

Altos *news*

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PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Andy Georges

Following a quiet December and January with the only 2 competition being just after Christmas.

I hope everybody had an enjoyable Christmas although I am sure it was much quieter than what was originally planned. The beach on Christmas Day was taken over by Pinheiros members with their dogs, luckily the weather was good and a good time was had by all.

After eight months of escaping COVID 19 we suddenly got hit by the virus firstly late last year and then in January.

A number of people, most of whom were playing in the pro am were taken ill with the virus and a few were taken to Faro hospital where I am pleased to say most have either recovered or on the way to recovery.

The lockdown has closed the course although it is still being maintained.

Although we are unable to play golf I personally hope they keep the lockdown going until they have got control of the virus.

We should also thank the German military who have 30 doctors and nurses here in Lisbon helping the hospitals with the COVID patients.

I hope we will be able to play again when this COVID has been controlled and the vaccine has started to give people more confidence.

Stay safe and remember we can all help by obeying the lockdown rules.



Director of Golf - Monthly Report

This is not the newsletter I was hoping to write a few weeks ago when vaccines were starting to be given. It seemed that everyone was too confident with the vaccine. Unfortunately, numbers of Covid-19 contagions increased incredibly in Portugal, also the Algarve, leading to first cancellation of all social events during December & as from 20th January closure of all Club facilities until now.

We were fortunate to be able to play the Boxing Day on 26th December 2020 which was won by Chris Soden & Debbie Madgett with a fantastic score of 43 points. The only other tournament we managed to sneak in December was the December Stableford at San Lorenzo, which was won with 36 points by the Vice-Captain Tony Hickey beating Colin Glennon on the back 9 holes.

Weekends started to be limited and therefore no more competitions were played apart from the Algarvian Charity Pro Am which was decided to be played Monday until Friday as it happened the Friday was cancelled as competitive golf was banned within the new regulations. The pro-am was therefore played over 3 days instead of 4. The winners were Neil Turley team with Jane Gardner, Terry Williams & Alan Henderson with a fantastic score of 51 under par. The best pro score was 14 under and the first place shared by Cormac Sharvin & David Carey.

As I am writing this Newsletter I am not sure, when the Golf Course will be able to re-open and it might be 2 weeks or 1 month before we are able to play golf again. The other strange thing is that we just had an AGM on 12th November and we are now getting ready for another AGM on 1st April 2021! I can assure the Membership we did not pick that day on purpose; it is always the Thursday before Easter. Of course, we are not certain we will be able to hold the AGM but the information is in this newsletter in case we are.

I hope all the members are keeping safe and that we can during the year see the effect of this terrible virus being reduced until we can all go back to a normal life.

In the meantime, I will keep you informed mainly through the PA APP of new regulations and hopefully a soft opening soon.

I would also thank our Captains who have had a very difficult year on all fronts, Club affairs and business and wish that this year will go back to a more normal golfing year so that they can make the most of their second term.

Make sure you all keep safe



AGM

The A.G.M. of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on
Thursday 1st April 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse.

Agenda

1. 10:00 a.m. Meeting is opened by the Chairman of the AGM
2. The Chairman will introduce the Captain Mr. Andy Georges
3. The Captains speech
4. Report from the Director of Golf including the response to written questions
5. The Chairman closes the meeting.

Questions for the Director of Golf at the A.G.M. should be made in writing
and presented at the Golf Office on or before Thursday 18th March 2021.

Only questions made in writing and presented by the due date
will be answered by the Director of Golf at the A.G.M.

It is my pleasure to present a photo gallery of the present Captains, Club & Lady Vice-Captains.



*Andy Georges
Incoming Club Captain*



*Tony Hickey
Proposed Incoming
Club Vice-Captain*



*Sue Georges
Incoming Lady Captain*



*Paula Burke
Incoming Lady Vice Captain*

Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

Well... I wonder if I have been in a time machine... my computer tells me today is 31.01.21.

Everything and nothing happened in the past month. We began with a fun competition at San Lorenzo on 6th and on 13th another fun comp at PA. Then... on 15th the restaurants closed, so we all had to start cooking again, and all competitive golf was cancelled. We were able to play the course until 19th but

on 20th January the government closed all the golf courses in Portugal. On 28th January our lockdown was extended by our gov. until at least 14th February.

We did have some very cold weather (for The Algarve). The picture below, taken by Louise Baker, shows you just how cold, but beautiful it was. You can see one crazy person on the driving range - please note **that was NOT me!**



The Ladies Foursomes Championship on 10th February will definitely be rescheduled for a later date, so if you haven't arranged a partner yet, you now have lots of time to do so.

As you know we have had quite a lot of new members in the last 12 to 24 months. Many of our ladies who have not been able to

be here will have seen quite a few names they do not recognise in the updated contacts lists (the last one was sent on 13.12.20 with our Christmas Tour of Loulé).



We don't make a practice of sending photos of new members, but I did speak with this lady, who was happy to have her photo in this newsletter. Her name is "Knitty Nora" and, if you were at school in England you know what comes next!

She has lived happily in my offices in Vilamoura for the last 25 years, but due to the renovations we were doing she needed somewhere new to live. In my position as LC I took the liberty to say that she could stay "rent free" in our Ladies locker Room, (tried to check with the Sheikh but didn't manage to get through yet!)

As we are now all in lockdown for the 2nd time, I would like to propose that, during the next six months, the PA members collectively prepare their 2020 2021 stories. My idea is to produce a Pinheiros Altos Diary in which we can publish many experiences and memories of 2020 and 2021. Like Debbie's extremely successful cookery book, we hope to sell copies and raise much needed funds for our charity "The Salvation Army" towards the end of 2021.

Everyone can contribute, everyone has plenty of time right now to write their stories!!

It may be that you have memories from 2020 to write now and ...during the next six months will be able to add more...

To make this happen, **we need a small team of volunteers to receive, collate and put together our memories and create our**

Pinheiros Altos Memories of 2020 2021 Diary. I am sure a better title for the book can be found.

If you would like to be part of a small team working together to make this happen, **please let me know.** As soon as we have the team, they will ask for your stories, which of course ... you can begin to write right now!

Andy & I send our very best wishes to all our members and friends who are not feeling well at the moment, we know they are improving and will get back to good health, but this may just take a little more time.

And for everyone who is lucky enough to be healthy, what practicing have you done since 20th January???

Personally, I have done none, but this lady has been doing what most of us can... someone suggested to Jane Robinson that chipping into an umbrella in the garden was good practice ... and it is!



Stay positive, keep safe and see you on the chipping green!!

Sue

Report from the Greens Committee

The committee have not met since our last report and as the course has been closed we believe this will be no surprise to members!

The writer has however done some limited inspections of the course and has also been in touch with our director Christophe who despite his illness with Covid19 has been coordinating the greens staff through this very difficult time.

It is remarkable that the greens staff continue to maintain the course under the management of Marco Santos despite limited funding in both their remuneration and in the lack of course fertilisers including sand. Marco has approximately 15 staff available to him against his normal team of 22. He is doing exceptionally well as always! We are fortunate indeed in having such loyal and skilled staff!

As is often the case we are promised that funding will be available very soon! It is urgently required.

We can however report that if the course were to open tomorrow (it won't) it would be playable as the greens are being cut and the fairways although suffering from the severe weather of frosts and heavy rain are playable and we believe will quickly recover.

The owners are well aware of the need for investment and we believe one way or another we will continue to keep the course open for our members.

We will report as soon as we see the timing for the lockdown being lifted! It is a case of not "holding your breath" as we fear we may see longer restrictions.

The greens committee are well aware of an unprecedented outbreak of the covid19 amongst members and we wish everyone to keep well and those affected to recover as soon as possible.

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