

Altos news

Nº 198 . DECEMBER 2020



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges

November has finished and I am pleased to say that the end of 2020 is not far away.

I must congratulate the ladies and Paula in particular, for all their hard work, and thank our members for their donations to the Salvation Army Christmas Children's Fund. It is great to see that everyone is still as generous as ever even though we are in such turbulent times.

As Sue mentioned we were treated to a storm 2 weeks ago the likes of which I have never seen before. The pictures in the Lady captains report are quite amazing and I thought we wouldn't be playing on Olives for a few weeks but thanks to the efforts of the ground staff we are already playing on it again.

As we all are aware Corona virus has finally caught up with us at Pinheiros Altos, I do feel we have been lucky not to have had any cases for so long. With all the travelling some of our members do, I am sure this is due to the wisdom and common sense displayed

by the members to keep everybody safe. Recently a few of our members did contract Corona but I am pleased to say they all acted with the highest regard for people they had played with and everybody has been tested.

I wish to offer our best wishes for anybody isolating and we look forward to seeing you back at the Golf Club soon.

At this time of the year the parties begin, I did hear that Neil Bambers' group had a great time at Eduardos on the beach, I admire the way they still got their golf in by teeing off earlier!

I would like to wish you all a Safe and Merry Christmas and as all the competitions have for now been cancelled until Boxing Day, fingers crossed, we hope to see a great turnout on that day.

Merry Christmas.

Andy Georges





Foursomes Championship



Director of Golf - Monthly Report

November saw the usual Foursomes Championship played over 2 days of what must be the most difficult format to play. For once we managed to have lovely days and a presentation outside on the terrace. We had a record number of entries with 30 pairs playing. Peter & John Seabrook managed a fantastic win with 73 & 70 nett on the second day to become the 2020 champions. Tim & Susan Russell were the gross winner with a total of 166. Once again, we were blessed with the weather and able to have the presentation on the terrace.

On 12th November we had the 2020 AGM which had been postponed many times before due to Covid-19. A summary of the meeting is available on the APP under the button «Recent Info & Newsletters».

Colin Glennon managed to win the November medal with a score of 69 while Tim Russell managed 39 points to win the St Andrews Stableford.

As some of you may know there has been a few cases of Covid-19 within the club, a total of 4 that we are aware all related to the beginning of December and therefore all competitions were cancelled until 25th December. Fortunately, there has been no more cases and the Boxing Day will be played on 26th December and the Stableford on San Lorenzo the following day.

Regarding the future regulations, it limits travel from the UK which unfortunately will affect many of the members & visitors until there is some changes. Also, the restrictions over the New Year forces us to close the



course on 1st January 2021 and we will not have our usual New Year Day Scramble. On 2nd & 3rd January all the facility will shut at 12h30 and everyone must have left the course.

Many subscriptions have already been paid for 2021 and this has helped looking after the staff in these very difficult times. Please remember that the subscriptions are due to be paid by 1st January 2021 as unpaid members will not be allowed to play as from 2nd January 2021.

I must thank all the members for all their support during this year which has been the most difficult year we have been through. A special thank you to the President and its committee on dealing with many very complicated situations and the support shown to Pinheiros Altos has been unbelievable.

I would also like to have a special thank you to Melody Cotterill and her helpers in putting together a Christmas



Hamper for all the Staff. It was much appreciated by all the staff.

It remains for me & my staff to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a much better New Year 2021!

Make sure you all stay safe.

George Heley Senior

It is with great regret that I inform that our long time
Member George Heley Sr., has passed away.

George was one of the first Member in Pinheiros Altos and has been a
great supporter of the Club since. He will be dearly missed.

I would like to send on behalf of all Members & Staff our sincere
condolences to his wife Pat and all his family.

RIP George.

Lennie McGeoch

1940 - 2020

It is with great regret that I inform that Lennie McGeogh, has passed away at the age of 80.

Lennie was Member in Pinheiros Altos from the beginning and was a character within
the Club. He had been not so good for many years so may he rest in peace.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

I would like to send on behalf of all Members & Staff our sincere condolences to his family.

RIP Lennie.

Competition Results for November

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 4 th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division		1st Division	
		Chie Crowdey	67 <i>Nett</i>	Lucy Pye	71 <i>Nett</i>
		2nd Division		2nd Division	
		Wendy Evans	68 <i>Nett</i>	Dawn Warnock	78 <i>Nett</i>
Wed 7 th & Sun 8 th	Foursomes Championship	Peter Seabrook	143 <i>Nett</i>	Gerry Naughton	144 <i>Nett</i>
		John Seabrook		Liam Edwards	
		Best Gross			
		Tim Russell	166 <i>Gross</i>		
Wed 11 th	Ladies Day 4 Clubs + Putter + Sand wedge	Chris Sutton	81 <i>Pts</i>	Chie Crowdey	80 <i>Pts</i>
		Marna Edwards		Fiona Thomson	
Wed 18 th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	Pat Murrish		Arja Nordström	
		Wendy Evans		Carol Knight	
		1st Division		1st Division	
		Susan Russell	35 <i>Pts</i>	Christine Sutton	35 <i>Pts</i>
		2nd Division	(bb9)	2nd Division	
		Maried Kooijmans	38 <i>Pts</i>	Patricia Murrish	37 <i>Pts</i>
Sun 22 nd	November Medal	Colin Glennon	69 <i>Nett</i>	Dermot Hennessy	70 <i>Nett</i>
Sun 29 th	St Andrews Stableford	Tim Russell	39 <i>Pts</i>	Gerry Naughton	37 <i>Pts</i> (bb9)

Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

November seemed to fly by, we played all our planned competitions except 25th November, which was meant to be «Who Stole the Par 4's».

Just 5 days later we were asking «Who Stole the Golf Course» when we had horrific storms leading into and during the last day of November.

There was some amazing photography, in many of the images it is difficult to recognise what we are looking at...

See if you can guess them all



Andy & I were the unlucky recipients of 3 inches of muddy water **inside** our house, this is a time when you are very happy not to have carpets. We also gained a new dog that day an «Orange West Highland Terrier» who insisted walking through all the water and mud in the house to make sure we were winning the bailing out battle.

The good news is the state of drought in Algarve exists no longer!

We played a friendly match against Benamor on 16th November. They gained their revenge on us for the 4/1 loss when they played us at home, with a 3/2 win. So, the net result was friendly and all square! We had a lovely day and are trying to arrange a couple more matches in January if possible.



Thankyou to our great team on the day, the matches were tough, we gave quite a few shots and the results were very close. As you can see, Benamor have the same team colours as us, so it was a very pink day! Adrienne, Sandra and Louise organised the day and all of us perfectly, when things work well its due to the work you don't see.

Congratulations to all the prize winners throughout November both in Ladies and Club Competitions.

Well done also to Marna Edwards, who is doing a superb job encouraging the beginners to start to play and meet other ladies. I have played with the group and they really are enjoying themselves. We now also have a sign up on PA App for a Nine hole comp on Wednesdays.

Around the middle of October, Paula and I had a meeting with Captain Luis from Salvation Army. It was no surprise that this year he has a lot more families who are in need of help. This year he is responsible for arranging and distributing of Xmas gifts to over 3000 children.

In Sao Bras and Faro he had a list of 184 names which Paula took on the mammoth task of fulfilling. The response from the Pinheiros Altos members was exceptional, in addition to having Captain Luis collect 184 wrapped gifts from Paulas house, we were able to give a large sum of euros, meaning all the families of these children will receive a Xmas food parcel. Donations are still arriving so we will report the final figures in the next newsletter.



This room changed back from Santas' Grotto to a bedroom, Paula was finally able to open the curtains and send away the guard dogs!

We have been invited to São Brás to visit the centre of collection of the presents and food parcels on 17th December, we are really looking forward to this and will let you know all about it next time!

As this report is being written Corona has interfered in our competitions yet again, and we have postponed the Ladies Xmas Competition to 30th December. We have had lots of firsts this year so, we feel that dressing up for Xmas after 25th is perfectly acceptable. Santa may struggle to deliver to everyone before 25th anyway- he also has his challenges with Corona and Brexit.

Due to the very welcome increase in the number of Ladies playing on Wednesdays, we have decided to stop presentations on Wednesdays. (We will still have presentations on special days like Xmas comp, Madrinha and Foursomes Trophy etc.)

This means Ladies who play early do not need to wait and those of us who are out later do not need to rush.

Birdie balls for 2's on Par 3's must be collected from myself or the comps committee **on the day**, and other prizes should be collected the following week from Madam Treasurer Amanda or Katalin.

Medal glasses, along with Eclectic prizes will be presented at our next **Ladies Dinner** which will be on **Friday 26th March 2021**, so please **save this date!**

To comply with Corona rules, when you come in your card must be put in the Ladies Scorecard Box and correct monies for comp fees in an envelope with your name, into the Money Box. Results for all comps will be posted on the PA app later that day or the following day.

I doubt many will mourn the ending of 2020 but we can look forward to 2021. Every tiny bit of progress will be welcome.

All that's left is for me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, which will be very different but that doesn't need to be a negative. Some «Zoom» Wine Tastings and Toastings may be in order

Sue



Report from the Greens Committee

Duncan Evans and the writer met with Marco on Friday the 17th in the absence of both David Ford who was away and Christophe who was on vacation.

Marco reported that December had been both unusually warm and wet! He had received some funding which enabled him to both fertilize the greens and apply 4 applications of sand.

Until further funding is available from JJW he will be unable to apply more sand or fertilizer.

At any time this is not ideal but it could be worse as at this time of the year growth of the grass usually reduces very much with cooler nights and reduced daylight. It is however a priority that substantial funding is available very soon as the committee and Marco see 2021 as a year when the course can be fully restored to its full potential with proper investment.

The committee is also concerned that the ability of Marco to keep the rough to a manageable length is very much hampered by the lack of modern equipment! Members will be aware of the rough on Olives which in places is so long as to be «unplayable» We have been sharing a rough cutting mower with San Lourenco but it is not an ideal situation but Marco hopes with dryer conditions he will be able to reduce the rough grass areas.

The committee have been very aware of the financial difficulties facing PA and we remain of the view that Marco and his team have done a remarkable job in providing members and visitors with a well presented and very «playable» course. Members and visitors alike have been complimentary of the course condition and there is no doubt that the work done by Marco and his team have been crucial to that success.

Summary of present position.

The «weed» grasses on the greens and burnt areas have all but disappeared. This process would have been quicker with more fertilizers!

The fairways remain in the main good to excellent. Few fairways have bare patches and whilst the committee support «placing» this is mainly because of the very wet conditions.

The changes to the course of pruning excessive tree growth and removing some bunkers, has we believe been accepted as fair and improved play.

2021 is a challenging year as the UK moves into very difficult times. We hope the vaccine promised for Covid 19 will bring some relief to «tourism» and the owners ability to fund improvements as will the promise of new investment from a third party?

Marco and the committee want to see a programme to improve our bunkers which can be done with little funding. The slopes are too steep and need reducing and the sand needs «firming».

We remain optimistic but we appreciate both the member's loyalty and that of our essential course staff led by Marco!

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and of course good golf on our golf course.

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