

Altos *news*

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PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges



The course eventually reopened late April as we all know competition were not allowed but good to get out.

However, prior to that a lot of the men and ladies took to cycling so we know compete with the ladies and their chess club with the Pinheiros altos cycling club.

Anybody wanting tips on how to do it properly should contact Nigel Collins if you can catch him in his bike, Liam and Marnie have I hear been very active.

I thought I should do something to help my fitness however when I met a lady with a dog along one of the official cycling paths and realized the lady was on one side of the path and the dog on the other with a dog lead between them I had my first flying lesson. The eventual outcome was a strained muscle, contrary to popular believe I do still have some muscle s the end result being as golf became available again I have got to take it easy for a few weeks.

Christophe will be sending a list of the competition proposed this month however until later in the month we are not sure if the social side will be allowed. As things stand we are hopeful that in June these will restart

I want to thank the 2 David's (Markey and Pirret for all the effort they have put in in trying to find out for the members what the up to date situation is if you have heard of the term that it is like trying to get blood out of a stone you should appreciate what they have been faced with for the last 12 months. Anyway, keep going and thank you.

Well for now that is all I can say but look forward to seeing you on the golf course or in the bar.

Andy Georges

Tribute to Bernie Mayer by Walter Dickson

In mid-April the Director of Golf belatedly heard the sad news that Bernie Mayer had died in January at his home in Germany at the age of 84. Bernie Mayer was the Club's first President. As his successor as President I have been asked to compose a tribute to him. This is both an honour and a challenge.



Golf. From this relationship there evolved a kind of Club atmosphere that potential members found attractive. There was no constitution, no rule book, no precedents, everyone was feeling their way, there was kind of wild west atmosphere but underpinned by determination to make a great golf club.

By his own choice Bernie served only one year as President so it would be very easy to underestimate the profound impact his Presidency had on the ethos of the embryo club. Since Bernie stood down in 2000 the Club has had three Presidents; me; Malcolm 2004-2006 and the present incumbent David Markey since 2014. I would venture an opinion that none of us has had as powerful influence on the Club's personality than was achieved by Bernie Mayer.

I can say with certainty that Bernie was a big man. Big physically with a very big personality. Bernie loathed pomposity and he had a notable irreverent streak which meant he was happy to challenge shibboleths which made to sense to him.

Bernie was one of the very first property owners on the Pinheiros Altos estate and consequently one of the first Club members. Long before the Club had any formal structure with appointed officers and committees with defined responsibilities, Bernie formed a close, powerful working relationship with Brian Evans, Director of

When, eventually, the Club structure was formalised it was right and proper that Bernie be appointed first President because, de facto, that was the role he had been filling alongside Brian Evans for some time. Whilst he felt proud of the honour he made it clear that he would take on the role for one year.

There are very few members who have any memories of Bernie but I can assure the membership that we should be grateful for his impactful contribution to the establishment of Pinheiros Altos Golf Club.

Above all Bernie was a dedicated family man and I have been in touch with his beloved wife Irmgard to pass on the Club's condolences. Irmgard herself was a keen club member and very influential in contributing to the development of the very strong Ladies section of the Club. She wishes to be remembered to her many friends in the Club and has expressed a determination to visit Pinheiros Altos when the covid restrictions allow.



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Director of Golf - Monthly Report

We have now been open for one month but still under many restrictions due to Covid-19. Fortunately, the numbers of infection in the Algarve have remained relatively low and therefore we have been able to move forward with the re-opening. While we have been closed at 1pm on weekend we are now fortunately able to stay open after 1pm.

Also, as from 5th May we have started some club competition which do not involve lunches or dinners. Ladies Days & Men's Rolls up as well as monthly medal & stableford will start again and we hope that things will continue to improve to allow us to run The Captain's Day (even if it means moving it to a later date) and of course the Gala Week in July.

As we came from the lockdown I was informed of the very sad news from the passing away of the first President of Pinheiros Altos, Bernie Mayer in January 2021. I had the pleasure of knowing him and his character & his generosity have set the pace for what Pinheiros Altos Club was to become. On behalf of all of us at Pinheiros Altos, I would like to present my sincere condolences to his wife Irmgard. Thank you, Walter Dickson, for the tribute to Bernie Mayer.

Unfortunately, Bernie Mayer was not the only to leave us. Mike Wright, one of the first member in Pinheiros Altos passed away on 17th April 2021. Mike will be dearly missed at the Club and I would like to send Pat our sincere condolences. David Homersham, former member at Pinheiros and was also an early member of the Club passed away on 16th April 2021. Our sincere condolences to his partner Gisela.

Many rumors have been going around the Algarve about Pinheiros Altos in the last few weeks, but we are still open and will remain open! The financial situation is improving, assuring salaries and running costs and more good news to come soon. Hopefully with the borders opening we will be able to have some members from abroad visiting us and bringing back the atmosphere we are used to have in Pinheiros Altos.

I am excited to see Pinheiros Altos back as busy as it should be and I have no doubt that Pinheiros Altos is much stronger than this virus and will prosper again!

I look forward to see many of you in the Club in the next few weeks.



Michael Wright

1942 – 2021

It is with the deepest regret that I have to announce the passing of Michael Wright.

He had been a long term member of Pinheiros Altos
and a very good supporter of the Club.

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

Mike will be deeply missed in the Club by all of us.

RIP Mike

David Homersham

It is with the deepest regret that I have to announce
the passing of David Homersham.

He was a stalwart member of Pinheiros Altos in the early days of the Club.

I am sure you will join with me in sending condolences
to Gisela and the rest of his family.

David will be deeply missed in the Club by all of us.

RIP David

Ladies Section - by Sue Georges



As I write this report, we are almost at the anniversary of golf courses reopening after our first lockdown.

It is well over a year since we have seen many of our members and we are looking forward to lots of reunions before the end of 2021!

The month of April, commenced for golfers on Monday 5th April, everyone was very happy to be out and not at all concerned about their scores. Competitions were not allowed until the beginning of May, due to late notice regarding changes to weekend restrictions on 1st and 2nd May, our first competition will be ladies day on 5th May.

For the month of April, we went back to the Whats App sign up to allow people to sign up to play fun golf on Wednesdays until competitions were allowed again. Marnas Monday 9 hole ladies group started again on 5th April and are in full swing now!

Being able to sit outside at cafés to have coffee on 5th April was also one of the highlights, gosh I missed that!

MADRINHA GOLF PROGRAMME

The history of Madrinha (God Mother) within the ladies' section was originally to pair up experienced players with new and inexperienced players. The two would play together as a team, in betterball match play format against another golfer and her Madrinha. This was initiated by Helen Mills and the winners were presented with the Madrinha Trophy.



As the years went on, there were very few new players, so the trophy was changed to a competition held on one day.

The committee felt that we should look to re- introduce the original concept and, after discussions with Helen, we have decided on the following...

- a) To invite our new and inexperienced players to sign up to be part of the Madrinha Golf Programme
- b) To invite our experienced players to sign up to be part of the programme.
- c) For the ladies on each list to “pair” up to play together for 9 holes on Tuesday or Thursday, or other days if preferred.
- d) Where possible, when both players sign up for Wednesday fun comps to put them in the same fourball.
- e) To plan in the coming months, either a round robin match play challenge or a one - day event next year.

We will shortly send an e mail to explain how to get involved. The experienced players (Madrinhas) will not necessarily be low handicap golfers.

Our objective is to introduce rules and etiquette, as well as various formats of golf competitions, including matchplay to our newer and inexperienced players.

This will be a fun programme – everyone involved will have signed up with the intention of wanting to help or learn something. No one was born with a natural golfing talent, some were lucky enough to learn as young children, but most of us started this game as adults and have experienced everything that the nervous golfer believes is exclusive to themselves.

A couple of golf appropriate quotes to keep in mind....

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”

“The more you accept that every shot is not going to be perfect, and that’s completely OK because it’s the nature of the sport, the easier it is to be calm and realistic.”



We hope that as many ladies as possible will sign up for this programme. I wish something like this had been available to me when I started to play.

Perhaps it’s better to have one Madrinha than many, if you don’t like her you can always trade her in for another model!

Seriously, we may have to change some partnerships due to time and travel commitments etc. but the general plan is to work as a team for a period of time.

Other dates for your diary ...

Weds 9th June Lady Captain v Lady Vice Captain
Better ball Matchplay

Weds 16th June Ladies v Cloggies Better Ball Matchplay
(another chance for victory v the boys !)

Weds 30th June Ladies Foursomes Championship
arrange your partner before some else grabs them

Weds 13th October Ladies Invitation Day
arrange your partner or contact Paula if you want us to try to find one for you

All competitions are in the PA app, signups for Wednesdays and all other events should be done on the PA app.

Happy Golfing and Looking Forward to seeing you all soon,

Sue

Report from the Greens Committee

This report is made without the benefit of the full committee and only to bring members both away and playing the golf course a feeling for where we are in maintaining the course.

1. Against the most difficult conditions the course remains open. Seven members of the green's manpower out of a normal 22/23 are looking after Pines and Corks and hope to open Olives in the foreseeable future.

2. The team is managed by Leonel Silva as Marco has temporarily suspended his contract. We hope Marco will return when the owners funding allows. However Leonel is doing an excellent job!

3. We have been able to apply chemical for "dollar spot" on the greens on three occasions. Fertilizer was last applied on the greens in February. We have not been able to sand or fertilize the fairways but we have made urgent requests for all necessary chemicals and are promised these will be supplied.

4. The rough had become unmanageable in some place but we now have the rough mower back in use after urgent repairs. We hope losing balls in the clover may soon be over!

5. There is no doubt that we are in a very perilous situation and we have made it clear to management that investment in the course is vital for the future success of PA! Not just for members but for the future financial stability of the club and the owners of PA property.

The staff have been heroic and the course is testament to the team in that many members realising our difficulties are amazed at how playable are both Pines and Corks with quick greens and firm surfaces.

We are grateful that members have in the main been equality loyal and understanding when supporting the club.

We hope in next report we will be able to be more positive for the future!

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans.

Follow us on social media.



SPRING AMATEUR TOURNAMENT

The Spring Amateur Tournament had its first moments in the year 2010 at the Dona Filipa Hotel. It was created and organized by a group of Irish ladies that played for a long time in the International tournament called Amateur. This International golf event took place each November at the San Lorenzo Golf Course. The idea was to create another Tournament in a month when the temperatures would be more pleasant.



participants. In this occasion, only one guest managed to arrive at the hotel, because he had anticipated his reservation.

This Tournament managed to overcome two refurbishments of Dona Filipa Hotel and in one of the refurbishments, some guests had even to stay some nights in a hotel nearby.

Finally, in 2020 the Tournament was cancelled due to the pandemic that took

over Europe and the whole world.

With the extinction of the Bin Golf and 3D Golf Agencies, the Dona Filipa Hotel had lost many tournaments and saw the suggestion of the ladies as an opportunity. The schedule of the Tournament was defined by the golfers and approved by the management of the Hotel and Golf Course.

The Spring Amateur is indeed a tournament that besides all the past challenges survives over the times once is a very competitive event and at the same time allows an amazing get together. It manages to create a strong environment of friendship and social sharing between the participants.

In the Tournament first edition, the event had already a hiccup once the ashes spread by the volcano (whose name no one can pronounce) in Iceland had closed the European airspace, impacting millions of flights including the flights of the

Interested in playing? Please send an email to
donafilipa-marketing@jwhotels.com



Angus Flanagan - Walker Cup



Young Pinheiros Altos Member **Angus Flanagan** went undefeated on the final day of competition as the Walker Cup concluded Sunday at Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Fla.

After splitting his matches Saturday, the Woking, England, native earned a tie in his foursomes (alternate shot) match Sunday morning and then claimed a victory in singles play in the afternoon. With one point awarded for a win and half a point for a tie, Flanagan finished the weekend with 2.5 points, good for third on the Great Britain and Ireland Squad and fifth among all competitors.

The United States retained the Walker Cup title for the third straight time with a 14-12 victory.

Playing with Ben Schmidt against the United States duo of Davis Thompson and Cole Hammer, Flanagan helped engineer a terrific comeback and salvage a point for GB&I.

Thompson/Hammer came out hot out of the gates, going 4 Up in just five holes. Flanagan/Schmidt captured No. 6 to get back within three, but two holes later another victory for the Americans put the deficit at four with just 10 holes to play.

A birdie on No. 9 bested a par and Flanagan/Schmidt got down three. The competing duos then tied on each of the next five holes, leaving the European duo down three with just four holes to play. The comeback began with a birdie on No. 15 versus a



par for the U.S., while each team recorded a par on No. 16. The tee shot from Schmidt on the par-3 17th landed in the bunker, but Flanagan's shot out rolled to within a couple feet of the hole to cut the US lead to just one with one hole to play.

Both squads were over par on No. 18 but the GB&I duo was able to keep it to a bogey, while the Americans recorded a double to split the match.

In singles play, Flanagan earned a 1 Up victory over William Mouw, a sophomore from Pepperdine, in a tightly-contested match where only five holes were won.

Flanagan struck first with a birdie on No. 3, but Mouw tied it up on No. 6 with a par. Flanagan only needed two holes, though, to take the lead back as his par on No. 8 topped a bogey for Mouw. The duo then matched each other on the next seven holes, leaving Flanagan 1 Up with three holes remaining.

On No. 16, with the pin location far back on the green, Flanagan rolled his chip shot to within about three feet to secure a birdie and two-shot lead. Mouw then captured No. 17 to extend the match.

On the final hole of the day Flanagan buried a long, sweeping par putt, while Mouw missed his birdie attempt that would've tied the match, giving Flanagan the victory and the point for GB&I. Up next, Flanagan returns to collegiate play at the NCAA Regional in Noblesville, Ind., May 17-19.

Massive Congratulations to Angus!



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



Need Covid-19 test for travel?

We celebrated a protocol with Germano de Sousa Lab to test our guests, members of our Golf Courses and relatives at Dona Filipa Hotel and Penina Hotel & Golf Resort. If you need this service contact the front-office of our hotels to schedule your test (beware for UK returns you need to be tested up to 72 hours before departure).

We made it simple for you and your test will be done at the hotel.



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