

Altos

Nº 164 . DECEMBER 2017



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr David Ford

Hi everyone,

November is traditionally a quiet month at Pinheiros Altos, as we gear up for the various fun competitions during the festive season. They are all being advertised currently, so be sure to enter if you're spending Christmas and New Year in the Algarve. The exception to this was the Foursomes Championship at the beginning of the month. At last some silverware for the Captain! Well, a golf bag actually for the Gross Prize. My partner, Duncan Evans, and I knew that with 3 shots between us, we wouldn't be competing for the net trophy which was won conclusively and deservedly by Paula Burke and Helen Mills with a terrific performance over the two days.

Since becoming Captain, I, and the rest of the Greens Committee have been canvassing for making the 8th hole on Corks fairer for the majority of golfers. We have now removed a number of trees on the corner to give players a better option for their third shot. I'm sure that these changes will be welcomed. Equally, pot bunkers that are not indigenous to Portugal should, in my opinion, not feature on our course and work will start shortly on removing the bunkers in front of the 3rd green on Corks. On my recommendation, trees with branches that were overhanging greenside bunkers on the 5th and 7th of Pines have been removed and there will need to be more strategic tree removal, as advised by our consultancy company, to make the course fairer and to provide much needed sunlight to certain tees. I'm sure that Stewart will comment further in his report.

Don't forget New Year's Eve at the Club, it will be a great night. Can I also request that you put March, 1st, St. David's Day in your diary as we want to return to the halcyon days of celebrating a different Patron Saints Day each year starting, naturally, with the Welsh. As it will be the last event of my year, expect lots of fun and the sound of Welsh choirs bellowing across the course.

There will not be another newsletter before January, so may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

POP QUIZ

Last month I received six correct replies within 40 minutes of the newsletter being emailed. Chris Soden, who answered in three minutes (evidence of a need for more taxing employment?), correctly identified that the singer/songwriter in question was Joni Mitchell.

This month's quiz is in two parts. To win, I need two correct answers. Who was the keyboard virtuoso and singer who was in a band called the Paramounts before joining forces with lyricist Keith Reid and producing one of the biggest hits of the 60's under a different band name, which went on to be one of the most famous songs of all time? Name the follow up to this monster hit which also charted. First correct answer to d@vidford.com to win a sleeve of Fordy balls.

Happy golfing!



Club Captain David Ford and Director of Golf Christophe Rindlisbacher presenting the Foursomes Championship Trophy to the Winners Helen Mills and Paula Burke Hickey



Foursomes Championship Best Gross Winners Duncan Evans and Club Captain David Ford



Foursomes Championship Runners Up Martin and Hilary Jessup



Foursomes Championship 3rd Place Steven and Chie Crowdey



Foursomes Championship Best 1st Day Viv and Lynn Lewis



Foursomes Championship Best 2nd Day Christian Holst and Tony Hickey

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

November saw the usual Foursomes Championship played over 2 days and what a fantastic results from one of the few Ladies pair by winning the Foursomes Championship with one of the best scores ever if not the best at level PAR ! Congratulations to Paula Burke Hickey & Helen Mills on becoming the new Champions. Captain David Ford & Duncan Evans won the Gross. Congratulations to all participant for taking place in what is the most difficult format of Golf.

Steven Crowdey won the November Medal with a net 70 while Zoe Pirret managed a fantastic score of 40 points in the St Andrews Stableford to claim the winning score.

On 1st November we had our Memorial Day for all our friends who are no longer with us. It was the first one played on that date and will from now be an annual event on 1st November and no longer on St Andrew's Day.

In Early December we hosted 2 Pro Tournament from the Portugal Algarve Pro Tour which has started 2 years ago and will be building up over the years to come. We had 60 players mainly



Memorial Day Winners Roger Califo, Philippe Affif, Alfeu da Silva and Ionut Tatar with Club Captains David Ford and Zoë Pirret and Director of Golf Christophe Rindlisbacher



Memorial Day Runners Up Zoë and David Pirret



Memorial Day 3rd Place Nils Leffler, Shirley Griffiths and Adrienne Butth

pros and top amateurs playing and all were very impressed on how the course had progressed over the last 12 months.

The Golf course is now going to be quiet over the next few weeks and will allow for it to recover from a very heavy season and also continue to improve the areas which are in need. As you will be able to read in the greens committee report a lot of work is planned such as buggy path repairs, cleaning & cutting of trees to improve play but also maintenance.

Our Head Green-Keeper Sesinando Rodrigues will no longer be attached to Pinheiros Altos as from 1st January 2018 and Marco Santos our assistant green-keeper together with Leonel Silva head of irrigation with the help of both green-keepers from San Lorenzo & Penina will now be taking the responsibility of the Golf maintenance at Pinheiros Altos.

The Christmas board is now up in the Clubhouse for all to sign in for the many forthcoming events and I hope to see as many of you around for these competitions and social activities. To avoid any disappointment make sure you book your New Year Eve table early enough.

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!



Mens Roll Up November Winner Melvin Adams 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



Portuguese Representatives at the International Pairs World Final played at the Penina Golf Course from 6th to 10th November 2017



Molly Wainwright and Sally Evans



Molly Wainwright, Sally Evans, Manuel Cândido de Oliveira and José Cândido de Oliveira

Competition Results for November

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 1st	Memorial Day	Philippe Affif Ionut Tatar Roger Calico Alfeu da Silva	87 Pts (b9 40)	David Pirret Zoë Pirret Tony Hickey Paula Burke	87 Pts (B9 38)
Sat 4th Sun 5th	Foursomes Championship	Paula Burke Helen Mills	144 Nett	Best Gross David Ford Duncan Evans	164 Gross
Wed 8th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Paula Burke 2nd Division Wendy Evans	73 Nett 73 Nett	1st Division Helen Mills 2nd Division Adrienne Buth	78 Nett 77 Nett
	9 Hole Stableford	Vera Watkins	17 Pts	Sandra Seddon	
Sun 12th	November Medal	Steven Crowdey	70 Pts	Mark Dunn	73 Pts (bb9)
Wed 15th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Helen Mills 2nd Division Pat Murrish	30 Pts 38 Pts	2nd Division Wendy Evans	35 Pts
Wed 22nd	Ladies Day Team Event (Foxtrot)	Zoë Pirret Debbie Madgett Pat Murrish	93 Pts	Kay Ford Shirley Griffiths Wendy Evans Meg Black	89 Pts (c/b)
Sun 26th	St Andrew's Day Stableford	Zoë Pirret	40 Pts	Lorraine Dunabin	34 Pts (bb9)

Ladies Section - by Zoë Pirret

The first Wednesday of the month we had Memorial Day which was organised by the Club and we could remember golfing friends that are sadly no longer with us. The Ladies' Medal therefore took place on Wed. 8th quickly followed by a Stableford on the 15th, so a lot of serious golfing in quick succession.

I was delighted that two ladies won the Club Foursomes Championship, so well done to Paula Burke and Helen Mills for a great win and also to Hilary and Martin Jessup as runners up.

Some of our Social Ladies had a nice day out to Porches to one of the potteries, followed by lunch. We are hoping to do more events to include the non-golfing members of our ladies' section, any ideas would be most welcome. Eva Lamaison has already offered bridge lessons for beginners, so if you are interested please contact one of the ladies' committee.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ACCA angels. Pinheiros members bought approximately 90 presents for children who would not receive anything at Christmas without this generosity. Thank You.



New Stroke Indices – How did it happen?

As there is not a huge amount of golfing news this month I have been asked to explain how the new indices came about. This project was started in 2013 by Rie Cherubini and myself to initially change some of the ladies tees; this then progressed to having three cards with indexes 1 to 18 for all three courses. The recommendations for stroke index allocation from both the EGA and CONGU were consulted. Interestingly the recommendations state that the stroke index allocation has virtually no influence on the stableford result and it is of paramount importance for match play that the strokes received are evenly spread over the 18 holes. Due to the design of the course it is impossible to apply the recommendations to the letter, (if this was the case on Pines/Corks the 8th of Corks would become index 6 – this would probably not be a popular

result!). The eclectic scores from both the men and the ladies were taken for the whole of 2015 to establish the degree of difficulty of all the holes on Pines/Corks, they were given a difficulty rating from 1 to 18. We then allocated the indices following the recommendations. Those involved were Captains (past and present), myself, a Pro and the Director of golf. We came up with the best solution, in our opinion, within the parameters available.

The majority of feedback so far has been positive to the changes which makes all my research, nagging and work worthwhile!

As the next newsletter will be coming out after the seasons festivities, I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Martin Murrish, one of the earliest members at PA is no longer able to grace the fairways and greens. Martin is ailed these days with restriction of movement in his legs, which makes standing up or sitting down on a comfy chair quite an ordeal.

Martin is probably best remembered as being one of the co-creators of the 'Hillbillies -v- Sanddancers', a popular annual tournament. The competition between club members is a friendly match with teams being decided on, by which side of the 125 you reside.

During this years event, which Martin could not attend, it was discovered that Martin's mechanical chair was breaking and repair was not a viable option.

The mention of this created a spontaneous collection from most in attendance and some €800 was collected without canvassing or encouragement, from the members present. More monies were given later.

We now had enough to replace Martin's chair. Wendy Collins was tasked with sourcing a replacement chair, which she did in England. It filled all and exceeded the criteria sought. It was cream coloured leather with all the functions required by Martin. Wendy purchased the chair and arranged for it to be shipped to Portugal. On Tuesday, 14th November the chair was delivered to Martin.



Myself and the Captain were in attendance and assisted in its unpacking and its reconstruction. Pat decided that Champagne was required, so the puzzle was assisted by a glass or two of Bollinger.

Martin test drove the completed item and was delighted with its performance. He demonstrated by raising himself to a standing position and walking to his 'Gynmasium'. He then returned and back to a sitting position, all with glass in hand. Mission accomplished.

It was a triumph for all those who donated and a credit that PA members care and do not forget one of our own.

Michael Collins

To all my friends and members of our wonderful golf club, what can I say, I am "gob smacked"!!!! Not at all expected.

Tuesday, 14.11.2017 I was visited by our Captain David Ford and Vice Captain Michael Collins and was presented with a wonderful new rise and fall arm chair, secured by the generosity of our members, it is fantastic!!

A little history of the Hillbillies v Sanddancers. One morning Brian and I sat having a beer together outside what was then the Clubhouse, Offices, Proshop, Bar and toilet facilities.

I outlined the idea of the competition, which met with Brian's approval, membership was developing, for at the time we only had a monthly stapeford and medal (there was no ladies section) we were all one. And with the structure of the Hillbillies and Sanddancers awarding prizes on each hole and broken down into various handicap groups meant that all members were able to join the prize winners instead of the exclusivity of the few regular winners of a Stapleford and medal.

We secured support and funding from many local individuals and companies to whom we were truly appreciative, and in view of many of the members and our President's wish to keep alive the competition I hope their support can continue.

I am so sorry I am unable to join you all but wish you all the very best and unending thanks.

*Kindest regards
Martin.*

Report from the Greens Committee

The committee met on Thursday the 7th December to discuss the report from STRI who inspected the course over the 23/24 November.

The following bullet points reflect their views and progress to date:-

1. The Greens

The putting surfaces are very good with both ball roll quality and the spread of the fine bent grasses. This has kept the disease away.

2. The tees

A programme of feeding and cutting three times a week together with sand top dressing and core aeration during the growing season is advocated.

3. The Fairways

These remain challenging for a variety of reasons reflected different grasses and shading from trees and poor drainage and irrigation problems. The application of a disciplined feeding and application of heavy sand over the coming season is seen as important to the recovery. The owners have purchased a sand spreader which is to be shared with San Lourenco. The cost is high but allowance has been made in next year's budget and the Committee are promised the recommendations will be enacted.

4. Bunkers

The programme of replacing and repairing poor sand and drainage continues with still some issues on whether correct quantities of sand is being compressed to give consistent playing conditions (we must remember they are hazards). We are making progress! Bunkers protecting the green of Corks 3 will be removed and replaced with a cut sloping fairway to roll back shots which are short of the green!

5. Trees

Members will be aware that over the years the growth of the pines has altered the course to such an extent that the

difficulty and layout has materially altered from when the course was designed. STRI recommend removal of trees which create excessive shade on tees, greens and fairways. The committee's recommendation regarding alterations to Corks 8 has been supported and there is now an "avenue" of approach to the elevated green from short of the corner! It still remains challenging but we believe enhances the hole. Many trees are to be removed resources permitting.

6. Green Aprons

These will over the year be given separate treatment of feeding and tining to firm up the surfaces.

7. Resources

The owners have agreed a compliment of 24 green staff for the 27 holes. We presently have 22 and will recruit 2 more. Due to holidays illness and maintenance on drainage and sprinklers, the actual numbers who are working the course is often less than we or the superintendent would like. This is ongoing and recently Christophe agreed to allow the rangers be given the task of filling the new divot holes which are frequent following the professionals tournament! This is a good use of resources and reflects Christophe's desire to support improvement wherever he can.

The Committee remain aware of the challenges ahead but believe with the correct resources and management we should be able to deliver a course to be proud of which will attract new members and visitors and give the owners the return they seek from their investment. The improvements this year has already shown to give increased value to membership titles and increases new members joining the club. As ever the heavy booking of both members' competitions and visiting parties restricts work on the course.

We wish all members a happy golfing Christmas and as always welcome constructive comments.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford Captain, Duncan Evans.

Social Golf - by Nils Leffler

Merry-Go-Round, what is that? was the big question circulating among the 43 players that join the latest November 11 Social Golf event. The answer was printed properly on the starting sheets - 3 scores on par threes, two scores on par fours and one score on par fives. This was a very friendly format that all players seem to have enjoyed. In beautiful sun shine and with a comfortable temperature all players embarked optimistically on this month's competition. 5 teams went out on Corks and Olives and 6 teams on Olives and Pines - a consequence of a couple of last minute cancellations.

Our Captain, David Ford, joined the Social golf this time. He is a good golfer so when he saw the number of shots his team mates were allowed, he was amazed. He might not have played with such high handicap players ever! A new experience which he claimed he enjoyed. He led his team to an honourable 3rd place. Thank you Captain for participating.

Only one score stood out this time. Nigel Collins team managed to perform brilliantly and finished with an excellent score of 88 - 16 under par! Congratulations

After the last team had arrived in the clubhouse all participants plus guests moved into the restaurant for supper, where 52 meals were served. The noise level reflected a good day out and the pleasure of enjoying supper with the day's team mates. The food and the service provided by the PA staff was good and many of the participants expressed their satisfaction. After the meal Iain and Nils presented the prizes to the three best scores on each course combination. Results see below.

Next Social Golf event will take place on December 10 played with 4 clubs and a putter. Organised by Iain and Stella the supper will be followed by a Christmas sing along. So make sure you join both the golf and the singing!

Keep swinging

Nils

Corks and Olives

Olives and Pines

1st Place	Gerry Naughton Keith Hirst Gabriele Koch Meg Black	79	Nigel Collins Stephen Leach Maried Kooijmans Stella Jeffrey	88
2nd Place	Bernd Görger Dirk Blaesing Lorraine Dunabin Vera Watkins	74 (bb9)	Liam Edwards Andy Georges Per Anton Kleppa Peter Mills	79
3rd Place	Kieran Nagle Bertil Wiren Helen Mills Sylvia Mullins	74	David Ford Nils Leffler Susie Hardwick Sandra Seddon	74

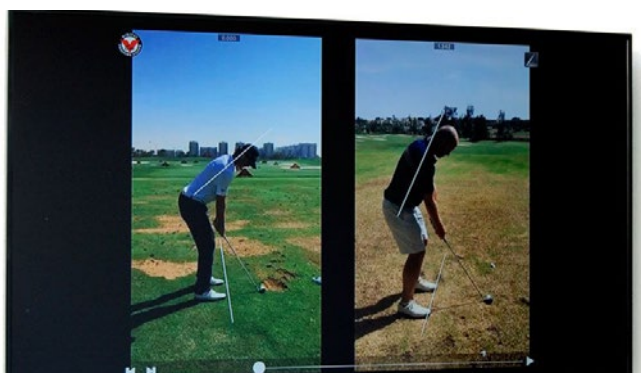
Academy News



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

December 2017 & January 2018

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
Mon 1st January	New Year's Scramble
Wed 3rd January	Ladies Day Medal
Sat 6th January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 7th January	Winter Medal
Tues 9th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Wed 10th January	Ladies Day
Wed 10th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Thurs 11th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Fri 12th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Sat 13th January	Mens Roll Up
Sat 13th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Sun 14th January	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 16th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Wed 17th January	Ladies Day Stableford
Wed 17th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Fri 19th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Sat 20th January	Mens Roll Up
Sat 20th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Wed 24th January	Ladies Day
Sat 27th January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 28th January	January Stableford
Wed 31st January	Ladies Day