

Altos

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news



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS



Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges

At last September has been more like the “Pinheiros Altos Pre Covid” with a competition nearly every weekend.

We started on the 6th September with the Monthly Medal which was a closely run competition, 4 players all finishing with scores of 75 and the outcome... Paul Orchard 1st, Susan Russel 2nd, John Conroy 3rd, and Chie Crowdey 4th. Congratulations to all of you for your excellent golf.

The monthly Stableford which took place on the final day of the Matchplay championships was won by Lucy Pye with a very good score of 37 pts. It was also pleasing to see most of the players waiting behind to congratulate the winner of the match-play which was David Light who beat Keith Inman. I believe this is the fourth time he has won it, but he is saving the club a fortune on engraving. Congratulations David! Sue will mention the Ladies Winner in her report.

Next on the 20th September, we had The Presidents Putter. This was organised in their normal superlative way by David and Christophe and we all benefitted from a good game on a sunny day followed by a good lunch with plenty of wine being consumed. The presidents putter, donated by David, was won by Christine Sutton with 38 pts closely followed by John Conroy and Keith Inman with 37 pts. A very enjoyable day, well organised as usual.

That was the end of the local comps, but the following weekend 28 members departed for Aroeira to play for the Corona Trophy. Let me thank Christine Hepworth for thinking of the titles of

the two teams which were the Virus and the Vaccine teams. The courses played were very enjoyable however this was easily overtaken by the fact that on arrival back at the hotel there was a free bar until 23:00. I was pleased to see that the good name of Pinheiros Altos was not let down with virtually everybody attempting to drink the bar dry, well done all the supreme efforts of PA members, by the way I think we also played some good golf which in the light of the circumstances the night before, was an achievement.

We now come to the item that should be in Octobers letter however, I feel it is only fair to point out to not only the men who played but all male members of PA that you can expect some stick from the ladies for at least the next 3 months due to the wooden spoon result, which I might add was so close it is hardly worth mentioning.

In the short space of time since that day, the men have tried to think of ways of reversing the result for next year;

We have now written to all the European Tour Players who accepted our invitation (the alternative was to ban the ladies from the comp) but that would mean we not only won the comp but lost it as well.

We hope September lived up to your expectations and look for a repeat in October, November and December..

Andy Georges



Club Captains Andy and Sue Georges presenting the Matchplay Winners David Light and Chie Crowdey and Runners Up Keith Inman and Hilary Jessup with their prizes.



Matchplay Championship participants.



Director of Golf - Monthly Report

September was finally the month where some normality came back to the Club as we are finally having most of our tournaments being played and also some lunches organized which brought Pinheiros Altos back to life. It is so important for us to be able to run these tournament as it is what Pinheiros Altos is all about.

Two main events were finally played in September starting with the usual Individual Matchplay Championships which saw David Light beat Keith Inman in the Final round to become the Matchplay Champion for the 4th time in 6 years. While in the ladies match saw Chie Crowdey beat 3 times finalist Hilary Jessup to become the Ladies Matchplay Champion. Congratulations to David & Chie!

The second event was the President's day played on 20th of September and it was also the first event with a meal since we had the St. Valentine Day in February 2020.

It was very good to see the Clubhouse back to some social activities all within the social distancing required by law. Some very tight measures were taken on the day to make sure it all applied within the Portuguese Health law.

The turn out for the tournament was as good as ever with 73 players and 90 for the lunch which was served on the outside terrace and was a great day and all seem to enjoy finally being able to celebrate an event in Pinheiros Altos. The big winner of the day winning the President's Putter was Christine Sutton while John Conroy & Dawn Warnock were best men & lady net scores of the day. Dermot Hennessy took the best Gross on the day while our President David Markey was the Blobby Prize, obviously too much worries on his own day. Congratulations to Christine on winning the day and to the President in supporting what was a beautiful day and a great come back to life in PA!

The September Medal was won by Paul Orchard who just manage to beat Susan Russell, John Conroy & very competitive Chie Crowdey on a better back 9 & back 6 as they were all on 75 strokes for the day. The September Stableford was won with 37 points by Lucy Pye.

I have created a new Handicap committee and as I do not understand much about it, I decide to nominate Zoe Pirret to be the Chairman of that committee. We have invited Iain Cater to be the conduct for the men. Some of you may already have met with Zoe & Iain to clarify some of the issues of the new World Handicap System and how we should all proceed. Zoe will be sending more information as it is needed on how to manage your own handicap.

I would appreciate that all the members give their support to that committee and that all handicap issues are raised with the committee in place.

It is great to see more & more members using the APP and all the Ladies sign up, draws & results will now be posted on the APP. We expect all activities run in the

Club to be on the APP very soon. This will help mainly new members and overseas members to be aware of all the activities in the Club.

The month of October has already seen the Wooden spoon which I will leave to comment on in the next newsletter, however just want to say it was a lovely day out on the terrace as the result is not important!

There is plenty more to come in the next few weeks with the Club Championship on 17th & 18th October, the Senior Championship the following week on 25th October and the Memorial Day on 29th which will be followed by lunch on the day. The Foursomes Championship will be played on the first week-end of November and we may even be able to run a Social Golf on 15th November 2020.

Make sure you keep an eye on the APP so that you do not miss out on the forthcoming events.

Look forward to see you all enjoying your golf at Pinheiros Altos.



Competition Results for September

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 2 nd	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Hilary Jessup	73 Nett	1st Division Chie Crowdey	76 Nett (bb9)
		2nd Division Heather Conroy	75 Nett	2nd Division Sandra Little	76 Nett (bb3)
Sun 6 th	September Medal	Paul Orchard	75 Nett (bb9)	Susan Russell	75 Nett (bb9)
Wed 9 th	Ladies Day Bogey Competition	Mai Markey	4 up (bb9)	Brigitta Sohler	4 up
Sun 13 th	Matchplay Championship	Men David Light Ladies Chie Crowdey		Men Keith Inman Ladies Hilary Jessup	
	September Stableford	Lucy Pye	37 Pts	Majida Lester	36 Pts (bb9)
Wed 16 th	Lady Captains Day	Chie Crowdey Mai Markey Sabine Schlegel Sandra Little	139 Pts	Katalin v Hofsten Wendy Evans Maried Kooijmans Josie Waddington	136 Pts
Sun 20 th	President's Day	Christine Sutton	38 Pts	John Conroy	37 Pts (bb9)
Wed 23 rd	Winner's Trophy Bogey Competition	Zoë Pirret	+ 3	Lisa Burns	0
	Ladies Stableford	Chie Crowdey	37 Pts	Chris Soden	35 Pts
Wed 30 th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Hilary Jessup	35 Pts	1st Division Chie Crowdey	34 Pts
		2nd Division Dawn Warnock	36 Pts	2nd Division Wendy Evans	33 Pts



Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

September was a great month, returning friends, wonderful weather and lots of fun.

We started the month with our medal, followed by a Bogey Competition.

From 10th to 13th September we had the Ladies Matchplay Championship. The final was played in great spirit between Hilary Jessup and Chie Crowdey, congratulations to Chie for her win and to Hilary for being a worthy runner up. It was great to see so many ladies entering and we hope next year there will be more.

Some light- hearted fun was then required and I believe this was achieved in the "Corona Lady Captains Day" on 16th September.

Shirley, as you have seen, took lots of lovely photos at the dinner, we also have a few on course ones to share with you. The golfers enjoyed the outside assistance of "One Kick, One Throw, One Mulligan and One Metre of string" to be used anywhere on the course. Clearly this was used to great success on the greens- it was a great idea until.... we ran out of string and had to count the missed putts! Hampered a little by the refreshments on 5th and 9th of Corks ...

Mr Captain and the Gentlemen were fantastic on 5th Corks, Cleaning our Clubs and Shoes not forgetting "Andys Massage Parlour"...

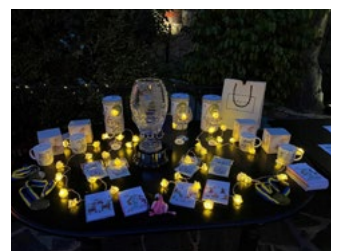
The Buy a Drive for Lady Captains Charity raised 470 euros and I would like to thank everyone for entering and Tony Hickey,

David Pirret and Graeme Thomson for stepping in at short notice to save the day.



And our Lovely Lady Helpers kept us well supplied with food and lots of drinks... although this slowed us down a little!

Knut Pedersen's wraps and Paul Cotterill's sausage rolls were very popular.





Lady Captains Dinner



python images

Lady Captains Dinner



Lady Captains Dinner

Our dinner in the evening was at Restaurant Parrilla Natural, we had an excellent evening, in a beautiful setting, perfect temperature and much more lovely food than we could eat. We presented the Wainwright Trophy to Zoe Pirret and the Lady Captains gift to Debbie.

Two Ladies Friendly Matches were played in September, the first away against Vilasol, resulting in a loss which we hope to rectify in the home match on Monday 26th October (we need more players so please sign up on the PA app) and our second match was at home against Benamor on 21st September with a 4 & 1 win to PA Ladies.

The **Ladies Social Committee** organised a wonderful lunch on 6th October at Henrique Leis and we are now looking forward to Casa do Lago with a provisional date of Thursday 12th November.

Sunday 20th September was **Mr Presidents Day**, a big thankyou to Mr President and many congratulations to Chris Sutton.

On 23rd September 15 Qualifiers played for the “Winners Trophy 2019 2020” and 17 of us played in the Stableford.

Christophe was in a panic when I went to collect the Trophy as they had searched and searched but couldn't find it!

In around 45 minutes Zoe was due to present her trophy to the winner... In a last- ditch attempt, I began to search and finally found the Trophy hiding on a bottom shelf in the corner of the dining room, so all was once again well.

We enjoyed Pizza and wine on the terrace, courtesy of the Ladies section and Zoe, and then to the presentations...

I was delighted to be able to present “Zoes Winners Trophy” to Zoe Pirret with a superb score of +3.



And a very nice socially distanced photograph of the Prize Presentation to **Runner up Lisa Burns (level)** and in **third place on countback Dawn Warnock**.

From 25th to 28th September 28 PA members went “On Tour” to Aroeira to play for the Corona Cup 2020.

The two teams were “The Virus” and “The Vaccines” The winner was “Team Virus” 7 and 5 😊



Thankyou to everyone for making it such a great trip and to **Captain Virus David Pirret** and **Captain Vaccines Iain Cater**.



Our plan is that this will be an annual away trip match play event in **memory** of Corona Virus.

Although this has been mentioned many times already in this newsletter, I cannot leave without **congratulating all the PA Ladies for Winning the Wooden Spoon on 9th October 2020 with a result of 11,5 to 4,5**. This was an amazing result from a simply spectacular team!

Keep Safe and See You Soon,



Report from the Greens Committee

The committee has not met since our last report but we have all been keeping under consideration the recovery of the course following the long period of “lockdown”

The tees

The tees remain in reasonable condition. Most are repaired for damage in particular the par 3's and the tee plates are moved each week.

The course is not as busy as in a normal year but the staff are working to maintain a course which presents well and in particular the first of Pines is excellent. As always, the availability of adequate funding for course maintenance is an issue.

Fairways

The fairways are without doubt better than they have been for many years. Despite a lack of funding over many months the “resting” of the fairways over the lock down has allowed the grasses to spread and most areas which were showing poor growth are now good enough to withdraw the “placing” regime. However, Marco and his staff are conscious of the need to feed and irrigate over a particular hot and dry autumn.

Greens

During the lockdown and after the course was opened there was inadequate funding to provide for sand and feed and in particular the chemicals which keep the irrigation from “running off” high areas of the greens. Marco has explained that the very high temperatures over the summer months particularly at night with strong winds burnt the fine grasses leaving unsightly and “burnt” areas.

The process of recovery is well under way and the cooler nights are removing unsightly weed grasses and encouraging the “bent” grass which was dominant last year. All of this has meant the greens had to be “nursed” back to good health. The speeds were kept low and members were showing patience in sometimes difficult putting conditions. The prospects look much better going forward and speeds should start to recover to 8.5 on the “stimp” and better.

Bunkers

There has been good maintenance by the greens staff, but the rule imposed by government that rakes are not to be available has meant soft sand and heavy foot prints made for unusually difficult play. The committee obtained agreement that when a ball lands in a particularly heavy foot print the ball could be moved with the other player agreement to within 12 ins. The Committee would encourage the sale of small rakes which members can buy and keep in their golf bags to repair such large foot prints.

The future

The committee are very conscious that the condition of the course is of fundamental importance in keeping the loyalty of members and indeed in encouraging visitors and societies. The course has to compete with our neighbours and we hope members will support the committee in their desire for adequate funding into the future.

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".
- 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