

Altos *news*

nº 224 . November 2023



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF CLUB

Introduction from the Captain — Mr Steve Coull



So, as the summer draws to an end and finding myself nearing the midpoint of my term as your Club Captain, I must say that I am still thoroughly relishing every moment of this experience. I want to extend my gratitude to all of you who have expressed and demonstrated your support – it is genuinely appreciated.

One aspect that has suffered during this period is my golf game, which is currently in a dismal state. Some individuals can improve their game by switching off their busy minds while playing, but unfortunately, I'm not one of those lucky few. I seem to be spending more time in the clubhouse than on the practice range or indeed the course. Hopeful that my performance will pick up soon. If not, "for sale I set of Callaway irons, one careful owner & sweet spot unmarked" !

Matchplay championship, took place this month, great event that brings out the inner competitive streak, congratulations to all those that took part and to the finalists and eventual winners John Conroy and to Chie Crowdey a lot of golf for these guys over the week, congratulations particularly to John who now has eventually got his name on the board.

Congratulations to our President David, who laid on another great day for Presidents Day, some good golf being played along with some great fun and some sore heads the following day.

Then came the Ryder Cup, the important one held at Pinheiros Altos, coinciding with the "other one" going on in Italy. Congratulations are in order for Susan Russell and her team from the USA, who emerged as the champions. Although, much like on Portuguese day, I'm baffled as to how one can end up on the wrong side of luck twice in a single year. Nevertheless, it's all in the spirit of fun, and I've never been one to take defeat too hard. This just goes to illustrate that the keyboard can be more powerful than the pitching wedge, (said with a wink). To future Captains, a word of advice: keep your wits about you on team selection and pairings; consider yourselves forewarned!

Whilst, still recovering from the resounding defeat at the hands of Susan Russell and her "Stars and Stripes" team in the Ryder Cup, it's now October, and things are in full swing.

One of the main focal points this month, is our activities for the charity day, incorporating Pink Day, which unfolded on October 4th and left us astounded by the outcome. We had a whopping 34 teams, each consisting of four players, totalling 136 participants, 80% of which were members with the balance being made up from members companies' teams or corporate supporters. Almost everyone stuck around for the BBQ and either enjoyed the festivities or returned for the evening's prize-giving ceremony and live auction. Our PA facilities were bursting at the seams, with the golf course, terrace, and clubhouse all pushed to their maximum capacity.

Amidst all the fun and the party atmosphere that enveloped the day, what truly matters is the outstanding achievement we've made as a community for our chosen charities. As I pen this, the total amount raised is still on the rise, but it's guaranteed to exceed €109,000, which is an absolutely remarkable outcome, well done and thank you.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who played a role, no matter how big or small. Your contributions are deeply valued, and we couldn't have pulled it off without each and every one of you. Thank you.

Last year, we made solid progress, and this year, we made further improvements and we've learned valuable lessons along the way. We are committed to making even more enhancements for 2024, scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd.

We've been fortunate to receive a wealth of positive feedback, as well as constructive suggestions for improvement. We're genuinely appreciative of this input, and we'll take it all into considerations and where appropriate will be implementing changes and trying out new approaches. It's important to accept that we're not professional event organizers, but we're quickly gaining expertise and making improvements without reinventing the wheel.

The establishment of our approved charity association and the subsequent opening of a dedicated bank

account will not only ensure complete transparency and accountability moving forward but will also streamline our administrative processes, reducing the time and effort involved. Everything we do is to form a long-term platform for those people that follow us into office to pick up easily and build on with a reduced effort and minimum stress.

We're in the process of enhancing the auction website. We had a tight three-week window to load over 50 auction items, after fundamental and operational modifications to the actual site itself, all of this was achieved within a "self-taught" environment and rest assured, we're diligently working on a much-improved, streamlined site for 2024.

Additionally, and not by design, but never the less a very welcome spin off from our achievements, is that our club is now being elevated in stature and reputation, becoming synonymous with having extremely generous members.

We should all be extremely proud of being part of this journey, and long may it continue, congratulations and a massive thanks to everyone involved in driving this forward.

It's unusual to recount a tale of misfortune, especially concerning a golfer of such remarkable competitive skill, a dedicated interclub player, and a regular contender in medal rounds. Nevertheless, there is a valuable lesson to be learned from this story, and I have obtained his approval to share it. So, please there is no intention of making fun of him, because that's certainly not the case.

The "Bunkegate" incident involving Steven Crowdey is a story of resilience, determination, and a resolute and a literal "fight them on the beaches" attitude.

During the monthly medal round, Steven was performing exceptionally well, arriving at the first hole (Corks) four shots better than his handicap. The stage was set, and you might be wondering, "What could possibly go wrong?"

In Steven's own words..

"A good drive but a poor hybrid placed me in the green side bunker. Having just had a bunker lesson

there was a fraction of the usual trepidation.

Loft was required, my 60-degree wedge was open and the operational checklist complete; weight was on the left, ball was slightly left of centre, hands were 'laid down' and I was ready to fight that urge to lean a little right.

The first 24 shots were in vain, some ran up the bank, two were air shots and several hit the dense undergrowth above the bunker. A common theme was how the ball almost always returned to the same spot. I say 'same' but it was probably several millimetres lower each time. A recurring and positive thought was that the next attempt would soar out of the bunker and nestle up to the hole. The two-shot penalty for dropping back from the bunker was not for me with the lesson under my belt. The golfing gods were having fun. The 25th shot was hit thin and hard, very hard. The ball left the bunker and hid, plugged in the overhanging greenery from the underside six inches above the bunker

along with at least one other ball. My playing partner advised that being plugged the ball could be placed on the overhang, a tough shot but I was out to the sound of the 'born free' soundtrack. My new ball looked my age.

Thoughts then turned to my partner, who was also in the same bunker, increasing uncomfortable but very patient during my travails. But, he successfully engineered an escape after a few attempts, bravo!

I don't 'no-return' without first calling an ambulance. So after the round my playing partner, at the risk of incurring a repetitive injury strain, had the 'live scoring' task of entering the eventual score of 30 shots on the 1st of Corks alone!

I suspected Cristina would be sending me the bill for replacing sand and I could start to look forward to receiving another year's worth of well-intentioned bunker advice from every playing partner.

Now back to those notes I always take after golf lessons...."

Steven Crowdey – Sand Clearance Specialist!



Steven Crowdey — Sand Clearance Specialist!

So, chapeau to you Steven for his very honest account, of a situation that most of us would have DNR'd, the moral of the story.....Never, ever give up! Interesting fact, Steven won the Stableford competition the following month!!

Next came the wooden spoon competition, a historical battleground where the girls have traditionally outshone the boys. It brought to mind memories of the PA Ryder Cup and Portuguese day when on both occasions I faced a crushing defeat, making me wonder if history would repeat itself. Determined not to let that happen, I collaborated with two former captains to assemble a more formidable men's team.

We launched an energetic recruitment effort, which, though successful, didn't entirely dispel our doubts and fears.

As we geared up to face potential embarrassment once more, we barely managed to edge past the finish line, clinging on with our fingertips to secure an 8-7 win against the ladies, granted not a sweeping victory but regardless, a win that prevented me getting my backside handed to me once more. This day remains a fantastic event, with the ladies consistently growing stronger. Nigel must begin his campaign early if he hopes to steer clear of the wooden spoon.





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So, it's clear to see that as a club we have some wonderful events with wonderful members, some super competitive, some just absolute fun with winning or losing not really being that important. It's about the friendship, the camaraderie, the feeling of being part of the PA community.

While I will continue in my efforts to inspire and motivate all of you to participate at every opportunity, I acknowledge the reality that it may not be feasible or even desirable for some to do so. It's important to understand that some prefer the friendly matches, some

thrive in competitive settings, and others just enjoy playing with their friends and family. Regardless of your choice, we all have the freedom to make decisions, and if you're deriving enjoyment from what you love to do, good for you.

Wishing you all the very best on and off the course.

Steve



Matchplay Championship Prize Winners



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Matchplay Championship



President's Putter Prize Winners



President's Putter





President's Putter



Ryder Cup at Pinheiros Altos

Director of Golf — Monthly Report



It has been a while since the last newsletter and a lot has happened in the last couple of months. While 2 month ago I was telling members about the lack of irrigation & growth on the course, we have now gone the other way with a lot of rainy days and the grass growing at a speed we are struggling to follow with the cuts. The course had been fertilized and some areas on the greens over seeded which with the rain repaired a lot of the areas needed to be looked after. The staff problems are not as severe as we managed to employ 4 extra staff which we will only see some improvements in a few months when they are trained. We have received various proposals on

machinery and on the new irrigation which will be on the agenda to be budgeted for next year. I am confident we will be able to improve the course on what it was pre-covid19..

If you have read the President email earlier this you will be aware I have been appointed as interim Director of Golf at San Lorenzo while António Santos is away to look after his health. There is an intention to have a better synergy between the 2 courses which will be operational in the first phase but might bring commercial synergy if felt positive for the evolution of both courses. It goes without saying that the task is substantial how-

TOURNAMENT RESULTS
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!

ever I can assure you that I will not neglect the Pinheiros Altos Operation and I do believe we can all benefit in the end of a good & healthy synergy.

September was a busy month with many good events at the club and started with the Matchplay Championship won by which was well supported but we may have a few twists for next year to make it more popular amongst the members not willing to play 4 days in a row or even 36 holes on the same day. Hopefully we will be able to find a formula which will suit more members of the club. Congratulations to the Champions John Conroy & Chie Crowdey!

Mid-September saw our President's day putter and a big thank you to our president and his contribution to the day which saw a very happy Peter Young winning the President's putter despite having played with Joanna!

Our Captain managed to lose another team trophy at the Pinheiros Altos Ryder to America leaded by their Captain Susan Russell. Fortunately, the European gladiators were able to win the real thing in Rome!

Early October saw the second edition of the new charity day format and a real success as an excess of €109.000 were raised for the various charities. A big congratulations to the Captain, the President and their charity committee for such dedication to the cause and a lot of hard work. Also, a token to thank the original funder of Pink Day Shirley Griffiths and Tony Hickey who turned it last year into The PA Charity Day extending it to the various different charities and serving many very worthy causes in the Algarve. Not to forget a big thank you to all involved and all the very generous donations.

The Captain was determined on not losing any more team matches and no better time than the wooden spoon to turn his luck around as he presented the wooden spoon to the ladies leaded by their Lady Captain Melody Cotterill!

I think another win by the ladies would have seen the wooden spoon challenge written off the calendar!

Jim Hanglow won the September Stableford with 41 points while Steven Crowdey took the October stableford with 38 points. The Autumn medal Rose bowl was won Dan Henderson with a 73 net which is 2 under par gross as he plays of +2. The September medal was won by Majida Lester with a fantastic 67 net! Congratulations to all!

Many members have been struggling with the walking as we had to take the buggies off the course and use the buggy path only. Unfortunately, it is needed to protect the golf in wetter weather. At the present while I am writing this newsletter the buggies are back on the course and we need to enforce the 90° rules which will help tremendously in protecting the fairways. I would like to urge on members to use the 90° degree rule with buggies.

Also remember to rake the bunkers as well as repair your pitch marks on the greens. As members you will witness the course at its best and at its worst but it is your course and many of these little actions will improve everyone experience on the golf course.

Thank you all for your understanding and I look forward to see as many of you for the next big event which will be the St Andrews day with the Celts taking on the rest of the world ! Sign up on the APP soon. (yet another Team Match for our Captain!)





Charity Day



Charity Day



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Charity Day



python images

Charity Day



Charity Day

Ladies Section by Melody Cotterill



Fabulous weather in September continued and as always the ladies golfed through the heat. In addition to our normal weekly Fun, Stableford and Medal competitions we had a friendly game at Laranjal and were also able to host Levante Ladies at home when we used familiarity with our home course to our advantage, isn't it always easier to win at home?

The good weather played its part in helping make the Club charity day the success it was. A fabulous day enjoyed by all and so good to raise so much for our chosen charities -so many people including our staff participated to make the day special and Steve has reflected on this, but Steve worked tirelessly and devoted so much time behind the scenes not just in getting members involved but very importantly leading the charge to get

our charity officially recognized. All this work will be of so much benefit as we move forward.

The Ryder cup at the beginning of October - had me playing for the winning PA American team, what fun we had - but of course delighted that in reality the Europeans won.

Friday the 13th October - unlucky for some but for me it proved to be very special not only was it my wedding anniversary but the day I achieved what I have always thought would be impossible- a hole in one! I was very fortunate to be playing with Adrienne, Marianne and Jeanette who made it very special for me especially in my Captains year.

The later part of the month saw the much needed rain arrive - but sadly it caused one of our competitions to be cancelled but not the Wooden spoon. Steve certainly persuaded lots of men to play and albeit we had some really strong lady teams we managed to loose! Still haven't forgiven my husband for winning his game. I thought I would have a win playing with one of the best golfers in our club Susan Russell (who played extremely well) against Steve and John Scouler but we could only

just manage a half -if only I could putt ! Sorry ladies. I have no doubt however that Heather will be giving the massive Wooden Spoon back to Nigel next year.

Lots of great competitions coming up including the Ladies annual dinner on 24th of November. Hope to see many of you in the clubhouse or on the course.





XXIII INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT 25TH NOV. - 02ND DEC. 2023

Program

- 26th, Sun.** Practice Round – from 9:16 AM
Welcome Cocktail at 7:00 PM
- 27th, Mon.** Aggregated Stableford – 1st round – from 10:04 AM
- 28th, Tue.** Aggregated Stableford – 2nd round – from 10:04 AM
- 29th, Wed.** Rest Day
- 30th, Thu.** Aggregated Stableford – Final round – from 10:04 AM
- 1st, Fri.** Four Ball Better Ball – 2 player's Team – from 10:04 AM
Cocktail followed by Prize Presentation Dinner at 7:00 PM



Prizes:

For the 3rd day Aggregated Stableford:
– Overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd,
– Nearest the Pin in each day.

For the Four Ball Better Ball:
– 1st, 2nd, and Nearest the Pin.

Maximum playing handicap 28 Men or 36 Ladies.
All handicaps shall be converted according to the
published tables of Course Rating.

Electronic measurement is permitted. Ties are decided by the best result on the Last Round, the Last Nine, Six, or Three holes of the course or the Last Hole. The Best Gross prize is not accumulative with the overall 1st, 2nd or 3rd prizes. The starting for the Final Round of the Aggregated Stableford shall be according to the result over the two initial days. The Best Scorers to start at first.



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Report from Greens Committee

The full committee met on Thursday the 26th October. It is often said be careful what you “pray for” and the rain and storm conditions on last Sunday created destruction of trees on the course as well as flooding and providing much needed rain for the golf course!

The course was closed all day!

The committee considered whether the use of buggies being restricted to the paths was necessary. Members have suggested that the course remained remarkably dry but on balance the committee were satisfied this restriction was better than banning buggies in their entirety! Only members holding a medical “blue flag” will be allowed to drive 90 degrees across fairways until the restriction is lifted.

Course work.

Antonio has 3 new green staff plus a staff member returning from sickness. He feels more confident of catching up on work badly needed to restore the course to its best condition. The rough grass has become a major issue in parts of the course and the rough cutter should now be in full operation!

Course improvements.

The felling of trees which are marked with a cross should now take place in the next few weeks. (No marked trees fell down in the storm!) This will provide better light to greens and tees and is much needed!

Bunkers are also being deep raked and will we believe become more consistent. New sand is in the committee's view necessary to complete the improvements.

Tees remain a problem with poor growth and resting them has not been totally successful. They are too small and are difficult to manage with both the new grass growth and with such heavy traffic.

The greens are infected with dollar spot which is a regular problem and difficult to destroy with normal chemicals now being much restricted. Antonio believes improvement is imminent with a mixture of chemicals available to him and the speed and putting surfaces remain good.

Tree roots also remain a problem despite better cutting tools and a team continuing to cut roots closest to fairways. The committee believe this problem requires greater investment in man power and cutting equipment. The committee are pressing to see evidence of the planned Satellite irrigation which has been promised and which will confirm our commitment to having a course as good as any in the Algarve. It has become a much more expensive job than first suggested but the commitment is we believe still effective and management have promised to provide the additional capital needed.

Restriction on the use of out bore holes due to the drought conditions seem less worrying with the winter weather now more evident and hopefully continuing but still with plenty of sunshine!

The committee as always are happy to consider any particular issues members may have about course conditions but we cannot do more than bring them to the notice of management. We are aware that substantial money is being spent on UK courses to improve irrigation problem arising from very wet condition! The weather is a world wide problem!

Stewart Harper Chairman, David Ford, Duncan Evans.

Eventos de Golfe / *Golf Events by*

JJW HOTELS

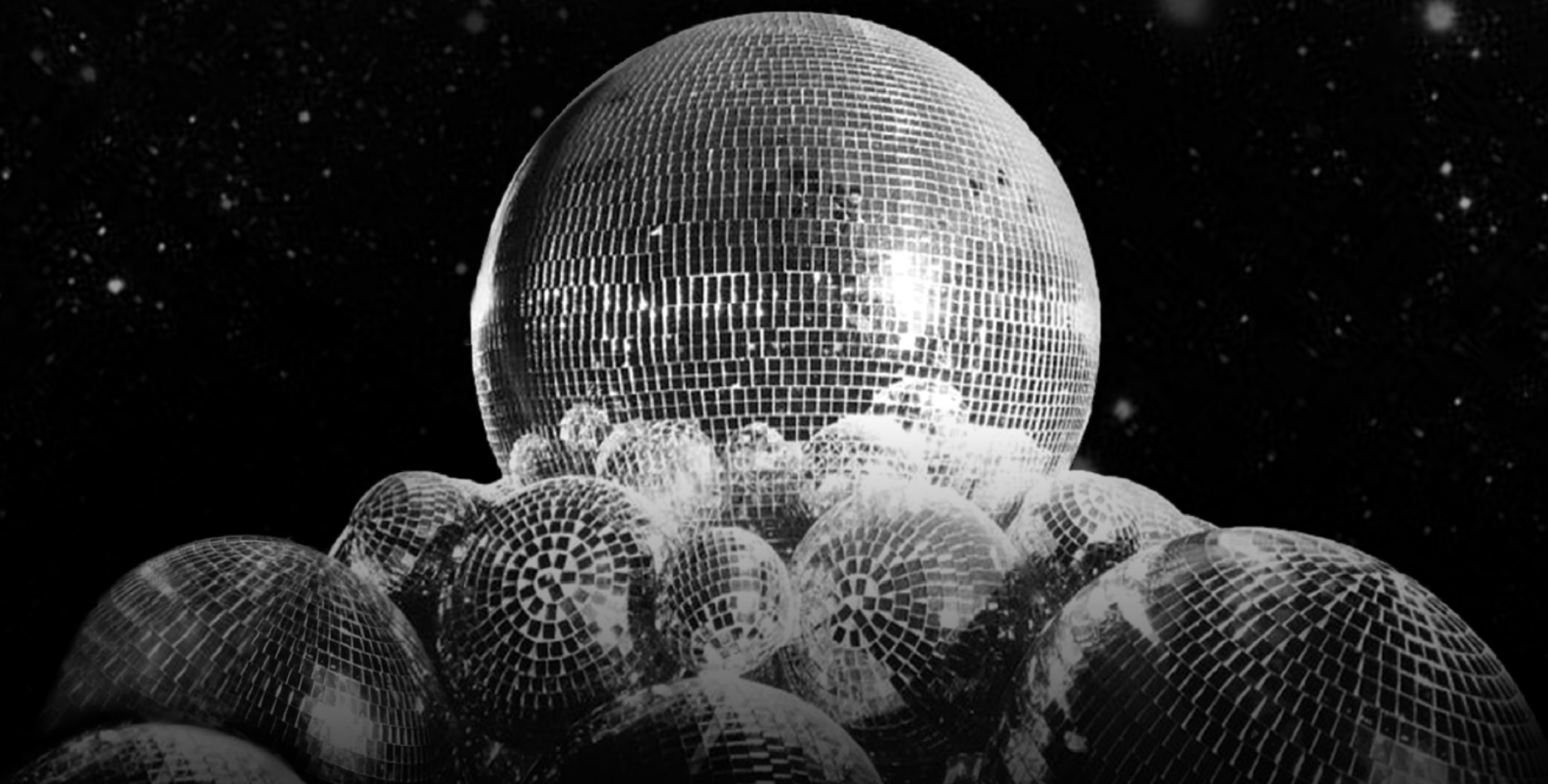
2023 | 2024



HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO <i>EVENT & TOURNAMENT</i>	DATAS <i>DATES</i>
Dona Filipa Hotel	International Amateur Tournament	25/11/2023 – 2/12/2023
Dona Filipa Hotel	Amateur Senior Tour	18/02/2024 – 25/02/2024
Dona Filipa Hotel	Spring Amateur Tournament	23/03/2024 – 30/03/2024
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	Penina Golf Week	05/05/2024 – 11/05/2024
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	XXXIII Henry Cotton Trophy	25/05/2024

BLACK & WHITE

FIM DE ANO | *NEW YEAR'S EVE 2023/2024*





FIM DE ANO . NEW YEAR'S EVE . 2023/2024

MASQUERADE *Ball*

Report from Interclub

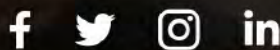
Our season has come to a close and despite a valiant effort in our last match away to VilaSol we will be in Division 2 next year. It also marks the end of my term as Captain, a new Captain will be appointed in the near future. Since my last newsletter, we've only played one home match in which we defeated Vilamoura 3.5-1.5, but our other away matches were defeats. I would like to

thank all the members who have played and supported the team over the past years and will hopefully be selected in the future.

Neil Bamber
Interclub Captain



Follow us on social media.



Report Social Golf by Andy Georges and Adrienne Buth

After a very long summer there was Social Golf on the 15th of October and it was a success. Great turn up with 50 players and 4 extra for dinner. Unfortunately a few had to cancel. We played Traffic lights and this time it was red on the first hole, blue second and yellow on the 3rd. That made it possible to play from the red tees on the 4th of Olives, but it probably had other disadvantages.

The weather was great for the time of the year there was just a short shower that didn't seem to be a big problem for the players. Andy welcomed the new members and some guests and announced the winners:

From Pines to Corks:

1st Neil Riddle, Barbara Riddle, Marianne Wiren and Adrienne Buth with 86 points

2nd. Matt Venker, Cathy Harper, Joy Billingham and Wallace Forde with 81 points

3rd. David Pirret, Heather Conroy, Jane Peters and the floater Jacqueline Griffin with 70 points

From Olives to Pines:

1st John Conroy, Nils Leffler, Noel Curran and floater Sue Georges with 89 points

2nd Stewart Harper, Paul Black, Dorothy Hill and Louise Baker with 88 points

3rd Charles Mc-Cole, Knut Pedersen, Deirdre Forde, Christian Holst with 84 points

The dinner of chicken stroganov, apple strudel and ice cream was very enjoyable thanks to the staff.

Next social golf will be 12th November and will be organized by Knut Pedersen and Ken Irving. Please sign up in time on the app.





Property Matters.

This year has seen another incredibly active and vibrant real estate market across the entire Golden Triangle, with asking price typically being achieved and on some occasions over asking pricing. All the factors that have made the area so attractive remain – excellent communication infrastructure to allow more remote working/digital nomads, stable politics, sound land registration, excellent travel links from Faro to most European cities or hubs, NHR – Non Habitual Resident tax regime offering no wealth tax, no minimum stay, exemption on all foreign income amongst the benefits this offers and of course the climate, golf, beaches and amenities the golden triangle has to offer.

A lack of product is another factor that is driving the market, we have 2 clients specifically looking for a property in Pinheiros Altos and a lack of product available to show, all local agents we work with are seeing this trend as well. So, it is still a seller's market, despite all the strong headwinds of interest rates, inflation and the war in Ukraine. At the moment the market is dominated by buyers looking to relocate or have a holiday home, developers are less active than previously, with the prices at a premium and a new build project taking typically 2 years from planning approval, perhaps for a developer, the market is a little too warm and more uncertainty in Europe than previously.

What we have seen this year is a softening of the rental market for the summer, with some local agents are offering up to 30% discount on villas in Quinta for August, it's too early to be definitive on the reasons behind this, but our impression from talking to potential customers is that cost of living in Europe is starting to have an effect, families who typically chose to vacate in the Algarve are opting for alternatives such as Spain, Turkey, Greece and Croatia.

Although not likely to affect tourist resorts of Quinta, Vale do

Lobo, Dunas Douradas etc, the government earlier this year announced reforms to the AL license laws and qualification, aimed at reducing the level of properties in condominiums operating solely for short term holiday lets, to ensure there is more accommodation available for long term lets and affordable to the average income of Portuguese citizens.

Winter Lets and long term lets continue to be vibrant, we focus on winter lets typically of 4-6months in duration

Accommodation rates have on average seen increases by inflationary amounts of 5-8%, but the cost to a family once they are in the Algarve is an important factor as most families want to dine out for lunch and evening meals and I think we all have noticed the significant increase in dining out!

New build and property renovation projects were incredibly strong again this year due to the buoyant real estate market, €3000-3500 per Sq.m is the average cost of build, the professional builders are typically working on 6-8month lead time for a renovation and up to 12months on demo/new build.

So overall a very positive year for the property sector.

About

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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