

Nº 152 . DECEMBER 2016

Altos

news



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Knut Pedersen

Another month has gone by so quickly. November has been a quieter month of the year.

We started off with the Foursomes Championship on the 5th and 6th. With tight scoring at the end of the second day, the winner was Paul and Meg Black, against Tony and Paula Hickey/Burke; who got Best Gross Score. To everyone who attended, it was a great two days, and to all, well played. Congratulations to the winners!

On the 27th, we had our St Andrew's Stableford, and the Memorial Day. The winner was Steven Crowdey with a 36 net bb15, followed by Stella Jeffrey, with 36, bb14. It was good to see so many people attending the meal afterwards, and to have a toast for lost and absent friends. Next year we will have the Memorial Day as a separate event on the 1st of November.

The month has been slow and easy for all the members. The weather has been good for us in the Algarve. We have had our

normal daily life on the course; not too much rain, and plenty of sun, meaning that we could all play our "normal" golf... if that so exists?

I hope that everyone who's in the Algarve for the month of December will attend the different games that we'll have on. From the Turkey Flutter to the Boxing Day American Foursomes, there will be something for everyone.

Also I would like you all to sign up for New Year's Eve at the club (low price - for a great evening, and "No Black Tie"). Let's all have a fun night and celebrate the New Year together. That way, we will all have the same "handicap" for the New Year's Scramble.

So, if I don't see you on the course, or, you are not in the Algarve over Christmas time, have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Club Captain Knut Pedersen Presenting the Foursomes Championship Trophy to the Winners Paul and Meg Black



Foursomes Championship Best Gross Winners Tony Hickey and Paula Burke Hickey



Foursomes Championship Runners Up Steven and Chie Crowdey



Foursomes Championship 3rd Place Robert and Majida Lester



Foursomes Championship Best 1st Day Nils Leffler and Knut Ellingsen



Foursomes Championship Best 2nd Day Iain and Lubna Cater

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

November saw the usual Foursomes Championship played over two days and congratulations go to Paul and Meg Black on becoming the new champions with a score of 150 net. Tony and Paula Hickey won the Gross. Congratulations to all participants for taking part in what is the most difficult format of golf.

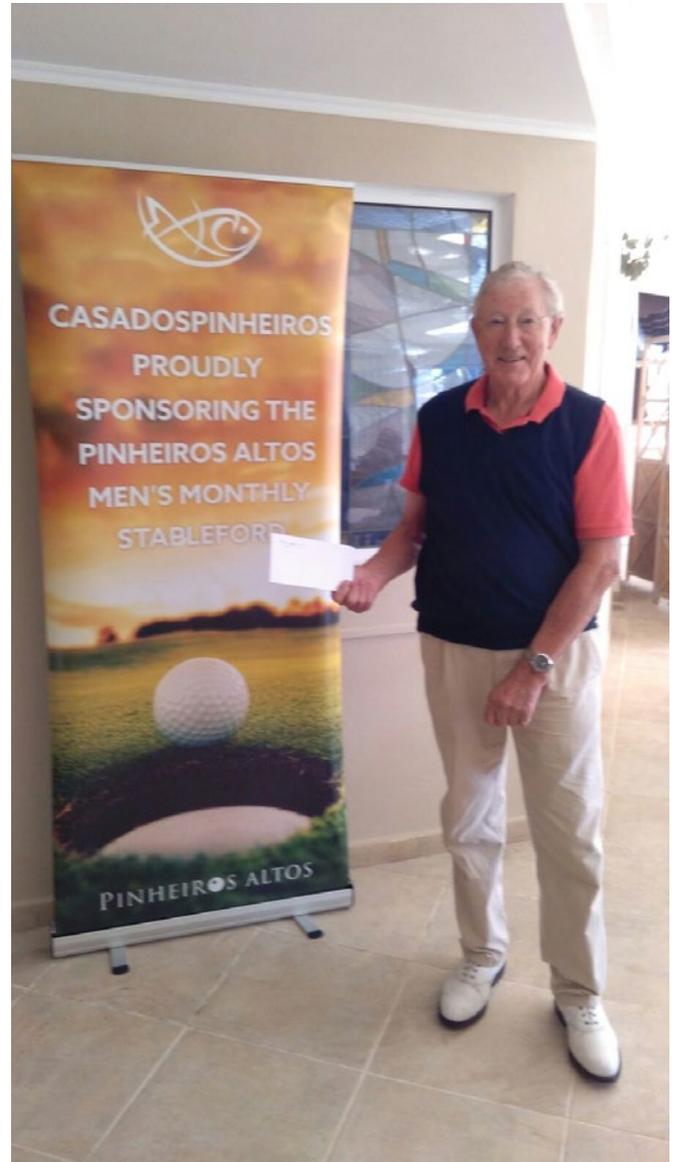
Stella Jeffrey won the November Medal with a net 68, while Steven Crowdey managed to beat Stella on the back nine holes in the St Andrew's Stableford with 36 points. The St Andrew's event was once more our Memorial Members Day, however it was decided that the Memorial Day would take place on the 1st of November every year going forward.

In early December, we hosted two Pro Tournaments of the Portugal Algarve Pro Tour, which started last year and will be building up over the years to come. We had 60 players, mainly pros and top amateurs, playing in some very wet weather, but all were very impressed on how well the course presented even with very difficult weather conditions.

The golf course is going to be quiet over the next few weeks, which will allow it to recover from a very heavy season and also continue to improve in the areas that are in need. An email from your Captain should be sent shortly to keep you updated with the progress and future maintenance programmes. Some important works on the tees are being carried out and we intend to continue through next year.

The Christmas board is now up in the clubhouse for all to sign in for the many forthcoming events. I hope to see as many of you as possible at these competitions and social activities. To avoid any disappointment, make sure you book your New Year's Eve table early enough.

On behalf of all the staff at Pinheiros Altos I would like to wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Mens Roll Up November Winner Paul Black Receives his Voucher for Casa dos Pinheiros

NEW YEARS EVE AT PINHEIROS ALTOS

In the Pinheiros Altos Clubhouse
at 8.00 p.m.

Starters

Grilled Tiger Prawn with Seafood and Coconut Coulis
or
Beef Carpaccio with Grilled Artichokes Salad

Main Course options

Roasted Stone Bass with Tomato and Vegetable Ragout, and Sautéed Potatoes
or
Venison Fillet, Red Wine Macerated Pear, Cèpes and Potato Gratin

Dessert

Passion Fruit Cheesecake with Raspberry Coulis

1 x Cheese Platter Per Table to be Served During Coffee
Welcome Cocktail with Champagne and Wine (Esporão White and Red)
During Dinner we will Serve Red and White Wine (Esporão), Mineral Water and Soft Drinks
Champagne will be Served at Midnight (Piper Heidsiek)

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Price Per Person: **€85**

Live Entertainment From Pedro Mariani

Please Book at the Golf Office

Competition Results for November

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Wed 2nd	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Zoë Pirret	70 Nett	1st Division Amanda Stretton	75 Nett
		2nd Division Jill Miller-Cheevers	72 Nett		
			9 HOLES – Team Event 10	Heidi Ellingsen Sandra Seddon	9
Sat 5th Sun 6th	Foursomes Championship	Paul Black Meg Black	150 Nett	Best Gross Tony Hickey Paula Burke Hickey	175 Gross
Wed 9th	Ladies Day		Matchplay		
Sun 13th	November Medal	Stella Jeffrey	68 Nett (BB9)	Alberto Nicoletti	68 Nett
Wed 16th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Kay Ford	37 Pts	2nd Division Melody Cotterill	35 Pts
		1st Division Margo Fletcher	32 Pts (BB9)	2nd Division Ilse Berg	32 Pts
			9 HOLES 14 Pts	Heidi Ellingsen Shona Callaghan	
Casa da Quinta Stableford Voucher – Kay Ford					
Wed 23rd	Ladies Day Team Event	Cancelled as a Mark of Respect to Linda Bentley			
Sun 27th	St Andrew's Stableford	Steven Crowdey	36 Pts (BB915)	Stella Jeffrey	36 Pts (BB914)
Wed 30th	Ladies Day String...Fun Team Event	Helen Mills Adrienne Buth Lorraine Dunabin	88	Denise Reed Molly Wainwright Wendy Evans	80
		9 HOLES Marianne Wirén Ingrid Hollier Heidi Ellingsen	38		

Ladies Section - by Mai Markey

The Medal was played on the 2nd of November... Zoe kindly looked after the day as I was home for a short visit and she played so well she won the Medal Glass in the 1st Division... well done.

Our mixed friendly with Benamor at home on the Saturday had a lunchtime tee off. It was a great success and the PA team won four and one... well done everyone!

On the 9th, we played Matchplay with the losers buying the drinks... always fun.

The Stableford competition with the Casa da Quinta voucher on the 16th was won by Kay Ford... her handicap is coming down (ha ha).

As a mark of respect to the passing of our esteemed member Linda Bentley, we cancelled our team event on the 23rd.

On the last Wednesday, we had a fun team competition as we all needed cheering up after the passing of Linda. I introduced the game 'String' - giving the ladies different lengths depending on their handicaps. They were allowed to use this to improve bad lies and also on the putting green. Everyone had fun (even though it was very windy especially on the Olives), and we celebrated Linda's life with some pizza and a glass of rose.

The Friday girls have bought a star in her name... a lovely idea. Thank you to Yvonne for organising it. Every time we look up at a clear night sky we can think of our Pinheiros Altos diamond, sparkling down on us all.

May she rest in peace.

Christmas is on its way and the clubhouse is looking very Christmassy. A big thank you to Angela Roberts who kindly organised all the Poinsettia's around the club.

Ho ho ho... Santa is visiting the Ladies on the 14th so get your red and green outfits ready for the Elf Challenge match.



Lady Captain Mai Markey Presenting the Voucher for Casa da Quinta to the November Winner Kay Ford

Report from the Greens Committee

In our report last month we commented that we were awaiting a report from consultants appointed by the owners for the future management of the course. We also wrote that these plans, together with those suggested by the COO Ruben Paula, were an important change for the club's future and would need to be carefully monitored.

The report, just received, has been prepared by STRI (Strategic Turf Research Institute), which has a worldwide reputation and is used by most of the UK's leading golf clubs and those further afield.

The report, which remains confidential and will entail complex planning and investment over more than two years, runs to nearly 14 pages. I believe this committee will endorse it once we have fully considered the implications.

The report is not "damning" of the course but constructive and the STRI believe significant improvement can be obtained by adopting a different regime of feeding, tining and the greater use of sand for tees, greens and fairways.

We have three different grasses on the course; the kikuyu will be encouraged where appropriate, but will be kept off the greens, where the creeping bentgrass will be encouraged over the Poa annua. This will require careful use of fertilisers. Tining with solid tines, restricting nitrogen fertilisers and using additional sand to absorb moisture on the greens will help both putting surfaces and prevent disease.

We will comment in more detail once we have a better understanding of the owner's intentions.

The Course

The course has stood up well after the heavy rainfall, and the professionals who have played over the last week said that

in their opinion, it was better than last year. On balance we think that is right.

It goes without saying that we all want the course to be better, and we do now have a detailed technical analysis of the issues.

The new mowers, which were recently purchased, are showing improvements on both the greens and fringes. Additional greens staff are also being recruited.

Lastly, this committee may seem high powered to members, but from recent comments received, we have clearly disappointed certain sections of the membership. Whilst we understand that view, two previous members of the committee soon gave up when they realised they could not get things done as quickly as they had hoped and your Chairman nearly did the same! It is however, only the constant pressure from the officers and this committee supported by Director Christophe that we now are in a position to move forward and we now have the technical "know how" to do so.

The next few months are clearly important to the membership.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and good golfing.

Stewart Harper Chairman
David Ford Vice Captain
Knut Pederson Captain

Social Golf - by Paula Burke Hickey

On Sunday the 20th of November, 32 keen golfers took to the course with some feelings of apprehension regarding the weather.

We decided to be very optimistic, keeping fingers, etc crossed. It was as usual a team event; four persons with two stableford scores to count, plus extra points to be awarded on a hidden nine holes.

Well, the God Zeus and his buddies must have been bored or perhaps unimpressed with our golf, as they decided to introduce a new sport, "Aquatic Golf". I don't think any of us had the correct equipment with us, (floating devices, flippers, armbands, wet suits and snorkels!) for this challenge, let alone the expertise.

We do not have the facility to practice skimming balls across the green towards a submerged hole.

Suffice to say, the white flag went up, never to be seen again as it disappeared, over the horizon... it's probably in America by now.

We retired early to the clubhouse, a bedraggled lot, dripping wet and eagerly looking forward to something to raise our spirits.

The kitchen did their best to look after us, even though we had advised them that we might be in earlier than usual, we had to wait for an hour and a half before we were seated.

The competition was judged over seven holes due to the conditions.

Prior to the prize-giving, we raised a glass to our dear friend Linda Bentley, who was a great supporter of Social Golf. She will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts are with Alan.

Date for your diary: Christmas Social Golf 11th December is being organised by Iain Callaghan and Ken Irving. It will full of cheer and the Sao Lorenzo Choir will sing carols.

<i>Corks to Olives</i>			<i>Olives to Pines</i>		
1st Place	Paula Burke-Hickey Diana Collins Andy Wheeler Peter Mills	64 Pts	1st Place	Tony Hickey Nigel Collins Ingrid Hollier Lise Kristiansen	51 Pts (<i>bb9</i>)
2nd Place	Sue Georges Stella Jeffrey Chris Stretton Malcolm Hollier	56 Pts	2nd Place	Per Anton Kleppa Andy Watkins Sandra Seddon Lorraine Dunabin	51 Pts

Academy News

As we come to the end of 2016, Ross and Kenny would like to thank all of our members for their valued support down at our Golf Academy.

We are currently putting together a simple website that will allow you to book your golf lessons online and also keep you up to date with current pricing and news.

We hope to have this up and running by the middle of January 2017. We will keep you updated.

In the meantime, have a lovely Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Look forward to seeing more of you down in our teaching bays in 2017.

Merry Christmas...



Forthcoming Events

December 2016 & January 2017

Sat 3rd December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 4th December	December Stableford
Tues 6th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 7th December	Ladies Day
Sat 10th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 11th December	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 13th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 14th December	Ladies Day
Sat 17th December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 18th December	December Medal
Tues 20th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 21st December	Ladies Day
Thurs 22nd December	Christmas Turkey Flutter
Sat 24th December	Mens Roll Up
Mon 26th December	Boxing Day American Foursomes
Tues 27th December	Club Roll Up
Wed 28th December	Ladies Day
Sat 31st December	Mens Roll Up
Sun 1st January	New Year's Scramble
Tues 3rd January	Club Roll Up
Wed 4th January	Ladies Day
Sat 7th January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 8th January	Winter Medal
Tues 10th January	Club Roll Up and Algarve Invitational Seniors
Wed 11th January	Ladies Day and Algarve Invitational Seniors
Thurs 12th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Fri 13th January	Algarve Invitational Seniors
Sat 14th January	Mens Roll Up and Algarve Invitational Seniors
Sun 15th January	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 17th January	Club Roll Up and Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Wed 18th January	Ladies Day and Algarvian Pro Am (QDL South & SL)
Fri 20th January	Algarvian Pro Am (QDL North & PA)
Sat 21st – January	Mens Roll Up and Algarvian Pro Am (QDL North & PA)
Tues 24th January	Club Roll Up
Wed 25th January	Ladies Day
Sat 28th January	Mens Roll Up
Sun 29th January	January Stableford
Tues 31st January	Club Roll Up

Equipment MOT Special Offer

Dear Members,

Within our workshop, we have the necessary tools and expertise to make sure your clubs are in the perfect condition to start the golfing year. It is crucial that your clubs offer the required grip needed for ultimate control over 18 holes, and the specification of the heads are in the correct position to give you the correct distance and feedback you expect.

Until the end of February, we are offering you the opportunity to get your clubs checked and made 'match-fit' with our Equipment MOT Offer.

New Grips

How old are your grips? Are you losing control of the clubhead? This could be due to the grips of your clubs, sometimes you may not even be aware that the grips require replacing until you pick up a new club and feel the difference. Under this offer we will fit up to 10 new tour velvet grips to your set.

Did you know that if you have worn a groove into your grip(s) due to excess wear and tear, this could be deemed illegal under the rules of golf?

Loft and Lie Checks

Have your loft and lie angles moved? It is very common for us to see clubs in our workshop that are over five degrees off in either loft or lie angle, or both! This can have a big impact on your distance control, consistency of strike and direction control. We have the required equipment to check and adjust all your irons and wedges.

Groove Clean and Sharpen

Over a period of time, grooves on your irons and wedges will start to become blunt and damaged. In our workshop we have the necessary tools to rejuvenate your grooves and give back some of the control you will have lost.

€99 For all the Detailed Below!

This offer will run until the end of February, a detail of what is included is listed below:

- Full set assessment to check over all the individual club components (including shaft, club-head, ferrule and grooves)
- Loft and lie checks on all irons and wedges
- Loft and lie adjustments as required
- Groove clean and sharpen on all irons and wedges
- New golf pride tour velvet grips on up to 10 clubs
- Deep clean and polish of whole set

Please Call Peter to Book Your Set in on 919655527