

Altos *news*

nº 228 . April 2024



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF CLUB

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Nigel Spokes

Dear Members

Can I please say most sincerely what a privilege it is for me to take over the Captaincy of your Golf Club from my Hero Mr Steve Coull.

I was blown away by the number of good luck messages from so many of you.

The Drive-in went as well as I could have hoped, and it was a little extra special to have my son and his wife there with our three granddaughters.

Congratulations to the winners of the Captain Drive-in Scramble with a special mention for Harry (aged 12) & Rory Nobbs (10) who managed to help their father & grandfather pick up some prizes. I asked Rory if he wanted to say a few words but he gracefully declined – maybe next year!

The Easter Scramble was a great success and a special thanks to Roger who knocked out some great tunes for the members to enjoy, I was wondering if some members didn't have homes to go back to.

Congratulations to the Ladies in defeating the Cloggies, I think Cyril was a little out muscled by the Ladies' Captain and her team with the draw and handicaps.

Looking forward to the next few months, which is an extremely busy time for the Club.

Kindest regards

Nigel



Report from the Outgoing Captain – Mr Steve Coull

And here we are, presenting my final report with a few noteworthy points to discuss. Strangely, I had initially thought that last month's report would be my farewell, for reasons I can't quite explain, sorry about that.

The St. David's Day Medal on the 3rd saw a strong turnout, with Jean-Marc Thibonnier emerging as the victor. Congratulations to Jean-Marc! Additionally, Lucy Pye clinched the March Stableford title. Congratulations to both winners!

In the Men's Pairs Match Play, Mark Pye and Sergey Naumov secured victory for the second consecutive year. Kudos to Mark and Sergey for their impressive performance! Commendations also to John Bondoc and Noel Kelly for their spirited effort, although luck was not on their side this time. Well done, gentlemen!

Nigel, Tracey, Sue and I enjoyed a fantastic few weeks away from the Algarve on holiday, which unfortunately meant we missed out on all the aforementioned events. However, we were there in spirit, (mainly rum) following events from a distance.

Nigel & I were delighted to be invited to the ladies' AGM, where we had the pleasure of witnessing Heather Conroy being inaugurated as the new Captain of the Ladies section.

Heather is an incredibly popular choice, and we have no doubt that she will devote herself tirelessly to ensuring everyone has a wonderful time this year. She will be supported by Christine Soden as her Vice-Captain. The turnout for the Ladies AGM was exceptional, reportedly the "best ever", a clear testament to the support for these two remarkable ladies. Heather's drive-in was truly impressive, setting the bar high and putting the pressure right back on Nigel for his upcoming day.

The Club AGM proceeded relatively smoothly this year, likely because we were all eager to witness Nigel's inaugural drive from the first tee. I couldn't help but feel a twinge of disappointment when he smashed the ball straight down the middle. Having played numerous rounds with him recently, I must admit it was the finest drive I've ever seen him execute. To add insult to injury, it was declared by Christophe as "probably the best drive in the last 20 years," a claim Nigel will undoubtedly dine out on for some considerable time!

Of course, all of this is said in good humour, and I am genuinely thrilled for Nigel, as well as for the Club and its members. He is sure to be an outstanding Captain, and while I may have my doubts about his drive being the greatest, I have full confidence that he will excel in his role as the Club Captain, perhaps even surpassing all high expectations. Best wishes to Nigel, Hugh, Heather, and Chrissie. May your year ahead be filled with enjoyment and success. Additionally, John Bondoc, joins the committee and will indeed be a valuable asset to the club going forward.

In closing, the future looks extremely bright, and I extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for your steadfast support, your kind words, and your generous gestures throughout the course of the year. Time has passed by swiftly, and reflecting on it, I can confidently say it has been an immensely enjoyable, rewarding, and humbling experience. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour to have served you all. Thank you!

With the warmest & best regards,

Steve



Outgoing Captain Mr Steve Coull, Club President Mr David Markey and Incoming Club Captain Mr Nigel Spokes



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Captain's Drive In



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Captain's Drive In 9 Holes Scramble Prize winners



Captain's Drive In Lunch



Captain's Drive In Lunch

Director of Golf – Monthly Report

March started with the Men's pairs match play and saw last year's winner Mark Pye & Sergey Naumov taking the trophy for the second year running. The tournament was run over 4 days in a row and it was a good entry but myself and the committee feels it could be a better entry if it was run over the year avoid having to play 4 rounds in a row. Therefore, for the individual match

play-play which also has been run over 4 days and sometimes even had 36 holes played in one day, we have decided to run it during the year and play the final 2 rounds over 2 days on 21st & 22nd September 2024. Entries are open until 5th May and early matches will be played between May & September 2024. Make sure you sign in before the 5th May if you wish to enter.



Men's Pairs Match Play Prize Winners



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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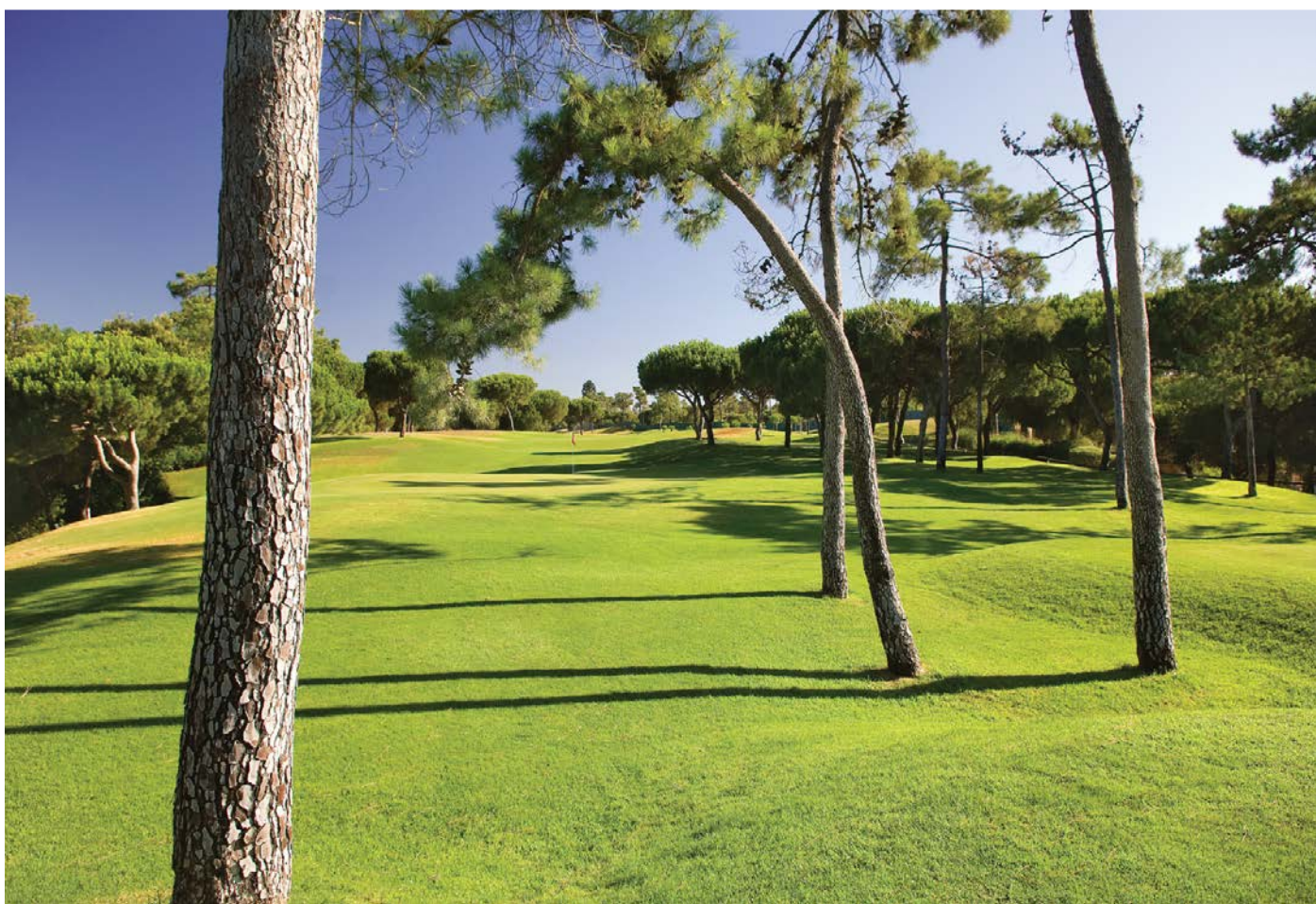
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Men's Pairs Match Play



The Golf AGM took place on 28th March 2024 where Nigel Spokes took over his duties of Club Captain and produced an amazing drive in which to the surprise of all present nailed of the first tee, this is promising for the rest of the year! Also, Heather Conroy is now the new Lady Captain, while Hugh Campbell is the Club Vice Captain & Chris Soden is the Lady Vice Captain. John Bondoc was nominated by the committee to take over the member's representative spot left available by Chris Soden. I am confident a very pro-active committee and look forward to work with the committee to develop even more the club activities to the benefit of the members.

Some decisions were already made by your new committee and as from June 2024 and onwards the Club Stableford & Medals which have been played on Sundays will now alternate between Saturdays & Sundays giving more members the opportunity to enter the club competition. Also, we are starting a Men's weekly Stableford every Monday lunch time. This men's competition will be run by John Bondoc through a WhatsApp group and

the details are on the APP. Male members just have to sign up to the WhatsApp group and all the draws will be posted on the group. Cards will be run on the day by John Bondoc and will be counting as a club competition. We also looking to have a mixed roll up and some 9 holes event during the Summer and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. More details will be posted on the APP. So, as you can see your committee is working very hard to cater for all categories of members. Any suggestions are welcome and please put them to your committee members for consideration.

The Easter Scramble was won by John, Heather & Sophie Conroy, Jim Hanglow & Ingrid Blain. Congratulations to them and I know the celebration went on for quite a while!

St David's Medal was won by Marc Thibonnier with a fantastic 68 while the March Stableford was won by Lucy Pye with 37 points. Congratulations to both!

As many of you are aware, water reserves in the Algarve has become a bigger problem to all of us and golf courses need to find solutions for the future. We are now working very closely with governmental bodies to get licenses to use recycled water on both courses. The process is being dealt in conjunction with Quinta do Lago and we expect to have access to the recycled water in late 2025. Pinheiros Altos will use it for about 20% of its supply initially but the ratio will grow in the future as bore holes water quality decrease every year. San Lorenzo will use over 85% of its needs as bore holes there are already almost defunct. The intention is to apply for the supply of 100% of our needs on both courses as this agreement is for 20 years and we expect that within 5 years we will have no access to water from the bore holes. This will cause a substantial cost increase which is not defined yet but will be when the contracts are signed.

We also are looking at financial solution to build a new pump station on the olives as the existing one is old and defunct and it is urgent to repair or renew the station. Myself & the greens committee will keep the members updated of our progress.

You can see on the APP, The Dona Filipa has now 2 thematic

dinners, the BBQ on Wednesdays & the Fisherman's Buffet on Sundays. The cost is €55 and €60 respectively and Club members will get 20% discount by presenting their membership card at the Hotel. I hope many of you will take up this opportunity and the Sunday buffet is well worth it. Make sure you book in advance. Also, for any members interested the Sir Henry Cotton Trophy is taking place in Penina and is posted on your APP with the option of staying overnight at the hotel.

There are many events coming up which will all be posted on the APP such as the Mixed Pairs Matchplay in mid-May, the Picnic in the Park on 26th May, The Ben Hogan Challenge against Quinta do Lago on 2nd June. I hope to see many of you signing up for these events.

Regarding the Ben Hogan, we are looking for 20 pairs to play and therefore if we have more signed in we will have a random draw. Any extra player will be allowed to play on the day or join in the lunch but will not count for the match.

I hope to see many of you at the club and wish you all great golfing!



Easter Scramble Prize Winners



Easter Scramble Prize Presentation



Easter Scramble Lunch



Easter Scramble Lunch



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Easter Scramble Lunch



Easter Scramble Lunch



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BUFFET BARBECUE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TODAS AS QUARTAS-FEIRAS

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TODOS OS DOMINGOS

*Special discount of 20% for Pinheiros Altos golf club members.

Desconto especial de 20 % para membros do clube de golfe dos Pinheiros Altos.



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KAMAL
by Dona Filipa

Ladies Section by New Lady Captain's Heather Conroy



As Melody mentioned the AGM was well attended and we thanked her for all her hard work during her captaincy, she can now relax and enjoy some well-deserved holidays.

The meeting was followed by my Drive in and nine-hole Scramble and I'm happy to say that thankfully the sun shone for both and I managed to hit the ball in the correct direction! Everybody enjoyed the Scramble and lunch which was a good start to my captaincy.

My first Wednesday Ladies Day (Stableford competition) was cancelled due to heavy rain, so we had an impromptu coffee morning with Cadbury's creme eggs. When the sun eventually came out two groups of players went out and played nine holes.

Our Easter bonnet competition was postponed due to the damp weather and hats were brought to the Easter Scramble, Chris Soden won the first prize with runner up prizes given to Zoe Pirret and Debbie Carver.

Our annual competition against the Cloggies was well supported with 38 Ladies and Cloggies eager to take part and I'm delighted to say (despite losing my match) the Ladies won 14-5 and I had the honour of handing the Clog to Cyril.

Special thanks go to Cyril Griffith who covered for Knut in organising the tournament and thank you to the Cloggies for buying the drinks and the club for supplying the Tapas.

Ladies Section by Outgoing Lady Captain's Melody Cotterill



My last report - goodness time has flown!

March bought showers which we desperately needed in the Algarve and I do think we can definitely see the benefits on our course and in our gardens. Lucky though Wednesdays stayed dry and rain definitely did not stop play for the ladies.

There were two major ladies competitions before I finished my Captaincy - both sponsored by previous Lady Captains. The first the Madrinha Greensomes sponsored by Helen Mills and won by our soon to be Lady Vice - Chris Soden and Jill Miller Cheevers - Susan Russell and I just managed to come second by narrowly beating Rosie and Helga.

The second big competition was the winners trophy - sponsored by Zoe Pirret. This competition was just for winners of the Ladies Medals and Stableford competitions and was won by Lisa Burns, second was Angela Williams and third on countback Dawn Warnock. Also, on this day there was a Stableford competition won by Jennifer Gray, with me narrowly beating our new member Colette Evans.

Then we moved quickly on to the Ladies AGM on Monday 25th March. The minutes of which will be on the Ladies Section button of the App. I don't want to repeat all I said then, but I was absolutely delighted with the attendance. We have an extremely active group of Ladies and I am sure that this will continue to be so.

I love Frank Sinatra's song 'I did it my way' - and this applied to both Steve and myself in the last year, being the first Captains who had broken recent trends by not being married to each other! Hopefully we both succeeded in helping make everyone's experiences at our club good ones. Certainly, the charity element exceeded my expectations.

We were both very lucky to have a dedicated team at Pinheiros who do all they can to give us the best experiences.

In addition to the support of my Lady Vice - now Club Captain Heather I had Lucy, Debbie and Ingrid - all of whom did lots to help me, and I know Heather will also benefit from their help and that of Christine Soden as she joins the team.

I did forget to mention in my end of office speech specifically the 'Social committee' they do an excellent job in creating an event open to all. I certainly will continue to support and truly hope all our members do. Such a great way to make new friends and reconnect with others.

Can I also use this opportunity to thank everyone who kindly contributed to my end of office gift. I now have a fabulous bracelet which I will treasure.

So now it's Heather's time as your new Lady Captain, and with Christine, Nigel, and Hugh they will continue doing the job 'their way' and I wish them all a happy fun filled year.

Melody Cotterill
Lady Captain 23/24



2024 Ladies AGM



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Lady Captain's Drive In



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Lady Captain's Drive In 9 Hole Scramble Prize Winners



Lady Captain's Drive In Lunch



Ladies Social Lunch at Eden Restaurant

Eventos de Golfe / *Golf Events by*

JJW HOTELS

2024/2025



HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO <i>EVENT & TOURNAMENT</i>	DATAS <i>DATES</i>
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
Dona Filipa Hotel	JJW International Amateur Senior Tournament	16/02/2025 – 23/02/2025
Dona Filipa Hotel	Spring Amateur Tournament	12/04/2025 – 19/04/2025
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	Penina Golf Week	11/05/2025 – 17/05/2025

Report from the Greens Committee

The full committee met on the 9th April including Christophe and Antonio (Course manager).

1. Present course condition

The committee believe the course presents itself as well as for many years. The absence of any questions at the recent AGM is a testament to the members being relatively happy with course condition. The heavy rainfall and the use of fertilizer purchased in 2023 have been the main factors together with additional work force and good management.

The writer believes that the 6th of Olives is an example of professional cutting producing a fine presentation!

Unfortunately, the future of the course is more difficult to forecast although both the budget for 2024 and the intentions of Christophe and Antonio are in our view appropriate to maintain the course in its present condition.

2. The Challenges for 2024

All golf clubs face an irrigation government saving order from June of this year unless we have heavy rainfall! A saving 10/15% is required! If our bore holes were in full working condition we are told we would be able to deal with this challenge. However, although we have sufficient number of potentially working bore holes we are not able to buy the new Pumps (necessary for many of these bore holes) without additional funding. The management is hoping for that funding. In addition, Christophe is aiming to put in place a leasing agreement to replace our outdated equipment on a 4 year cycle.

3. The future position

The course has been maintained in accordance with agreed planning many more trees have been lopped and cut but

many more still need to be done some trees are still poor and need resting and feeding. Funding again is required.

If we cannot irrigate and feed the course before the end of June we are told that the conditions experienced last year will return and be a risk for the course.

We know that management and Antonio and his team are aware of this!

We know the owner has both his own house and his sons house on site and of course San Lourenco to restore and his other properties. He has said on many occasions that he has a particular love for PA.

The staff remains loyal and management is doing its best to maintain the course in its present condition.

Our President and Captain are aware of the challenges and the membership is in many ways stronger than ever and it remains to be seen whether a solution can be found by the company to resolve these important and urgent issues, mainly related with a substantial investment.

Our committee have been advised that the members can be advised of the challenges ahead and we know that many courses in the Algarve have similar problems and indeed in the UK the poor weather has resulted in courses looking for ways to maintain playing conditions which are affordable for their members.

Members should feel free to ask the committee for further information if they feel it is necessary.

Stewart Harper Chairman,

David Ford,

Duncan Evans.

Social Golf Report -

by Sue Georges and Cathy Harper

Social Golf Report Sunday 17th March 2024

“Stop, Get Ready and Go” was our format for Social Golf on 17th March, otherwise known as “Traffic Lights”.

On that sunny day some very good team scores were posted (although it has been noted that this format is not everyone’s favourite).

We should add that we did forget to slope the handicaps from the blues, so maybe ...we can have another try later in the year.

Being St. Patrick’s Day, we suggested optional Irish dress and almost everyone joined in. We “could” say that we chose Traffic Lights to match St. Paddy’s Day... but that would be a Leprechaun tale!

There were 48 players and 6 guests for our supper of Chicken and Chips and Fresh Fruit Salad.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Wine...

Pine Corks

1st	Tony Staddon, Barbara Kyne, Rita Holst, Stewart Harper	86 points
2nd	Jax Griffin, Greg Griffin, Heeni Odenziel, Marja Odenziel	81 points
3rd	Andy Gray, Frances Smeaton, Zoe Pirret, Ken Irving	76 points
		(Back 9/40)

Corks Olives

1st	Lucy Pye, Lisa Burns, John Carver, Barbara Fletcher	87 points
2nd	Matt Venker, Barry Smeaton, Janette Staddon, Debbie Carver	85 points
3rd	Sarah James, Adrienne Buth, Arja Nordstrom, Paul Cotterill	82 points

The next social is on Sunday 21st April and will be a Texas Scramble, run by Andy & Sue Georges.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, (although it is likely that this event will have been played before the next newsletter is produced.)

For your information the May social will be on Sunday 12th May.

Cathy & Sue



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