

Altos *news*

Nº 232 . NOV/DEC 2024





Introduction from the New Captain

Mr Nigel Spokes

Dear members,

Apologies for not being at the club the last few weeks as I've been laid up with knee and now back issues - don't get old!

I'd like to thank everybody (so many) who helped make our Charity Day so successful, I know other Clubs in the area are amazed at our fundraising ability. A tremendous turn out for the golf and the evening auction, some very generous bidding by a number of you.

The biggest problem we had was putting the Sponsors' signs on the course the night before. We had six or seven 'Captains of Industry' (some might say) to help, but the job seemed to be a little harder than it should have been, plus I calculated we needed two cable ties per sign when in fact we needed four. A special thanks to Roger & his team who stayed on after hours to support us.

PA Management and staff must take a lot of the credit for making it happen.

Congratulation to Mike Hinch who was the only player to win a bottle of Champagne on the Long Putt competition.

There was a special moment when two of our main Charities took to the floor to thank the members for the life changing funds we have raised.

There is one more person who deserves a mention, I think he helped a bit - we all know who he is.....

Congratulations to David Ford & all the Interclub players for a great effort in trying to return to the Topflight of the InterClub, only missing out by half a point on the final match of the season. There was a great turn out for John and Maxine Stone's Celebration of their Lives. I know the family were pleased to see so many friends there.

The Men unfortunately were no match for the Ladies in this year's Wooden Spoon, congratulations to Heather & her team for picking some great pairings that only a few of the Men could cope with. I would also like to congratulate John Bondoc for his hard work with the Monday Men's Individual Stableford Competition, I have had many members tell me how well organised and enjoyable it is. Players of all abilities are welcome and if you wish to join the WhatsApp Group, please see John's details on the App.

As this is the last News Letter of the year I would like to wish you, your family and friends all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kindest regards

Nigel



Charity Day Prize Winners



Charity Day



Charity Day



python images



Seniors Championship Prize Winners



Wooden Spoon



python images



TIMELESS MAJESTY BALL

PASSAGEM DE ANO NEW YEAR'S EVE
2024/25



NYE Ball & a Traditional Algarve Christmas

Festive Dining & a Beachfront New Year

24 DEZ. 24TH DEC.

19:30 Jantar de Consoada *Christmas Eve Dinner*, RESTAURANTE KAMAL 95€ pp

25 DEZ. 25TH DEC.

12:30 Almoço de Natal *Christmas Day Lunch*, RESTAURANTE KAMAL 95€ pp

31 DEZ. 31ST DEC.

19:00 Cocktail de Ano Novo *New Year's Eve Cocktail*, DUQUES LOUNGE BAR

20:30 Jantar de Ano Novo *New Year's Eve Dinner*, RESTAURANTE KAMAL 220€ pp

00:00 Brinde a 2025 *Toast to Welcome 2025*, FOGO DE ARTIFÍCIO NO JARDIM FIREWORKS IN THE GARDEN

Até/Untill 02:00 Festa com DJ *After Party with DJ*

1 JAN. 1ST JAN.

11:30-16:00 Brunch Ano Novo *New Year's Brunch*, RESTAURANTE KAMAL 55€ pp

Condições de pagamento: 30% do valor para garantir reserva. **Condições especiais para crianças:** grátis dos 0 aos 5 anos, dos 6 aos 12 anos beneficiam de 50% de desconto e a partir dos 13 anos serão cobradas como adultos. **Payment conditions:** 30% prepayment required to guarantee the reservation. **Children special conditions:** free from 0 to 5 years old, from 6 to 12 years old will benefit from 50% discount and children from 13 years old will be charged as an adult.

Book Seasonal Dining and NYE Party

Join us for a seasonal stay including New Year's Dining, Royal Ball and much, much more
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Or simply reserve your spot at the Gala Dinner and Ball:
Call: +351 289 357 200 | Email: donafilipa-reservations@jjwhotels.com

www.donafilipahotel.com/christmas-and-new-year

Director of Golf – Monthly Report

October started with its usual Charity day which exceeded all expectation this year with the raising of over €150.000 thanks to everyone generosity and the very hard work of the Charity committee, so a big thank you to all involved in raising such an amazing amount!

Senior Championship was played in October and the new Senior Champion is Stuart Edwards who won it with 28 points gross. Congratulations to the net winner Steve Crowdey with 38 points net & also with 38 points best over 70's Joe Allen.

The Autumn medal rose bowl was won by Leeza Lynn with a 69 while the October Stableford was won with 40 points by Noel Kelly.

Early in November we had our usual Foursomes Championship played over 2 days and probably the most difficult format in golf. The Champions with a fantastic 4 under par were Dan Henderson & Chris Soden. Congratulations to them and thank you to all who took part in the tournament.

The November Stableford was won by Graham Lee with 37 points while Sally had a fantastic 66 to win the November Medal. Congratulations to both.

As you will all agree the course has improved in the last couple of months mainly due to a change in climate but also all the efforts of the green-keeper and his team to recover the course which suffered most this year. The greens as most of the courses have suffered from the «Dollar spot» disease which comes in mild weather when there is a lot of dew. The disease is no longer active but the damage is still visible and hopefully will start to disappear in the next few weeks. I am confident the course will continue to improve and that we will receive the support we need.

Golf in the Algarve has developed tremendously in the last few years and especially this year with courses being upgraded and many more golfers coming to visit the Algarve, I am sure we will see

many changes over the next months all over the Algarve and that the club we will be up to follow the evolution it is witnessing. The club remains one of the most exclusive club when starting times are concerned and members should be very happy to maintain those precious times in what is a very commercial environment. As you all know the subscription went out about 3 weeks ago and the support from the members in paying early has been the testimony to the importance of our Club. Please remember that by paying before 13th December you are entitled to receive the vouchers for guests and other courses as well as the €200 levy behind the bar.

The club continues to grow with many new members joining but also through the sale of property on the estate which has created more members. The club activity is also growing and nice to see the Monday Stableford becoming the men's day. It is the door to many new members to meet other members. I must thank John Bondoc for looking after that section so well and all his hard work to have turned it so popular. I am sure it will only grow from now. December is a quieter time on the golf course and therefore the maintenance will undertake some heavier works mainly tree pruning which might affect some areas of the course. Therefore, I would like to ask for member's patience as these are important work to be undertaken and will improve the maintenance of the course for the rest of the year.

December as usual will see many Christmas tournaments with the Turkey flutter on 21st December 2024 & the boxing day on 26th December 2024. 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 during the month of December and back for the New Year's Day. Roger & Cristina will be in charge of course and running of the club while I am away and I am sure it will run much 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 2025!

» TEEING OFF

JESS HALL MAKES EUROPEAN DEBUT

BISHOP AUCKLAND'S JESS HALL HAD A WEEK TO REMEMBER IN THE US as she represented the European team at the 2024 Concession Cup.

The fifth staging of the event – played at The Landings Golf & Athletic Club in Georgia on November 4-8 – brought together teams of mid-am and senior amateur players, and featured women's matches for the first time this year. Jess was selected as part of the European team having risen to fourth in Europe, and ninth in the world, in the mid-am rankings (for players aged 25 and over).

Having been beaten 1dn in her opening fourball match alongside Pauline Stein, Jess picked up a half-point alongside Pauline in the foursomes. She went on to win her singles match 261 – beating Ina Kim-Schaad as Europe won the women's single but lost 9.5-14.5 overall. Meanwhile, the European men's team was beaten 9-15 by the home side.

"I was so cool to represent Europe for the first time, and to be part of the first women's side in the event," said Jess. "This was my first trip back to the US since I graduated college in 2022 and teeing it up in a tournament over there again was fantastic.

"To get one-and-a-half points was more than I could have asked for going into a new environment and competing against some incredibly talented players. The singles win was a big moment – it's always good to get that one in the bag in a super-competitive team event.

"It was a real honour to be part of the event and I can't thank everyone enough for such an amazing week."

European captains Tore Sviland and Elaine Ratcliffe led their 24-player team against US captains Danny Yates and Carol-Semple Thompson – with the Europe side also featuring former Northumberland county player Mathew McClean from Ireland.

The matches included an am-am ahead of fourball, foursomes and singles matches played over three days at the Korn Ferry Tour venue.

Ladies Section – by Heather Conroy

The first Wednesday of October was the Club's Charity day with many ladies taking part, it was a successful day and we were fortunate to have good weather as quite a few events that month were cancelled due to much needed rain.

The 10th October was the beginning of Canasta sessions kindly organised by a group of our lady members, the first session was Canasta and lunch at the Thai Bistro but sessions are now happening regularly (with cake) in the clubhouse. If you are interested in learning to play and take part, please let me know.

The 25th October was The Wooden Spoon event, men v ladies with 28 on each side. I am delighted to say that the ladies beat the men 10 ½ to 3 ½ and it was great to hand over the Wooden Spoon to Nigel. According to Christophe it was the biggest win ever. It was a fun day with excellent golf displayed on both sides.

We played a Friendly match against Laranjal at home on the 29th October, we won 4 to 2. We had a lovely lunch at the club after the matches, over the years we have built up a good relationship with the ladies at Laranjal and it is always lovely to play against them and even better when we win!!

We had a Salvation Army collection on the 6th November, they are always very grateful for clothes, nappies and tinned food for families in need. We will have another collection in the spring so if people are clearing out cupboards, please bear this in mind.

During November we have played our usual Medal and Stableford competitions with fun games in between. New members are welcome to join in and if you need any further information please contact me. Thank you.



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

HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO <i>EVENT & TOURNAMENT</i>	DATAS <i>DATES</i>
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	IX Penina Golf Week	11/05/2025 – 17/05/2025
Penina Hotel & Golf Resort	XXXIV Sir Henry Cotton Trophy	24/05/2025



Report from the Greens Committee

Greens committee report November 2024

The full committee met on the 27 November.

This report is shorter than we would like but it reflects two main developments.

Firstly, whilst the greens staff is at 20plus, five of that staff are new recruits! They require instruction as non-come from a back ground of working on golf courses! We asked why so many trained staff have left! There are the usual reasons of a young mobile male staff! There is no specific reason!

Secondly the funds required to provide additional equipment and in particular a new fairway cutter and

rough cutter are promised, ordered and expected! Much of the equipment used for maintaining the course is well past normal replacement and requires regular maintenance!

Course Condition

The recent unsettled weather and improved irrigation has brought the fairways very close to their very best! Placing is still in place but the committee would like to see normal non-placing after spring growth and with the new irrigation in place!

There is still much work to be completed on tree roots and where trees need either pruning or cut down! The lobbing of trees is subject to fire risks in the summer

months and finding companies who are willing to bring their equipment onto the course is more difficult than we had hoped!

Course Tees

Tees have been rested in some cases and we hope to see more improvement, the first tee on Corks has improved but the trees alongside the tee are owned by others and we cannot reduce them! The poor light there and on 5 tee Pines are a problem!

The first tee on Pines remains our best but has no light issues!

Bunkers

On balance we believe the maintenance has improved but the sand is not the best and solidifies under the first cm or more. Many bunkers are deep with high overhang and need new sand after being dugged out! It is a high labour and a skilled job! We have to be patient! Antonio is aware of the problem!

Rough

The unplayable deep rough with both heavy weed is now much improved and the effect on slow play we hope is now behind us. It was a high labour job and like the root problem requires modern equipment and skilled man power!

Greens

Dollar spot has been a problem as has weed contamination on many of the greens.

Antonio promised to solve these problems by the end of November and on balance we believe he has succeeded! The greens are still far from perfect and require careful treatment of cutting, use of sand and fertiliser, and we hope to bring the speed up-to 8/9 on the stimp meter!

Buggy use

Despite the heavy rain the course has not been closed except in small areas and has played very well. New members and visitors have been surprised how dry the course has remained and we have not seen buggy tyre marks but members must where possible keep to the 90% rule during wet conditions and where they can see tyre marks.

The committee see 2025 as a very challenging year for course condition and the plans in place to insure irrigation and condition are vital to that success.

The committee will remain available to respond to members queries if the staff are not available. Change we are told is good! Let us hope we will see improvement in next year.

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

TOURNAMENT RESULTS
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!



★ PENINA HOTEL & GOLF RESORT PROUDLY PRESENTS ★

HAVANA

NEW YEAR'S EVE - ANO NOVO - 2024/25

New Year's Eve & Christmas in the Algarve

Elegant Havana Ball and Gourmet Dining

24 DEZ. 24TH DEC.

19:30 Jantar de Consoada *Christmas Eve Dinner*, RESTAURANTE LE GRILL-SET MENU 95€ pp

25 DEZ. 25TH DEC.

12:30 Almoço de Natal *Christmas Day Lunch*, RESTAURANTE LE GRILL-SET MENU 95€ pp

31 DEZ. 31ST DEC.

19:00 Cocktail de Ano Novo *New Year's Eve Cocktail*, SALÃO AZUL BLUE LOUNGE

19:30 Jantar de Ano Novo *New Year's Eve Dinner*, RESTAURANTE SAGRES 180€ pp

19:30 Jantar de Ano Novo *New Year's Eve Dinner*, RESTAURANTE LE GRILL 165€ pp

00:00 Brinde a 2025 *Toast to Welcome 2025*, FOGO DE ARTIFÍCIO NO JARDIM FIREWORKS IN THE GARDEN

Até/Untill 02:30 Festa com DJ *After Party with DJ*

1 JAN. 1ST JAN.

11:30-16:00 Brunch Ano Novo *New Year's Brunch*, RESTAURANTE SAGRES 55€ pp

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www.penina.com/algarve-christmas-new-year

Social Golf Report

by Stella Jeffrey and Ken Irving

Played Sunday 13th October 2024

This was another great Sunday Social with 51 players participating in a «Waltz» format on a lovely warm and sunny afternoon at our Golf Club.

We had all held our breath in the days beforehand when the course enjoyed some «overhead irrigation» and an initial «suspect forecast» for the day but in true Pinheiros tradition any worried faces turned to smiles and credit must be given as, for the 2nd month in succession, there were no cry offs after the draw had been published.

With 3 guests added to the players 51 sat down for a post-match supper of chicken, chips and salad with fresh fruit salad and ice cream to follow. As always, our wonderful bar and restaurant staff did us proud and given a very warm round of applause at the conclusion to show our gratitude.

The competition was keenly fought over 2 courses with the resulting winning teams as follows:

Corks/Olives

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Chie Crowdey, Tracey Spokes, Sue Coull and Debbie Carver	Andrew Gray, Cyril Griffith, Barbara Kyne and Jax Griffin	David Pirret, John Cardwell, Molly Wainwright and Rita Holst
83 points	79 points	77 points

Olives/Pines

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Sue Georges, David Warnock, Steven Crowdey and Nils Leffler	Stewart Harper, Charlotte Parker, Greg Griffin and Zoe Pirret (Floater)	Jenny Gray, Paul Cotterill, Neil Riddell and Kristina Griffith
92 points	78 points (better back 9)	78 points

The next Social Golf is on Sunday 10th November to be run by Knut Pedersen and Adrienne Buth, the format being «Who Stole the Pas 4's»; anyone who is mystified do sign up and all will be revealed!

Finally, a big thank you from Stella, Ken and the Social Golf Committee to all who played.

Stella Jeffrey, Ken Irving

Social Golf Report

by Stella Jeffrey and Adrienne Buth

Played Sunday 9th November 2024

Format who stole the par 4's, 24 players, Excellent weather, Dinner chicken and chips.

Winners Olives to Pines

1st

Christian Holst,
Valerie Rennie,
Richard Evans
and Marianne Wiren

96 points

2nd

Christine Soden,
James Knight,
Bertil Wiren
and Bernadette Hardie

94 points

Winners Corks to Olives

1st

Patricia Tolland,
Paul Black,
Colette Evans
and Rita Holst

101 points

2nd

Michel Sohier,
Paul Hanby,
Meg Black
and Carol Knight

95 points

Next Social Golf will be 8 December and organized by Sue and Andy Georges.

Stella Jeffrey and Adrienne Buth

Interclub Report

Our Interclub season ended on the 24th October with a 4-1 victory at home to Boavista. The result meant that Pinheiros Altos finished in third place and, given that points are doubled for the purposes of the league tables, it meant that we missed promotion back to Division One by half a point! Frustrating as that was, every cloud has a silver lining and it is the opinion of most of the team, that the courses that we'll be playing next year are generally superior to those in the Division above. Having not won an away match for two years, we achieved three away wins, a terrific effort and matched only by two other teams out of the 22 across the three Divisions, one of which won Division One and the other achieving promotion from Division Three. However, we committed the cardinal sin of losing at home to Penina and that match became the decisive moment for us.

We commenced the season with a squad of 43, although illness, injury and availability meant that the realistic number was more like 33. Over the course of the season,

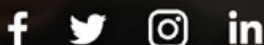
25 people were selected to represent the team. In speaking to other captains, this is a far higher number than average, some of whom select from as few as 14 or 15. Still, I appreciate that a number of people will have been frustrated by their lack, or absence, of game time. Only 10 people can be selected at a time and we will always select on the basis of pairings that we believe have the best chance of winning.

I should like to thank all those who represented PA for their skill, commitment and team spirit. I should also like to thank those squad members who provided tremendous support, even if not selected. Finally a big thank you to Vice Captain, Neil Sutton and to Ingrid Blain for their input throughout the season in selection and other ways.

I'm working on next year's fixtures at the moment, so if you want to be considered for Interclub, please contact me directly. My details are on the App.

David Ford

Follow us on social media.





2025 Tournaments
To be held at
San Lorenzo



11th January 2025	Mens Roll up
19th January 2025	January Stableford
26th January 2025	Social Golf
29th January 2025	Ladies Day
1st February 2025	February Stableford
15th February 2025	St Valentine Day
14th June 2025	Mens Roll up
14th June 2025	June Stableford
6th July 2025	July Stableford
9th July 2025	Ladies Day
12th July 2025	Mens Roll up
22nd July 2025	Gala Week
2nd August 2025	August Stableford
2nd August 2025	Mens Roll up
13th August 2025	Ladies Day
6th December 2025	Mens Roll up
10th December 2025	Ladies Day
28th December 2025	December Stableford



Dear Members,

I wrote to you some months ago regarding the launch of our new App.

We are now ready to go live, however to comply with data protection, we need you to do the following:

- A. Please supply us with a unique email address for title holders and associate members attached to your title. Most of you have already supplied this information. However we are looking at having all Pinheiros members registered, so please come back to me if you have not done it yet.
- B. Download the App by typing the internet address "pagc.golfus.club".
- 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