Steven Crowdey	
Sun 10th		Ladies Leigh Anderson		Ladies Helen Mills	
	September Stableford	Graham Lee	36 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)	Paula Burke	36 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)
Wed 13th	Ladies' Captain's Day Rose Bowl	Competition Trophy Winner Fiona Thomson	38 Pts		
		1st Division Paula Burke	36 Pts	1st Division Leigh Anderson	35 Pts c/b
		2nd Division Debbie Madgett	34 Pts	2nd Division Lorraine Dunabin	33 Pts
Sun 17th	President's Day Incorporating Seniors Championship	Presidents Putter Winner Dan Henderson	39 Pts	Best Nett Ladies Kay Ford	38 Pts
		Senior Champion Neil Bamber	26 Pts Gross	Best Nett Men Nick Tucker Brown	37 Pts
				Best Nett Senior Christine Soden	38 Pts
				Best over 70's Robert Lester	35 Pts
Wed 20th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Paula Burke	40 Pts	1st Division Sally Evans	39 Pts
		2nd Division Pat Murrish	32 Pts	2nd Division Lorraine Dunabin	31 Pts
Wed 27th	Ladies Day Team Event	Jeanette Winther Mai Markey Pat Murrish	76 pts	Kay Ford Liz Carver Vera Watkins	74 Pts
Sat 30th	Hillbillies Vs Sanddancers	Hillbillies	6 ½	Sanddancers	5 ½

Ladies Section - by Zoë Pirret

September was a busy month and I was delighted so many of you supported me on my Ladies' Captain's Day. We had 42 players and then another 7 ladies joined us for lunch, it is lovely

that our Social Ladies are included in our events. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and the pictures below tell their own story...

The Players:



Without you the day would not have happened!

The Helpers:



Thank you to Fordy and Michael Collins for starting the ladies, David Pirret and Ken Irving for refreshments on the 5th Corks (David makes a mean smoked salmon sandwich), Christophe and his team for all their assistance, Antonio for serving the

coffees, Xenia's staff for an excellent lunch, the ladies' committee, Diana Collins for helping me buy the prizes, last but not least Lisa Burns who support and assistance was invaluable.



The ladies that lunch



The ladies that lunch



The winners

Congratulations to the overall winner Fiona Thomson, also to prize winners Paula Burke, Debbie Madgett, Leigh Anderson, Lorraine Dunabin, Marian Hill, Jill Miller-Cheevers, nearest the pin winners Fiona Thomson and Sue Georges and birdie ball winners Helen Mills, Mariëd Kooijmans and Sue Georges. Thank you all for making my day great.

Kenny and Ross held our first Golf Clinic for the ladies and this was fully supported with 16 ladies attending. The next Clinic is on Tues. 17th October on short game and putting and there are only a few places left; these are proving popular and we hope will be a regular feature of the ladies diary.

Mai has kindly been in charge of the ladies whilst I disappeared across the Atlantic to meet our new grandson.

Mai also captained the ladies friendly match against Vila Sol at home bringing in a 3/2 win to us.

Congratulations to Matchplay winners Leigh Anderson and David Light, President's Day winner Dan Henderson and Seniors championship Neil Bamber and lastly the Hillbillies.

October will be a busy month with Pink Day, the Wooden Spoon and our Ladies' Annual Dinner.

The Jar on the Bar raised only €190 in August which was a little disappointing, please do put your euro in if you go into the water as the children really do need spectacles, dental work, etc. and we are making a difference. We did raise €395 to guess the amount on President's Day and this was won by Chie Crowdey.



End of Season Algarve Interclub League Review - by Geoff Stott

Our final league match is behind us and we were able to go out on a real high, beating the expected champions of the elite division, Alto, 4.5/0.5. It followed two defeats in September at BoaVista (3/2) and at Parque da Floresta (4/1).

Our fate as one of the three teams to be relegated was already known before this last home match but it said a lot for the spirit in the team that we delivered such a resounding win.

36 members played during the 12 match season and it was our home form which really let us down.

PA is always a popular venue for our opponents but we shouldn't make it so inviting!

Whilst there is still a couple of matches to be played in the three divisions, it looks like we'll be joined next year in Division Two by Serra da Monchique (Silves), Levante (Quinta da Ria/Cima), Vilamoura, Vale do Lobo, Penina and Tavira (Benamor). Some pleasant courses and not so many kilometres to travel!

Report from the Greens Committee

The committee met prior to the last main committee meeting with the greens managers and Christophe and the issue highlighted in our last report were discussed.

Taking the positive first the greens are looking very good with excellent colour and fine grass reflecting the bent grasses have developed as intended. We hope to increase the speed shortly but we must not compromise the health of the greens which are very true and put well.

The issues which were raised in our last report are still causing concern. Many tees have been damaged by worm infestation despite preventive spraying on two occasions. The committee intend to raise the issues with STRI when they return for a further inspection next month.

In the meantime over seeding and fertilizing of the damaged tees is taking place. We believe that moving to temporary tees should take place where necessary. We hope members will accept this as a sensible short term answer.

Secondly the bunkers which are being repaired are now being re sanded and watered immediately to ensure a firm layer of new sand is compacted. We believe that players should be able to walk on sand and should see an imprint of their shoes but not sink into the surface. There should be a consistent level of sand underlying the surface. This seems to be an issue not just at PA and our neighbours are tackling the same problems!

The new fairway sanding machine ordered some months ago has arrived and we hope to apply sand to the fairways next month. The heavy activity on the course from visiting parties etc. has delayed the process. We believe this process and proper fertilizing and managing weeds and poor grasses will start the recovery of the grasses. The STRI believe that encouraging the Kikuyu grasses is the "way forward".

On a more general note, discussion on changes to the course design continues and we have asked management

to ask a qualified golf architect to give an opinion on the following issues:-

1. Should we remove some trees on the corner of 8 of Corks.

2. Should we remove far more trees to encourage light and make the course "fairer". As an example the trees bordering corks 7 fairway, corks 3 fairway and there are many more examples. Is there an argument to take a further tree from the edge of the green of hole 1 of Pines? Should we remove more bunkers, and are the ladies tees in some cases unfairly restricted by trees?

Changes to a golf course are always controversial but we strongly believe now is the time to "bite the bullet" and with management support make the 3 courses more attractive to members and visitors alike.

Finally the fairway of Pines 9 is still a problem as is the bunker short of the green. Both are reflected in the difficulty of this hole in the new handicapping of the course which we believe is much fairer overall.

The committee has experienced similar issues with the course at this time of year for the period that the writer has been preparing these reports. We just hope that the new regime will avoid fusarium disease this autumn!

We are moving in the right direction and but for the tees the course is presenting well. As ever it seems we move forward only to pause and hopefully then move forward again.

Member's views are always welcome to any of the committee or direct to Christophe.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford Captain, Duncan Evans.

Social Golf - by Iain Callaghan

It was another beautiful Sunday in the Algarve and still exceptionally warm for the time of year.

What's a Nine/Nine? we were asked so often - Well it's a competition, in teams of four where the better 2 Stableford scores count on each hole, except on the first nine where 3 best scores count on par 5s and on the second nine it's the best 3 to count on the par 3s - something of a variation on a theme and all good fun which as you'll read produced one extraordinary result.



Thirty-two players signed up to compete but alas there were 2 "no shows" necessitating two nominated "floaters" to be press-ganged at the last minute..... adding just a little bit of tension, mystique and excitement to the possible results.

It was good to see 5 playing guests (members' friends) introduced to Social Golf, contributing to their matches, mixing with their friends and enjoying the banter amongst the other members

We were joined by two further welcome guests for an enjoyable supper, timeously served by Renato and the restaurant staff - no mean feat given that there were 40+ visitors on the terrace at the same time, basking in the last rays of the day's sun and all expecting good service.

The results and prize-winners were as follows:-

Pines/Corks:

1st - Knut Ellingsen, Helmut Schawe, Lorraine Dunabin and Vera Watkins with an outstanding score of 98 points*.

2nd - Andy Wheeler, Nigel Parry, Sue Georges and Shona Callaghan with a score of 81 points.

**The competition par was 80 points, so 98 was an outstanding achievement, with Knut (40) and Lorraine (36) scoring 76 points! Well done both BUT there's now a reward posted on each of you!*

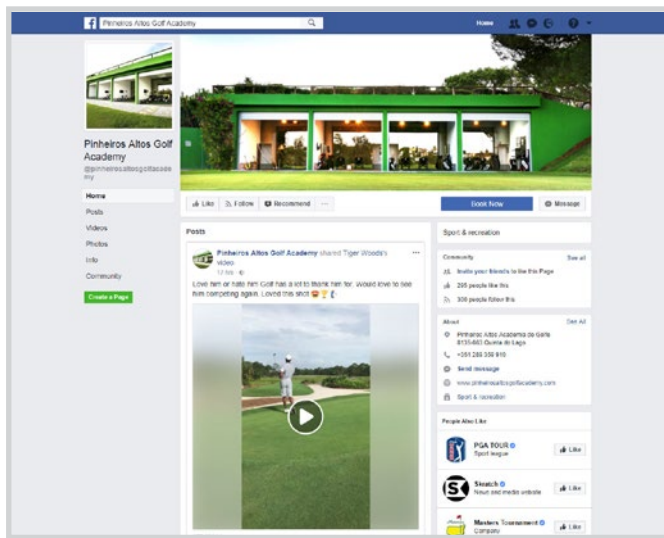
Olives/Pines:

1st - Andy Watkins, Nils Leffler, Paula Burke and Heidi Ellingsen with a score of 84 points.

2nd - Andy Georges, Bob Seddon, John McCarthy and Nerys McGuinness scoring 83 points.

The next Social Golf event will be held on Sunday 22nd October organised by Sue Georges and me - it's a Traffic Lights team competition, playing from the Yellow, then Blue, then Red tees in succession. So sign up, come along and enjoy playing 2/3rds of the course from unusual tees.

Academy News



The new Golf Academy Facebook page is now online so please live & follow Pinheiros Altos Golf Academy.



The page will give you access to the new website www.pinheirosaltosgolfacademy.com and also allow you to book your lessons online.



We look forward to seeing you in the Academy!

Kenny and Ross

Forthcoming Events October & November 2017

Sat 2nd September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 3rd September	September Medal
Tues 5th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 6th September	Ladies Day
Fri 8th September	Matchplay Championship
Sat 9th September	Matchplay Championship
Sun 10th September	Matchplay Championship & Stableford
Tues 12th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 13th September	Lady Captain 's Day
Sat 16th September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 17th September	President 's Day Incorporating Seniors Championship
Tues 19th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 20th September	Ladies Day
Sat 23rd September	Mens Roll Up
Sun 24th September	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 26th September	Club Roll Up
Wed 27th September	Ladies Day
Sat 30th September	Hillbillies Vs Sanddancers (NO ROLL UP)
Wed 1st November	Ladies Day
Sat 4th November	Foursomes Championship (No Roll Up)
Sun 5th November	Foursomes Championship
Wed 8th November	Ladies Day
Sat 11th November	Mens Roll Up
Sun 12th November	November Medal
Wed 15th November	Ladies Day
Sat 18th November	Mens Roll Upn
Sun 19th November	18 Hole Social Golf
Wed 22nd November	Ladies Day
Sat 25th November	Mens Roll Up
Sun 26th November	St Andrew 's Stableford
Wed 29th November	Ladies Day