

Altos *news*

Nº 163 . NOVEMBER 2017

PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr David Ford

Hi Everyone

At the beginning of October, I had the pleasure of handing the Wooden Spoon to the Lady Captain after a highly competitive match between the men and ladies. Now you may feel that as I'm getting older, I'm becoming repetitive as I mentioned this in the last Newsletter. The truth is, I just like to remind everyone!

The rest of October was very quiet in golfing terms, so I will restrict myself to a couple of points that are important to me.

The new 18 hole scorecards are now in use for members (we are still using the old cards for visitors until the stock is depleted, which should be very soon) and we have received very positive feedback over the new stroke indices. My thanks to Zoe, our Lady Captain for her hard work and persistence in this matter.

Stewart's Greens Report is included and is very comprehensive, so I won't attempt to repeat the points he makes. However, I would make these observations. In recent competitions that were open to members only, the standard of bunker raking was deplorable and the number of unprepared pitch marks was

lamentable. We are working hard to return our greens to their former high standard and nearly all of the members that I speak to believe that real progress has been made. What a pity that some members do not seem capable of basic etiquette in these two areas. I stress that this is definitely a members, not a visitors issue.

We are now taking bookings for New Years Eve in the Club; if you haven't made alternative arrangements, please consider joining us. It promises to be a great night.

POP QUIZ

Congratulations to Steve Quail who correctly identified that the band being described in last month's quiz was AC/DC.

This month I'd like you to name the woman who is arguably (in my view, definitely,) the greatest female singer/songwriter of all time and who reached her 74th birthday on the 7th November. First correct answer to d@vidford.com wins a sleeve of balls.

Happy golfing

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





Wooden Spoon



Wooden Spoon

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

October started with the Pink Day and I would like to thank all the members for their great support in raising €6,547 which was a record. Thank you to Shirley Griffiths, the President, Captains & Vice-Captains for their input in the event.

The Wooden Spoon this year was played on 6th October and after some very tight matches the Men finally managed to win by 8 to 7 and the Club Captain David Ford had the pleasure to hand in the wooden spoon to our Lady Captain Zoe Pirret. It was about time the men got rid of that trophy!

The October Stableford was won by Peter Young and the Autumn Rosebowl saw Sergey Naumov winning the trophy. So we can say it was a good month for the Men!

Rosa Dias our shop manager for over 10 years has retired last month and I would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years for Pinheiros Altos.

Cristina Fernandes (not to be mistaken with Cristina in the golf office with the same name) is the shop manager at San Lorenzo and will be taking over the management of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Shop in conjunction with the academy shop which will increase their stock of Titleist Foot-joy in the main shop as well. I wish Cristina great success with her new role within Pinheiros Altos.

The Golf Course will remain busy for most of November quieting down towards the end of the month which will allow us to carry some heavier work like buggy paths repairs, trimming trees and recovering tees which have suffered from traffic as well as worm cast problems.

Our course consultant Conor Nolan from STRI will be visiting Pinheiros Altos and give us their 3rd report and opinions on how to go forward and continuing in improving the quality of the golf course.

The interest in Membership is continuous and we have now only 6 Golf Titles available for re-sales which is the lowest over the last few years. The price of the Golf Title is €12,000 and will

increase to €15,000 on 1st January 2018 which is the highest value it has reach for the last 5 years.

Keep an eye open for the Christmas board which will soon be up in the Clubhouse to sign up for the many tournaments during the festive times. Also do not miss our New Year Eve party at the Clubhouse with Pedro Mariani specially back from Miami to host the music once again at Pinheiros Altos which I am sure will be yet another success!



Mens Roll Up October Winner Stephen Leach receives his Voucher for Casa dos Pinheiros

Competition Results for October

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 4th	Ladies Charity Pink Day	Wendy Evans Jill M Cheevers John Brooks Peter Seabrook	95 Pts	Knut Ellingsen Remo Cherubini Per Anton Kleppa Nils Leffler	84 Pts
Fri 6th	Wooden Spoon	Men	8	Ladies	7
Sun 8th	October Stableford	Peter Young	36 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)	Per Anton Kleppa	36 Pts
Wed 11th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Paula Burke	68 Nett	1st Division Janice Paterson	72 Nett
		2nd Division Maried Kooijmans	73 Nett	2nd Division Diana Collins	77 Nett
Fri 13th	Ladies' Annual Dinner Team Competition <i>"who stole the Par 4's"</i>	Janice Paterson Kay Ford Marian Hill Meg Black	98 Pts	Hilary Jessup Chie Crowdey Molly Wainwright Lorraine Dunabin	97 Pts
Sun 15th	Autumn Medal Rosebowl	Sergey Naumov	70 Nett	Nevin Prakash	71 Nett
Wed 18th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	Cancelled due to rain			
Wed 25th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Janice Paterson	37 Pts	1st Division Helen Mills	36 Pts
		2nd Division Adrienne Buth	34 Pts	2nd Division Wendy Evans	32 Pts

Ladies Section - by Zoë Pirret

I started my last newsletter by saying September was busy, well October was no different. We started the month with Pink Day which raised an amazing €6,547 – thank you. This was followed by the Wooden Spoon which Fordy and Christophe mentioned in the last newsletter, they say it is better to give than receive and I hope Lisa will be giving next year! You did a valiant job ladies but we were pipped to the post on the last putt of the last hole.

On Friday, 13th we had our Ladies' Annual Dinner. I devised a competition where there were no Par 4's, the ladies had to play the Par 4's off the yellow tees as Par 5's, the course Par became 82 but the ladies loved the format and want to play it again! This was followed by our Annual Dinner which was held at Alambique who looked after us and did a brilliant job, I think I can safely say the day was a success!





Annual Dinner



Annual Dinner



Day competition winners



Birdie Book winners

This month we raised €244.15 in the jar and €320 to guess the amount, the winning guess was made by Knut Pedersen. This money, along with €315 raised at the Ladies Dinner is going to pay for speech therapy for a little girl who has received hearing

aids but her parents are unable to teach her to speak as they are both deaf. As ever, many thanks for your generosity which is going to worthy causes. A list is posted by the jar so you can see where the money goes.

Social Golf - by Iain Callaghan

Traffic Lights - everyone playing from yellow then blue then red tees in succession is a great fun competition format and an invitation to play 67% of the courses from uncustomary tees but its not without controversy.

The Ladies were given their handicaps off the blue slope rating, giving them their highest handicaps - only fair I'm sure you'll agree as they would be playing 2/3rds of the courses much further back than usual, from blue and yellow tees. The men were handicapped using their customary yellow handicap slope rating which I naturally thought was only fair too. Not so thought the ladies: as the men were playing 2/3rds of the courses from shorter distances they believed the men should have been handicapped using the lower (for men) blue slope rating.

As all the teams were of mixed gender, it didn't really matter as it was the same for all but it provided a bone for Sue to gnaw upon in her opening remarks and some good humoured banter between us, accompanied by some boisterous heckling from both sides.

The prize winners were:-

Pines/Corks

- 1st place: Michel Sohier, Alan Bentley, Sue Georges & Dee Hirst (126 pts)
- 2nd place: Tony Hickey, Wallace Forde, Lucy Pye & Stella Jeffrey (111 pts - bb9 of 55)
- 3rd place: Paul Hanby, Peter Mills, Wendy Collins & Vera Watkins (111pts - b9 of 52)

Corks/ Olives

- 1st place: Andy Georges, Alberto Nicoletti, Chie Crowdey
& Gabriele Koch (104 pts)
- 2nd place: Bertil Wiren, Keith Hirst, Helen Mills
& Maried Kooijmans (100 pts)
- 3rd Place: Paula Burke, Nigel Collins, Paul Black
& Brian Scott (99 pts)

It was an excellent turnout of 52 players, including two first timers to social golf and one member's guest; we were joined for supper by seven further spouse guests making 59 in all.

The next social golf competition, a Merry-go Round, will take place on the 19th of November, organised by Nils Leffler and me.

Report from the Greens Committee

The committee met with Christophe, Marco and Ana on the course for an inspection on the 31st October. The Captain had suggested this would assist members in understanding the issues which we still face to improve playing conditions.

The following issues were discussed:-

1. Tees

These are in some cases very poor. Invasion of worm and grubs has destroyed surface grasses. Marco said that the tees in anticipation of this annual problem had been sprayed for worms on two occasions but accepted that more needs to be done. The badly effected tees have been both top dressed and over seeded. We agreed where ever possible to move member away from sown areas and even onto different tees. We also agreed 8th of Corks need to be improved both by better grasses and enlarged to allow more tees choices. We repeated our desire to hand cutting of tees and greater vigilance to avoid a repetition.

2. Bunkers

Duncan Evans (who has been contracted to improve bunkers both at Quinta and San Lourenco) said he was pleased with the new sand in the bunkers which was firm and consistent. We aim to have all the bunkers in this condition. Marco is supportive of this programme.

We still intend to remove the pot bunkers on 3 of Corks but to cut the rough down to allow shots which come up short of the green to run back to the fairway. This seems more in keeping with the new rating of the hole. We will take advice from STRI who return this month to report on the course.

3. Fairways

The crab grasses which are an annual problem on certain holes show themselves in July to end of October. They usually disappear this month or earlier depending on temperatures. They are very conspicuous on 5 and 6 of Pines and 6 of Corks. SRTI say that unless you dig them out we have to wait until the kikuya grasses take over and smother them! This may take two years! The fairways are to be sanded and heavily fertilizer in the next month and Marco is optimistic of an improvement on our fairways.

4. Greens

This is the really good news to date! The bent grasses have taken over from our mixed grasses and the colour is very good and the surfaces are smooth and as good as any in the Algarve. We must prepare to defend them from fungus infection.

5. Trees

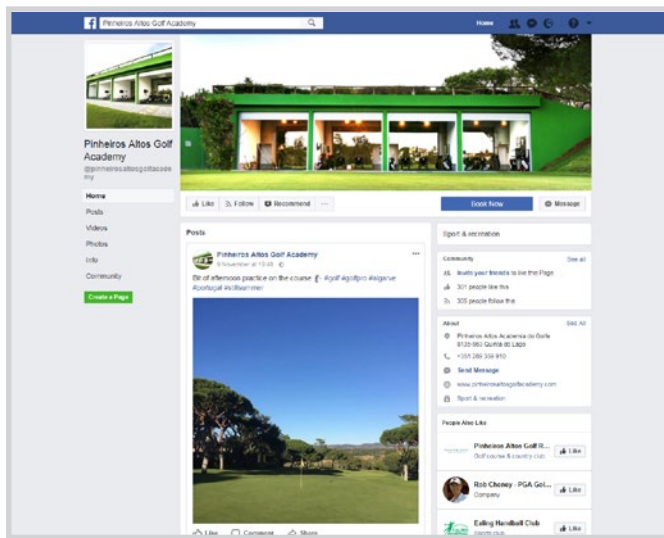
We have far too many in the opinion of all at the meeting. The removal of trees which take away light is important as is the removal of trees which after healthy growth now create excessive difficulty in a "resort Course" We have our views but will take professional advice, No fear of us making the course too easy!

The last 2/3 months have set us back and we are disappointed. Marco is aware of this and we must as always work to improve the course.

Members views as always are welcome.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford Captain, Duncan Evans.

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 November & December 2017

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
Sat 2nd December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 3rd December	December Stableford
Wed 6th December	Ladies Day
Sat 9th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 10th December	18 Holes Social Golf
Wed 13th December	Ladies Day
Sat 16th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 17th December	December Medal
Wed 20th December	Ladies Day
Fri 22nd December	Christmas Turkey Flutter
Sat 23rd December	Mens Roll Up
Tues 26th December	Boxing Day American Foursomes
Wed 27th December	Ladies Day
Sat 30th December	Mens Roll Up