

# Altos *news*

Nº 220 . JUNE 2023





## Introduction from the Captain

### Mr Steve Coull

Dear Members,

As I reflect on my second month as captain, I find immense joy in fulfilling this role and want to express my gratitude for the overwhelming kindness and support I have received, your unwavering support means a lot to me, and I genuinely appreciate it. Thank you!

The past month has been filled with numerous administrative responsibilities, which made me contemplate whether we truly comprehend the purpose, commitment, and roles of our committees as members. It has been fascinating to hear different perspectives on their functions and objectives. This introspection led me to ponder what aspects of our proprietary club we can actually control. Ultimately, I believe our focus should be on what we can influence and change, rather than pursuing unattainable aspirations that only a fully member-based club could potentially achieve. Once we collectively accept this reality, we will find ourselves more productive. While acknowledging that there is always room for improvement, such as in terms of cuisine, the course itself, or the facilities, we are actively working towards addressing these areas. However, it is important to recognize that some factors remain

beyond our control due to various constraints. Embracing this fact should not be seen as submissive or defeatist but rather as a genuine realization and an honest assessment of our circumstances.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a greens committee meeting, and it proved to be genuinely enlightening. I took the chance to express my concerns about certain issues I've noticed on the course. The engagement and discussion were extremely interesting, and it provided me with a much better understanding of the day-to-day operations involved in maintaining the course. The experience and knowledge within the committee are truly remarkable, and they deserve credit for their hard work. They face high expectations from the members, and while the course is currently in good condition, the lack of rain, investment, and availability of equipment and materials present significant challenges. Given the limited resources at their disposal, they are doing an excellent job. Let's also remember not to complain if and when it rains, as the course desperately needs it!

I've had the pleasure of engaging in conversations with several members, particularly those who have joined within the past five



years. They have enthusiastically shared their positive experiences about our club, the meaningful friendships they have formed, and the captivating environment we all enjoy. They often express astonishment at the privileged and delightful lifestyle they lead, frequently reminding themselves of their good fortune. Our golf club stands as the central hub of their world, connecting them with an invaluable circle of friends.

Speaking of golf, participating in mixed match play can be quite challenging, especially when teaming up with your partner. Congratulations to everyone who entered, and a special mention to the eventual winners, Jim and Ingrid. While these competitions have a competitive edge, their primary purpose is for everyone to have fun. If you haven't participated in them before, I encourage you to give it a try. The nerves on the first tee will soon settle down. Even in medal and stableford competitions, I once heard someone say, "these are not the place for high handicappers." In my opinion, it's simple: give it a go. It's equally challenging for low-handicap golfers, as they have less room for error.

A group of about twenty of us recently traveled to Penina GC to play in the Sir Henry Cotton Trophy, which was advertised on the APP. It was a full handicap medal round, providing everyone with a chance to excel among a field of around 100 players. It was disheartening to witness the condition of the course, which I had played on some 25 years ago when it was one of the best in Portugal. Today, it is in desperate need of both water and investment. Nevertheless, the camaraderie and enthusiasm of the participants were outstanding,

and we had an absolute blast. I strongly encourage more of you to join us next year for this enjoyable event.

As I write this, we are eagerly preparing for the upcoming Picnic on the Green, which is expected to be a delightful evening with nearly the anticipated number of attendees. It will provide an opportunity for us to get to know some of the new members joining us. I am certain it will be a memorable and enjoyable event for everyone involved, well done to the Vice Captain Nigel for arranging all this.

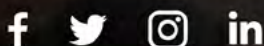
Looking ahead, we have the Ben Hogan Trophy taking place at QDL, and I have no doubt that our collective efforts will be put forth to bring home the victory. We also have Portuguese Day, where Portugal takes on the rest of the world. This day is all about fun, and Christophe will be assembling a group of skilled players (ringers) to challenge us. Let's do our best to defend our honor!

As we approach the hot summer months, we can all look forward to early morning rounds of golf and leisurely afternoons spent by the pool or at the beach bar. We truly have a wonderful life here in the Algarve, and I am grateful to be a part of this vibrant community.

Wishing you all a fantastic month ahead.

Warm regards,  
Steve

## Follow us on social media.





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*Mixed Pairs Matchplay Prize Winners*



## Director of Golf – Monthly Report

May was a quiet month as far as tournament was concerned and we had the main event was the Mixed Pairs Matchplay for the Russell Salver. It was quite a marathon as it was played on 4 days in a row and we had a perfect number of 16 teams so it started straight into matchplay format. The champions were James Hanglow & Ingrid Blain for the second year running who beat Mark & Lucy Pye in the final match. While some think it might have been a walk in the park, I can assure it was not as 2 of the 4 matches when passed the 18 holes so Congratulations to both and also to the good entries for this demanding tournament.

The monthly Medal was taken by Keith Inman with a score of 70 winning on a back nine and the May stableford was won by Rene Tock with a score of 39 points. Congratulations to both and look forward to see Rene getting his handicap down!

March, April & May 2023 were very busy at the club and the course has hanged on very well to the occupation. Fortunately, the occupation will now go down giving a rest to the golf course and at the same time we will be closing 9 holes more often to rest the course as well as having some important maintenance work done.

I would like once more to remind members to respect buggy rules and try to keep them off the fairways as much as possible.

The buggies are the worst enemy of growth on the fairways. The compaction of 100 buggies going over the same route on a daily basis is a major issue therefore I insist members must respect the 90° rule at all times and come off the fairways and stay on paths near tees & Greens. Also, the number of pitch marks on the greens shows that many do not repair them and once a pitch mark is not repaired it takes days to recover while if repaired immediately it recovers immediately. Remember to repair your pitch mark as it is your course and the marks you leave on the greens will be there for the following days!

There are many events to come with Portuguese day followed by the picnic on the following day, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023. But most important is the Captain's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 which you can now sign in for. The Gala week information will be out very soon and the event will be played from 23<sup>rd</sup> until 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and I hope to see many of you joining for the all week or partly as you can also enter individual days. We have the pleasure to have Enquinta as a partner again for the Gala Week. The theme this year is Outer Space and there should be plenty of good ideas around that theme.

I wish you all great golfing and look forward to see you at the Club.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS  
**PLEASE CHECK THE APP!**



## Eventos de Golfe *Golf Events* by **JJW HOTELS**

HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO EVENT / TOURNAMENT	DATAS DATES
Dona Filipa Hotel	<b>International Amateur Tournament</b>	25/11/2023 – 02/12/2023
Dona Filipa Hotel	<b>Amateur Senior Tour</b>	18/02/2024 – 25/02/2024
Dona Filipa Hotel	<b>Spring Amateur Tournament</b>	23/03/2024 – 30/03/2024
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	<b>Penina Golf Week</b>	05/05/2024 – 11/05/2024

## Ladies Section – by Melody Cotterill

Time flies when you are having fun, and certainly the Pinheiros Ladies have had lots of fun in May.

We started with our Ladies Invitation day on 3rd May, attended by 60 - Fantastic! The golf was excellent too with three

teams scoring 43 points! So count backs came into play. The eventual winners were Val Rennie and Sharon Henderson with a better back 9. Runner ups were Ingrid Blain and Marie Spinelli, and then Tracy Hayes and Annika Astrom.

All the arrangements for the Invitation Day were put together by my Vice Captain Heather Conroy, supported by my other committee members – Thank you Ladies.

The course played very well and many of the guests commented on the improved condition.

The catering team did an excellent job too.

We sold Raffle tickets at the event with generous prizes donated by our members and the Club and we raised over €1,500 for the children's home Candeias in Olhao, which will help to buy lots of things they need and we all take for granted. Jill Miller-Cheever's and Mae McCole have been supporting this home for a number of years, and I am very grateful that they bought the children's needs to our attention. I would also like to thank Algarve Removals – John Scott, who transported free of charge, sofas from the UK which were no longer required by ex members Andy and Vera Watkins. The Sofas really improved the living room of the home.

Talking Charity, David Markey, Debbie Carver and myself attended a presentation at Casals Children's home which is one of the Club Charities this year. The home wanted us and other volunteer fund raisers to be fully aware of their objectives. My goodness it was heartbreaking!. Children, whose families have abandoned them or for various reasons cannot live with their families. What



we are doing to help is so important, and thank you all for your continued generosity. They definitely need it. If anyone would like to know more, then please make contact with Debbie Carver or myself.

Back to golf. The Ladies section 'button' on the Club app is working so well and together with our Ladies info WhatsApp group, it seems more and more are participating in Ladies events in addition to club ones. So please if you haven't joined in, please do, all are very welcome. Please look for all the competition results on the App. Also Kenny Fairbairn's Ladies Golf Clinics were a sell out – Thank you Kenny. More dates in the future I hope!

The final event this month was our Ladies Trip to Robinsons. 30 Ladies attended, and one injured golfer, Ineke Goossens, just came for the fun - Fantastic! The saying goes what happens on tour stays on tour, but I will say that we so much enjoyed playing both Quinta da Cima and Quinta da Ria, both courses in excellent condition. We played two different formats: 3 Stableford scores to count on the first day on Quinta da Cima and a Shambles on the second day at Quinta da Ria. Also we did a nearest the pin on both days. So the winners were Day 1 Diana Collins, Carol Knight, Debbie Carver and me as a floater -116 points, and on the second day, Rosie Agnew, Barbara Fletcher, Mai Markey and Stella Jeffrey - 130 points. Great scores well done to all!

Nearest the pin on day one Catherine Pouezat, and on day two Carol Knight. So lovely to see high Handicap Ladies doing so well! Thanks so much to Sue Georges and her company PAGS for all the arrangements - difficult without their help.

Enough from me..... continue to enjoy your golf and all the opportunities our golf club gives us, and I sincerely hope to see you all soon.

*Melody*





Ladies Invitation Day





python images





*Ladies Invitation Day*













*Ladies Social Lunch at Natura*



# Report from the Greens Committee

The committee met on the 5<sup>th</sup> June in the absence of Antonio who had domestic issues relating to one of his children who was unwell. We had the head engineer and Christophe to deal with present issues.

## 1.Course condition

The committee were advised that payments for the fertiliser promised for the course is now been paid and Antonio is to start fertilizing the course by closing individual holes on a regular basis. Members may see over the summer months the closing on Tuesday and Thursdays of individual holes and nine holes. This hopefully is the start of a comprehensive improvement of the fairways.

The rough cutter we were assured is now paid for and is on its way from the German suppliers.

We remain disappointed the clover is still a real problem and the failure to eradicate it (as promised) arises from the inability to first spray and then cut it (fairway cutter). We really hope next month will see a real change in not just the clover but in the fairways condition with a comprehensive fertiliser program not seen for over 4 years!

## 2.Bunkers

Several bunkers are showing root growth from plants seeking water. 9 of corks is bad as are some others but they are going to be tackled. Another problem is the GUR on 8 of Pines. This area is to be established as part of the course with grass which will be playable and not be a bunker. It is felt the valley is enough of a penalty!

## 3.Tree roots etc.

Work on the roots continues and new turf is ground under repair and balls should be dropped at nearest point of relief. A similar rule is to be made for the bunkers where

roots interfere with the strike from the bunker. The area on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Olives is being considered for a more long term improvement where longer grass and some trees will make it a difficult landing area for strikes to the green.

The very long grass on the left of Olives 4 green is as yet not to be mown shorter so members should avoid being more than 20 metres off line in shots to the green (as no chance of finding your ball in this grass!).

## 4.Work Force

Antonio is at least 4 men down! In reaty with holidays and sickness etc there are often as few of 10/12 men working out of a target of 24! This is a problem affecting most of the leisure industry!

## 5.Tees

Tees are improving and with fewer golfers playing in the summer months improvement should speed up but manpower is a problem as stated above.

We believe progress is happening but as always, we are impatient for improvement!

Our club director Christophe seems very pleased with the funding being available and this does we believe promise better course conditions in the future.

We believe there is still a considerable challenge ahead for our course but new members continue to seek membership and member share value is still growing.

*Stewart Harper chairman,*

*David Ford,*

*Duncan Evans.*



# Social Golf Report

## by Adrienne Buth and Stella Jeffrey

On Sunday the 14th of May, we had the Social monthly. We had a great day with 40 golfers and “Niners” as the format.

We got some feedback that this format is too hard for the Social event. 3 to score on the first 9, and 2 to score on the back 9. So we will see if we ever will have it again.

40 persons for dinner, and Chicken and chips with fruit and ice-cream was good, and rounded of a great day on the golf course.

The result of the day:

### **Corks to Olives**

**1<sup>st</sup>** with 101 points: Fiona Hanby, Barbara Kyne,  
Paul Hanby and Knut Pedersen

**2<sup>nd</sup>** with 88 points: Joanna Young, Patricia Tolland,  
David Pirret and Christian Holst

### **Olives to Pines**

**1<sup>st</sup>** with 96 points: Lisa Burns, Jennifer Gray,  
Stewart Harper and Ansley Tolland

**2<sup>nd</sup>** with 94 points: Dianna Collins, Janette Staddon,  
June Chillott and Andy Georges

### **Best 3<sup>rd</sup> place**

with 91 points: Zoe Pirret, Molly Wainwright, Mai Markey and Nico de Ruiter

Next Social will be held 16<sup>th</sup> of July with Stella Jeffrey and Cathy Harper.



## 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





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](http://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