

Altos *news*

Nº 205 . NOVEMBER 2021



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges



At last we have had a good month with fantastic weather and a competition every weekend. All were well attended and many had a meal on completion.

The catering is improving but the service as always is first class. I am pleased to say the staff wages are paid up to date which is a relief with Christmas approaching.

The course although with some areas on the greens still in need of improvement it is in the best condition it has been for a long time.

This is recognized by the members whose attitude has improved considerably in the last few months and many are coming back and joining in the competitions.

Finally, what a great pleasure to see the calcada being repaired and they are obviously making a good job digging up tree roots before replacing the calcada.

However, your lesson in birds, the feathered type continues and my thanks to Stuart Knox for his contribution.

I hope all members and guests will take part in all the Christmas competition to make them a success.

Andy Georges



Strokeplay Championship Prize Winners



Pink Day Prize Winners







The Lady Captain Sue Georges presenting the retained Wooden Spoon to the Captain Andy Georges



python images





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Eurasian Spoonbills

The Eurasian Spoonbills have recently arrived in PA for the first time in my 20 years as a member. They are unmistakable as they are large and white.....and you've guessed it..... have a spoon shaped bill!!!

Historically, the closest spoonbills to PA have been in the Ria Formosa predominantly in the area to the west of the salt mountains and towards the sea from the 15th hole of San Lorenzo. On the 28th October myself and Colin the photographer sat beside the pond, behind the chipping green on the practice ground, and watched a group of 3 spoonbills «at work» feeding for about 30 minutes. Their primary foodstuffs are molluscs, crustaceans and small fish. I am not sure what they were guzzling on in the pond but as they were giving short shrift to a Squacco Heron (slightly striped) and a Little Egret (white) who were tagging along with them (see one of the photos), one can only assume the small fish part of their menu was included.

We spotted them later in the pond on the opposite side of the road, on the left hand side of the 1st of Pines, and also in the pond in front of the 9th of Olives teebox. When they fly, they have their necks extended like a stork, and so are different from the smaller cattle and little egrets (another article that is coming!) that have their necks retracted in flight. According to the definitive guides, they are supposed to be silent, and so have no recognisable call. Nonetheless they were squawking quite well at the small squacco and the egret!!

I don't know how long they will be around for, but I do hope by the time this article gets published and is on a screen near you, they will be!

Should anyone have any comments or questions that are not too difficult to answer, please contact me on stuartknox3@gmail.com.



Classic Spoonbill



Close Spoonbill



Wonderfully close open billed Spoonbill



Two Spoonbills one skipping



Spoonbills, Egret and Squacco

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

October saw the Club being able to have many tournaments and manage to have not only the entire tournament planned but also some tournaments, which were not played earlier this year which was the case of the Club Stroke play Championship.

The Club Champion was for the 5th year in a row Dan Henderson who won it 6 times while Susan Russell was crowned Lady Club Champion for the 4th Time. Congratulations to both as well as Runner- up Tim Russell & Sally Evans. Graham Lee & Lisa Burns took the best nett prizes.

The Wooden Spoon this year was played on 8th October and our Club Captain Andy Georges who had promised revenge last year almost managed but unfortunately with a final result of 6 ½ - 6 ½ he retained the spoon and the men were once more defeated in what is becoming more & more of a one sided match..... All there enjoyed the day but obviously the ladies more!

We were fortunate enough this year to be able to run our Pink Day Charity and managed to raise over €6.000 for the charity, which is always in need especially in these difficult times. Thank you to all who participated and contributed.

The Seniors Championship was played on 24th October and we had 60 players which again was great turn-out. The Champion for the day was Tim Russell who was also presented on the day with the Autumn Rosebowl he had won earlier this month with a fantastic 67. Congratulations Tim! Also, congratulations to Stella Jeffrey who won the net with a great score of 39 points.

Graham Lee won the October Stableford with 39 points and he is definitely under the radar now.

The Golf Course has been improving unfortunately not quite as fast as we would like to see it but everything is geared to improve especially our greens, which are much improved since last August.

A plan of operation for the golf course maintenance will be presented to the members before the annual subscriptions are sent.



*Dan Henderson with Geoff Coles and Steve Juster
part of the Winning Team and Gavin Scott*

The Annual Subscription request will be sent during the month of November by email for payment until 31st December 2021. The Annual Subscription for 2022 will remain at the same value as it was for 2020.

As we did last year if the subscription is paid before 10th December each member will receive 2 vouchers for San Lorenzo, 4 Vouchers for Penina & 5 Vouchers for guests at Pinheiros Altos. The vouchers at SL & Penina are personal and the guests must play with a member. Also, only members who pays their subs before 10th December will be entitled to receive the €200 for the Bar & Restaurant on their card.

We have all the usual Christmas tournament such as the Turkey Flutter, Boxing Day & New Year's Day Scramble and let's hope we can go ahead with it all this year.

I hope to see as many of you during December!

**TOURNAMENT RESULTS
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!**



Seniors Championship Prize Winners. Tim Russell receives the Seniors Championship and the Autumn Medal Rosebowl Trophies



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FIM DE ANO . NEW YEAR'S EVE

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2021/2022



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Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

I have written many reports in the last 18 months where I had to be quite inventive in that not much had happened. This one is challenging for the opposite reason. Like the previous month, October was incredibly busy with too many dates and events to mention.

We began with the 2 day Stroke Play Championship, many congratulations to Susan Russell, runner up Sally Evans and Lisa Burns for Best Ladies Nett.

We had 3 ladies friendly matches in October on 11th, 18th and 25th playing against Benamor away, Vilasol and Levant both at home. Our first result was a hammering 😞, the next a friendly 3 and 2 win for us, and in the last match we reversed the result from the first but this time in our favour 😊



They were all great days, we have 3 matches in November and 1 in December. Sign ups are on the app. Even if we have enough players, we always need reserves and, if you have signed up and don't get picked, there is a logic for selecting the future teams, which includes reserves that didn't play and people who signed up but didn't play.

On Wednesday 13th October we held our Invitation Day which was a huge success. Lady Vice Captain Paula did an enormous amount of work and everything was just perfect. There were 74 players and **we raised 1410 euros on the day via the raffle and some donations.** You will have already seen the photos taken by Shirley on the day. Well done Paula.

Friday 15th October was our first Annual Dinner since 2019. The competition was won by Rosie Agnew, Ingrid Blain, Charlotte Parker & Adrienne Buth with 109 points.

The dinner was held at «The Bold Octopus» on the beach and we had a «whale» of a time 😊 Starting our evening with drinks on the roof terrace watching the sunset... Wow 😊 Aren't we lucky to be able to enjoy all these things.



On Sunday 24th October we had the Seniors Championships, which seems to have a bigger turnout than some comps- not sure why??? Many congratulations to Stella Jeffrey for the Best Nett Score of 39 points.

Lady Vice Captain Paula will shortly be sending information regarding the «**Salvation Army Children's Christmas Angels**». They have close to 200 children on their lists, so we are hoping everyone will be able to buy for more than one child. Last Year we gave 184 presents plus a large donation which allowed the Salvation Army to also provide a food hamper to the families of those children.

On 2nd November the Social Ladies held the first event for since July 2020, **please save the date for the next one which will be on Tuesday 7th December.**

Enjoy Every Day and Remember the Sound of Music!
«**Climb Every Mountain... Search High and Low...Follow Every Byway... Every Path you Know...**»

Suggestion... at Ladies Christmas Comp we could have a «Sound of Music Sing a Long». The last time we did this was on a coach from Palmares in 2019 😊

Sue

Important PS! This actually happened in November, but I simply can't wait a month to tell you that Barbara Kyne had a hole in one on the second hole at San Lorenzo. Congratulations Barbara!





Ladies Invitation Day Prize Winners



Ladies Invitation Day



Ladies Invitation Day



python images



Ladies Annual Dinner

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Ladies Annual Dinner



Ladies Annual Dinner



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Report from the Greens Committee

The whole committee met on the 5th November despite two members not enjoying the best of health. The writer hopes they will soon be back to full fitness.

This report will bring members up to date on the steps being taken by Marco and his team with the support of our Director to recover the course condition we had in late 2019.

Marco has now received funding and has started to fertilize the fairways and greens and is applying a regular application of sand. The process of recovery reflects the STRI regime which has been absent for the last two years due to the Pandemic and a lack of funding.

1.Staffing.

All staff are fully paid to date. The agreed numbers for course maintenance is however 2/3 men down on the recommended 21 and that is less than the «one man per hole» which STRI advise for courses like ours which give

365 days of golf to members and visitors. We know this appears extravagant but in the UK courses have much less play over the winter months!

2.Greens.

Marco has worked very hard to bring our green upto a standard which we and members demand. That is a speed of 8.5 plus on the «stimp» meter with smooth surfaces. The speed has been difficult as certain mowers needed new blades (now available). There are however areas of certain greens where the burning which took place over the midsummer months have not fully recovered, it has been agreed these will have to have repaired with new turf and «patched».

There remains some «dollar spot» on some greens which Marco is hoping to eradicate with treatment. The «weed» grasses have now died back with the colder nights. We hope to have funds to ensure next year the greens are better protected!

Visitors have been complimentary on course condition and expressed surprise on our ability to keep rounds of golf to well under 5 hours (which is common elsewhere)!

3. Fairways.

The kikuyu grasses have recovered well and although «placing» is in place we hope to be able to return to normal play as soon as possible. Regular feeding with hollow, scarifying and feeding has not been possible until very recently!

There are areas of «rough» which remain «challenging» Marco is aware of the problem!

4. Bunkers.

The work on bunkers is not complete and surprisingly the committee has received no comments on particular bunker problems! Only the writer has complained about the 18th on Corks greenside bunker!

5. Equipment.

The investment in equipment for a course of our value and prestige is pathetically low. Promises have been affected by the Pandemic but with the tourist industry returning to normal the Olives must in our view now receive the computer irrigation system promised for 2020! Most of our

equipment is over 10 years old and some is much older! We need a new tractor and the equipment should begin to be replaced on a planned annual budget. The committee would like to see a planned leasing arrangement which is common with our competitors. Changing equipment every five years is normal elsewhere!

Continued repairing old equipment makes no sense! Members will be pleased to see the calcada is being repaired, we do not know how long this will take!

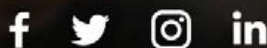
The ground staff have been alerted to remove or knock down nails protruding from the wood fencing! These nails are very dangerous and members should report to Christophe any they believe are a danger!

Finally, the good weather and tourists has made the course very busy. We remain unique in treating members times as sacrecount!

We wish members better golfing conditions moving forward to Christmas!

Stewart Harper Chairman. David Ford, Duncan Evans.

Follow us on social media.



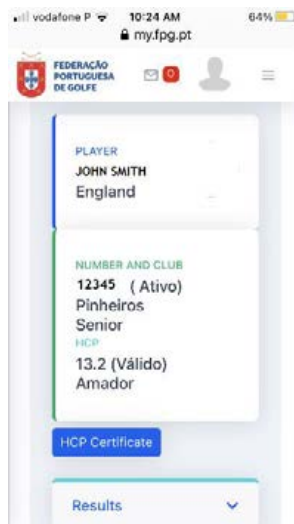
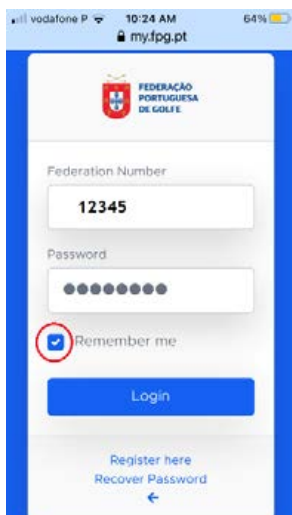
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Social Golf - by Andy Georges



On Sunday 17th October Strictly Come Dancing was surely outclassed by 41 players Waltzing their way around Pinheiros Altos!

With 46 people for supper we are now moving towards our pre covid numbers, which were in the 70's.

It was great to see some of our newer members, Tony and Janette Staddon and Frances and Barry Smeaton joining in.

Winning a bottle of wine is one thing but being a «Two Bottle Family» on your first social is a bit much.... the social committee has agreed that these four are now banned from the next social!!

We actually had 7 two bottle families which could just be a record.

Seriously, we hope everyone enjoyed the day and that our group will encourage more members (and guests if you have any) to sign up on a regular basis for what is once again (after covid interruptions) our «**Monthly Sunday Social Golf**».

The supper was Chicken Stroganoff or Caesar Salad, followed by Apple Pie and Ice Cream. The second helpings and empty plates told a successful story.

The winning scores were...

Pine / Corks.

1 st Paul Hanby, Lisa Burns, Frances Smeaton & Philip Hardie	78 pts B9 of 41
2 nd Graham Roberts, Bertil Wiren, Tracey Spokes & floater Lisa Burns	78 pts B9 of 38
3 rd Paula Burke, David Warnock, Diana Collins, Marianne Wiren	72 pts

Olives / Pines

1 st Barry Smeaton, Ken Irving, Angela Roberts, Molly Wainwright	86 pts
2 nd Tony Hickey, Janette Staddon, Stella Jeffrey, Harri Nordstrom	83 pts
3 rd Tony Staddon, Dirk Blaesing, Arja Nordstrom, Carol Knight	79 pts

The next social is on Sunday 14th November, the format will be Sixes and it will be organised by Cathy Harper and Paula Burke. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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

Blevins Franks Workshop with Dan Henderson
Pinheiros Altos Golf Club, Thursday 9th December 11am



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We hope you will be able to join us.



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