

Altos

Nº 216 . DECEMBER 2022

news



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF CLUB



Introduction from the Captain

Mr Tony Hickey

Dear Members,

December already, time does fly by.

We have a busy schedule in the club this Christmas, all competitions up to the New Year Scramble are featured on the signup section of the app.

We were treated to some of the most pleasant weather during the last few weeks, however we are now experiencing a very wet period. 60 mm of rain in the last two days with a lot more to come. It may influence some of the very near scheduled competitions.

Congratulations to the prize winners of the recent competitions, Foursomes Paul and Melody Cotterill taking a very slender win margin over Mark Pye and Sergey Naumov. The Saint Andrews Day and the December Medal saw an inform Dan Henderson lift the silverware, while playing of a handicap of +0.4.

Well done to the players that featured on the podium and to the other players that took part to make the competitions.

Social golf last month saw another big turnout and as always, some great fun. Paulo and his staff served up the best Chicken and fries and salad to top of a great day.

The Golf Course is holding up well, the greens are running and looking good.

The heavy rain while welcome will not have helped the already very busy ground staff.

Following the recent visit of STRI the Golf Course Consultants and the care shown by Antonio our new head green keeper, I am looking forward to our Golf Course getting back to pre-Covid condition. Of course, for those interested in how it is all being scheduled, the newsletter is carrying the work schedule for the Golf Course.

Now is also a very busy time for the lady Captain Paula, our house is full of presents for the Salvation Army Angels program. Well done on a super act of kindness to Paula and the Ladies section through donations and physically buying and wrapping the Christmas presents for almost 200 children. It certainly brings the feeling of Christmas into our house.

The next time I will write my short note, it will be in 2023.

I hope if you are at home or wherever part of the world you visit, you have a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Stay safe and enjoy every day.

Tony



Foursomes Championship Prize Winners



Memorial Day

1. Penina Hotel & Golf Resort;
2. Le Grill Restaurant;
3./ 4. Sagres Restaurant;
5. Dona Filipa Hotel; 6. Kamal Restaurant;
7. Dona Filipa Hotel.



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Director of Golf – Monthly Report

November saw the usual Foursomes Championship played over 2 days of what must be the most difficult format to play. For once we managed two lovely days and a presentation outside on the terrace. This year's Champions were Paul & Melody Cotterill who finished level par net over 2 rounds with scores of 70 & 74 net. Paul did not think they would be talking after the 2 rounds but they were indeed with the trophy in their hand. Congratulations to both of them! The runner up only by one shot difference was the men's pair of Mark Pye & Sergey Naumov and also winner of the gross prize Dan Henderson & Chris Soden. Congratulations to all participant for taking place in what is the most difficult format of Golf. It was nice to see an improvement on the number of entries as well.

On 1st November we had our Memorial Day. It was nice to see a good turn-out for all our friends who are no longer with us. The day was won by Steven & Chie Crowdey with a fantastic 47 points.

Lucy Pye won the November Medal with a net 68 in a medal dominated by ladies as 3 out of the top 4 places were taken by the ladies contingent. Thank you to John Conroy for stepping in second place. Dan Henderson won the November Stableford with 36 points.

There is no New Year's Eve Party at Pinheiros Altos this year but if you are still looking for somewhere to go, there are still some spaces left at the Dona Filipa.

The Annual Subscription's requests have now gone out to Members and you will note that the fees for 2023 have increased however under 5% and it is the first increase since 2018. We will have some members tournament played at San Lorenzo Golf Course during the year of 2022. The list of those tournaments is included in this newsletter.

Membership at Pinheiros Altos has been very popular and I am happy to say that over 25 Golf Titles have changed hand this year as well as many properties which has brought new members to the Club. The Golf Title is at €20.000 and will increase to €22.000. There are only 6 Golf Titles left for re-sale as many have sold and others have decided not to sell. The pressure on selling green-fees all over the Algarve has affected many members at other clubs and I would like re-insure that Pinheiros Altos is committed to look after its members and respect the members time. The guaranteed starting times and the social activities are the strength of our Club and we are willing develop the club to its best.

The Golf course is gradually improving after suffering from the consequences caused during covid-19. The main attention was to recover the greens which António has done a great job while fairways are much improved and as good as it has been for a long time. The attention is now is geared to recover tees which have been suffering mainly from a lot of traffic, lack of light on some and roots dragging the water. We are confident that the operation taken at the moment will improve the tees in the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Bunkers have been neglected and mainly due to the lack of staff which we are now gradually adjusting with 2 new staff this month and another due in the new year. The Golf course is now going to be quieter over the next few weeks and will allow for it to recover from a very heavy season and also continue to improve the areas which are in need.

The Christmas board is now up in the Clubhouse for all to sign in on the APP for the many forthcoming events and I hope to see as many of you around for these competitions and social activities.

I will be away for the Turkey Flutter & Boxing day therefore Ross Sutherland & Kenny Fairbairn will be in charge for these 2 events. I am sure they will do a much better job probably than me! But unfortunately, you will have to have me back for the New Year Day Scramble!

On behalf of all the staff at Pinheiros Altos I would like to wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

TOURNAMENT RESULTS, PLEASE CHECK THE APP!

Follow us on social media.





Ladies Section – by Paula Burke

Dear All,

We have all heard of the calm before the storm, but we seem to be presently dealing with the storm & waiting for the calm. We have been battered by thunder & lightening and a deluge of rain for the past week, the golfing calendar is being challenged on a daily basis.

Our team competition at San Lorenzo last Wednesday was unfortunately a casualty of the weather, but we enjoyed a coffee & a chat.

Reflecting on Memorial Day, it was very well supported & a great tribute to the memory of our past members, a time to remember them & all that they brought to the Club.

We completed our friendly matches for this season with a 4:1 win against Benamor at home, followed by our final match against Levante, again at home with a clean sheet 5:0.

We have enjoyed a wonderful season, making & renewing friendships with the ladies from all participating Clubs. I would like to thank Christophe for facilitating these matches.

In relation to competitions, the Committee has decided to offer an option on “Medal” day. This is to encourage everyone to participate every week.

In tandem with the Medal competition, we will run a Stableford competition with no division, plus the usual 9-hole competition.

The Medal will still be the primary competition, with a Medal glass for both divisions.

We are looking forward to a full time sheet.

Christmas is fast approaching & we have been extremely busy buying presents for the 186 children requested by the Salvation Army. This is an enormous task & is only successful with your very generous support. A big thank you to all for your presents & generous donations, which allowed us to purchase gifts on your behalf. Captain Filipe & his wife Anabela collected the presents on Saturday 9th December. We filled 2 vans!

They were extremely grateful for all your support.

You will be bringing a big smile to so many little faces.

This Sunday we have our Social Xmas golf competition, run this year by Sue & Andy, this is one of the most popular events of the calendar. Always great fun.

We are having our Xmas team competition next Wednesday, followed by mulled wine, nibbles & the “Secret Santa” gift exchange. It is always a fun filled day with renditions of carols echoing around the Clubhouse, possibly not always in tune, but, hey ho, it’s a festive period!

We will also be announcing as per tradition, the incoming Captain Melody’s, vice-captain.

Lots of speculation abounds!

Also, a big thank you to all the staff at PA, for all their efforts in making the Clubhouse looks very festive.

For those of you who cannot be here at this time, I would like to wish you all a very healthy & happy Christmas & 2023 & look forward to seeing you on your return.

Paula



SANTA'S ANGELS/ANJINHOS 2022

Salvation Army Angel Programme

Dear Members & Friends,

I met with Captain Felipe and Anabel from The Salvation Army recently to discuss the **Angels' Programme** for this Christmas 2022. I have now received the list of children in need and am anxious to get this underway as soon as possible.

We were able to provide **188** children with a present for Christmas plus a hamper of local products for their families last year. This was a fantastic success last year thanks to your generous support.

I am presently trying to get some support from both Primark & the Independent Food Company.

We are hoping with your help to brighten this Christmas for **186** children. These children are from the following areas, Loule, Faro & Sao Bras de Alportel.

Without your kind support this festive season will pass for these children without the joy of even a small gift.

We are suggesting that we spend approximately **35.00** on each gift, as general costs of everything have risen. We need to have completed this task by the 5th December.

Suggested Options:

1. Choose a gift for a child, details available from Paula & Chris Sutton, ideally it is best if you could look after one family in order to have some consistency with the gifts, alternatively share a family with one of your friends, families are usually a maximum of three children.

2. Make a cash donation to Paula or Chris & we will purchase on your behalf.

3. Donate directly to the Salvation Army Account, details below, from which we can purchase gifts on your behalf. Please find below details of The Salvation Army Charity Account.

Captain Felipe and Anabel have asked that you send them an email with your name & information regarding your kind donation in order for him to send a receipt to you.

IBAN: PT50 0035 0127 00058820130 37
BIC: CGDIPTPL
Nome: EXERCITO SALVACAO
Address: R. Dr. Silva Nobre 16,
 8150-113 Sao Bras de Alportal
Email: saobras@exercitodesalvacao.pt

Chris & I will be co-ordinating this very worthy programme. We would very much appreciate your support.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Paula and Chris

Paula Burke-Hickey: 910 291 029
Chris Sutton: 920 228 054
Email: paulaburke28@yahoo.com
 chrissutton56@icloud.com





Report from the Greens Committee

The full committee met on the 29 November to consider the STRI report which had just been received.

It is a document which impresses not least because it runs to 20 pages with illustrations. It needs to be stressed that STRI is regarded worldwide as the leading experts on treating sport surfaces and the R and A use them when preparing all the major golf courses for competition. However, we are a recreation course and there are limits to what we can do! The obvious one being not closing the course for maintenance!

It is not appropriate or indeed possible to circulate a document which effectively is both paid for and commissioned by JJW.

However, we will try to underline most of the issues raised most of which will not come as a surprise!

1. Changes to chemical use on recreation facilities

Europe is trying to lead the protection of wild life and a “green” society which effectively means many of the chemicals used to keep our grassed areas effective for sport

and golf will be banned and we will have to find new ways to provide playing surfaces which are dominated by grasses and which we have all come to expect!

Our fear is that all of this is possible but at a cost. We cannot see that natural grasses which grow with weeds and poor grasses are going to be easy to control!

Antonio our new head green keeper is taking all this with a quiet confidence and he says he is not surprised! To date he has please all our members and visitors with excellent fairways and greens which are as good as we have seen for many, many, years! Work is still needed however on tees and bunkers.

Tees are to be top dressed and fed in the same way as the greens. Bunkers need better sand at the surface level.

2. Manpower and Equipment.

STRI believe we need 5 or more green staff to cover staff absentees from the inevitable sick absentees and those on holiday. Antonio is doing a "sterling" job in maintaining the course at its present level with so few workers. We understand JJW will support more recruitment.

We are still without equipment to cover a number of issues. The problem appears to be more supply rather than funding although we cannot guarantee this will remain the position. The committee do know that new fairway and rough cutters have a 18/24 months waiting list! Antonio is looking at second hand but modern equipment to tie us over!

We hope to receive the root cutter very soon! The problem in maintaining a root free playing environment will require a team working constantly in cutting roots, over not just the rough areas on all 27 holes but also fairways!

3. Tree maintenance and improving light access.

It will not come as a surprise to members that the trees planted in the development of the 27 holes many years

ago has not just become an issue on root penetration but has reduced light and therefore healthy grass growth on many tees and greens.

Approximately 1000 pine trees were planted with the expectation that many would fail. They did not fail! We must now according to STRI reduce the damage caused to tees and greens by careful lobbing, pruning and even removing where necessary to ensure better light and therefore healthy growth.

4. Irrigation.

We believe that the installation of a satellite irrigation system planned for the coming month was a major expense and would assist the course to irrigate at the same level as our competitors. It was therefore a disappointment when we learnt that professional advice was that we need to go further with the exercise in not just producing better irrigation but ensuring we can control different levels of irrigation for tee greens and fairways! All of which will be computer controlled. Work will start this coming year but probably take two years to complete. It is we believe the right way forward.

5. Grass growth and Quality.

STRI want more bent grass on the greens. At present we are at a 20% lower coverage than pre Covid! We have too much poa grass and Kikuyu grasses on have not spread enough on the fairways! The reason for this is very much a combination of irrigation and funding. Both are being met with increased funding and servicing. It waits to be seen how much better we can get!

There is no doubt that the course is receiving much better publicity for its condition and we all hope that the plans for the course will be fulfilled.

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans

GLOW

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2022/2023



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Social Golf Report

by Cathy Harper and Knut Pedersen

On the 13 of November, the Social golf had a great day with 40 golfers and “Shambles” as the format. The sun came out, and with a great temperature for golf, we could not be more lucky.

43 persons for dinner, and the chicken and chips were very tasteful. The staff was serving with speed and joy.

Paul Hanby got a Hole in One on Corks 5, and thanks for the drinks after the game.

Thanks also to Dawn and David Warnock for inviting us to their new home after the dinner.



Paul Hanby with a Hole in One on the 5th of Corks.

Corks to Olives

1ST WITH 112 POINTS: DAWN WARNOCK, PAUL HANBY, COLIN GLENNON AND KNUT PEDERSEN

2ND WITH 108 POINTS: BRIGITTA RADEMAKER, HELEN MILLS, CATHY HARPER AND RENE TOCK

Olives to Pines

1ST WITH 113 POINTS: MARIANNE WIRÈN, SUZANNE DAVIS, JOHN CONROY AND NILS LEFFLER

2ND WITH 107 POINTS: PAULA BURKE, CAROL COUNIHAN, TONY HICKEY AND NIALL COUNIHAN

3RD WITH 107 POINTS: STELLA JEFFREY, HEATHER CONROY, DAVID WARNOCK AND STEPHEN QUAIL

Christmas Social will be held on Sunday 11th of December, which will be a “Texas Scramble”, and organised by Sue and Andy Georges.
Sign up on the App by 17.00 Wednesday 7th December.

Cathy Harper and Knut Pedersen

Works undertaken in November 2022

ITEMS	THREATMENTS	FREQUENCY	AREAS	HOURS
Greens	Cuts	Daily	All 27 holes	162
Greens	Top Dress Sand	4 days	All 27 Greens	190
Greens	Brushing Greens	4 days	All 27 greens	40
Greens	Spray Urea	3 days	All 27 holes	24
Aprons	Cuts	Twice per week	All 27 holes	128
Fairways	Cuts	20 days	All 27 fairways	160
Fairways	Spray Urea	3 days	All 27 holes	24
Tees	Cuts	Twice per week	All 27 holes	144
Rough	Cuts	20	All course rough on-going	160
Rough	Spray Urea	1 day	All 27 holes	8
Semi Rough	Cuts	20	All course rough on-going	160
Bunkers	Raking	Daily	27 holes bunkers	180
Bunkers	Repairing Bunker	Daily	All course	320
Irrigations	Repair & replacing sprinklers	26 days	Where needed	416
Irrigations	Controllers & Satellites monitoring	10 days	Irrigations controllers on each 9 holes	80
Irrigations	Pipe repair	5 days	Broken pipe repair	80
Fence	Repair	15 days	Where needed	120
Driving Range	Maintenance of tee	8 days	Driving Range	45
Gardens	Maintenance & Cleaning	Daily	Clubhouse, Academy & administration	186
Buggy Path	Repairs of calçada	5 days	Olives	120
Others	Cuts around fences & trees	20 days	Where needed	320

Intended work plan for December 2022

- All usual cuts on greens, tees, fairways & Roughs;
- All repairing works needed;
- Spraying of greens with Urea and Dollar spot preventive;
- Repair path on Olives 9th;
- Top dressing of greens once a week when 9 holes closed;
- Repairing of bunker and clearing roots especially on 1st corks & 4th Pines;
- Cleaning of trees.



2023 Tournaments

To be held at
San Lorenzo



3rd December 2022	Mens Roll up
7th December 2022	Ladies Day
23rd December 2022	December Stableford
7th January 2023	Mens Roll up
22nd January 2023	January Stableford
25th January 2023	Ladies Day
10th February 2023	St Valentine
11th February 2023	St Valentine
26th February 2023	February Stableford
4th March 2023	Mens Roll up
17th June 2023	Mens Roll up
18th June 2023	June Stableford
9th July 2023	July Stableford
12th July 2023	Ladies Day
15th July 2023	Mens Roll up
25th July 2023	GALA Week
6th August 2023	August Stableford
17th August 2023	Ladies Day
26th August 2023	Mens Roll up
27th August 2023	Social Golf
2nd December 2023	Mens Roll up
14th December 2023	Ladies Day
17th December 2023	December Stableford



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for Pinheiros Altos Members

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the time of the payment



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