

# Altos

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## news

### CAPTAIN'S DRIVE IN POSTPONED



PINHEIROS ALTOS  
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

## Introduction from the Captain - Mr Alan Bentley

I had already planned this particular introduction to the newsletter some time ago, but as you may have guessed that particular version will now have to wait for another day.

In fact at the time of writing, I should today have delivered my fair well speech at the AGM, reminded you of all the wonderful times we had over the last 12 months, handed over to our Vice Captain Andy Georges and watched his fairway splitting drive.

Alas a lot has happened in all our lives in the past few weeks to change our reality and I will remain as your Club Captain and Debbie Lady Captain, until we are able to convene our postponed Annual General meeting. A signal I hope of a return to better times

During the time prior to the AGM, our Vice Captains Andy and Sue Georges will be closely involved and consulted with on all aspects of club life and any decisions which are in any way likely to impact their Captains year

I have been made aware this week of the tragic passing of our fellow member Karel Beyers, struck down by Corona Virus and my thoughts are with his family at this, the saddest of all times.

This is a brutal sickness which does not discriminate and it falls to me to remind all of our members that our club is closed, closed for practice, closed for play, closed for walks and cycling alike. No body more than I wants to be out in the sunshine playing the game I love with people I love, but now is not the time.

I do not know when but I know that there will be an end to all of our problems and this Pandemic will be beaten. Then I can look forward to handing over to Andy and watching that drive in.

Stay safe, follow the rules and may God protect you and yours. I Look forward to seeing you out on the fairways in the not too distant future and enjoying with you all the wonderful times yet to come

Best Regards  
Alan







*Club Captains Alan Bentley and Debbie Madgett and Shirley Griffiths presenting the St David's Day Trophy to the winner Christine Soden*



*Club Captains Alan Bentley and Debbie Madgett presenting the St David's Day runner up Noel Kelly with his prize*



*St. David's Day Trophy*

## Director of Golf - Monthly Report

This is not quite the kind of report I was expecting to do at this stage as I am writing this on what would have been the AGM day and would have expected to hold the AGM and being having lunch at the Drive In. From what I hear the incoming Captain Andy Georges & the incoming Lady Captain Sue Georges were ready this morning for their drive in as they did not get the message of the postponed AGM. Sue drove Andy's new Titleist ProV1 ball a long way down the mountain, Andy is still desperately looking for it in vain!

Both look lovely dressed up but unfortunately, it was not to be! I hope they realize they have to get a new outfit for the real one now!

Instead of all this fun of watching Andy drive in, here we are all hold in our residence with the uncertainty of when and how we will be able to go back to a normal life. Poor Andy had to have his birthday on his own this time. Happy Birthday Andy!

I hope that it will be rather sooner than late.

In last month newsletter there was no report of the St David's Day which was played on 1st March 2020 and was won by Christine Soden with 38 points as she proved that retirement, which she took a couple of days before the tournament, has released the best in her golf! Let us hope she is practicing even during the quarantine to keep this rhythm going.

Thank you to Shirley to present the trophy, presented by her 10 years ago in the memory of Trevor Griffiths. Also a big thank you Shirley for the Photos in all our newsletters.

It is with great regret that I would like to inform that our esteemed member Karel Beyers passed away victim of the corona virus. I would like to send on behalf of all members & staff our sincere condolences to his wife Nine and all his family. RIP Karel

As I am sure, you are all aware the Golf course is closed however, maintenance works continues in a limited fashion to limit numbers of staff working together but all essential maintenance works are being carried out. We are cleaning and pruning all the pines trees at the entrance of Pinheiros Altos near the Clubhouse and this work will continue until end of April in other areas needed.

I would like to remind all members that while the Golf Course is closed, walks, jogging, cycling or any other activity on the golf course are totally forbidden mainly for safety reasons and I would appreciate that all members respect this requirement.

I am looking forward to some positive news on re-opening and being able to reschedule all events that need to be and especially the AGM which will be the first of the activity to reinitiate from a difficult and very strange era.

I hope this newsletter find you all in good health and that you and your families are keeping safe.

I look forward to see all of you in a better future.





# Ladies Section - by Debbie Madgett

Good morning Everyone

I do hope you are all well in these troubled times. Firstly a brief run down of the Ladies club activities in March - after this there is some very important information from [safecommunitiesportugal.com](http://safecommunitiesportugal.com) so please keep reading!!

## GOLF NEWS

On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Mens Matchplay took place and as usual there was great support from the Ladies to see the winners in. The winners were Tony Hickey and Andy Wheeler - runners up were Liam Edwards and Gerry Naughton on 17<sup>th</sup> hole. Well done to all the "boys" who took part.

On the same day was the St David's Day Stableford and Trophy and this was donated by Trevor Griffiths and presented on the day by Shirley Griffiths. The worthy winner was Christine Soden who was 2 shots ahead of Lisa Burns in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Well done Ladies.

There was a lovely social trip to include 20 ladies to the Quinto Do Frances Vineyard and Winery where we admired the vines and had a trip around winery to see the process of wine making and bottling. We then had a wine tasting and much fabulous wine was purchased - the shop was well presented if a little short of staff.

From there our lovely coach driver Maria took us to Restaurant O Barradas in Silves which was fantastic - the service and food were amazing - I can now see why it is a firm favourite with the Interclubbers! The wine was excellent and plentiful and resulted in some serenading of poor Maria with songs from the Sound of Music - luckily everyone was spared my dulcet tones due to hay fever!

I had such great feedback after this trip that I am sure it will be repeated.



The day after this trip was the Madrinha Trophy donated by Helen Mills. The winners were Diana Collins and Marna Edwards with 40 points and Runners Up Sue Georges and Heather Conroy with 36 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Christine Soden and Majida Lester 35 points on back 9 from Helen Mills and Debbie Madgett (I did mention to Helen it would be rude to win her own Trophy haha).

The golf clinic did a great job for those that attended and it is such a good time spent with the club pro's.

Then – sadly – after this – more or less from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – the corona Virus made its impact.

I cancelled my last Ladies Committee Meeting which was due to discuss the Ladies AGM and handover to my lovely vice Sue Georges. All of this has now been put on hold and we await instructions from Christophe who takes instruction from JJW and the Government.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Golf Club and course is closed and yet a young lad was seen out on the course in a buggy – disappointing!! He could of course come from anywhere so who knows!

#### BRIDGE NEWS

The bridge section is thriving and at the moment Ladies are playing online if they wish to. Well done Amanda, Catherine and Philippa for setting this up and saving a few husbands from grief!

The beginners bridge group had their graduation and there are some photos below – well done ladies. Anyone wishing to join can contact Amanda – amanda.stretton@me.com, Catherine – catherinepouezat@yahoo.com or Philippa at clanceys@hotmail.com.

#### SALVATION ARMY

I would like to thank everyone who responded to a little plea on a what's app group to help the Salvation Army by donating food or cash to help them with this difficult time. Captain Luis was overwhelmed by the sight of ladies “driving thro” the car park at Pinheiros and placing food bags and envelopes with cash to a safe area. Dawn and Majida also donated some very useful furniture so thank you all. The total raised was 780 Euros so biggest thank you's for that. I would like to continue to support them and the safest way is to donate to the SA bank account – details below – he said if you wish to – please put your name so he can thank you otherwise it is just an anonymous donation.



PAYEE NAME	Salvation Army
PAYEE ACCOUNT NUMBER	PT50003500720000966630
BIC/SWIFT CODE	CGDIPPLXXX
FULL DESCRIPTION	SEPA PAYMENT (ONLINE) TO SALVATION ARMY RUA 25 DE ABRIL SAO BRAS

So this may be my final newsletter – I would like to thank you all for your help, support and friendship over the last 12 months – it has been great fun and I am sad it has ended in this way.

I am looking forward to the day when I see little Sue hitting a massive drive down the fairway and we can all enjoy our fabulous Club and Course again.

Love and best wishes to you all and keep safe and sane

Debbie xx







*2020 Ladies Foursomes Prize Winners*

## Important information for your own safety and well being from Chris Stretton at *Safe Communities Portugal*

“The most up-to-date local and official national information with all the links to other websites that are helpful and up-to-date, members should consider consulting **[safecommunitiesportugal.com](https://safecommunitiesportugal.com)**. We are the only non-Portuguese organisation that has official Civil Protection Volunteer Status in this country and our legal formal remit from the Portuguese Government during this crisis is to communicate, in English, about official facts and information concerning the pandemic in Portugal to the expatriate community. SCP have a team of highly experienced current or former professionals in the areas of Policing, Safety, Fire Management, Crisis Management, Law, Finance and International Diplomacy to mention a few.

We are inundated by emails across various social media groupings quoting non-official sources, rumour or even some quasi-official/journalistic sources but their information may be out of date and in Portuguese. SCP have a dedicated team working all the time to bring current information about the Algarve and Portugal via our Facebook Page and our website which is updated throughout the day with official information and not conjecture – we have increased our digital footfall by 10 times during the pandemic and we are seen as a reliable source of information without incorrect speculation which sadly seems to be placed within various forums and groups. We post separate early morning situation updates on both forums for The Algarve, Portugal and Overseas and then we update information as we receive it right throughout the day and evening. We have national protocols with all Police and safety organisations such as the GNR, PSP, INEM, ANEPC, JP and many others and we liaise closely with governmental departments, including secretaries of states and with the embassies serving the main expatriate communities – with particularly close ties to the UK and Irish Embassies – who make up the majority of our members.”

I would like to thank Chris Stretton very much for being so involved and being our man in the know – he is very experienced in these matters and puts in so much time and knowledge with no financial gain – thank you from all of us.





## Report from the Greens Committee

It will come as no surprise to members that the committee has not met since our last report. Indeed none of the committee has even had the opportunity to inspect the course since the government “lock down”.

Fortunately JJW has maintained sufficient green staff to allow a seamless return to the course when the veto is lifted.

Marco has reported to the writer what he and his team have been doing in the last few weeks and we will attempt to precis that report. The weather has been quite sympathetic for the grass and this is reflected in Marco’s report.

### **Feeding**

The tees and fairways have been fertilized over the last few weeks. We would hope to see good growth when we return.

### **Maintenance**

The cutting of fairways and greens has been slightly modified. Greens are been cut 2/3 times a week. Fairways once a week and tees twice a week.

Greens which show “dollar spot” are being sprayed.

The storms on the 20<sup>th</sup> March caused some damage and the debris has been cleared including some trees which were

broken (we don’t have details) and damage to some bunkers.

### **New work**

Trees near to club house and practice area are being pruned (we do not have details but presumably for light / safety reasons?

David Ford has noticed in his travels that Vila Sol is carrying out some heavy tining on their fairways. This is traditionally done at PA during June because of pressure on course and preparing for Gala week. We will ask if Marco has any plans for tining/scarifying as these are very difficult operations when the course is busy. It may depend on equipment availability?

### **Conclusion**

These are unique and difficult times we are living through. We can only hope that the course will continue to be maintained and indeed improved when there is no play. We believe the lifting of the shutdown is likely to be at best in May but we are keeping “our fingers crossed”.

Members must not go on any part of the course whatever we may think as the authorities will fine the club!

Stewart Harper Chairman. David Ford, Duncan Evans.



Dear Members,

I wrote to you some months ago regarding the launch of our new App.

We are now ready to go live, however to comply with data protection, we need you to do the following:

- A. Please supply us with a unique email address for title holders and associate members attached to your title. Most of you have already supplied this information. However we are looking at having all Pinheiros members registered, so please come back to me if you have not done it yet.
- B. Download the App by typing the internet address "[pagc.eryr.club](https://pagc.eryr.club)".
- C. Go to my profile and set up your profile. Please use the access code 1234, and enter your name and email address.

**If you are happy to have your name, email & Telephone number visible in the members list, press YES and if not press NO.**

**If you wish to only display your name or email, please contact Cristina to set your profile with the details you only want to show.**

Once you have sign up, you will have access to the club diary, competitions and other useful information.

In the coming weeks, we will be offering tuition in the management and operation of the app.

In the meantime, if you have any issues you wish to raise, please don't hesitate to contact Cristina or myself.

Christophe Rindlisbacher

Director of Golf