

# Altos *news*

Nº 197 . NOVEMBER 2020



PINHEIROS ALTOS  
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS



## Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges

Well, as all the men know the month started off badly when we had to take charge of the wooden spoon yet again, even though I recognise this is only a temporary loan and I look forward to giving it back to the ladies next year.

We then had the embarrassment of the American elections, and the defeat of yet another golfer who doesn't seem to know when to accept defeat. I am sure I will be criticised for mentioning politics in the newsletter and I know I shouldn't offer opinions on this subject, but I can only say our Houdini seems to be a better option to own our golf course than the American however, it is a close run thing.

It has been a welcome sight to receive back quite a few members who have been unable to travel this year due to the spread of Covid. We are now facing a second wave of the Virus and quite a few of the planned days have had to be put on hold until the government introduces the new measures.

I am hopeful our Christmas competitions will all be able to run, as in the past they have proved to be very popular.

I have noticed the ladies are always «away» on away days and nights, and I would like to know which of the men would be interested in either a day away or a couple of days, I would appreciate your views on this.

I would like to congratulate Tony and Paula Hickey on taking up their roles as Captain and Lady Vice Captain after such a long delay, and thank them for their patience in allowing Sue and I to continue for a further year so that we can have a full year and an official drive in at PA in 2021.

Finally let me say with Christmas coming soon, please try to remember the people who have been less fortunate than us this year and support them when we can.

*Andy Georges*







*Captain Andy George being presented with the Wooden Spoon by his wife and Lady Captain Sue Georges as always a Gentleman but he knows he gets another go next year!*













*Lady Captain Sue Georges and Club Champions Susan Russell and Dan Henderson*





*Strokeplay Championship runner up Duncan Evans*



*Strokeplay Championship runner up Zoë Pirret*



*Strokeplay Championship best nett Men James Porter*



*Strokeplay Championship best nett Ladies Lisa Burns*



*Strokeplay Championship runner up nett Men Neil Sutton*



*Strokeplay Championship runner up nett Ladies Dawn Warnock*



*Christophe and Club Captain Andy Georges presenting Duncan Evans with the Seniors Championship Trophy*



*Seniors Championship best nett winner Cathy Harper receiving her prize*



*Seniors Championship best over 70's winner Paul Cotterill receiving his prize*



## Director of Golf - Monthly Report

October saw the Club being able to have some more tournaments and almost back to a normal world, all with social distancing!

The Wooden Spoon this year was played on 9th October and the ladies came well prepared as they beat the men by 11 ½ to 4 ½! The Men's Captain seemed quite relaxed about it as he said he will get another go at it next year! And he is a gentleman so Ladies first! The tournament was played in the morning to allow for a lunch on the terrace in the afternoon. It was great day and everyone seemed to enjoy being able to have some kind of activities even with social distancing.

The Stroke-play Championship which was cancelled in April was played on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020. We had a good turn-out of 22 men and many more ladies than usual with 20 ladies. The Club Champions was for the men Dan Henderson for the 5 fifth time and 4 in a row and Susan Russell took her 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Title after winning her first time 20 years ago. Congratulations Dan & Susan!

The Seniors Championship was played on 25<sup>th</sup> October and this year played as an individual event and we had 60 players which again was great turn-out. The Champion for the day was Duncan Evans who mentioned he was happy that Dan Henderson was too young to play the seniors! Congratulations Duncan! Also, congratulations to Cathy Harper who won the net with a great score of 38 points.

The October Stableford and the Autumn Rosebowl were won by Chie Crowdey with 42 points & a 67 in the medal. Congratulations Chie and you are now under the handicap radar!

The Golf Course has been improving unfortunately not as fast as we would like to see it but everything is geared to improve especially our greens. The fairways are the best they have been for quite a while.

The Annual Subscription request will be sent during the month of November by email for payment until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The Annual Subscription for 2020 will remain at the same value as it was for 2019. Early Payments until 10<sup>th</sup> December will be rewarded with 2 individual Green-fees at San Lorenzo and 4 individual Green-fees at Penina plus an additional 5 Member guest green-fees to be used in Pinheiros Altos.

Many councils in the Algarve have now gone into the red zones which means Corfu on week days from 11pm until 6am and on Saturday & Sunday from 1pm until 6am. Loulé at the present time is not under this legislation but could be in the next few weeks. If we were to go into red zones some of the tournament might have to be played during week days.

We have all the usual Christmas tournament such as the Turkey Flutter, Boxing Day & New Year's Day Scramble however none of them is guaranteed to go ahead as it will depend on the evolution of the pandemic and the regulations from the Government. The new Year Eve dinner in the Clubhouse has already been cancelled a few months ago.

I hope to see as many of you during December and that government restrictions will not unable us to play golf!





*President's Day Prize Winners*





*President's Day*





*President's Day*









*President's Day*



Its customary that Cloggies meet after the weekly Wednesday golf and contribute €5 for the pleasure of getting a post game drink of choice.

In addition to the drink, wine is served to each table, so the €5 collection does not cover the total bar bill, so the organiser, normally Knut decides which group of players will pay the balance. Sometimes it's the losing group and other times the winning group. However there is a tradition that when a Cloogies has a birthday, that week he pays the balance.

A few weeks ago it was Nico de Ruiter's birthday, so he decided (as a Dutch man) that Knut the leader of the Cloggies, albeit not Dutch unlike the founder, Michael van Doorn, should wear a pair of clogs every week after golf, when we are all enjoying a drink and thinking of 'what might have been'

Knut has not been seen since !





# Competition Results for October

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	October Stableford	Chie Crowdey	42 Pts	Noel Kelly	40 Pts (bb9)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Texas Scramble	Denise Reed Pat Murrish Chris Sutton	71.1	Hilary Jessup Sandra Little Diana Collins	71.6
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wooden Spoon	Ladies	11 ½	Men	4 ½
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Medal Rosebowl	Chie Crowdey	67 Nett	Graham Lee	70 Nett
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b> Katalin v Hofsten	69 Pts	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b> Sue Georges	72 Nett
		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b> Sam Waters	73 Pts	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b> Lisa Burns	76 Nett
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Strokeplay Championship	<b>Men</b> Daniel Henderson	149 Gross	<b>Men</b> Duncan Evans	153 Gross
		<b>Ladies</b> Susan Russell	180 Gross	<b>Ladies</b> Zoë Pirret	183 Gross
		<b>Best Nett</b> <b>Men</b> James Porter	143 Nett	<b>Best Nett</b> <b>Men</b> Neil Sutton	145 Nett
		<b>Ladies</b> Lisa Burns	151 Nett	<b>Ladies</b> Dawn Warnock	152 Nett
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ladies Day Traffic Lights	Zoë Pirret Katalin v Hofsten Denise Reed	47 Pts (b9 23)	Helen Mills Wendy Evans Molly Wainwright	47 Pts (b9 23, b6 13, b3 6)
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Championship	<b>Senior Champion</b> Duncan Evans	33 Pts Gross	<b>Best Nett Senior</b> Cathy Harper	38 Pts
				<b>Best over 70's</b> Paul Cotterill	36 Pts
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b> Christine Sutton	35 Pts	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b> Katalin v Hofsten	34 Pts
		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b> Stella Jeffrey	37 Pts	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b> Barbara Fletcher	37 Pts



## Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

We are little late in writing the October newsletter, we are now half way through November but the last six weeks have been quite busy.

October, not unlike September felt like our «old world» with a few differences. With lots of returning members, we are now getting used to recognising people with their masks on!

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, as mentioned in my previous newsletter, the Social Ladies arranged a wonderful lunch at Henrique Leis. On the day in addition to Shirleys' lovely photos, Adrienne took some food pictures and suggested that I was going to replicate these dishes for Christmas. If anyone has ever been unfortunate enough to experience my cooking, you will understand the joke! For the adventurous amongst you...



The Social Committee decided, due to new Covid restrictions, to cancel the next planned lunch at Casa do Lago. As only tables of five were allowed, this seemed detrimental to the objective of joining together for lunch. Currently until things change, we are doing an informal, «turn up if you wish» coffee morning on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. We met on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will do so again on 1<sup>st</sup> December, location TBA by Social committee.

Our «Ladies International OnLine Bridge» section goes from strength to strength- I will be looking out for them in the World Championships. Keep up the great work Ladies.

**The Wooden Spoon** was mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, but of course this was **one big win that will continue to be mentioned as many times as possible**. If anyone knows where to buy wooden knives, forks, spoons, plates, dishes and cups and glasses please let me know- I thought this would be a nice Christmas present for Andy.

I was thinking of including a copy of the results sheet but... perhaps that wouldn't be politically correct?

We have plenty time to practice for October 2021, we can have lots of fun beforehand discussing what recommendations to give to our ladies- of course this will be *highly confidential* information.

I believe next year will be a bigger challenge, as our men will be **much more determined** to beat us, by any means possible!

Many congratulations to **all the prize winners** throughout October, however a special mention must go to Chie Crowdey who has had some superb scores in the last 6 weeks, despite continual handicap cuts. Going from 14,0 on 14<sup>th</sup> October to 12,7 on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Well done Chie, can I have a lesson?

In the Strokeplay Championships we had a great turn out, long may this continue and congratulations to Susan Russell, Zoe Pirret, Lisa Burns and Dawn Warnock.

The Seniors Championship also enjoyed a big turnout (due to lots of members being here as a result of Covid restrictions, or.... could there be another reason?)







A superb score of 38 points from Cathy Harper and well done to Lisa Burns with 37 and Christine Soden with 36.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> to the girls again! However... **we must play this down** in case the gentlemen decide to change all the tees to the same colour and stop buying us drinks.

In Ladies Friendly Matches, our team played at home on 16<sup>th</sup> October against Vilasol ladies.

When we played them away in September we lost 4 out of our 5 matches, but happily our great team reversed the result at home and we won 4 out of our 5 matches.



*Vilasol and PA Ladies After the Game but Before Lunch!*

Tomorrow on 16<sup>th</sup> November our Team is «Off to Benamor», whatever the result it will be a lovely day. Our Matches committee would like to encourage all ladies with a handicap to sign up for the next friendly match. We have no date for this yet! so just keep your eye on the PA app.

Congratulations on the well overdue official handover to our new Lady Vice Captain Paula Hickey.

Debbie and I still have to handover the famous Lady Captains and Lady Vice Captains badges, we are hoping to do this at our Christmas Competition. (With the exception of Past Lady Captains, I doubt anyone has ever seen these badges but they do exist!)

Paula has been and still is, working very hard and doing an amazing job on the «Salvation Army Childrens' Christmas Gift Project».

If anyone would like to offer a little help please contact Paula who will be happy to add volunteers to her list. In case we do need extra help Its always easier to ask to a list of volunteers!

Sneaking a little more November news into this newsletter....

Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November which was the incredibly successful garage sale that Molly Wainwright organised at her house. Due to Covid rules this was a true logistical challenge but Molly and the Ladies that helped her, managed to pull off a great day with **the amazing sum of 900 euros raised for the Lady Captains Charity**. Well done Molly and thank you to everyone that helped, attended and/ or supported the day.



*«Highlights of Mollys' Garage Sale» Many Things were bought & Coffee & Cakes Consumed in Covid friendly groups of five...*

I cannot believe we are now only 4 weeks away from our Ladies Christmas competition! .... They do say time flies when you are enjoying yourself! and... we are just over 10 weeks from the **Ladies Robinsons Trip**. This is an overnight stay in Robinsons Hotel at Quinta da Ria on 5th February 2021, with 2 rounds of golf at Quinta da Ria and Quinta de Cima on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February.

We do still have a few spaces, so if anyone would like to know more please contact me.

Enjoy what's left of November and stay safe and positive. For those who are still not able to get here, we miss you and look forward to seeing you all soon in this Very Special Golf Club.

*Sue*



## Report from the Greens Committee

The full committee met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November with the club director and the course superintendent Marco.

This report we all agreed will be short as any plans we have for the course have been drastically affected both by Covid19 and a lack of funding.

On the positive side we congratulated Marco on the presentation of the course and in particular the fairways and the improvement of the greens where the burnt areas are close to being repaired.

An absence of new sand and fertilizer is a major problem going forward. STRI 12 months ago warned that a lack of investment in the course left us in a precarious position! The «lockdown» alleviated to some extent normal «wear and tear» and new sand and fertilizer two months ago with chemical to hold water on the greens all helped. If we return to the situation where basic greenkeeping supplies are not being obtained due to lack of funding from the company, then it will be impossible to prevent the course from deteriorating. Christophe is very conscious of the position as are all the club officers.

### Future ideas

We have at the request of some members asked Marco if the depth of the putting holes could be increased to a similar level to San Lourenco. It is believed this may help to keep the ball in the hole? He is going to look into the issue.

We also confirmed concern over crowning of the holes but we were told this was done very carefully.

We have asked Christophe if we can obtain a supply of portable short rakes. The writer has seen some models which attach to a putter and makes the raking easy! They are we believe quite cheap? He is investigating. If any members

can point us in the right direction we would be happy to investigate.

### Observations on last 12 months activity

The committee believe that the pruning of trees and removal of some bunkers has improved the course making it fairer without being obviously easier. A clear view from some ladies tees following pruning, has also been an important step in the right direction!

There is concern that the ladies new tee on 2 of Pines has removed the main hazard of length and which justifies its very high ranking. In future main club competitions will be played from the blue tee area to retain its difficulty.

Two areas where the committee would like to see improvement are the removal of some oleander bushes at the rear of Pines 4 which makes it difficult to find balls. Secondly, to allow more growth on the water slope of 5 of Corks which at present allow balls to run into the reeds rather than make for a difficult chip!

Most if not all bridges are now serviceable including 9 of Olives! Well done Duncan & Tim!

Marco has done a very good job in removing reeds on 5/6 of Pines which confirms our belief that subject to «nesting» demands, reeds are better cut and removed than allowed to grow in width.

This report is rather longer than anticipated and we try to remain optimistic. We remain of the view that with sufficient funding PA would be the club and course all others would envy!

*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