

# Altos

Nº 204 . OCTOBER 2021

## news



PINHEIROS ALTOS  
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

# Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges



September started off well with the Matchplay championships and it was good to see a reasonable turnout.

This was followed by President's day where, signs of Covid were obviously disappearing with a good turnout followed by a very good meal.

This was followed by the AGM a lively meeting with some good solid ideas being expressed, in particular the idea of a petition being signed by all the members and sent to JJW to express exactly how the members felt about the lack of investment in the golf course and as a result a deteriorating golf course.

This was followed by the lady Captain and Captain's drive in and try as I did I couldn't reach the lake left of the tee box. A 9 hole comp was followed by food and a prize giving.

The following week saw the Ryder cup being played unfortunately the European team did not do as well as our European team who won on the day. A special mention must go to Jim Cranwell the Captain of the American side who encouraged his team without success.

We have a very busy October coming up and we hope to see many members returning now that traveling is getting easier and the sun is still shining.

*Andy Georges*



*President David Markey presenting the President's Putter Trophy to his wife Mai Markey*





*President's Day Prize Winners*





President's Day





President's Day





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Matchplay Championship Prize Winners



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# Director of Golf - Monthly Report

The last 6 weeks just went flying past us. While August was a very quiet month with only a main Junior event which was the most attended ever with 50 juniors competing. It was a great tribute to Malcolm Helder who was the main instigator of the event and passed away last year. The event was won by Pedro Mendes who shot one over par gross to win the trophy.

Max Adams won the Stableford at San Lorenzo in August with 38 points while Neil Bamber had a 68 to win the August Medal. Congratulations to both.

The Golf Course during the month of August suffered a lot from the heat and greens were most affected and unfortunately will take a few more weeks of intensive maintenance to recover. We have the supplies to maintain and improve the greens and we will continue to have on-going to ensure the greens will continue improving on a daily basis.

September was one of the busiest months we ever had in Pinheiros Altos as we had all our usual events and also trying to catch up with other events which we did not have in April due to the covid-19 restrictions.

The month started with the President's Day and we had over 40 players and more than 50 for the lunch. The catering did a great job and everyone there enjoyed the 3 courses meal that David & Mai had organized. Bonus points for our president at home as his own wife Mai Markey took the President's putter!

The Club Matchplay were played the following week and while the attendance for the competition was weak we had some great matches. The Matchplay Club Champion were James Hanglow & Chris Sutton. Congratulations to both on some great wins to get to the trophy.

The committee will be issuing a survey to the members very soon to try to understand how this competition and some others can be improved and attract more players.

The annual AGM which was due in April took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 and we had more questions than ever with

some very unhappy members regarding the situation of Pinheiros Altos mainly the condition of the course and Clubhouse. I am committed to present a maintenance plan which will have to be approved prior by the company and presented to the members before we send out the Annual Subscription request. One of the main points was about the buggy path. The buggy path repairs have already started and will be on-going until all dangerous areas are repaired. The full minutes of the meeting will soon be available for members who were not present at the AGM.

To the surprise of all the members our Captain Andy Georges got his drive off the ground at the Captains drive in. He still got beat by his wife & Lady Captain Sue Georges though!

Again, the event was followed by a 9 holes competitions and a lunch which seems lasted longer than normally expected!

Congratulations to Ken Irving in winning the Stableford with 39 points and runner up in the medal to Paul Cotterill who shot 71 nett. Congratulations to both of them!

September ended up on 3 days of Ryder Cup which were very well attended with an average 80 players per day and a clubhouse which was buzzing. Andy Georges managed to lead the European team to victory while Jim Cranwell Captain of USA is already recruiting for the next Ryder Cup! Unfortunately, the real thing in America did not go as well as it did in PA and there were not many watching the last few matches!

We are now into the busiest month in the last 2 years and everyone seems to want to play golf in the Algarve therefore October will be very busy on the golf course and I would advise members to try playing in 4 balls as the pace of play will be slower and with many 4 balls on the course.

While all the works and efforts are geared to recover the quality of our course, I wish you all great golf during the next few weeks!

**TOURNAMENT RESULTS  
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!**





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*Captain's Drive In Prize Winners*





*Captain's Drive In Lunch*

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*Captain's Drive In Lunch*

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Ryder Cup at Pinheiros Altos

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## Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

Many apologies for more than one omission in my July newsletter 😞...

The first was from 07.07.21 when Mai Markey had her Hole in One on 2<sup>nd</sup> Corks, many congratulations Mai (and apologies from Blondie)



We also had the presentation of Cathy Harpers Birdie Book Prizes on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Courtesy of covid, this was the longest ever running Birdie Book from October 2019 to 23.06.21

The winner of Division one was Helen Mills with **twenty birdies!** and the runner up Amanda Stretton with sixteen birdies.



Division Two winner was Adrienne Buth with 4 birdies and runner up Philippa Clancey with 2 birdies.

The 2021 2022 Birdie Book started on 01.09.21 and will run until and including Weds 12.10.22, prizes will be presented at the annual dinner in 2022 on 14.10.22.



**So now to August...** it was a "hot one" but we still managed our medal, Stableford and two fun competitions. Congratulations to all the winners. On 5<sup>th</sup> August the Ladies team went to play against Laranjal ladies in a friendly match. We had a lovely day, thanks to Adrienne, Sandra and Louise our matches committee and to Lisa King from Laranjal who was our perfect hostess. The picture is nine of our team of eleven, I think Heather was checking out the golf shop while this was taken.



Chris Soden has her own special picture as she was playing for Laranjal with Lisa King against Adrienne and myself!

The rest of August saw many ladies travelling and together with high temperatures our numbers in the competitions were lower than normal. Nevertheless, we had some very good scores and handicap reductions, thank you to everyone for supporting your ladies' section as always.

We also had quite a few PA new grannies, I won't mention names as I am sure to miss some but two of them were born on the same day. Our granny list has continued to grow in September, and we have more on the horizon. Many congratulations to everyone 😊



## Lady Captains Report September 2021

Whew!!

As I write this on 10.10.21, we are 95% of the way through the rather large list I gave in the last newsletter. I think we have all been feeling the pressure of so much going on in such a short time.

The good news is things are calming down and next year will be quite orderly. More time to smell the roses 😊

September began on 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> with the Match Play Championships, although not a huge turnout, those that played enjoyed their matches and were there on finals day to cheer on the winners. We had two Miller Cheevers in the finals, I suspect that was a first to have two family members in the finals.

Commiserations to Jill and Joey Miller Cheever and congratulations to Chris Sutton and James Hanglow.

15<sup>th</sup> September was Lady Captains Day which gave us some great photo opportunities on the course and at the dinner.

**If you don't think we have fun in our Ladies Section... just look at this ...**



*One of the three balls even colour co ordinated with me 😊*



*Great to have some of our newer ladies joining in ... and my partner in crime was there to support as always...*



*There were many lovely photos, copies of which were sent to those included, and of course you have already seen Shirleys pictures from the dinner, which was a great evening.*

Congratulations to the **Over All Winner of The Lady Captains Rose Bowl Cathy Harper with 39 points**. When Cathy was Lady Captain in 2015, I was on her committee, so she was my first boss. I was lucky enough to win her Lady Captains prize. I was therefore delighted that Cathy won my prize. Congratulations to Zoe Pirret, Katalin von Hofsten & Sally Evans in Division one, and to Ingrid Blain, Majida Lester and Carol Knight in Division two for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Nett prizes.



Thank you to everyone that helped with the pre- arrangements, on the day at the check in & on 5<sup>th</sup> Tee, you all did a great job.

It wasn't my choice to have Ladies AGM the day after LC day. I woke up with a **large headache**, which was just what wasn't needed! Thankyou to all of the Ladies committee for helping to organise the meeting, and to everyone that was able to attend. The weather was kind and we had good fun after golf in the tent.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September was Past Lady Captains Day, the weather again was perfect and we were able to give our Past Lady Captains their special day. Hopefully next year some of our Past Captains

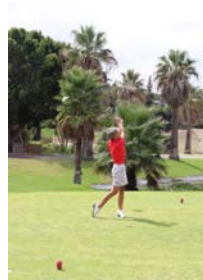


who were not able to be here will be back with us again. Thankyou to Paula and Shona for all their help and to the club for the prizes and lunch and to the ladies' section for coffee on arrival. Many congratulations to Helen Mills for winning the 2021 prize and to runner up Lisa Burns and Hilary Jessup in third place.



The next day was the Main Club AGM.

Andy & I had to walk that lonely walk to hit a ball off first tee with far too many people watching...



After my awful drive this was a Happier Moment...



Following the AGM lunch and presentation, Myself and Hilary went to Royal Obidos to play in the Portuguese Open ProAM. The Open Trophy was displayed in the hotel and we just couldn't resist a picture with the trophy ...

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September the Ladies Comp was 4 Clubs and a putter, it's always amazing what you can learn with 4 clubs.



Two days later from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> we had the Ryder Cup, which involved 3 days of match play Golf at PA...

It was a good win for Team Europe and Captain Andy ... shame about the real thing 😞

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, 33 of us set off for the Members 2021 Corona Cup for 3 /4 days in Troia and Aroeira. This was the second year for the members match play event Team Virus v Team Vaccines.

In 2020 Team Virus won, so we really wanted Team Vaccines to take the trophy. Best laid plans didn't work out and Team Virus won again 7,5 to 6,5 😞 It was only a game! but we had great fun.

Team Virus Captain Tony Hickey proudly accepted the Corona Cup and Captain of the Vaccines David Pirret received the runners up syringe.



We arrived back on 1st October and a few of us, sensible ones?? had signed up for the Strokeplay Championships on 2nd and 3rd October. That episode however belongs to Octobers' newsletter.

Stay Safe, Take Care and Hope to See you all Soon,

Sue





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*Lady Captains Day Prize Winners*





*Lady Captains Dinner*

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*Lady Captains Day*





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*Lady Captains Day*





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## Report from the Greens Committee

The committee met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September together with the course director Christophe and the course manager Marco.

1. The report of the committee in August disappointed some members who felt we should continue our criticism of the owner's poor investment in PA! Indeed, we had been promised that the planned investment would take place!

We were also aware that the owner had suffered substantial losses in the Leisure Industry and cash flow was an issue. We had however expected that the promised investment fund would be secured on other properties not as yet mortgaged?

However, it is clear that the course condition has deteriorated very badly with particular evidence of damage to the greens. It is difficult to see how the reputation of PA can be restored without funding. We do accept that Marco and his team are doing their best with the resources available.

2. The promise of funding to allow Marco to start restoring the course has not happened. It cannot be said too many times «funding is imperative».
3. Members say that the San Lourenco course is in superior condition to PA! Why is that? The answer is relatively simple.

Firstly, the new irrigation system planned for PA was completed for SL the year before the Pandemic. It did not take place as planned for PA in 2019 because of the pandemic and also because the owners did not have funds as members subscriptions had been used

elsewhere! The anticipated income from visitors did not materialise as the pandemic took hold! 2021 is marginally better from hotel bookings but staff salaries had become the priority.

In addition, there are less than 20 members at SL with very few buggies (8) and few visitors. The wear on the course was and remains very low compared with PA. Also, different grasses to PA have proved to be better in resisting damage in the hot dry conditions of this year.

4. Is there any positive news? Well very little although things could change quickly once investment is restored!
5. Firstly, the weed grasses which have infected many of the greens are seasonal and without further treatment should disappear this month!

Marco will continue to treat the worst effects of the scorching on the greens. Turf is being laid to repair the worst patches!

6. Duncan Evans will start his work on the bunkers this week with help from Marco and his men. Marco is working with approximately 7 fewer men than usual!
7. The practice academy remains open as does the practise putting green. It is without doubt our best resource for PA members.

Finally, members will no doubt air their views as to how to best tackle our problems at the AGM later this month. It is not the responsibility of this committee to make any suggestions.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans.



### **Greens Committee Report October 2021**

Members will have the pleasure or otherwise of reading both last month's report which never came to press and the up to date report for October.

We will try to keep this short!

1. Money has been found to both allow Christoph to purchase sand and fertilizer for the course and we are promised more to help Marcos to bring the course back to a much better standard.

There is still a lot to do!

2. Marcos has applied sand to all greens. He has applies weed killer to stop the spread of grey spot on some greens.
3. The greens need to be made quicker once growth is established. A speed of 8.5 or quicker on the Stimp meter is the aim. More fertilizer is to be applied to the fairways. The urea is working but fairways have been starved for many months.

4. Duncan Evans has been working to improve the bunkers. Sand has been moved to help balls to run back to a flat surface. We still believe that some bunkers have very hard sub soil which needs to be either removed or turned over. It would help if members would identify bunkers they believe are within this category.

5. We are promised funds will be available to pay STRI to visit the course in the future.

6. We are looking for funds to replace old machinery in 2022 and to bring our man power up to the agreed 22/23 men.

Finally, it is good to see a course which may eventually reflect what we are promised! It waits to be seen what the future holds?

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans.





## Social Golf - by Adrienne Buth



Finally, we had the Social Golf after Covid. Stella and I were the lucky organizers.

This time it was a small group: 18 players and 1 extra guest for Supper.

Unfortunately, A. Nordstrom had to cancel, she had hurt her foot on the Saturday before.

The competition, Shambles, was played from 11:00 at San Lorenzo. Due to problems with the buggies the P.A. members were allowed to take their own buggy of one of the club and therefore it was easier to have supper in Pinheiros Altos. That was very well organized by Paulo and very tasteful: Chicken, chips and Salad, Apfelstrudel and ice cream.



Stella and I listened to the requests: no yellow ball and if couples could play together because of the buggies and Covid. That was the first and the last time!

Winners were the 2 couples: Stewart and Cathy Harper & Robert and Majida Lester 89 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Stella Jeffrey, Christine Soden, Albert Crowley, Harri Nordström 87 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Sue Georges, David Pirret, Bernadette Hardie, Floater Majida Lester 86 points

Next social golf will be 17<sup>th</sup> October Liam Edwards and Andy Georges

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## Interclub - by Neil Bamber

September has come and gone, and the team has played 4 matches.

At Vila Sol, away, we were well beaten, but the Vila Sol team is very strong and a serious contender for the title, along with Penina.

Our home matches against Tavira, Quinta do Vale and Boavista were all won, which whilst you'd expect that as the home team, some great golf is also required.

In October, we have 2 matches, Quinta do Vale on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, away and at home to Vila Sol on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>. Both will be tough matches.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members who have played, so far this season, your efforts are much appreciated.





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](http://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



## How are your savings protected?

### What level of protection do banks offer? We outline the bank deposit guarantee schemes in the EU and UK.

When you have worked hard to build up your savings, it is important to know where you stand if the financial institution holding your money fails. While there are EU and UK compensation schemes, they do have limits.

For peace of mind, you should establish what investor protection you have with each of the financial institutions you use – banks, investment firms, insurance companies – in the event of institutional failure. Where necessary, take steps to improve your position.

### Portugal and other EU banks

Under an EU directive, each EU country provides a bank deposit guarantee of €100,000. In the event a Portuguese bank fails, the national deposit guarantee scheme – Fundo de Garantia de Depósitos (FGD) in Portugal – will refund your savings, up to the limit of €100,000.

This means savings above €100,000 could be lost if your bank fails. You may receive additional funds following any distribution of assets as part of the insolvency process, but this would depend on the bank's situation at the time.

Deposits are covered per depositor, so couples with joint accounts have €200,000 protected.

Note that the guarantee is per banking group, not per bank account or even per bank – some banks with different names form part of the same group, so you need to be careful.

Under certain circumstances (for example, after selling a property) you may be eligible for higher protection for temporary high balances. You will need to look at your local scheme to see what the higher guarantee is and how long is considered “temporary”.

In Portugal, the time frame reduced from 15 working days to 10 from 1 January 2021 and will be seven from 2024.

### UK banks

In the UK, accounts in regulated banks are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The amount protected matches that offered by the EU and is currently £85,000.

As in Europe, protection is per depositor – so accounts in joint names are protected up to £170,000 – and per banking institution. An institution is not the same as a bank; Halifax and Bank of Scotland, for example, are part of the same institution.

The FSCS also provides a £1 million protection limit for temporary high balances (up to six months).

The FSCS aims to pay compensation within seven days of a bank or building society failing, though more complex cases will take longer.

### The impact of Brexit

According to the FSCS website, there are currently no plans to change the UK's £85,000 limit post-Brexit. It also explains that its protection “is not dependent upon the depositor's place of residence, but where the bank, building society or credit union holds the deposit”.

As such, nothing changes for UK nationals living in the EU with savings in a UK authorised bank. However, since 1 January 2021, protection for deposits held in EU/EEA branches of UK firms are now covered by the local EEA deposit guarantee scheme in that country, and no longer by the FSCS.



## UK offshore centres

Banks in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man are not covered by the UK scheme, even if they are divisions of UK banks. Instead you rely on their local guarantee schemes, which offer lower levels of protection.

The Isle of Man's Depositors' Compensation Scheme (DCS) provides compensation of up to £50,000 for covered banks. The amount of compensation paid and timing of payments will depend upon the size, asset quality and profile of the failed bank, and the amount of funding contributed. The limit of Jersey and Guernsey's depositors' compensation schemes is also £50,000; they aim to pay compensation within three months of a bank failure.

## Protecting your savings and investments

Many savers with larger cash deposits have spread them out over more than one bank. It results in more paperwork, but is worth it for peace of mind.

Others have opted to move capital into arrangements which provide a higher level of investor protection than banks can offer. For example, if you have an investment bond issued by a Luxembourg regulated insurance company, your investment assets are protected if the insurance company fails. This is because Luxembourg banks are required to ring-fence clients' securities – investment funds, shares, bonds etc. – so they are off its balance sheet. If the bank fails, these securities remain in segregated client accounts, meaning 100% of the policyholder's securities are protected.

In any case, it is crucial to ensure you have adequate diversification across different investment assets. This reduces risk as well as increasing the potential for improved returns. And as always, your savings and investment decisions should be based around your personal objectives, circumstances, time horizon and risk profile. For the best results, take personalised, regulated advice on asset protection and a suitable tax-efficient investment approach for you in Portugal.

For more information or personalised advice, contact us on [portugal@blevinsfranks.com](mailto:portugal@blevinsfranks.com) and let us know you read our article through the Pinheiros Altos golf club.

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