

Altos *news*

nº 225 . December 2023



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF CLUB

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Steve Coull



Despite another fantastic turnout for social golf, I found myself missing out once more due to a clash with the three-day Russ Abbott Variety Club Charity event. Unfortunately, I ended up contracting COVID, and spent the next week being house bound and feeling extremely sorry for myself. Nonetheless, it's wonderful to hear that everyone enjoyed the day, and I'm eagerly anticipating the Christmas event. Huge kudos to all involved in organizing these social golf gatherings—a fantastic opportunity for newcomers to connect and mingle with everyone, in a relaxed and fun environment.

Both the monthly medal and stableford rounds saw a great turnout, indicating a growing interest in these events. Congratulations to all who took part and gave it their best shot (s), and well done to Adrienne Booth who emerged as the monthly medal winner.

While acknowledging that these formats may not suit everyone, they serve as a valuable means to refine your skills, sharpen focus, and assess your progress. Moreover, they offer a way to gauge your improvement and attain a handicap that accurately mirrors your current performance level. Additionally, they are a great way to meet and play alongside players of similar abilities, give them a go they are not as scary as they may appear.

Following its earlier cancellation, the Seniors event was played within the monthly stableford, with an impressive field of almost 60 players, which is a great turnout, chapeau to all those involved and the eventual winners. Steven Crowdey (bunker specialist!) came out on top again, well done Steven you're an inspiration to us all, with an impressive 39 points on a chilly day.

I know I keep talking about my lack of form and my ever increasing handicap, but finally, my form is making a slight comeback. It's not happening magically, but only after just a few sessions with Ross, who has the patience of a saint (although not everyone might agree with that statement, I hear your cries!). It's mind-boggling that in the 1960s, they trained a monkey to venture into space. Sixty years later, what's so challenging about teaching a reasonably smart guy to swing a golf club and hit a stationary ball straight? I would urge anyone that is struggling to the point of it no longer being enjoyable to go and visit Ross or Kenny, and with your commitment they will indeed put you straight.....excuse the pun.

On St. Andrew's Day, the opportunity arose for the Celts to take on the rest of the world, led by your Vice Captain Nigel Spokes. It seemed like a flawless plan until... well, let's just say things took an unexpected turn. We had everything in order - haggis, gallons of whiskey, even a bagpiper was lined up. We rallied around 60 enthusiastic players ready to compete, evenly split into two teams. It promised to be an incredible day, and then came the unforeseen twist...

Unfortunately, the weather forecast predicted adverse conditions, coupled with an outbreak of flu in the area. Given these challenges, we made the tough decision to postpone the event until the new year. It was truly disappointing as all those who had signed up were eager and raring to give their best for their respective regions, the revised date is the 20th of January, an early Burns night, so still an opportunity to consume the ton of haggis we have currently in the freezer!

I'm fortunate, throughout this year, to have gained a valuable perspective on the organisation of competitions and events, and the tremendous amount of work and dedication that is invested in them. Before this, I was genuinely appreciative, but may not have fully understood the extent of everyone's commitment. Therefore, I extend a heartfelt salute to all those involved for their extraordinary efforts, thank you.



Furthermore, we'd like to extend our gratitude to those who join and actively take part in these events. The club wouldn't be the same without your participation. If you find yourself on the sidelines, doubting whether this is the right fit for you, we strongly encourage you to take that leap of faith, sign up, and you'll discover that it's a pleasant surprise. For new members who might feel a bit uneasy about stepping into a room full of unfamiliar faces, rest assured that it could be the best decision you've ever made, significantly enriching your experience of your membership.

So, as November bids farewell, ushering us swiftly toward the joyous Christmas celebrations and the impending conclusion of 2023. With this, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, expressing my gratitude for your unwavering support throughout this year.

All the very best,

Steve





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Memorial Day Prize Winners



Memorial Day



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Foursomes Championship Winners Stella Jeffrey and Wendy Evans



Foursomes Championship



python images

Foursomes Championship



Senior Champion Steven Crowdey



Seniors Championship Prize Winners

Director of Golf – Monthly Report

November started with the usual Memorial Day, a day to remember past friends and members who are no longer with us. We have lost many friends this last 12 months including 2 past Captains Michael Collins & Keith Fletcher. Susan Russell & Mark James won the day with a fantastic 46 points.

The Foursomes Championship was also played in early November and unlike other years the competition was almost dry. It also been a tradition now that the Foursomes Championship has seen many ladies team winning and this year was no exception with the new Foursomes Champions Stella Jeffrey and Wendy Evans followed by another ladies' pair Ingrid Blain & Heather Conroy. While the men team John Scouler & David Light took the best gross. Congratulations to all and thank you for a great turn out for such a difficult format.

The Senior Championship which was postponed in October was played on 26th November with the November Stableford. The Champion who was the best gross stableford score of 24 points was Steven Crowdey, our new Senior Champion. Mark Pye took the stableford on the day with 39 points. JO Allen took the super senior with 36 points while Brian Evans was the best senior with a score of 33 points. Thank you to Roger for looking after the day in my absence.

The monthly medal was won by Adrienne Buth with a score of 73 and a better back nine than both Chie Crowdey & Tony Hickey.

The wet weather has helped to improve the course and given some better and smoother growth especially to the fairways while the greens are recovering well even that suffering from dollar spot which is being dealt with. We also intend to undertake as much tree cleaning as we can during the lower season so you might find very often that we have closed 9 holes to allow for the works. Would once more like to remind members to keep their buggies on the path as much as possible and to limit any traffic on fairways during this wet season. December will be a quieter month however it seems things will get busy quite soon in the new year with probably the biggest pro am in Europe being organized over the 4 Quinta do Lago courses (north, South, Pinheiros Altos & San Lorenzo) with 88 teams and 352 players from 7th until 14th January 2024.

Most members will be aware that I am now the interim Golf Director for San Lorenzo Golf Course while Antonio Santos is recovering from his health issue. While this adds quite a lot to my daily schedule which was already busy, it may also open some new opportunities in the future. At the moment I am only trying to resolve the operational synergy between the 2 clubs but hopefully in the future we can enlarge this synergy to all commercial aspects including the members. As you probably all have seen already we managed to offer access to San Lorenzo as members during the lower golf seasons, which also mean easier to book and quicker rounds on the course. I hope many of you will see the advantage to join this offer and make full use of it. I will communicate any new opportunities to our members as these are made available.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!

I have the pleasure to announce that Roger Calico is now officially my assistant and while he will mainly help with tournaments organization he will also become more responsible on the golf course as well as golf bookings. This will off load some of my tasks giving me more time to overlook both golf operation. I would like to ask all members to give full support to Roger as I am confident he will become an even more important support to the golf operation.

The company has now stopped selling golf titles and we only have resales at the moment. I will probably sell about 5 to 6 Golf Titles until the end of this year and only have 10 re-sales available at the moment which have been put up in the last 6 months therefore the market is healthy and demand for membership is becoming more important every year as courses are getting busier with green-fee players. Pinheiros Altos is probably now the only course in the Algarve with as many as 5 to 6 hours of members starting times per day. This allows not only for members to always have access to the course but also to get around the course in 4 hours even in the busiest season.

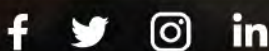
The many social activities have also been a great asset to the golf club and we are looking to improve and create more events to cater for all the different members we have at the moment. I would like to reassure the ladies that the club is not taking over the ladies' section by including it in the fee. The intention is to make it more inclusive and make every lady member, member of the ladies' section. We also decided to run the events in a similar pattern as the club events mainly because it had become confusing for new members to understand why there was 2 different running's, one for the club & one for the Ladies' competition. The lady Captain & her

committee will still have the control of the ladies' section, run competition and decide on fun formats, prizes and other ladies matters. The cost will be covered by the Club as are all other club tournaments, men's roll up and any future competition we may decide to undertake in the future. We are always looking to improve and innovate with new tournaments so any suggestion put up to me or the committee will be welcome. Neil Bamber as you know has now resigned from his Interclub Captain function and we thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the Interclub over the years. The committee has selected David Ford as the new Interclub Captain for next year. He will now be selecting his vice captains and announcing them soon. The position of Interclub Captain is reviewed on a yearly basis but not limited to it. I would like to wish David Ford great success in his new role.

December as usual will see many Christmas tournaments with the Turkey flutter on 21st December 2023 & the boxing day on 26th December 2023. Our usual new Year Day Scramble is also up on the APP for all members who wish to join us. I hope to see many of you joining in the events. Myself, I will be away for my usual family break from 16th December and back for the New Year Day. Roger, Ross & Kenny will be in charge of course with the important help of Cristina, so for sure it will run a lot smoother than when I am around!

Myself and all the Pinheiros Altos staff would like wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2024 !

Follow us on social media.





XXIV INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT 23RD NOV. - 30RD NOV. 2024

Program

- 24th, Sun.** Practice Round – from 9:16 AM
Welcome Cocktail at 7:00 PM
- 25th, Mon.** *Aggregated Stableford* – 1st round – from 10:04 AM
- 26th, Tue.** *Aggregated Stableford* – 2nd round – from 10:04 AM
- 27th, Wed.** Rest Day
- 28th, Thu.** *Aggregated Stableford* – Final round – from 10:04 AM
- 29th, 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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Ladies Section – by Melody Cotterill



Another fabulous month at Altos - lots of blue skies and pleasantly warm, some rain though has helped the golf course so we truly have little to complain about.

The first competition of the month was our Memorial Day, one which is enjoyed by so many of us, A chance for us to remember family, friends and golfing companions no longer with us. Also, of course all those who have given their lives to try and create a better world for us.

With so much fighting still going on in in various parts of the world we are extremely fortunate to live or spend time in the Algarve. As Lady Captain I was so delighted to see Ladies winning the first three places - the only exception was Mark James who I

understand played exceptionally well with Susan Russell to claim First place. Congratulations to all.

Then we went on to the Foursomes Championship, once again my husband dutifully played with me, first day was okay, and the second started well, until between us we put three balls into the water on the 4th of Pines!

Fortunately, my marriage is strong enough to survive but I now truly know why the competition is nicknamed 'Divorcesomes'.

The overall winners I am delighted to report were friends Stella Jeffrey and Wendy Evans - fabulous score- well done to both of them. The Ladies had two friendly matches this month - away to Vilasol,

and at home to Laranjal. It is always such a pleasure to play other teams and enjoy a meal with them. It is always competitive but a lot of fun too, and many halved matches, and new friends gained.

On the 24th November we had the Annual Ladies golf competition and dinner. This year it was a Shambles - with 4 people in each team. Maried Kooijmans kindly sponsored the prizes. Many of you will know Maried and her late husband Bob. They were early members of the club. Maried has now sold her property here and her golf title, and whilst she will come back and visit feels that golf in her eighties is not going to take priority. In leaving the club she has been incredibly generous to all the staff who have made her so welcome over the years, and she also wanted to do something for the Ladies which is why she very kindly sponsored the prizes. I know she was absolutely delighted that the winning team consisted of members she had played with in the past and a new member too. All information and results on the app.

The golf was followed by a fabulous evening where 48 ladies enjoyed the sunset at Eduardos and a great meal. Music was also provided by Chris Stretton and Felipe - so impressed with them I have booked them for my Lady Captains Day on February 21st. This time the evening meal will be held at Pinheiros. So please Ladies make sure the date is firmly in your diary.

As is our tradition the Ladies Section Eclectic Prizes were given out at this event - again all the results are on the app (under Ladies section) but I would particularly like to mention some of our Star players - Ingrid Blain - who won Gross in division one, and Leeza Lynn who won the nett. In Division two (am sure she won't be in this division for long) my Vice Captain Heather Conroy. The nett winner was Debbie Carver - again new to golf but is improving so much - well done Debbie.



Ladies Annual Dinner



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Ladies Annual Dinner



python images

Ladies Annual Dinner



Ladies Annual Dinner

I don't want to repeat all the results but I do want to mention Susan Russell - who so nearly won the Senior Champion Competition - Steven Crowley just pipped her. Fabulous results by all.

Hopefully you have all read about the changes happening next year in the club relative to the Ladies. The change is that all Ladies who pay their annual club membership either as a title holder or spouse will automatically be able to play with the Ladies on a Wednesday, without any need to pay an annual subscription or competition entry fee.

This is a real positive as we really do want to welcome all ladies irrespective of their golfing ability. Two of our competitions every month are team events and these are ideal for the high handicappers to participate in - please do join us, everyone is welcome.

I am very aware that some members are concerned about change, if this is you, please do make contact with myself or any member of the Ladies committee - Heather Conroy, Lucy Pye, Ingrid Blain or Debbie Carver. We truly want to make your experience at our club the best it can be.

Finally, the Christmas Elves have been very busy at Pinheiros buying and wrapping 195 presents for young people nominated by the Salvation Army. These youngsters range in age from new borns to 16. I can't thank enough all our members who have donated their time or their money (and in many cases both) to give a little happiness. I hope to share some pictures in the near future.

Other children's homes, in particular, one of our key charities have been supported too - totally understand now the expression shop till you drop!

Oh, and there is one last picture, I want to share with you, our truly glamorous Shirley Lamb - Shirley has been a member of our club for a long time, sadly not playing many times with us as she lives in the UK. I certainly find it inspiring that at 91 she can still win competitions and look so good, I am sure it will encourage many of our ladies.



Shirley Lamb



Eventos de Golfe / *Golf Events by* **JJW HOTELS** 2024



HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO <i>EVENT & TOURNAMENT</i>	DATAS <i>DATES</i>
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 Sir Henry Cotton Trophy	25/05/2024
Dona Filipa Hotel	XXIV International Amateur Tournament	23/11/2024 – 30/11/2024

PRO TIP

A PGA Professional isn't just for Christmas!

As we're coming in to the festive period & quieter winter months why not look at improving your golf game or help someone else's before the golf season resumes in 2024.

Our PGA professionals are available for tuition throughout the winter with packages available for series of lessons or for vouchers for Xmas gifts & stocking fillers. Whether it's a long term project or a quick retuning, the team is always available to help you reach your goals.

Get in contact directly with the Professionals for more information or enquire at the golf reception. Our on-line booking system & website also has information on our tuition rates. www.pinheirosaltosgolfacademy.com

Have a great Xmas

Golf Professionals

Ross Sutherland
PGA Head Professional
Pinheiros Altos Campo do Golfe



Natal *Christmas* 2023



PENINA HOTEL
& GOLF RESORT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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

MASQUERADE *Ball*



DONA FILIPA
HOTEL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



NATAL
CHRISTMAS
2023

BLACK & WHITE

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



Report from the Greens Committee

The full committee met on Wednesday 13th December.

STRI had made their end of year visit but the committee have not had the opportunity to read their report. We believe it is positive and that they have found the course to be better than expected bearing in mind the dry summer and autumn with ongoing water restrictions!

This report therefore reflects the comments made by Antonio (head green keeper and Christophe Director of PA) together with the observation of the committee members.

1.Tees

The very heavy usage of the course continues to make the tees sensitive and coupled with the fact that there are very small tees,

opportunities to move and rest tees is limited. The first of Pines being a good example of what can be achieved on a large tee with good growth and ability to move the tee plates. Resting 5 of Pines tee has only being partially successful and the back tee needs to be larger and re-laid in our opinion.

We would like to see sand and seed pots available on all tees and members and staff and visitors urged to make repairs where necessary.

2.Fairways

We believe better fertilizer and some substantial rain and irrigation has been very helpful in bringing our fairways very close to the best condition for many years. We would hope that preferred placing will be lifted in next spring!

Antonio has been very successful in producing these improvements.

Members will remember that many trees and roots adjacent to the fairways are in a continuing plan of both removal and cutting back. We are well behind the hoped for time table and roots and trees which over hang fairways and greens need removing ASAP! There is good evidence that removing trees which were destroyed in last month's storms is well underway.

3.Rough grass

The equipment to cut rough grass has either broken down or in repair. This is a temporary position but the effect on rough on many holes on Olives is a bad example leaving members and visitors

looking for a ball which slows play and members tend avoid these holes!

4.Greens

With the exception of some Dollar spot on some greens on Pines and Corks the greens are true and running between 8/9 on the Stimp meter. The Dollar spot would in the past be dealt with chemicals which are no longer available! However Antonio believes this problem is under control and he hopes the greens will be running true on all holes very shortly.

5.Bunkers

The sand is being raked more than before but we believe our bunkers are very poor and many have sand which prevents balls rolling to the centre with severe over hangs. We would like to see if STRI have any comments on this problem?

6.Work force

There is good news in that 4 new green staff have started working bringing the number close to the recommended numbers. This should enable Antonio to carry more efficiently the many tasks still remaining

Our course is still regarded as one of the most demanding in the Algarve and it is unfortunate that we get very mixed "press" from the golf journalists who have not played our course!

The Algarve is changing and money of unprecedented amounts is being spent with mainly overseas finance.

We remain optimistic for the future of our course but it will be challenging!

*Stewart Harper chairman,
David Ford,
Duncan Evans.*

Social Golf Report

by Ken Irving and Knut Pedersen

On Sunday the 12th of November, we had the Social monthly. The weather was back with some heat and sunshine.

We had a great turn out with 59 golfers and “Shambles” as the format. It was very nice for us to see that we are back with the high numbers of players, like in the “old” days. Thanks to everyone that played and made this Sunday a joy to host.

We had some very high scores in the 100`s.

62 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:

Pines to Corks

1st with 117 points: Dawn Warnock, David Warnock, Patrice Boilletot and Lisa Burns as a floater

2nd with 110 points: Knut Pedersen, Sabine Schlegel, Dirk Bleasing and Irmgard Meyer

3rd with 101 points: Meg Black, Mark Pye, Greg Griffin and Barbara Kyne. BB9

4th with 101 points Mai Markey, Pat Galloway, Per Kleppa and Albert Crowley

Olives to Pines

1st with 107 points: Paul Hanby, Brendan O`Leary, Lucy Pye and Molly Wainwright. BB9

2nd with 107 points: Marianne Wirèn, Tony Staddon, John Conroy and Jacqueline Griffin

3rd with 104 points: Bernd Görger, Gabriele Görger-Koch, Gundi Friedl and Peter Friedl

4th with 101 points: Kieran Kenny, Paul Cotterill, Rosie Agnew and Ann Walsh

I will also thanks Christophe and his staff for getting all the T-times and support.

Next Social will be held 10th of December – Christmas Social with Andy Georges, Adrienne Buth and Knut Pedersen.

Hope to see you all



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



2024 Tournaments

To be held at

San Lorenzo



6th January 2024	Mens Roll up
17th January 2024	Ladies Day
21st January 2024	January Stableford
28th January 2024	Social Golf
9th February 2024	St Valentine
10th February 2024	St Valentine
18th February 2024	February Stableford
15th June 2024	Mens Roll up
16th June 2024	June Stableford
7th July 2024	July Stableford
10th July 2024	Ladies Day
13th July 2024	Mens Roll up
23rd July 2024	GALA Week
4th August 2024	August Stableford
14th August 2024	Ladies Day
24th August 2024	Mens Roll up
7th December 2024	Mens Roll up
11th December 2024	Ladies Day
15th December 2024	December Stableford