

Altos *news*

Nº 206 . DECEMBER 2021



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS



Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges

At long last after 18 months of lack of investment we are beginning to see investment coming in to the club. Naturally it will take time to get the course back to its former glory days. The calcada is beginning to make a big difference and the course itself compared to 3 months ago is a big improvement.

After a setback with Covid we all thought we had beaten it but unfortunately it is back as a new variant and it seems to be much more easy to catch although not as much as a danger let's hope it stays that way.

I am pleased to say that most of the members have a more positive attitude towards the course and the club and this is demonstrated

by the numbers who have already paid their annual contributions which includes Sue and I.

There are still a few doubters but I hope they continue to depreciate in numbers.

The festive season is rapidly nearing and although many members are not traveling to Portugal this year the Christmas comps already have quite a few people signed up for them.

Both Sue and I wish all the members whether here or abroad a Merry Christmas and a better healthier New Year.

Andy Georges



IX ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT

– 12th to 19th February 2022 –

12th Feb. - Saturday

Welcome cocktail | Nautical Lounge
Welcome dinner | Kamal Restaurant

13th Feb. - Sunday

Practice round at San Lorenzo Golf Course
Dona Filipa Hotel Anniversary cocktail celebration

14th Feb. - Monday

First competition day at San Lorenzo Golf Course

15th Feb. - Tuesday

Free Day

16th Feb. - Wednesday

Second competition day at San Lorenzo Golf Course

17th Feb. - Thursday

Free Day

18th Feb. - Friday

Last competition day at San Lorenzo Golf Course
Farewell cocktail
Gala Dinner and Prize Giving at Kamal Restaurant

19th Feb. - Saturday

Check-out

1st PRIZE Free entrance on the 2023 Tournament

2nd PRIZE 4 nights stay at Dona Filipa Hotel (Bed & Breakfast) + 2 rounds of golf

3rd PRIZE 3 nights stay at Penina Hotel & Resort (Bed & Breakfast) + 2 rounds of golf



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Azure-winged Magpie



3rd Pines Magpie

Azure-winged Magpie

You will have seen these birds all over the golf course in prolific numbers. One of their favourite feeding techniques, which they practice regularly in PA, is hanging onto the side of a tree and then pouncing onto an insect on the ground. You will also see them hovering about a metre above the fairway or rough before they pounce.

Like the black and white Common Magpie, they are predators and omnivores, but they are not considered birds of prey. I have seen Azure-winged Magpies attack and kill baby sparrows in my garden with their beaks and claws, and then eat them.

The other observation I have made from my garden over the years has been large groups of them collecting as dusk approaches, and then flying collectively in the same direction. They form colonies or large family groups, and roost together. Invariably during the day, you will see them moving around in a group of about 3-6 birds.

Some of you may have heard these birds referred to as Iberian Azul Magpies, as I had. And so I conducted some research to try and establish more information, and in doing so I discovered an interesting fact. There are very large numbers of Azure-winged Magpies all along the eastern seaboard of Asia, and there is a comparatively small population on the Iberian Peninsula. They are not found anywhere else in the world other than these two locations. The widely held explanation is that, as with my story not too long ago about the black headed weavers being imported into the Algarve as pets on ships, the Azure-winged magpies were brought back to Spain and Portugal on early oriental trading ships as pets.

I have also attached a photo of the 3rd of Pines Information Block.

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



Heather Conroy and Ingrid Blain winners of the Foursomes Championship



Foursomes Championship Prize Winners



Director of Golf - Monthly Report

November started with our usual Foursomes Championship which for a 4 somes was quiet well attended with even many married couples giving it a go. However, the combinations of 2 ladies seemed to be the strongest one as they cleared all the nett prizes with only one man figuring in the nett prizes, the gross was won by Gerry Naughton & Liam Edwards while the Foursomes Champions which is the best net score aggregate were Ingrid Blain & Heather Conroy with scores of 69 & 67.

The November Medal and the St Andrews stableford were also won by 2 ladies, the medal by Dawn Warnock with a score of 67 And the stableford by Zoe Pirret with a score of 39.

The Annual Subscriptions were sent on 15th November 2021 as normal and at that time I am confident that we have the resources necessary to improve the course over a certain period

of time as I have received approval of a maintenance plan which is considerably more than just our normal budget.

The news in early December of a re-finance plan for JJW was even more exciting and followed by the announcement of Intercontinental joining forces with JJW will enhance what already are Iconic hotels in the Algarve. I believe this could be the start of many more developments within the group and a long term partnership with our membership which has shown such strength and loyalty during Covid-19. The membership will surely benefit from the future investments.

Already the Golf Titles are selling and I foresee many more sales until the end of the year and into the next year when investments start to be visible. The Golf Title are at the moment €17,500 and are going to be increased somewhere between €22,000 & 25,000.

The company will be charging its commission (5% or €2.000 whichever is the highest) as the Golf Title will now be over the €20.000. Golf Titles will be solely traded through the company and direct sale will have to be dealt by the company and continue to be signed off by the company. Any Title with any debts owned on it will not be allowed to be sold or transferred. These rules are important to protect the increased value of the Golf Title.

We are now working on improving every aspect of the golf course and while we know it will take some time to get to the level we want it, I am confident the improvement will be continuous through next year. The calçada path are well on the way as we have finished the front of the clubhouse and moving to 1st on Corks before Christmas and will be doing the Olives paths during January 2022. I have already made contact with Conor from STRI which I am having a zoom call on 27th December and another one with the green-keeper in January 2022 in view for a visit in May 2022. Batteries for Buggies in Pinheiros, San Lorenzo & Penina have been ordered and paid for to recover the original fleets of buggies on all 3 courses. Most important investment approved for this year is the installation of the satellites for the irrigation which will solve a lot of the problems we face with irrigation in the Summer. This with the purchase of about 100 new sprinklers will improve drastically the management of the water on the course. We are also working on many more capital expenditure which will be looked at in a view to be part of the first phases of the refinance.

I am very excited with the future and what a contrast with 12 months ago where payments to staff were delayed and cash flow next to nothing. The staff & members loyalty will not be forgotten and the strength of the Club will continue to grow and re-establish Pinheiros Altos as the best in the area.

As I am writing this newsletter I am flying on my holidays with my family and having left Ross to look after the usual Turkey Flutter which I am sure will be well supported and also followed by the Boxing Day.

We have decided to run our usual New Year Day Texas scramble and hope that restrictions will not interfere. So please if you are in the Algarve make sure you sign for it and I will be looking forward to see many there. Presentation if it takes place will be outside.

I would like to remind all the members that the deadline to pay your annual subscription 2022 is the 31st December 2021 and that any members unpaid will not be allowed to play the course as from 1st January 2022. Most of the members have paid in mass before the 10th December showing once again fantastic support.

I would like to wish all the members and my staff a Merry Christmas & wish all lots of health and happiness for the new year to come.

I look forward to see many of you in the New Year for a great year of golfing!!!



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Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

We began November with a lovely medal! The results in second division were simply superb, Ingrid Blain came in very happy with a 67 nett, then in came Jill Miller Cheevers who everyone would agree would snatch the glass with 65 nett, but... Anne Young managed to snatch the glory with an amazing score of 64 nett. Well done to all of you!

Good job you didn't do those scores in a club comp- we would be even more unpopular with the boys... but they're just jealous 😊

The Foursomes Championship 36 holes of Medal, was dominated by girl power; great golf from Ingrid Blain and Heather Conroy and runners up Wendy Evans and Jill Miller Cheevers. Foursomes is a tough format, even more so over two days so, very well played ladies, this was super golf.

On 28th November in the St Andrews Day Stableford Zoe Pirret had a convincing win with 39 points. Great golf Zoe 😊

In November we played 3 ladies friendly matches, 11th November we had Laranjal ladies at home and reversed our result from the away match with a four and a half to half win. On 25th November Benamor came to Pinheiros and again we reversed the result from the away match earlier in the year with yet another 4 and a half to half win. The last day of November our team played away at Quinta de Cima, a lot of the matches were close run with a 3 v 2 loss which was a respectable result for an away game.

Our last match of this year will be on 16th December away at Vilasol, good luck team!!

The weather has been excellent during November, we are so lucky to be playing our lovely course with sunshine and blue skies. Mariad was «out of the hole» one day on 5th Corks, she gave up trying to photograph the players so focused on the tools...



Lady Captains Charity

On 31st October Paula and I met with Captain Filipe and his wife Anabela to give them the funds we had raised from ladies Invitation day 1410 euros, 326 euros from Ladies Annual Dinner & various donations, plus a kind donation from one of our members, a total of 2836 euros.

(The previous payment we gave to them was in July 21 ref Captains Day and other events for 8385 euros.)

In the next newsletter we will report the handing over of the presents to Salvation Army Childrens' Presents appeal.

Paula has been working very hard on this and I believe the gifts were finally handed over on 06.12.21. Thankyou everyone for your extremely kind donations and we will update with the final results in the next newsletter.

I didn't have any other pictures but looking through my files I found this one which was taken in Gala Week 2018 when our



group dressed as 101 Dalmatians. My Westie «Lucy» was very proud to be a Dalmatian For a Day with her «stick on felt spots».

Sorry, I just couldn't resist putting her in the newsletter 😊 The 2018 Gala week was one of my favourite...

Led by «Cruella de Madgett», it seemed like we had even more than 101 dalmatians as the PA staff used this theme as well.

We are already in December and enjoyed our Xmas Social Golf on 5th, which will be reported in the December newsletter.

There are many events planned for the rest of the month not forgetting New Years' Day Scramble, Christmas is always great fun at Pinheiros, thanks to Christophe, his team and all our members. Our newer members are only just experiencing our «dressing up» practices, Charlotte Parker said to me on Sunday she was wearing a Christmas jumper for the very first time 😊

The Ladies Xmas Party & Comp on 15.12.21 requires a minimum of a Christmas Jumper, there is a prize for the Best Xmas Dressed and the party will be held in the tent from approx. 12:45 onwards.

If you are coming to the party please check that you are signed up on the app so Lubna can check we have enough food for everyone 😊 If you do not have access to the app, please ask one of the golf ladies to sign you up on the party app as a guest.

If you would like to volunteer to make/ bake / bring food please contact lubacater@icloud.com

Remember to buy and bring your Secret Santa present, value 20 euros. Please bring your gift into the tent after golf.

Chris Hepworth and Gill Schofield will be receiving and organising the Secret Santa Gifts for us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the fairways in December, Warm Christmas Wishes to Absent Friends and hope to see you all soon,

Sue



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Report from the Greens Committee

The Committee met on Friday the 10th December in the absence of David Ford who was abroad but with whom the writer had a discussion before he left.

It is the Greens Committee job to keep the members advised on course condition and plans for the future where necessary. We cannot comment on political issues. It also has to be said that we cannot make policy but only argue for greater course investment where we feel it is necessary.

The Director of Golf has communicated to all members a «maintenance and Operation Plan» for 2022. The Committee considered the plans and believe this is appropriate and indeed generous in scale. We would pick out two aspects. Firstly, a new irrigation system for the original 18 holes (as in SL) and the appointment of the STRI to advise on course management. Although expenditure on new machinery is not itemised we believe the owners accept this will be necessary in the coming year. To date repairs have been fully financed.

It cannot be said too often that the course has suffered very badly over the last 12 months from a lack of investment. The Presidents recent letter confirms that a programme of re financing by JJW has opened the way for much increased investment in course maintenance, including fertilizers chemicals and more man power.

All staff are now fully paid including their annual bonus payments. Marco is still 2/3 men short.

The last month has already shown improved greens and rough maintenance. The greens are now running at 9.5/10 on the «Stimp meter» (this may a little too fast for some!).

Members and visitors have commented on the improved condition of the course in the last month. Marco believes that in the next 3 or 4 months the course will be in the sort of condition which we expect and will challenge our neighbours courses.

The Committee remain of the view that the 27 holes at PA are an outstanding challenge to all golfers and this is a view shared by most professionals.

Fairways

The Director, and the Committee, have agreed that the fairways will remain under the agreed «place and play» concession until there is new growth whilst there has been some fertilizer in the form of urea on fairways growth requires higher temperatures than we are currently enjoying. The end of February should start to see better growth. The kikuya grass has successfully taken hold on most fairways.

Greens

The «weed grass» has as predicted disappeared but Marco hopes to be able to prevent its reappearance next year! It requires a chemical application in much the same way as does «Crab grass» which is seasonal as is the fungicide expected in the next month or two! Herbicide application is planned.

Marco believes that over seeding some of the bare patches on the greens is working and does not need more turfing. Time will tell!

Tees

Tees are in the main better than we feared and should continue to improve in the warmer weather.

Bunkers

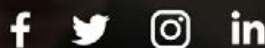
Duncan has done a good job which will continue in improving the sand distribution in the bunkers to ensure more balls fall back to a flat surface below the lip.

The Committee are optimistic for the future and hope the recent Covid news does not prevent or delay the plans for recovery and putting PA at the top of desirable golf clubs.

We wish all members a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans

Follow us on social media.



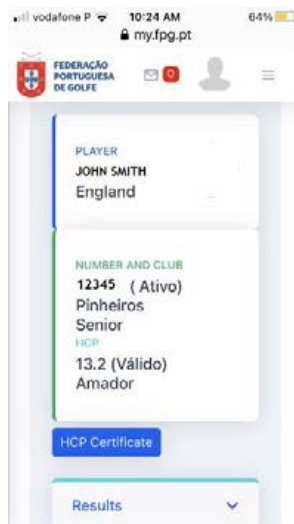
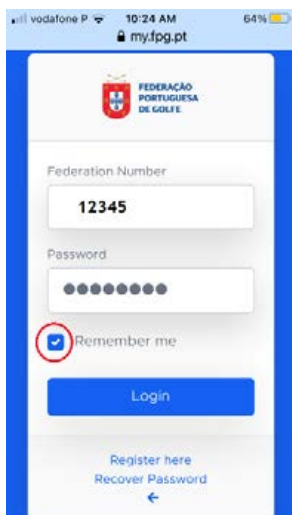
WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM - KNOW HOW TIPS

Does this sound familiar? – Standing on the first tee and you or one of your playing partners doesn't know their handicap index?

Most of us now carry phones with 3G or better, it is easy to register and download the **my.fpg.pt** app and all your information is then at your fingertips anywhere.



If you have not downloaded **my.fpg.pt** you will find instructions on how to do this under the brown button **WHS Handicap Information** if you swipe to the left on the club app.



Once registered, download onto your screen saver with **Remember me** and your login details saved - you have instant access to among other things your: H/C Index, Playing H/C Calculation, Results, etc

Social Golf - by Stella Jeffrey and Knut Pedersen



November Social Golf took place on the 14th of November. We played Sixes, the easy way doing 3 on the first six and 2 on the next, finishing off with the easy 1 on the finishing six. 29 players joined and we had three floaters to fill all eight teams.

We were pleased with a sunny Sunday and we all started in good spirit. Knut Ellingsen made an Eagle on Pines 4 and contributed to a great win for his team.

Winners on Pines:

1 st Knut Ellingsen, Patricia Galloway, Molly Wainwright, Mariëd Kooijmans	86 pts
2 nd Rosie Agnew, Nils Leffler, Stella Jeffrey, Andy Watkins	73 pts

Winners on Corks:

1 st Barry Smeaton, Debbie Madgett, Tracey Spokes, Peter Mills (floater)	83 pts
2 nd Zoe Pirret, Peter Mills, Nico de Ruiter, Carol Knight	82 pts

After the game we were joined by 8 guests for supper. The chicken and chips with Salad was very tasty, and everyone enjoyed the Desert.

Overall, we had a lovely Sunday and looking forward to next Social golf on the 5th of December. This will be the Christmas Social and we are hoping for a great day and turnout.

Stella Jeffrey and Knut Pedersen

Interclub by Neil Bamber

I am delighted to announce that our last 4 games produced home wins against Vila Sol and Vilamoura and a fantastic draw away at Quinta do Vale A loss away to Tavira was unfortunate but it is a very tricky course and some of the team struggles, including myself!

What this means is that come what may we will remain in Division 1 for 2022 I would like to thank all the 28 members who participated this year and have already received playing requests from a few more.

Hopefully Covid will not interrupt us again next year Happy Xmas to everyone.

Neil Bamber



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

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