

Altos *news*

Nº 208 . MARCH 2022



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS



Introduction from the Captain Mr Andy Georges

The last 6 weeks have seen the club returning to its fort status WTH comps running on almost a weekly basis and all being well supported. There is of course still the problem of the 90 day rollover period supplied by Brexit but this means members Are having to be more selective.

I must thank Stuart Knox for all the articles he has supplied over the past 2 years I am sure we all know the birds 🐦 on the course much better with the knowledge he has passed on.

Apart from the steady improvement on the course it is also good to see the aesthetic work that is taking place, the calcada work

has started again and all the lakes are being cleaned. This will enable members who have a habit of washing their balls in the lake instead of the ball washing machine. I am sure this includes 90 percent of the members.

Finally as this is my second to last newsletter my thanks to all the members who have supported the club and the staff in the last 2 years although in different ways it is obvious that most of the met have the greatest respect for the club and all it is trying to achieve.

Andy Georges

Cormorants

We seem to have had a noticeable increase in the number of resident cormorants over the last few months. They have taken up residence on the pond in front of the 5th of Olives teebox. The juvenile is the one with the large white belly on the right of a trio with reeds behind him/her.

Cormorants dive to find fish – which is their staple diet. Many of you will have seen pictures of Chinese fishermen on a boat with their cormorants with ropes around their necks to stop the birds eating the bigger fish but allowing them to eat smaller ones. I believe this practice is now purely a show for tourists. Suffice to say they have a huge appetite, so don't expect to see many fish left in our ponds!

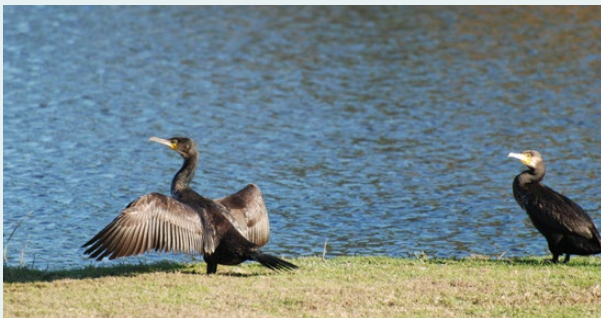
The other noticeable act of cormorants is the pre-historic looking drying of their wings! There are various theories about why this happens, but at the end of the day the conclusion is that they need to dry their wings after they have been fishing!!

There are roughly 40 species of aquatic birds around the world known as cormorants and shags, and those with a crest on

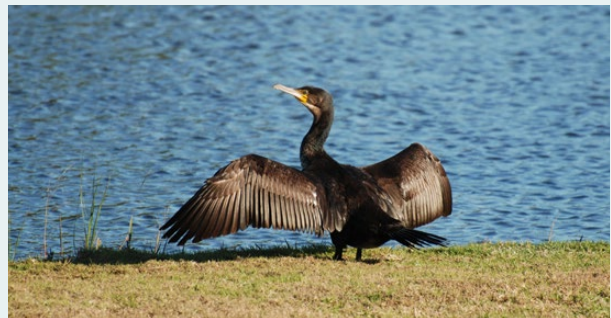
their heads are mainly known as shags. Many people have come up to me over the years and asked about the difference between a cormorant and a shag, and my answer has always been “There is nothing quite like a good cormorant”.

On a completely related subject..... over the next 6-8 weeks it will be the breeding season for birds. If you want to have a walk without a set of golf clubs, then get down to the Ria Formosa in the area between the salt mountains, the path to the airport/Praia do Faro and the 8th tee box of San Lorenzo, and take a pair of binoculars if you have them. There are so many birds to see there. Yesterday I saw avocets and black winged stilts. with their bright leg reds, already arrived. Also on the pond in front of the 8th of Olives you will probably see the procession of pochards when the males start chasing the females. I have attached a photo of a male pochard to assist with recognition.

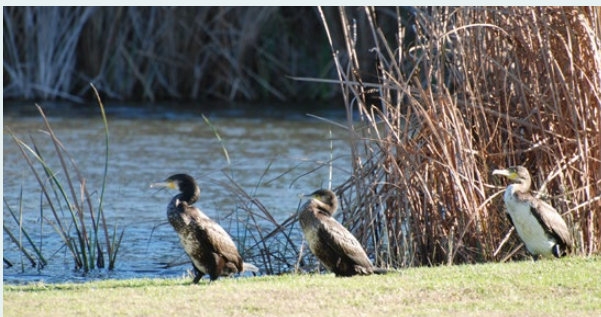
Should anyone have any comments or questions that are not too difficult to answer, please contact me on stuartknox3@gmail.com.



Cormorants, juvenile on right



Cormorant drying wings



Cormorant drying wings with buddy



Cormorants



St Valentine's Day Winners Jim Knight and Tracey Spokes receiving their prizes from Club Captains Andy and Sue Georges



St Valentine's Day Best Gross score winners James Hanglow and Ingrid Blain



St Valentine's Day Runners Up Albert and Helga Crowley



St Valentine's Day 3rd Place David Warnock and Anne Young

17th Spring Amateur

TOURNAMENT

9TH – 16TH APRIL 2022

PACKAGE

- 7 nights in a Premium Twin Room
- 4 competition rounds on San Lorenzo Golf Course
- Welcome cocktail
- 2 buffet dinners with house wine
- Prize giving cocktail, and dinner with house wine
- Special tournament gift

RATES

Rates are per person and for full tournament package:

Golfer sharing a Premium Garden Twin Room	€1005
Supplement for a Single Room	€399
Supplement for a Premium Golf-View Room	€119
Extra round at San Lorenzo or Pinheiros Altos	€73

* No credits will be offered, regardless of whether full package is used.

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Director of Golf - Monthly Report

The highlight of February was the St Valentine Competition which was played over one round at Pinheiros Altos and was attended by 70 players. Tracey Spokes & James Knight were the big winners of the day with a fantastic score of 47 points while James Hanglow & Ingrid Blain took the gross with 34 points gross, just 2 over par. The lunch was very well attended and followed by music from our local singer Paulo Luz.

Towards the end of February, we had the past Captain Challenge which a few of the past captains could not attend as this is not the usual time for this trophy as it was postponed from 2020 and then 2021. The Captain pays for the lunch so managed to fit it in before he passes on the Captaincy to Tony Hickey in April. Paul Cotterill won easily with 40 points, 10 points ahead of the President who was second! Obviously, his handicap is now under the radar! The lunch following the Captains day was one of the best we ever had in the Club and also accompanied

with some fine wine brought by the Winner and save some money to the Club who would normally pay for the wine!

Hugh Campbell who is now retired from the company and obviously is doing some good to his golf as he won the Monthly Stableford at San Lorenzo with 36 points while the monthly Medal was won by Tony Hickey with a score of 68 nett. Congratulations to both!

Coming up soon is the Men's Pairs Matchplay to be played from 10th March until 13th March with the Monthly stableford played on the last day. Also, on Saturday 26th March it is the 75th Birthday of our Captain Andy Georges and there will a cross country challenge at 11am followed by a BBQ. The Captain chose a cross country so that everyone could feel how it is like for him to play golf! I hope to see many of you signing up for the day.

On 30th March 2022 the ladies are playing the cloggies and I have already seen quite a few cloggies practicing their short putts as their will be no gimmies there!

The calçada buggy paths are continuously being repaired on the golf course and should be on-going until all areas are safe. Many members & Visitors have taken the habit of not using the paths due to the state of them and taken buggies all over the course with not only not respecting a 90° rule but also taking buggies right up to the greens & tees. Buggies are the number 1 damage on the fairways and while we do not intend to have them off unless it rains I would ask all members to think about the course and help us by doing a 90° rule and not take buggies on the edges of greens or tees. The repaired calçada path will help to respect this rule and the ranger will be instructed to be more vigilant in regards to buggy usage.

Works on the course and the mainly greens & fairways are being carried out and the improvement can be seen specially on the greens while fairways will improve as we enter the growing season.

Also, I would like to remind members that pets are not allowed in the Clubhouse, terrace areas and golf course and that the bar & Golf staff have been asked to enforce the rule.

The Club AGM is on 14th April and all relevant information is below in this newsletter. The nominated member from the committee for Vice Club Captain is Steve Coull while Melody Cotterill will become the Lady Captain.

I hope to see many of you at the Club over the next few weeks.



*Past Captains Day Winner Paul Cotterill receiving the
Trophy from Club Captain Andy Georges*



A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on
Thursday 14th April 2022 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 outgoing Captain Mr. Andy Georges;
- 3.Mr. Andy Georges summarizes his year and introduces the Captain for the coming year Mr. Tony Hickey;
- 4.The Captains acceptance speech;
- 5.Report from the Director of Golf including the response to written questions;
- 6.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 31st March 2022.

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

If any principal member would like to stand for election as Incoming Vice-Captain they should notify the Golf Office, proposed and seconded by four principal members in writing on or before Thursday 31st March 2022.

It is my pleasure to present a photo gallery of the present Captains and incoming Captains, Lady Vice-Captain and proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain:



*Andy Georges,
Club Captain*



*Tony Hickey, Incoming
Club Captain,*



*Steve Coull,
Proposed Incoming Club Vice-Captain*



*Sue Georges,
Lady Captain*



*Paula Burke Hickey,
Incoming Lady Captain*



*Melody Cotterill,
Incoming Lady Vice Captain*



Ladies Section - by Sue Georges

In February we have enjoyed a wonderful months weather, with just a little much needed rain in the last few days.

On 1st February a group of social and golfing ladies went on a mining excursion to the Loulé Salt Mines. We enjoyed a very interesting tour and all agreed we would like to go again 😊

The idea that some of us had of “claustrophobic underground tunnels” was soon corrected. These mines are amazing.

Its like a city under the town with large trucks driving back and forth and the extent of the tunnels is huge.



On 2nd February for the medal, we had our trial of “choose your partners” and essentially played in 2 balls. There were some positive comments and a few” not so sures”, so we have decided to repeat this in the March medal. Due to some last minute changes by groups we have moved the March medal to 23.03.22, so this is the next date you need to arrange medal partners for.

The February medal was won by Dawn Warnock in Division 1 with 70 nett, and Wendy Evans in Division 2 with 71 nett.

On 9th February the **Ladies Foursomes Championship** was strongly contested, the proud winners of the Trophy were Helen



Mills and Paula Burke with 36 points. Unfortunately, Shirley was not able to present her Trophy but she was Happy to receive the photos.

After golf we enjoyed drinks and nibbles provided by the ladies' section and Lady Vice Captain Paula announced her Vice Captain for 2022 23... Many Congratulations to Melody Cotterill 😊



Valentines Day our first since 2019 was very pink, red and white with 70 players plus guests for supper. It was great to see the club atmosphere at these type of events back to pre covid.

On 16th February the ladies stableford was won by Katalin von Hofsten with 33 points and Diana Collins with 35 points. With the exception of Ingrid Blain, the remainder of first and second division posted a consistent level of scores, which I don't recall ever seeing before 😊

The standard of golf was much improved by 23rd February for the annual match play Lady Captain v Lady Vice Captain. Paulas' team were completely committed to the Irish colours and there was an excellent atmosphere out on the course and afterwards in the tent.

This is the first (and I hope the last time) that in two consecutive years the teams were headed by the same two people.



In 2021, we played this match last year in June and Lady Vice Captain won 5 and 2. I was therefore very happy that my team won 4 and 3 😊

Unfortunately, there were only two pink ladies left when the photos were taken, but we were having a lot of fun...

On Thursday 24th February we had the Salvation Army Drive by which was very well supported by many of our members. Captain Filipe and his wife Anabella needed their big van to collect from us.

There was also a donation of 300 euros in cash. They have been quite busy, and covid has hampered them personally and their volunteers from much of their valuable work.

They hope to shortly send us a report related to the help that Pinheiros members have given in the last few months.



The **Madrinha Trophy** for the first time since 2019 will be played on 16th March 2022. We have a number of partnerships, but clearly some of you may not be here. If you have a partner, please

sign up as Madrinha and guest, otherwise please sign up and we will do a draw as in previous years.

This will be a Greensomes format, followed by the presentation in the tent with drinks and nibbles. Social ladies are very welcome as usual.

Team colours can be agreed with your partner, this always makes for good photos 😊

Our next ladies' social event, a lunch at Thai Beach in Vilamoura will be on Thursday 3rd March, and following that will be a "Beer Tour" on Tuesday 5th April (Sounds interesting 😊) Details will be sent by the social ladies committee shortly.

We are looking forward to welcoming back members from overseas in March and April. There will be lots of club and ladies' events and everyone is looking forward to being back to what was our normal.

Sue



TOURNAMENT RESULTS, PLEASE CHECK THE APP!

Follow us on social media.





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- One practice round at Sir Henry Cotton Championship Golf Course
Uma volta de prática no campo Sir Henry Cotton Championship Golf Course
PULL TROLLEY INCLUDED TROLLEY MANUAL INCLuíDO
- Three competition rounds at Sir Henry Cotton Championship Golf Course
Três voltas de competição no campo Sir Henry Cotton Championship Golf Course
PULL TROLLEY INCLUDED TROLLEY MANUAL INCLuíDO
- Two cocktails *Dois cocktails*
- Welcome dinner *Jantar de boas-vindas*
BEVERAGES INCLUDED BEBIDAS INCLuíDAS
- Gala dinner *Jantar de Gala*
BEVERAGES INCLUDED BEBIDAS INCLuíDAS
- 50 Driving range practice balls on golfing days
50 Bolas de prática no driving range

TWIN ROOM
QUARTO TWIN
sharing *partilhado*



665€

per golfer *por golfista*

Accommodation Supplements Suplementos de Alojamento*

Single Room *Quarto Single* **294€** per package *por pacote*

Pool View Room *Quarto Vista Piscina* **108€** per package *por pacote*

Junior Suite **1200€** per package *por pacote*

* Extra nights available on request. *Noites extra disponíveis a pedido.*

Golf Equipment Supplements – Pre reservation is required Suplementos de Equipamento de Golfe – Necessária reserva antecipada

Buggy **50€** per unit and round *por unidade e volta*

Electric Trolley *Trolley Elétrico* **20€** per unit and day *por unidade e dia*

*Não serão concedidos créditos caso o pacote não seja utilizado na totalidade.
No credits will be granted irrespective of whether or not the full package is used.*

Report from the Greens Committee

The whole committee met on the 28 February to discuss the advice received from the recent visit from STRI and to consider the planned maintenance for the course over the coming months.

STRI report

The visit from Conor who has been visiting the course for several years was very welcome. He has not been to PA since November 2019.

His written report has not yet been received but in a meeting with the writer we gained the impression that he was pleased at how the course had been managed through the last 2 difficult years. The greens are running at 9.5/10.00 on the stimp meter. There is some dollar spot on some greens but Marco believes on advice from Conor this can be eradicated.

Before the Pandemic the percentage of bent grass on the greens was 85%. It is now 45% but with fertilizer and sand applications we believe the level will quickly increase.

The bunkers are improving through the application of better raking and the work Duncan has started to prevent balls holding on the up slopes.

Irrigation Plans

Member will be aware that the older holes were to receive a new satellite irrigation system similar to that at San Lourenco. Investigation has shown that work in removing and placing the power lines at greater depth will delay an early start on this expensive programme but we are assured it will take place. The lack of seasonal rain is a real concern and we must hope that the bore holes will not be vulnerable over the coming months.

Calçada Work

There has been good work done but there is still a lot to complete. We hope to see progress very shortly.

The difficulty in driving buggies over the calçada has caused many members to avoid the paths and to take their buggies over the grass which long term will cause severe damage. In addition we believe there is room on the fairways of many holes when access should be available from the calçada to within say 40 meters before the greens. We hope to be able to give members who need to use buggies better access to the course without causing damage. It is a difficult balance but good course condition will never be achieved if buggies are allowed a full freedom of movement.

Trees

It is the view of the committee that the number and growth of the many new fir trees has to be checked by careful pruning to give a better balance of risk and reward. No one likes the prospect of balls being held in the tree canopy. Marco is looking at a series of holes we have identified including Pines 1 and 9, 1 and 4 of corks and maybe a few more!

Keen gardeners will know that the growth of trees and maintaining a perfect sward on grass is a continuous challenge. The weather and investment play a major role together with expertise to a successful conclusion. We are fortunate in having Marco and his team and now with better funding we just need the weather to behave!

The committee believe that PA can and will challenge our competitors in being a leading course on the Algarve.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans.

Social Golf

Sunday 30th January

There were 50 players and 3 extra guests for dinner. One of the players couldn't come for dinner.

The food (beef stew, salad and rice followed by ice cream and fresh fruit) and the atmosphere were excellent.

We were happy to welcome many new members who finally had a chance to enjoy the "social" side of our golf club. The format was "Who stole the par 4's?" As usual there were great scores.

Pines to Corks

1 st Stewart Harper, Lisa Burns, Alan Bentley and Libby Mullan	99 pts
2 nd Tracey Stokes; Stephen Leach; Alison Leach and Lisa Burns (floater)	95 pts
3 rd Tony Staddon, David Pirret, Kristina Griffith and Molly Wainwright	89 pts

Corks to Olives

1 st Bernd Görger, Joanna Young, Dirk Blaesing and Carol Knight	88 pts
2 nd Zoë Pirret, David Warnock, Bertil Wirén and Peter Young	85 pts
3 rd Albert Crowley, Knut Pedersen, Melody Cotterill and Andy Georges	84 pts

Some cards were not filled in properly, please give it to someone in the team who can do it.

Next Social golf will be Sunday 20th of February and organized by Sue Georges and Knut Pedersen. Don't forget to sign up before closing time: the Wednesday before at 17.00 hours!

Cathy Harper and Adrienne Buth

Social Golf

Sunday 20th February

February Social Golf took place on the 20th of February. This was the second round this year and it seems that the covid is behind us, and we can resume to a normal life on the golf course.

The format was Reverse Waltz 3, 2, 1, and we were surprised of the low score on both courses. We got some complaints after the round, they all said that the format was difficult. That is something we have to look into for further events.

We were pleased with 39 players turning up for the game. A sunny Sunday and we all started in good spirit.

After the game we were joined by 5 guests for supper. We had our first Portuguese meal, sadly it did not turn out the way we had it on the tasting, so we have to go back to the other meals we have on the list.

Overall, we had a social and lovely Sunday, and thanks to everyone for joining the event.

Looking forward to next Social golf on the 20th of March. This will be done by Stella and Andy, the format will be "Team Shambles". We are hoping for a great day and turnout.

Winners on Olives

1 st Adrienne Buth, Bernadette Hardie, Paul Hanby, Paul Cotterill	85 pts
2 nd Helen Mills, Molly Wainwright, Per Anton Kleppa, Knut Pedersen	80 pts
3 rd Rosie Agnew, Stella Jeffrey, Peter Young, Harri Nordstöm	78 pts

Winners on Corks

1 st Paula Burke, Marie Monahan, Peter Mills, Jordan Kitson	79 pts
2 nd Melody Cotterill, Jan Mason, Bob Seddon, Nick Tranfield	65 pts
3 rd Zoe Pirret, Sabine Schlegel, Nils Leffler, Dirk Blaesing	58 pts

Sue Georges and Knut Pedersen



World handicap system

Know how tips

The PGF have changed the access to your 8 lowest Score Differentials.

- . Open myFPG
- . Open Results, open Handicap Index
- . Under the column New you will see your current handicap index and 4 lines next to this. Click on this and your last 20 scores with the best 8 shown in red.

FEDERAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE GOLFE

Home

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Results

Handicap Index

WHS

Date	Tournament	New	Prev	Course / Comment	Holes
2022-02-18	General Play	13.9	14.3	Pinheiros Altos-Pines/Corks	18
2022-02-16	Ladies Monthly Challenge	14.3	14.3	Pinheiros Altos-Corks/Olives	18



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.golfus.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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