

JANUARY 2024

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

BY DAVID MOXHAM

A photograph of two golfers on a green. One golfer is in a blue shirt and white shorts, the other is in a red shirt and dark shorts. They are both in a ready stance. In the foreground, there is a large sand trap. To the right, a flag on a yellow pole is visible. The background shows a golf course with rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds.

LATEST NEWS GOLF CLUB

CAPTAIN'S NOTES	2
TOURNAMENTS	3
CAPTAIN'S CHARITY	5
TREE MAINTENANCE & STATUS OF ORDERS OF MERIT	6
HANDICAP REVIEWS: AN UPDATE	7

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

BY DAVID MOXHAM



CAPTAIN'S NOTES

This newsletter follows on very quickly from the last. However, as things move at a quick pace, communication is important.

We have had another busy few weeks, including an additional "National" Day to our incredibly full calendar. More on Thanksgiving Day below. Our discussions with the Golf Operation (Francisco) have continued. Items discussed in these meetings include among other subjects.

- Competition Tee Time allocations for next year.
- Members Golf Insurance initiative.
- More Competitions at West Cliffs.

I have included more details on these subjects below.

The festive season is now upon us, and I have been pleasantly surprised by the support for the idea to make our Roll Up on the 13th into a Christmas themed shotgun competition with prizes consistent with the festive season. The presentation being accompanied by a simple buffet lunch. This is a model that may be replicated more dependent on support.,

The golf calendar for next year is now consolidated with over 220 Events in the calendar for 2024. Both Geoff and I have spent a considerable amount of time making sure that events will be available for a range of golfers of all abilities and are confident players can continue to play competitive and social golf.

I would like to express my thanks to those members who have contributed to the staff gratuity. This does enable us to thank many members (over 60) of the golf club whose efforts remain largely invisible, including our excellent greens staff, logistics crew and reception staff.

Finally, I would like to wish all members and their families a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Happy golfing,

David.

TOURNAMENTS

THANKSGIVING DAY GOLF

23rd of November saw the inaugural Thanksgiving Day event organised by Francis Kelsey. The new format was welcomed by some, whilst challenging to others!! Irrespective, a great day was had by all.



DECEMBER PAIRS

A special mention to Susanne Spivey and Maurice Mc Cullough who have made a clean sweep of the Pairs this month. Susanne and Maurice have won both events (PDR and West Cliffs) scoring 44 points on both occasions.

Give us a chance you two !!



TOURNAMENTS

DECEMBER TURKEY TROT ROLL UP

Many Clubs around the World, particularly in the UK, Ireland and North America celebrate Christmas/ Thanksgiving with Turkey Trot Golf Events.

Our inaugural event took place on the 13th of December, with Christmas themed prizes and lunch. It was decided not to have the traditional Turkey as the main prize, but to present Hampers (Cabazes) with a mixture of local and traditional foreign contents.

Our nearest the Pin winners were

Hole 3 Tanya Scholbeck
Hole 8 Robert Harrison
Hole 11 No winner
Hole 14 Betty Vanneste

The winner of our special Mashie Challenge was Vincent Dowling who put the ball to within 3m on the 3rd hole using a 110 year old club. (who needs new technology !!)

Runners were

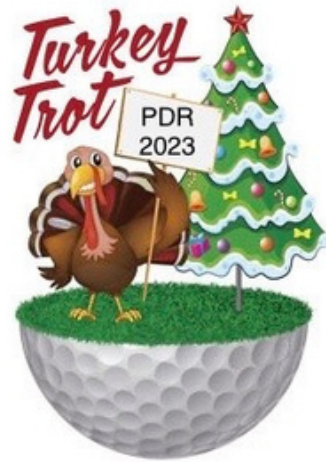
Cat 3 Shirley Manzi
Cat 2 Tanya Scholbeck
Cat 1 Martin Playell

Our Winners

Cat 3 Susanne Spivey
Cat 2 Vincent Dowling
Cat 1 Nikki Playell

Our overall Turkey Trot Winner Nikki Playell.

Congratulations to all our winners.



Vincent Dowling about to hit shot of the Day with a 110 year old Mashie !!



CAPTAIN'S CHARITY

The members of the Golf Club have continued to be incredibly supportive of local causes this year. I am truly humbled by your generosity. I have spent a lot of time discussing with Geoff, my Vice, on how we can support local and sustainable projects with a view to continuity of objectives.

We have decided in my year to focus on causes in our own community of Amoreira and Obidos. Our charity this year is to focus on two projects which I am sure will make a really significant difference to people in real need.

The Casa do Povo de Obidos was founded in 1972 with the primary objective of providing social assistance to the rural community of Obidos. The Institution of Social Solidarity (IPSS) is currently developing a Temporary Shelter to support (emotional and basic services, and reintegration) for victims of domestic violence, at risk youth, homeless and refugees among others.

The building for this shelter is old and in need of renovation. It is in the social area close to Clinimed. However, the shelter cannot open as it has an asbestos roof. (To make matters worse, the house next door is being used to teach young children !!) The windows and doors also need replacement. It is our intention to fund and support the upgrade of the windows and doors this month, and to replace the asbestos roof in the spring.

We have received tenders for the work and have committed to support the project.

Our second Project is in Amoreira at the Centro Social Cultural e Recreativo. The Centre accommodates elderly people who need full time care. The people and staff are amazing in their commitment and are working in really challenging circumstances. The immediate need is to renovate the laundry. The current washing machines are on the verge of failure. The leaks of the systems are so bad the staff are working in wellington boots as there is so much water on the floor. The laundry is essential to clean bedding and clothing not just for the residents of the home, but also for people needing support in the wider community.

I am therefore looking to fund the renovation of the laundry with the installation of Industrial washing machines, driers, and facilities for the pressing of bedding and clothing etc. (Currently one person is doing this with an ironing board !!) We are looking to complete the work by March next year.

These two projects are going to make a real difference to people in our local community. The cost will be significant, but I feel achievable with a little effort. I am actively looking at ideas to fund our charity.

One activity I am looking to achieve is to play a round of Golf at PDR by relay. The idea is one player drives to the next player on the fairway who immediately gets the ball on the green etc. I am looking to involve the Club Members in various roles in this madness, but I think we can play in under an hour. Further details will follow.

TREES MAINTENANCE ON THE COURSE

This issue is the most frequently asked question for myself this month. It is covered in the Vice Captains recent course newsletter but I feel there is a little more detailed explanation required.

Many trees have been identified on the course by the maintenance team as requiring removal. Hence the white markings. There are several reasons.

- 1.As safety a primary concern, some trees have been identified as being unsafe to golfers. Some trees have been identified as sick. Others are of an age where they have become unstable. In the interests of golfer protection they have been marked for removal. The recent high winds have demonstrated why this is necessary given the number of trees that fell. (Some adjacent to property)
- 2.The spacing and proximity to other trees of some of the less healthy has been identified as an issue. As a consequence some trees will be removed to prevent the spread of disease. The access of airflow and sunlight will also reduce the damp in the forests which is one cause of the sickness of trees.
- 3.Finally, some trees are being removed to open up the drives from some of the Tee's. This will enable better Tee options going forward.

The question has also been asked if there is a tree planting programme to replace some tree's. The answer is no. It is the strategy to let the trees replace themselves by natural propagation.

Finally, the thinning of trees will risk the propagation of mimosa's on the course. Mimosa is very invasive and must be managed. The course maintenance team will mobilise extra equipment to assist in the removal of some of the larger bushes. Other measures will be used to control smaller growth.

STATUS OF ORDERS OF MERIT

The Order of Merit Competitions are annual competitions based on the best aggregate scores achieved (Best 6 out of 12) in the season from July to June.

Last Years winners were:

Winner West Cliffs Order of Merit Gross	John Breen
Winner West Cliffs Order of Merit Nett	Peter Reed
Winner PDR Order of Merit Gross	Alan Westhead
Winner PDR Order of Merit Nett	Julie Calvert

The current Standings are posted on the Club Website:

- The current leader of the Order of Merit Gross WC is Ken Cooper with 109 (4)
- The current leader of the Order of Merit Nett WC is Vincent Dowling 189 (6)
- The current leader of the Order of Merit PDR Gross is Paulo Araujo 85 (3)
- The current leader of the Order of Merit Nett at PDR is David Stead 122 (4)

Note the number in brackets () indicates the number of events played.

HANDICAP REVIEWS: AN UPDATE

The annual Handicap Reviews have now been completed. A total of 205 members Handicaps were analysed. This resulted in a total of 61 members Handicaps subjected to detailed review as shown below.

The outcome is that 6 players have had a handicap adjustment (subject to their engagement) 4 players have received an increase, and 2 players have been cut.

The process has been made much easier due to the number of players who are regularly submitting cards. Our conclusion as a handicap committee is, despite much negativity, players are reaching a handicap level commensurate with their ability.

The scores submitted for each member were analysed across the year. The chart below highlights the spread of scores achieved.

The following process was adopted.

1. Players with less than the required number of cards were subjected to review. A spot check of players regularly submitting cards demonstrated that WHS indices do eventually land at the correct level. We focussed on players who had scores above 36 points and under 26 points.
2. Review of overseas members who have not submitted playing records was also conducted, with a focus on high and low scores.
3. Finally, there was a review of members where a case to change handicap under appendix D of WHS was evident.

The following conclusions/ actions are to be taken.

- a) Some players are predominantly submitting Extra Day Cards and show regular good performance in social events. In some cases, these are all 9-hole cards. Appendix D again highlights the need to consider this issue. It is also noted that some of these cards are not validated by a Federated member. Actions are to be taken to encourage some participation in Club Events in the interests of greater transparency. It is not permitted to use Friday Fun Golf for the purposes of submitting cards.
- b) There are members who are still failing to bring overseas playing records, even in the form of a nil return. Actions will be taken to address this issue.
- c) Members are reminded that under WHS they can only have one handicap. Whilst most of our members are compliant in this requirement, some are not. There is no evidence that this is deliberate.

Note: Some minor misalignment is accepted provided the intent to comply is clearly demonstrable. The default is that a player will always play off the lower handicap.

Given that we are now dealing with prizes annually of an increasingly significant value, it is only right and fair that the integrity of our Club Handicap system is maintained. We are Federated in Portugal and the handicap system in place is the WHS. WHS is clear that it is the players responsibility to maintain their handicap.

