

FEBRUARY 2024

# CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

BY DAVID MOXHAM

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# CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

BY DAVID MOXHAM



## CAPTAIN'S NOTES

It seems quite some time since I wrote my last newsletter. Time flies. It seems like five minutes ago that we were preparing for New Year events, thanks to the Kerremans Family, and now the attention moves to the Pro Am. This event for many signifies the start of the Golf Calendar. The Federation National Competition calendar starts on the 2nd of March where we have national champions in the club defending their titles. I know that several pairs are competing in the National Pairs Championships at Vale Pisao.

Our own Ladies Club Champion Francisca Salgado continues to achieve success at both National and International level.

At Club level, our Team Captains Thomas Wiedenbruch and Annette Schaipp are busy mobilising teams for the Atlantic Trophy and the Silver Coast League, both competitions for which we are defending Champions. I will also detail below the newly formed Lisbon League which will provide another competitive challenge for serious golfers.

The coming year will present some ongoing challenges for us as a club, not least access to the course and the associated Pace of Play issue.

Further details of an initiative to address the latter are detailed below. Pace of Play is, frankly, the Elephant in the Room with an incredible range of complexity. This cannot be ignored. It is more important than ever given our increased numbers of members participating in Club Events.

I have also highlighted below some insight into rule changes to WHS and other changes in the pipeline. I have also included some clarification regarding our Club Finances and how our money is generated/expended.

I have tried to keep this newsletter easy to read. However, given the volume of important information it is a challenge.

Finally, may I say a big thank you to Per Ake Tobiasson, and sponsors Christian and Lesley Tischler for the Portucale Event on 3rd January. Due to the bad weather the golf was cancelled, but the Captains Charity was a very welcome beneficiary. The evening entertainment was much appreciated by us all, particularly the quiz. Well done to all the team.

Enjoy your Golf,  
David

# LISBON LEAGUE

In addition to our involvement in the Silver Coast League and the Atlantic Trophy, we have this year joined a newly formed league, namely the Lisbon League. This will be a series of competitions between Belas, Lisbon Sports Club, Montado, Campo Real, Santo Estevao and PDR. It is anticipated that Troia and Royal Obidos will also join.

Next year, Quinta do Peru and Beloura are expected to join. It is likely that two divisions will form with a series of Relegation/Promotion events.

The league will be open to players in categories Mid-Amateur and above, with a handicap of less than 18.

Players interested in consideration for selection should contact myself in the short term.

## CLUB FINANCES

Following some recent questions about how we manage our finances, I have asked our Treasurer, Alan Westhead, to outline the process.

"As you all know, we arrange more than 200 competitions a year. During a typical week we start with Monday team golf. Everything collected in entry fees is paid out in vouchers to the winning teams. For Wednesday roll ups and weekend OM's and Pairs we collect a €5 entry fee per player. €4 of the €5 is paid out in vouchers to the winners and the €1 per player that is not paid out in vouchers is added to a members' account with reception. The accumulation of these €1 is the source of funds which pays for our golf trophies, glasses and engraving expenses. Our account with reception is reconciled on a regular basis.

Friday Fun Golf is managed by the Friday team. All entry fees and sponsorship money is paid into a separate Captain's Charity bank account. The Charity bank account pays for the wine prizes given to winners on a Friday. The Charity bank account is managed by the Charity Treasurer, Vincent Dowling. The Treasurer roles are split to avoid any possible conflicts.

The Club Singles and Pairs Championships are financed slightly differently. Entry fees are collected in cash and the funds are used to cover the costs of trophies and any event expenses such as music entertainment.

For flexibility reasons we also operate a bank account which has typically been controlled in the joint names of Captain and Treasurer. It serves as a convenient receptacle for the management of cash for the two's competition, events like the Am Am for example, the annual staff gratuity collection and sundry expenses.

Our special event days like St Patrick's Day, St George's Day, Dutch Day etc have now evolved into standalone self-financing events. These events have been incredibly well supported and typically they generate a cash surplus that is donated to the Captain's Charity.

Overall, we tend to operate a surplus balance on our members' funds account. This provides us with working capital to finance the purchase of prizes, glasses, golf balls, team polo shirts and other items so that we operate in the interests of members.

I should mention that as Treasurer, on behalf of members, we receive a good deal of assistance from the staff at golf reception. Let us not underestimate the work involved in collecting entry fees, processing vouchers, and managing our members' funds account. I also want members to be aware of the generous time given by Kate Wilson who independently monitors our accounts and annually prepares a formal Income Statement of members' funds."

# PACE OF PLAY CHALLENGE

As Captain, I receive more emails and feedback on Pace of Play than on any other subject.

I have recently reported the rapid growth of our membership (now 565 and growing). This growth is coupled with the growth in the number of members resident in Portugal, meaning that more members are playing their golf at PDR/West Cliffs. Therefore, demand for places in Club Events is growing.

An example of this is the upcoming St Patrick's Day Event where we have 80+ players, and still have a waiting list of around 24 players. Demand is growing every year.

In recent years, we as members have broadly contributed 20% of Revenues, whilst playing 30% of rounds on our courses. The Golf Course receives 80% of revenues through visitors and Green Fees. It is a commercial operation which gives access to us as members of our club. Packages for visitors are sold at least a year in advance. This year will be very busy.

The club calendar is based on 48 Players per event playing in Fourballs. We rarely have players miss out as the Golf Operation frequently give us more slots. This is often achieved by going to 9 or even 8-minute tee times.

The consequence of the above is that we will all benefit with an increased awareness of our pace of play. Our last Order of Merit at West Cliffs (played in very windy conditions) saw our last 4 ball complete the course in under four and a half hours. We also have rounds of over 5 and a 1/4 hours on record. The fact is that many Golf Clubs set limits of around 4 hours. I am not suggesting we impose that limit, but clearly a programme of education and setting of expectations has merits. This was tested by Thomas Wiedenbruch during his Captaincy, with varying levels of acceptance.

The R&A Management Practices Guide of Pace of Play focusses on several points, including but not limited to:

- 1.Starting Intervals (12-minute intervals for 4 Balls)
- 2.Number of players in a flight (2 or 3 Balls)
- 3.Forms of Play
- 4.Effective Ready Golf (For example, hitting your shot before helping others look for their ball)
- 5.Effective Signage and communication of expectations
- 6.Starters/Course Marshalls
- 7.Pace of Play Committee
- 8.Proof of Player ability
- 9.Implement Policies for frequent Pace of Play breaches.

Clearly, the impact/effectiveness of the above needs to be assessed against the complex demographics and range of participants.

I have taken the decision to implement point 7 above and have established a Pace of Play Sub Committee to evaluate the situation at the Club, liaise with the Golf Operation and produce some recommendations for review. The committee will comprise:

Alan Westhead  
Bill Ahern  
Steve Millerchip

I will keep members updated as to the progress and the resultant proposals as they emerge.



# RULES ISSUES

## 1. When is a ball Out of Bounds?

By definition, the course is the entire area of play within the edge of any boundaries set. All areas outside the boundary edge are out of bounds and not part of the course. The boundaries may be defined by boundary objects such as White Stakes, fences and walls, or even White Lines.

It must be remembered that the edge of the boundary is defined by the course-side edge of the boundary objects or white line. This means that these objects themselves are out of bounds. There is NO free relief available just from a boundary object. This means that you are not permitted to move them.

For example,



The white Stake above cannot be moved, despite the ball being in bounds.

In the case below, there is no entitlement for a free drop away from the fence. The Fence is outside the course boundary.





# RULES ISSUES

1.I have been asked several times if a Local Rule is in the pipeline to address the current situation of tree cuttings on the course.

Examples of such conditions are shown below.

A Local Rule is not required as these situations are already covered by Rule 16, in particular Rule 16.1e and 16.1f.

For further explanation please refer to:

<https://www.randa.org/en/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-16>



One further note. We have a local rule at both courses that relief from Ground Under Repair (Blue Stakes) is mandatory NOT optional.

# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

## RULE CHANGES

WHS is a fundamental part of Amateur Golf. Love it or hate it, it is here to stay. Being a part of the Portuguese Golf Federation we have responsibilities to implement it within the Club. Any player who wants to participate in Club Competitions must be Federated and as such have a WHS Handicap Index.

However, as with any new system, lessons have been learned and as a result some changes have been implemented for 2024, with particular impact on overseas members who have a Home Club in the UK and Ireland.

- From 2024, algorithms have been modified to make Playing Conditions Calculations (PCC) more frequent. Very rarely do we see a PCC different to 0, particularly at PDR.
- 9-hole cards will be treated differently. 9-hole rounds will be "extrapolated" into an 18-hole equivalent score (Expected Score) This will be an automated calculation unique to each player. The exact details of the calculation methodology are not publicised, but the system will generate the result.
- 9-Hole Competitions can now be qualifying subject to the usual caveats re holing out etc. Please note that Pairs and Friday Fun Golf are NOT qualifying events.
- I have been informed that there is a proposal in Ireland to make Matchplay Games Qualifying Rounds, no gimmies, players having to hole out.
- As previously reported in our newsletters, CONGU will be implementing the Course Rating adjustment into the Slope Table System. The impact on Handicaps is not yet known. For overseas members, this makes it more important than ever to regularly submit Playing Records (By email).
- The minimum length course is now halved from 3000 to 1500 yards.

## THE NEW BALL

Apparently, we are all hitting the ball too far. As a result, the powers that be in the R&A and USGA have decided that from 2028 a new golf ball specification will be phased in. The good news is that we can continue to play as amateurs with our existing balls (lucky us!) until 2030. I will leave the exact Club Policy to a future Club Captain. The last time such a change occurred was in 1974 when the European Ball was changed from 1.62 to 1.68-inch diameter to standardise with the US (remember the demise of the Dunlop 65). Ironically, one of the reasons stated at the time was, yes you have guessed it, we were hitting the ball too far!! Consequently, we need longer courses to the detriment of the environment.

It may be a good idea, however, to start using that box of new balls that you are saving for when you get a lower handicap before 2030. I never did get to use that box of Penfold Aces I won as a junior about a week before the last ball change. I think the organisers at the time got a good deal on the balls (Stock Clearance because they were 1.62 diameter!!)

# COURSE RATING CRITERIA

I am often asked why we get fewer shots at PDR than we do at other courses that are considered easier. This is indeed an enigma. Approximately 18 months ago, we had the course at PDR assessed by the course rating team of the Portuguese Golf Federation (FPG) and our rating did not change.

The process is complicated but there are some basic principles applied. I have outlined the more important ones below.

The rating starts with hypothetical golfers (Scratch and Bogey) to establish data points. All other golfers are interpolated/extrapolated from these points. **The primary factor is length.**

A Male Scratch golfer is considered to have an average drive of 250 yards and reach 470 yards in 2 shots. A Female Scratch golfer is considered to have an average drive of 210 yards and reach 400 yards in 2 shots.

A Male Bogey Golfer (20 handicap) is considered to have an average drive of 200 yards and reach 370 yards in 2 shots. A Female Bogey Golfer (24 handicap) is considered to have an average drive of 150 yards and reach 280 yards in 2 shots.

Note: above distances based on sea-level altitude.

Courses are then assessed based on these assumptions. Typical factors that are considered for each hole are:

- 1.Fairway width
- 2.Lay-up areas
- 3.Rough (height etc), Recoverability.
- 4.Green Size (Equivalent Diameter)
- 5.Bunkers within 10 yards of the Green
- 6.Obstacle squeeze (Effective narrowing at drive landing areas)
- 7.Bunker Depth
- 8.Fairway Topography
- 9.Fairway condition (Firm, Average, Soft). A roll rating table is used to adjust the effective length of the hole.
- 10.Tree Density
- 11.Green Topography and Speed
- 12.Crossing Obstacles (Yellow Penalty Areas)
- 13.Altitude

Course ratings are based on normal playing conditions, mid-season. Wind is assumed as the meteorological base level at mid-season. A % adjustment is applied for seasonal variations. Any extreme winds above this are addressed in the Playing Conditions Calculation of the day. (See above re WHS rule changes for PCC). Wind rating tables are used to adjust hypothetical distances:

- From, > 20 mph adds 198 yards for every 9 holes,
- To, < 5 mph adds 0 yards for every 9 holes.

The above explanation is very simplistic. The R&A Course Rating Manual is 106 pages of data and tables.

We were able to ascertain that all the relevant criteria had been applied in the case of PDR. Our analysis has however identified one phenomenon which may impact PDR. That is that the total length of our Par 3's compared to other courses is short.



The table below has a comparison of courses in a similar group to our own. At PDR our Par 3's are short when played off the Yellow and Red Tees. This may be a factor that influences our Slope Tables.

On the positive side, think of all those extra shots we get when playing away!!

Course	No Par 3's	Total Length(m)		
		White	Yellow	Red
Praia Del Rey	4	618	509	358
West Cliffs	4	664	463	336
Aroeira 1	4	604	566	479
Quinta Do Peru	4	712	610	507
Bom Sucesso	4	646	597	447
Royal Obidos	5	794	688	529
	0.8 Correction	635	550	423
Estela	4	653	581	511
Penha Longa	4	680	600	528

Key:  Shortest Average  
 Longest Average

## ORDERS OF MERIT

Congratulations to our recent Order of Merit Winners.

### 13th January at West Cliffs

Ebba Dohlman, Nett  
Ken Cooper, Gross

### 27th January at PDR

Chris Bell, Nett  
Johan Kilger, Gross

### 13th February at West Cliffs

Vincent Dowling, Nett  
Johan Kilger, Gross.

Well played all.

# NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new club members:

Steven Greenwood  
Simon Kaye  
Roberto Mauro Duenki  
Regula Maria Duenki  
Reiner Van Beek  
Saskia Van Beek  
Johannes Steenbeek  
Anita Steenbeek  
Engelbert Rohenkohl  
Louette Schwartz  
Juan Liso  
Charles David  
Lise Darras  
Maria Goreti Dähler  
Erich Dähler  
Daniel O'Brien  
Claudia Basurto

We look forward to seeing you soon at the Club and your involvement in our club events.



# RESTAURANT LAVRADOR DO VALE

SPECIAL MENUS DURING THE REY ESTATES PRO AM 2024



## MENU 1

### APPETIZER

OCTOPUS SALAD

OR

FRIED SHRIMP

### MAIN COURSE

GROUPEL RICE WITH  
SHRIMP AND CLAMS

OR

T-BONE WITH SAUTÉED  
MUSHROOMS AND FRENCH  
FRIES

### DESSERT

CHOICE OF ONE HOME  
MADE DESSERT

### DRINKS

HOUSE WINE, SOFT DRINKS  
& DRAFT BEER INCLUDED

OR

10% DISCOUNT ON ANY  
BOTTLE OF WINE FROM  
OUR WINE LIST

**45€ PER PERSON**

## MENU 2

### APPETIZER

FISH CAKE

OR

VEGETABLE SOUP

### MAIN COURSE

THAI CHICKEN OR PRAWN  
CURRY WITH JASMIN RICE

OR

FRESH FISH OF THE DAY  
WITH A VEGETABLE MASH  
OR FRIES

### DESSERT

CHOICE OF ONE HOME  
MADE DESSERT

### DRINKS

HOUSE WINE, SOFT DRINKS  
& DRAFT BEER INCLUDED

OR

10% DISCOUNT ON ANY  
BOTTLE OF WINE FROM  
OUR WINE LIST

**35€ PER PERSON**

21-23 FEBRUARY

OPEN FROM 7 PM

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