

Altos

Nº 231 . AUG/SEP/OCT 2024

news





Introduction from the New Captain

Mr Nigel Spokes

Dear members,

Hoping you have all had the summer break you wished for, with those leaving the Algarve enjoying some good weather.

As late July and August are quiet at the club, Tracey and I have been away for nearly six weeks, the longest we have been out of the Algarve since early 2020.

The Gala week was a great success, with everybody making a huge effort, a special mention to Christophe and his team who pulled everything together superbly.

I unfortunately was struggling with a knee injury which limited me to only playing in the Shoot Out and Texas Scramble.

Some of the highlights

I managed to get down to San Lorenzo on Tuesday to watch some golf, however I did notice a lot of players stopping at the 19th hole, but this was only after 9 holes!

Wednesday Shoot-out & Fancy dress was brilliant, everybody seemed to enjoy the 1960's theme. It was hard to recognise some of you until we started talking to each other.

Roger did a great job with the music; I think the Sangria and Champagne on the putting green before the shoot-out nobbled half of the field. A special mention to Steve Coull for dragging a very nervous Tracey over the winning line in the Shoot-out.

The BBQ went very well, and the band played a huge number of floor-fillers.

Congratulations to those who managed to play in the Scramble the night after the Party, not all were feeling 100% at the breakfast,

and I now understand why a few of you take the day off and spend the Thursday on the beach.

Friday, the Two Ball Better Ball was won with a magnificent score of 50 plus points, very popular.

The Gala Dinner & Prize Presentation was held at the Dona Filipa with members enjoying good food, wine and especially great company.

I think we must keep the Gala week going, the staff seem to be enjoying it more & more every year.

All the winners will be listed below but I'd like to thank Heather for helping with the prize giving.

I had a great time in Ireland with some members on the West Coast and then a few days with Tracey and some other members at the K Club which was very well organised by Mai, sorry David! I also played in the BMW ProAm at Wentworth, I think for the last time, but a great day with both my sons caddying. Danny Willet was our Pro and was excellent - we were even in the mix for a while.

Hoping that the course continues to improve, I've never seen it so busy. We will talk about the Charity event in our next report.

It's nice to see John Bondoc's men's group increasing in numbers, keep putting the cards in Gentlemen! On that note, Gentlemen, please sign up for the Wooden Spoon - I know the Ladies want to keep hold of it!

Kindest regards

Nigel



The staff



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Gala Week



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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.

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Director of Golf – Monthly Report

It has been a while since the last newsletter and there is a lot to report on even that the activity of the club slows down during the Summer as many members are away or making the most of the beach and sun.

Obviously as usual the Gala week breaks this trend and this managed to join many members and some new faces to the tournament. The Gala Week was a great success and the twist to take the gala dinner to the Dona Filipa went down really well and is one to repeat. The efforts on the shoot out dress was amazing and everyone got into the theme of the 60's. The BBQ went really well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The winners of the shoot-out were Steve Coull & Tracey Spokes.

The winners of the Gala week are the men pair of Killian Whelan & Jim Horgan which was a tight call as 2 other men pairs were very close. Tim Russell & Bobby Nelson won the gross while John & Alex Conroy came 2nd 2 shots behind the leader which did

the damage on the first round of the American foursomes with an amazing score of 43.

Once the Gala week was over and into August the course went quieter and it gave us the opportunity to close the Olives course to build the connection between the recycled water plant to the irrigation lake on the 8th hole on Olives. This will allow us as from next summer using 60% of recycled water and save our bore holes and help improve the water quality within. This construction is not yet over as the received point near the pump house on 7th Olives is still being finalized. The works created some disturb on the Olives course such as many water cut which affected all 27 holes, lots of sprinklers, pipes & electrics were damaged are in need of repair. Technical are now almost 90% repaired and therefore allow for a normal irrigation across the course. Visually the 6th & 7th Hole are affected as the pipe connection route is still GUR. Also, the area on the left of the 6th Fairway where the long bunker was, will now be filled in and elevated to give some protection from

the river running adjacent to it. This will take a few weeks to fill in with soil and then will be reshaped.

After all the problems related to irrigation we had this year the greens have suffered from dryness through the Summer fortunately now with the milder weather this should recover much quicker. However due to dampness and high temperature for the season we have some dollar spot on the greens which is being treated and should disappear in the next few weeks.

On 15th September we had our President day which was won by one of the lowest handicap players in the club, popular & well-known Dermott Hennessy with an amazing score of 41 net points. Dan Henderson won the gross on the day with 38 points (2 under par). Lunch followed in the Alambique and a big thank you to our President Mr. David Markey for supporting the day.

The following week-end saw the Individual Matchplay Championship which this year was run with a different format with the matches being played over a few months and the semi-finals & finals were played over the Saturday & Sunday. The 2024 Champion was Noel Kelly for the men and Heather Conroy for the ladies.

In July the stableford was won by Steven Crowdey with 34 points while John Conroy won the Summer Medal with 68. August saw Leeza Lynn win the August Medal with a 68 and the stableford

at San Lorenzo was won by Jim Hanglow with 40 Points. A 69 for Gary Miller Cheevers was good enough in the September Medal to leave Dan Henderson in second place even shooting 5 under par on the day! Lisa Burns did it again to Dan Henderson in the September Stableford where she won with 38 points when Dan shot 4 under par. Not so easy to win a competition when you play of +3.

Upcoming is the Senior Championship as well as the wooden spoon and early in November the Memorial Day followed by the Foursomes championship.

I would like to remind all members that in order to keep your handicaps updated you should play in our club competition and/or give some scores of your casual games. There are many opportunities to put more cards in with the additional weekly men stableford on Mondays run by John Bondoc. It is also important that any qualifying score that you may have played abroad are brought back to the golf office to maintain your handicap updated with all your scores and the same should happen when you go back to your clubs abroad.

The next few weeks are still very busy on the golf course and recovery of the greens will be continued therefore the pace of play will be slower and we recommend to play 4 balls.

I wish you all great golfing and look forward to see many of you at the club.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS
PLEASE CHECK THE APP!



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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President's Day Prize Winners







President's Day



President's Day



President's Day



President's Day



Matchplay Championship Prize Winners



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Ladies Section – by Heather Conroy

July was a busy month with a Stableford, Medal and a game at San Lorenzo but there was no social lunch as we stop these for the months of July and August. Many ladies took part in the Gala week in July, and it was great to see our Lady Vice Captain Chris Soden and past Lady Captain Debbie Madgett have a successful week winning 3rd place. There were also many other ladies who received prizes at the Gala dinner (see the results on the app).

The ladies' numbers began to dwindle towards the end of July with many ladies leaving the Algarve for the month of August (which included me). However, the Secretary of the ladies committee Ingrid Blain kindly offered to run the Ladies section during this month. We were pleased to see that more than ten ladies attended each week playing a range of fun games which included 3-man scrambles, shambles and stablefords with two scores to count. We also played at San Lorenzo during this month which is always a treat for us! As we stepped into September more members began to return and normal attendance resumed.

The ladies social event re-started on 10th September, which was lunch at Café Janoca on Ilha da Culatra, which was kindly organised by Lucy Pye. Twenty ladies attended and we got two water taxis across to the island. I think that some ladies enjoyed the boat rides more than the meal as there were lots of laughter and giggling from the ladies! The day was beautiful with the sun shining and some ladies had never visited the island before, so it was a new experience for them. The restaurant was very busy so I helped serve our wine and when the food came it was delicious. Our next social event is on the 10th October where we will learn to play Canasta followed by lunch at The Thai Bistro.

Wednesday 18th September was my Lady Captain's Day, and I was delighted that 51 ladies played golf and 62 attended the lunch at Eduardo's. The day started very early with coffee served from 7:15am. Goody bags were given out and the refreshment tent was set up on the 5th Corks by Paulo and his team where Mr Lady Captain John and my kind neighbour Jim Hanglow started serving champagne, chicken pies, pasteis de nata and sausage rolls (kindly made by Paul Cotterill) at 8:45am!

My husband who was worried that he might need something else to keep him occupied on the 5th Corks whilst serving champagne decided it would be a good idea to challenge the ladies. He told the ladies that if they got their ball on the green (and it stayed on..... which was adjudicated by Jim through a rangefinder) then they would receive a sleeve of balls. Mr President David Markey joined us to help at the 5th Corks and was sent to get more balls from the shop as we were running out of sleeves as the ladies were so good at the challenge! It was great fun and lots of sleeves of balls were given out!

After the golf, we all met at Eduardo's for welcome drinks of champagne and orange juice and then lunch was served. Before the main courses we presented the prizes, the scores were good but the outstanding score of the day and the winner of the Lady Captain's Day prize was Dawn Warnock with 40 points! Congratulations Dawn very well played.

The food which followed was fantastic, the company excellent, the wine flowed and the music provided by Katie Hunt got everyone dancing and singing (particularly by Denise Reed and Chris Soden) and this really made the afternoon.

Towards the end of the lunch there was a very generous surprise for all the ladies attending. Our wonderful social lady member Christine Hepworth was celebrating a landmark birthday and to mark this occasion she paid for all the ladies' lunches and the singer. We couldn't let this very generous act go by without bringing out a large birthday cake and flowers and singing "Happy Birthday" which was a small token of thanks compared to Christine's overwhelming generosity. Hugs, cake for dessert and lots of dancing followed.

I want to thank all who attended, my committee who are amazing, Christophe and his team and again, Christine Hepworth. I left my house at 6.45am and returned at 8pm, it was a long day, and I was fit for nothing the following day, but it will be a day that I never forget! Thank you.



Lady Captain's Day Prize Winners



Lady Captain's Day

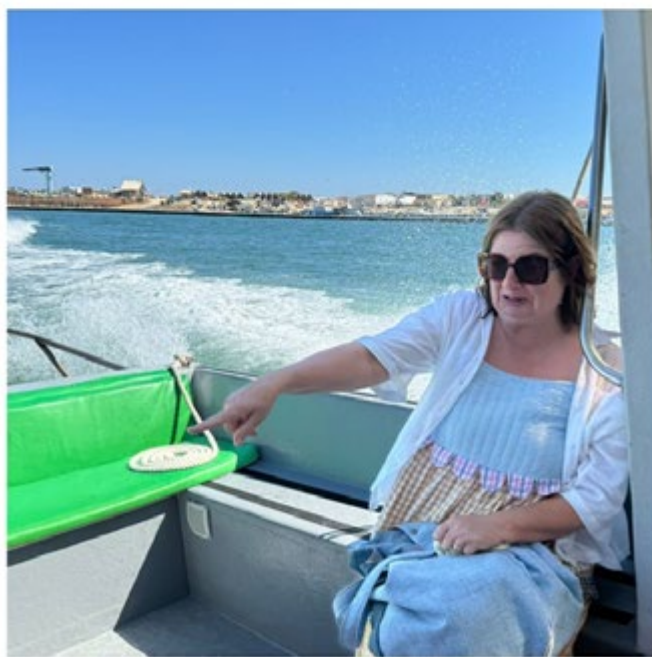


Lady Captain's Day



Lady Captain's Day











Eventos de Golfe / *Golf Events by* **JJW HOTELS** 2024/2025



HOTEL	EVENTO / TORNEIO <i>EVENT & TOURNAMENT</i>	DATAS <i>DATES</i>
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	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

The full committee met on Friday the 11th of October. The committee has been unable to meet on a monthly basis due to difficulty in finding a convenient date and also the main committee had not met for some months. We hope to be able to meet monthly in the pre Xmas period.

Course condition

We hoped that our bore holes would with the installation of the new power pumps bring the fairways back to our target of healthy growing grasses. This should allow «placing» to be withdrawn.

The exceptional hot and dry summer and general water restrictions has not allowed the management to withdraw «placing» but the fairways are now showing much improved growth and we believe next spring is a reasonable target to lift this restriction.

There has been substantial tree cutting and removal of tree roots. It is still far from satisfactory in the opinion of the committees but a major improvement and an ongoing problem arising from the excessive number of trees on the course.

Greens

The damage to the surfaces of most of the greens is very apparent and much worse than the committee have seen in the past!

We are advised (by Antonio course manager) this is due to an inability to feed and sand the greens in the earlier months of the year which has affected the fertility of the

soil resulting in many dry patch and exposing the greens to more disease than usual!

Funding is a constant concern but we are advised that the new CEO is aware of the problem the courses are facing and Antonio believes before the end of November and with the adequate resources the members will see a major improvement. The management has already approved a bigger rough mower to add to the existing ones which will be delivered in the next few weeks and will help maintaining all the roughs in the appropriate condition all year round.

PA continues in a unique position in that the numbers of members and visitors, has, we understand increased considerably during 2024. It appears that apart from Quinta most of the competition has trouble with course maintenance and also very slow rounds of often 5 hours plus!

Members «playing rights» are also very unusual in most other courses in the Algarve and the members support is important to retain this privilege.

Members loyalty is outstanding and the future of golf in Portugal is a fast moving issue.

Members remain free to ask committee members questions where they feel it is necessary.

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



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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

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.

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Social Golf Report

by Cathy Harper, Ken Irving and Stella Jeffrey

Report on Social Golf 8th September 2024

Thanks to everyone who participated in our social golf competition on 8 September and helping to make it a very enjoyable afternoon. Into autumn the weather was still hot and sunny but without the sting of the summer months.

We had 31 players and the same amount for supper. The format was sixes.

Olives was closed, due to maintenance, so we happily played Pines/Corks and Corks/Pines.

The winners were:

Pines/Corks

1 st	2 nd
Lisa Burns	Hugh Campbell
Alan Bentley	Andy Georges
Michael Sohler	Brigitta
Carol Burn (guest)	Rademaker
85 points	Helga Crowley
	83 points

Corks/Pines

1 st	2 nd
Knut Pedersen	Ken Irving
Ansley Tolland	Zoe Pirret
Sally Rawling	Tanya Scouler
(guest)	Molly Wainwright
Frances Smeaton	(floater)
83 points	76 points

Supper was a tasty lasagne served with a mixed salad, followed with a dessert of fresh fruit salad topped with a generous scoop of vanilla ice-cream. Served perfectly by our lovely friendly staff, many thanks to them.

Next social golf will be 13th October, a scramble to be organized by Knut Pederson (Barbie) and Ken (Irving). All welcome.

Please sign up on the PA App before 5pm 9 October.

Cathy Harper, Ken Irving, Stella Jeffrey



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