



## Introduction from the Captain - Mr Steve Coull



It's astonishing how swiftly time flies, especially as we all mature in years. 2023 has zoomed by in a blink of an eye and hopefully everyone had a great year.

The Christmas season was jam-packed with golfing events and parties, with our poor livers and digestive systems still pleading for some moderation, but hopefully the festivities passed and a fantastic time, was had by all, nonetheless.

I'm going to take this opportunity to have a quick mini review of the 2023 season, arriving to its close, it got me contemplating the standout moments of the year, and a few highlights spring to mind. Of course, gala week in July leaps out prominently — it was an absolute blast mingling with members from all corners of the club joining in. The Picnic on the Green was unforgettable, mainly due to the volumes of alcohol consumed, and I really hope Nigel decides to organize a repeat in 2024. The collective effort invested in the charity event and the remarkable results it yielded were incredibly fulfilling. Not to forget the Ryder Cup, Portuguese Day, and the Wooden Spoon — each of these team events was a fantastic blend of competition and enjoyment, these were probably my personal favourites.

It's funny how some events are more popular than others, but for sure some people take more from the fun events that the super competitive matches, what's important is that we all retain the ability to choose what we like and patriciate in these, but whilst venturing into either choice as we feel the desire to do so.

This train of thought led me to a deeper realization. It's not solely the golf course or even the physical club that truly enriches our lives; it's the people we surround ourselves with. Some we encounter regularly, while others we only see within the club's bounds. So, to answer directly, the highlight of 2023 is undeniably the people and the enduring friendships we're all fortunate to possess.

So, the clock hit midnight and here we are in 2024, venturing into another new year. First and foremost, a heartfelt Happy New Year to each and all of you, and hopefully 2024 brings you all that you aspire for, good health and happiness, must be at the forefront of these desires. Looking forward to another year filled with sunshine and fantastic moments in our own little corner of paradise, pinch yourself regularly, and appreciate exactly what we all have.

The New Year's Day scramble, always a crowd-pleaser, saw a commendable turnout, despite the absence of some still enjoying their holidays or recovering from the lingering illness that made its presence felt in the Algarve. I sincerely hope those affected are now on the path to a full recovery. A big shout-out to everyone who took part, and congratulations to the ultimate victors.

Christophe, who spent some of December away, returned to a challenging experience with the Pro-Am. Now recognized as the largest single event in Europe, we should take immense pride in his accomplishments and the prominent role that PA plays in it. Chapeau to Christophe for orchestrating such an incredible event.

We eagerly anticipated the Celts versus the rest of the world event, a replacement from the St. Andrews day gathering which was rained off in December. This provided us with the perfect opportunity to revive the National Day Challenge. In this challenge, the Captain and Vice-Captain square off, forming and leading teams from their respective countries to engage in friendly competition. It was a fantastic day, and while I won't indulge in boasting about the results, (too much), I ought to mention that Team Rest of the World, led by Nigel, much like the haggis filled chicken breasts was well and truly stuffed, a resounding 11-6 victor y to the Celts. Yet, as any gracious winner would attest, the true victory lies in the spirit of participation.

The kitchen staff excelled in preparing and serving Balmoral Chicken, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from all the tables. Many attendees went so far as to declare it the "best meal they've ever had at the club." Kudos to the staff for a job well done. Special thanks to Graeme Thomson for delivering the Selkirk Grace and to David Warnock for addressing the haggis, adding an authentic touch to our early Burns Night celebration.

I extend my appreciation to everyone involved in the event's preparations, especially those who stepped in last minute to fill the spots left by the "dropouts." Organizing such events involves significant effort, from drawing up the plans to accommodating everyone's personal preferences, and it's heartening to see the club's active members embracing this communal spirit. Thanks to all the positive individuals who contribute to making these events memorable and helping out last minute.

The next day, (Sunday) the monthly Stableford event at San Lorenzo which, as always, was very well attended, well done to all those taking part, San Lorenzo still has to be the best golf course in the area, the layout is not for the faint hearted and is a magnificent test of course management skills, we are very lucky to have access to this fabulous facility.

This was followed in the evening by an additional gathering "orchestrated" by Kristina Griffith and promoted by David Markey. This special occasion was the Magical Movie Music event, featuring the talented string quartet Lucem. I must admit, I found myself reluctantly pulled into this affair, originally having other plans. The prospect of spending extended periods of time at the same table as Nigel without engaging in conversation seemed an impossible feat, leading me to attend with a degree of reluctance and indeed a mild protest, within the Coull household. However, the experience turned out to be nothing short of brilliant. The music was truly enchanting, and I found myself thoroughly enjoying the event. I encourage anyone who hasn't experienced it to give it a try; you'll be pleasantly surprised. It was a fabulous experience, and I have become a complete convert, eagerly anticipating the next event, which I will attend with great pleasure. Well done to Kristina and all those who attended, a great way to round off what was an extremely busy weekend for the club.

Shortly afterwards, I found myself in the hospital undergoing surgery that I had been postponing for the past year. Fortunately, the operation was successful, but it means I'll be unable to play golf for the next 4-6 weeks. (Some might argue that I haven't been able to play golf for the last 3 years, so what's the difference?) But I'll be around the club joining in the festivities where I can.

The positive aspect is that this situation has motivated me to quit smoking for good and drinking for the foreseeable future. As of writing this, I've been smoke-free for almost 3 weeks and have limited myself to the occasional small beer. It's a genuine game-changer – one could describe it as my enforced moderation coming home to roost!

So that's all folks for December and January, wishing you all well and looking forward to the sun coming out, everyone returning and having some more fun in the last couple of months of my honourable position as your Captain.

Best regards

Steve





Christmas Turkey Flutter Prize Winners



Christmas Turkey



Christmas Turkey



Boxing Day Prize Winners



Boxing Day



New Year's Scramble Prize Winners



Celts Vs The Rest of the World



Celts Vs The Rest of the World

## Director of Golf - Monthly Report

It is quite sometimes since the last newsletter as we did not report on all the December activities.

The next Club Captain Nigel Spooks is delighted to announce that Hugh Campbell has accepted to be the nominee to become Vice-Captain of the Club at the 2024 AGM. I am also delighted to report that following the acceptance of Christine Soden to become the next Lady Vice- Captain, we have a vacancy on the committee to represent the members. Accordingly, the committee may appoint a member to fill in the vacancy to conclude her term of office. More information will be sent from the committee.

Whilst I have been given the responsibility of Interim Director of Golf at San Lorenzo and my work load has substantially increased, we have employed 2 new staff and looking for one more for the new combined golf operations of San Lorenzo & Pinheiros Altos. Roger has now taken his responsibility of my assistant and will gradually take over some of my daily tasks. This will give me more time to concentrate on the running of the 2 courses and possible synergies for the future as well as with our maintenance teams. I would like to ask the membership to give full support to Roger which I know will be totally capable to fulfill his new role.

While I was away for Christmas and therefore Roger & Cristina were in charge of the events and I must say Roger has been a great help also with the assistance of Kenny & Ross. The usual Christmas Turkey flutter was won by Adrienne Buth with a fantastic score of 40 points. Thank you to Paulo in the Portico for arranging all the prizes for the Turkey Flutter.

The boxing day was yet again won by Tim & Susan Russell with a great score of 37 points with a small margin of 1 point to Leeza Lynn playing with Fraser Craig & Gary Miller Cheevers & Peter Seabrook. Young Ethan Sutherland (Ross' son) got yet another hole in one which was a real bummer for Ross who still not had one but already paid for 2!

Steve Crowdey won the medal in December with a score of 71 while Keith Inman won the December Stableford at San Lorenzo with 39 points. Congratulations to both!

We started the year with our usual New Year Day Scramble. The trophy was won by David, Dawn & Warnock Campbell, Leeza Lynn & Fraser Craig with a fantastic score of 15 under par. I must apologies to the team Tim & Susan Russell, Paul & Melody Cotterill & Stewart Edwards who came third on the day but I miscounted their card so they were not presented on the day. I put that down to 2 long weeks holiday and a heavy New Year's Eve party as I arrived back in Portugal on 31st December!

There was no rest as I arrived as on 2nd of January we started the Algarvian Senior Invitational and had to check in 144 players of which 90 senior pros from all over the world. Both course Pinheiros Altos & Laranjal were playing very tough this year as there was no run on the fairways due to all the growth we had through the month of December and all players found it very long to play.

Matt Cort, last year's winner had a 2 shot lead going into 16th hole (7 on Corks) but his attempt to get onto the greens of both par 5 in two were not successful while Rod Bastard manage to birdie 7th Corks, par the 8th on Corks and chipped almost in on 9th of corks to take it to a play-off which was played on 9th Corks. Rod managed to win the play off once more with an amazing chip which took him to victory and a prize of €7.500. Matt Cort won €4.500 and in third place veteran Andrew Oldcorn won €3.000. All players were very complementary of the 2 courses. Congratulations to all involved and a big thank you to our continuous sponsor and member Mr. John Waters who make the Tournament possible.

The following day the Algarvian Charity Pro Am started and we can say it broke another record of being the biggest pro am in Europe with 332 players playing over 4 courses (Pinheiros Altos, San Lorenzo, Quinta do Lago North & South) Most players filling up the Dona Filipa Hotel but this with also quite a few members teams from Pinheiros Altos but also Quinta do Lago & Laranjal. In total we had 83 teams.

The level of golf played over the 4 days was phenomenal. The winning team which had been taking part since almost the first Por Am in 2016 consisted of Malcolm Wager, Ben Haynes, Andy Flatters and their Pro Andy Raitt were 57 under par for the 4 days and they only won it by only 1 shot from Mark Ashworth team.

# TOURNAMENT RESULTS PLEASE CHECK THE APP!

Pro Simon Lilly won the pro prize money at 21 under par for the 4 days wining €1.300 while 3 other pros were tied on 2nd at 16 under Par, young Christopher Sahlstrom, many times winner David Coupland and our local representant JR Galbraith. Mike Watson had a fantastic 63 for his final round at Pinheiros Altos to win for the second time running the Senior prize money and took home €1.300.

Again, all participants in the Algarvian Charity Pro Am were so complementary on the tournament but also the 4 courses and again special mentions about the Pinheiros Altos fairways which can only make us proud and I must congratulate our green-keeper António and his team for all the hard work put into improving the golf course. Most teams have already shown interest to come back next year and the 2025 Algarvian Charity Pro Am is already almost fully booked!



Algarvian Charity Pro Am



Algarvian Charity Pro Am

Susan Russell started her year winning with taking the Winter medal with a score of 68 while the stableford at San Lorenzo was won by Per Anton Kleppa with 35 points.

Also played in January was Burns Day & Night which saw a team of Celts taking over the rest of the world which was won by the Celts 11 to 6 and the National challenge is now in the hands of Nigel Spokes for ST George's Day which is already booked on April 23rd when the English take on the rest of the world! The meal cooked was a typical Scottish meal cooked by our Portuguese chef Fernando and you would not tell the difference, everybody enjoyed the Haggis!

Next day we had 80 people for the musical night which everyone there seems to have enjoyed. We are looking at organizing more social evenings and the incoming Captain Nigel Spokes has come up with a few ideas which will be communicated to the membership soon.

Membership is healthy and many Golf Titles are changing hands. I do believe that with the golf course improving and the great atmosphere within the club, the membership will continue to grow and make the club the place to join!

I look forward to see many of you making your way back to Portugal in the next few weeks and enjoy your golf at Pinheiros Altos!

#### A.G.M.

The A.G.M. of the Pinheiros Altos Golf Club will take place on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse.

#### Agenda

- 1. 10:00 a.m. Meeting is opened by the Chairman of the AGM
- 2. The Chairman will introduce the outgoing Captain Mr. Stephen Coull
- **3.** Mr. Stephen Coull summarizes his year and introduces the Captain for the coming year Mr. Nigel Spokes
- **4.** The Captains acceptance speech
- **5.** Report from the Director of Golf including the response to written questions
- **6.** The Chairman closes the meeting

Questions for the Director of Golf at the A.G.M. should be made in writing and presented at the Golf Office on or before Thursday 14th March 2024.

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

If any principal member would like to stand for election as Incoming Vice-Captain they should notify the Golf Office, proposed and seconded by four principal members in writing on or before Thursday 14th March 2024.

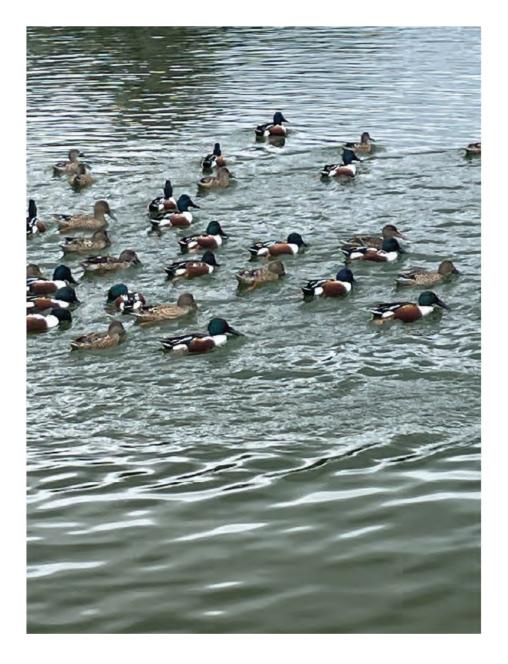
#### Shoveler

It is that time of the year when the mating season for birds really gets going! The most visual courting performance each year at PA is the circular chasing by the male shovelers. This aquatic show is normally enacted on the pond area between the 8th Olives teebox and the green. It started, because of the pre-Xmas warmth, in late December and should continue in January before the nest building really gets going.

Speaking of nest building, I saw mallards starting to build on the edge of the pond in front of the 5th of Olives on Wednesday 10th January.

The colours of the male and female shovelers are extremely similar to mallard, but the clue as to the difference is in their name! They have a huge flat bill. See if you can tell the difference!!

If you have any questions that are not too difficult, drop me a line at <a href="mailto:stuartknox3@gmail.com">stuartknox3@gmail.com</a>



Shoveler ducks



HOTEL	EVENTO/TORNEIO EVENT & TOURNAMENT	<b>DATAS</b> <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



## Ladies Section – by Melody Cotterill

Time flies at Pinheiros, I write this as January comes to a close.

December did not start well for me, as unexpectedly the news of the changes to the Ladies section announced by Christophe, were not as well received as we had expected and hoped for by a minority of our members. On reflection, I believe it was lack of understanding, but certainly caused me heartache, which I truly did not expect. However, thanks to the fast response from Christophe, misunderstandings were resolved and I received apologises from all concerned.

So, December resulted in a fabulous month at Pinheiros. The weather did not stop any Ladies Competitions, my favourite was the Scramble we had on the 20th which was followed by a casual Christmas lunch. Everyone looked fantastic in their festive outfits and Nathan our President's Grandson judged the best - Carol Knight.



Ladies Christmas Competition Prize winners



Ladies Christmas Competition



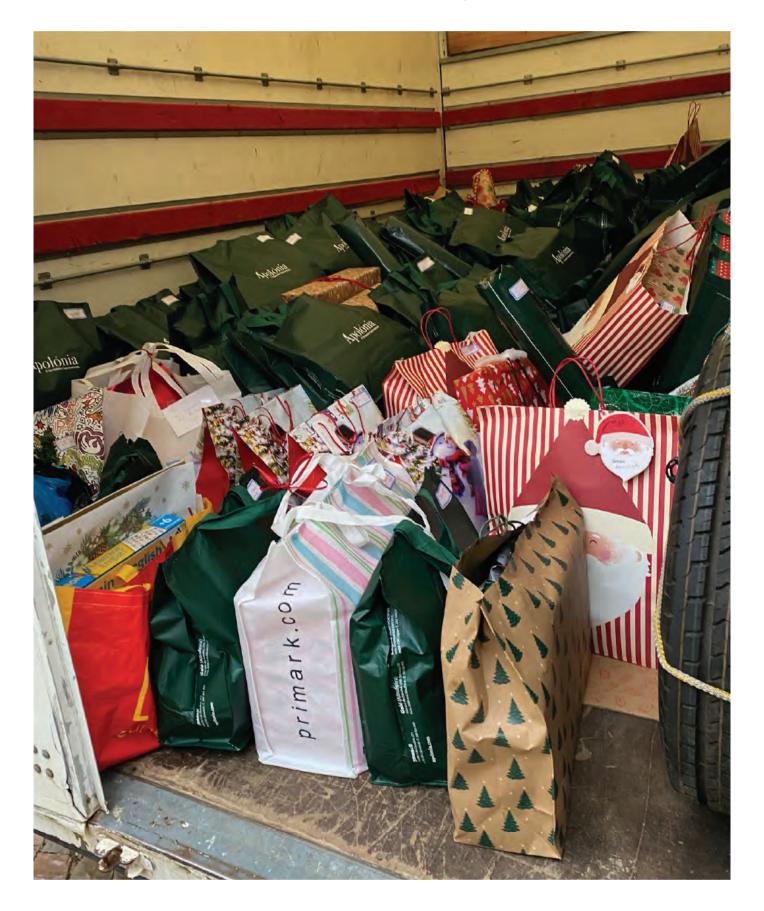
Ladies Christmas Competition

Also, on the 5th December the Salvation Army collected the 195 presents we bought for the local children who without the generosity of our members and friends would not have had a gift at Christmas.

Thanks again to everyone who donated, shopped and wrapped. It was a massive task but so much appreciated by all. These photos go someway to illustrate.



Lady Captain Melody Cotterill and salvation Army Team



195 Christmas presents were donated to local children

We also had the opportunity to play a couple of times at San Lorenzo - such a bonus.

The weather was expected to change in January, but certainly did not stop any Ladies playing golf, we had a particularly windy day when we played at San Lorenzo but still very enjoyable for all. Other days we had temperatures soaring to the mid 20s, we are all so privileged to be able to spend January here. The results of all our competitions are on the app, the new prizes are well received by our members and the choice of vouchers for the Club house or the Shop appreciated.

Some of our members also participated in the Pro Am, a very exciting competition, which included playing Quinta, South and North plus San Lorenzo and Pinheiros. Christophe kept us all informed of the scores and it was great to see how well our teams were doing. I attended the final dinner, and was delighted to be told that by many how much they enjoyed playing Pinheiros.

I am very much looking forward to February and my Lady Captains day, the evening meal for which is being held at Club. This is a first for many years, and look forward to seeing many of our Lady members and their guests there. Prior to that we have the Lady Foursomes completion, Valentines competitions and Lady Captain VS Lady Vice Captain, plus the usual monthly Medals and Stableford.

Please continue to enjoy your time at Pinheiros and I look forward to seeing many of you here.

Best wishes

Melody Cotterill



Ladies Social Lunch at Four Seasons Country Club



Ladies Social Lunch at Four Seasons Country Club





### XXIV INTERNATIONAL

AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT 23<sup>RD</sup> NOV. - 30<sup>RD</sup> 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, Frl. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  $1^{\circ\prime}$ ,  $2^{\circ\prime\prime}$  or  $3^{\circ\prime\prime}$  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 the Greens Committee

The committee met on the 25th January and due to problems of location and the need to report to members in the monthly report the meeting had to go ahead without Duncan Evans and David Ford. This report reflects their views and has their approval and Christophe and Antonio together with the writer discussed the present condition of the course and the problems and challenges ahead.

#### 1. Course general condition.

The very dry summer and autumn and restrictions imposed on watering have been ameliorated by rainfall over the last few months and together with the use of repaired bore holes water for the fairways is much improved.

#### 2. Present position

The course has been very busy with not just members and visitors but also competitors both amateurs and professionals. The committee believe that the course presents well but there remain substantial challenges going forward.

Antonio has been able to recruit 4 more green staff. They require supervision and training but bunker raking and cutting has improved. We are still 3/4 men short as advised by STRI. Members must remember that we have remained open for 365 days whilst many courses in UK have been shut many days over the last 4 months! We have 27 holes and very difficult weather but largely sunny and dry!

#### 3. Challenges

We have seen that provisions are in place to remove tree roots. Whilst there is welcome action we believe that these still represent a serious challenge and more equipment and man power is needed. Very few members recognize the rule on dropping away from tree roots without penalty if the line of site to the green is obscured. The roots are so frequent we understand the problems.

The cutting down of the many trees which Antonio and the STRI recommended is still not done! They are preventing light and growth to both greens and tees. The problem is (we are advised) the contractors are very busy and can pick and choose which job they do first! No payment is demanded just the removal of the timber to sell on. We hope this problem will be dealt with very soon!

The course equipment remains a serious challenge to course maintenance and presentation. We hope that provision will be made very quickly for a Lease contract based on annual or two year periods. This will allow us to replace much of the antiquated equipment. It makes economic sense and will go a long way to provide a well presented course. At present the course equipment can be over 20 years old and needs regular repair. We have an extra cutter for rough and a new blower but the increased numbers of both new members and visitors should surely allow this additional modest investment?

#### 4. Concerns

We remain of the view that the course is a good challenge for all golfers and the serious concerns we held in the past on maintenance of both greens and tees and fairways is being met by Antonio (dollar spot should go soon). However to maintain the course we must have the investment in equipment which every modern course has! This means irrigation and machinery and man power.

Stewart Harper Chairman David Ford Duncan Evans



## Special Christmas Social Golf Report by Andy Georges and Adrienne Buth

Great turn-up! Unfortunately, Knut Pedersen, who represents us in the Golf committee couldn't organize nor attend because of his mother's funeral, but he offered us mulled wine and biscuits.

The format was Texas Scramble.

Andy welcomed all players and a few partners who had come for the excellent meal. He also welcomed Jacky and Mike Stringer who joined for the first time.

The winners:

#### Corks to Olives

- 1st Nigel Spokes, Zoe Pirret, Harri Nordstrom and Frances Smeaton score: 66,9
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Orlando Hill, Barry Smeaton, Janette Staddon and Sue Coull score 67.4
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Pye, Cathy Harper, Tony Hickey and Arja Nordstrom score 67.9
- 4th Steve Coull, Dawn Warnock, Charles McCole and Stella Jeffrey score 71,4

#### Olives to Pines

- 1st Colin Glennon. Nils Leffler, Katalin von Hofsten and Leeza Lynn score 65
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Per Anton Kleppa, Ingrid Blain, Marianne Wiren and Tony Staddon score 66,2
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosie Agnew, Michel Sohier, David Warnock and Val Rennie score 66,7
- 4th David Markey, Bertil Wiren, Mae McCole and Molly Wainwright score 72

There was also a special prize for the best Christmas Jumper won by Harri Nordstrom and the worst was for his wife Arja who just had the same jumper.



Each table had a Christmas pot as decoration and that was given to one of the guests.

There were 53 dinner guest and 52 players.

Next social golf in January 29th.

A generous tip was given to the staff.

Our president David Markey thanked the members involved with Social Golf. He remembered that it was Molly Wainwright who set up "social Golf" some 25 years ago and that many members still enjoy it and do their best to attend and if I may quote our Captain Steve in the December Newsletter it is "a fantastic opportunity for newcomers to connect and mingle with everyone in a relaxed and fun environment".

Hope to see you end of January. Happy New Year!



# Social Golf Report by Sue Georges and Knut Pedersen

On Sunday the 28th of January, we had the monthly Social Golf. We had to cancel the August Social at San Lorenzo, so thanks to Christophe he made it possible for us to have the January social at San Lorenzo instead.

The weather was slightly overcast and windy, but cleared up during the day to make it a great day for golf.

We had a great turn out with 53 golfers and "Reversed Waltz" as the format.

This resulted in that we only had to make one score on the 18th on SL.

58 persons for dinner, and chicken and chips with apple pie and ice cream was good, and rounded of a great day on the golf course.

The result of the day:

- 1st Place with 83 points: Charles McCole, Joanna Young, Paul Hanby and Barbara Kyne
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 79 points: Jaqueline Griffin, Albert Crowley, Bertil Wirèn and Graham Burgess
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place with 76 points: Patricia Tolland, David Warnock, Peter Young and Adrienne Buth
- 4th Place with 74 points: Mat Venker, Janette Staddon, Debbie Carver, Sue Georges \*(Floater), BB9
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place with 74 points: John Scouler, Tom Burke, Rita Holst and Mai Markey
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place with 72 points: Andrew Gray, Barry Smeaton, Melody Cotterill and Charlotte Parker
- 7th Place with 71 points: Barbara Riddell, Kieran Nagle, Helga Crowley and Noel Kelly \*(Floater)

Thanks to everyone that played, attended, and made this Sunday a joy to host.

I will also thank Christophe and his staff for getting all the tee times, catering and support.

Because rising prices and cost, we have to raise the price for the Social from 30 to 35 Euro for the Players and 30 Euro for the guests for dinner.

Next Social Golf event on the 18th of February. Organised by Adrienne Buth and Stella Jeffrey.

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 "page 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