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CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

BY DAVID MOXHAM

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CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

BY DAVID MOXHAM



CAPTAIN'S NOTES

Welcome to my third Newsletter. The last one was abbreviated to cover the Club Championships and consequently there are quite a few important issues to communicate in this edition. Our calendar remains hectic, but we are now in the position where all dates are fixed for 2024. This has enabled us to plan the transition in June to the new Captaincy.

But, with a focus on the present, I have outlined below updates on the major topics that form the agenda of our committee and our engagements with Francisco. Most of these are explained in more detail below. But two are significant.

The first is access to the course. We are in the busy season now and tee times are at a premium. We can only continue to remind all members to plan your golf. This includes participation in Club Competitions. Despite having 4 events a week we are in the season of waiting lists. We are doing everything we can to ensure all members can participate in our competitions from squeezing tee slots to revising the format of Pairs Competitions. With the former, we need the support of the Golf Operation who have a business to run.

Our leverage is enhanced by our awareness of pace of play. Our last four events are seeing rounds taking 5 hours.

The second is the care and condition of the course. The volume of traffic on the course is at a maximum. It cannot go unnoticed how this impacts on the course condition. Please be aware of your responsibilities as Golfers to repair pitch marks and to rake bunkers. Before you start your round, can I please ask you to remind your playing partners to have a pitch mark repair tool in their pocket and help each other in raking bunkers after playing shots. I hear many comments regarding the behaviour of Green Fee Players and the impact on the course. Interestingly, comments from Visitors suggest that many of these issues are the consequence of members. There are no winners here.

Finally, it was with great sadness that we said farewell to our long-standing member Jackie Reynolds. Jackie was an incredible character, a golfer's golfer.

Enjoy your Golf,

David.

RECENT EVENTS



The weekend of the 2nd Rey Estates AmAm saw 22 Teams play in a fantastic Event over 2 days. 88 players including 38 guests enjoyed some amazing golf played in a great spirit. The winning team of Thomas Wiedenbruch, Nelson Rodriguez, Armando Nunes and Sabine Wiedenbruch scored an incredible 197 points over the two rounds.

On 13th September, our Dutch community and members did us proud once again with a fantastic Dutch Day competition which surpassed the incredible standards set last year. The evening event was amazing as was the food.

I must also send a very big thank you to all the sponsors who have supported this and other Events we manage. The reality is that without the significant sponsorship we receive these events would not take place. We cannot afford to take them for granted.

Finally, I must also say congratulations to Thomas Wiedenbruch and his Team for their success in winning the Atlantic Trophy for only the third time in the Clubs History.

THE REY ESTATES 2023 AMAM

On the weekend of 9th and 10th September 22 Teams participated in the AmAm. This was followed by an award dinner in the PDR Clubhouse. The competition, held over 2 days, proved to be very popular. There are already enquiries regarding next year's event which gives members the perfect opportunity to invite their friends to play on both courses. The first day "scrumble" proved to be particularly popular, as demonstrated by the great scoring.

The eventual winners were Team PGA, consisting of Sabine and Thomas Wiedenbruch, Nelson Rodriguez and Armando Nunes with 197 Points.

Second place went to Team Masha e os Ursos with 193 Points (Vasco and Pedro Coutinho, Lutero Ferreira and Elvira Abdulmannanova)

In third place was C'Mon Bris (Jon and Sandi Masters, Jan and Nigel Pickersgill) with 188 points.

Fourth place went to Ken's Barbies (an all-male team !!) led by Ken Cooper with 186 points and in fifth the Touch of Swiss team led by Tim Rothwell with 183 points.



DUTCH DAY 2023

Dutch Day saw the course awash with orange. A great day's golf was followed by a very lively Dinner held at West Cliffs, accompanied by a great band, The Booze Brothers. Thank you to all the organisers.

Below, the Dutch Team the Day before setting the Course Par for the Day.



Halfway House, with the most incredible Meatballs !!, well done Marga.



The Winning Team of John Breen, Archie Williams, Timo Kurkaa and Ian Hall.



ATLANTIC TROPHY 2023

The Atlantic Trophy is an annual event played between PDR, Troia, Quinta do Peru and Penha Longa. This year saw PDR win the Trophy for only the third time since it's inception. The Final standings saw PDR win by a comfortable margin in the end. There is no denying that our experience and knowledge of West Cliffs stands us in good stead when competing against other teams !! Hopefully our Silver Coast League Team have the same success at the conclusion of that Event in November.



Atlantic Trophy winning team after the final round at West Cliffs.

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Mafalda Bandeira for winning second place in FPG Division 2A mixed Boys/ Girls for 2023. Luis is doing a fantastic job in developing our Academy youngsters!! This is just one of several significant achievements this year.



GOLF CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

The issue of communications is a recurring theme of feedback from members. It is something that we as a committee have under constant review and have made extensive efforts to improve. A prime example is the course maintenance reports issued periodically. The challenge as always is to maximize the extent that messages and information are reaching the customer, ie the members. The strategy developed to achieve this objective is outlined below.

E - MAIL

All members have their email address registered with the Golf Club. It is the most certain mode of communication in assuring key communications are reaching their intended audience. As such, all communications regarding Club Policy, Major Events, etc will be communicated through E Mail. This includes confirmation of Registration for Club Competitions and Events.

It is therefore very important that Members ensure that the contact details held be the Club are up to date, and that members regularly check e mail. The irony of this statement is that if you have not done this you will likely not see this newsletter!!

The major disadvantage of email is that it is slow in the context of today's age of social media.

CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Competition Information, Initiatives, and Club News will be posted on the Notice Board. Efforts have been made to give some order to how the Content is presented for easy reference.

Clearly, to see the notice board needs presence in the Club House. This is inconvenient for members residing outside of PDR.

FACEBOOK

Facebook is the "go to" medium for many members. The advantage is that information can be communicated very quickly. This is ideal for late information, e.g., cancellation of Competitions etc. It is also ideal for overseas members to stay informed of news and events in times when they are not resident in PDR.

Facebook will be used to communicate some Golf Club news in parallel with the media above.

FACEBOOK has two main disadvantages:

1. Not all members are on Facebook. This raises the danger that non-Facebook users are excluded. Hence the email default for key communication.
2. Information is posted on the PDR Group Page which is not exclusive to the Golf Club. Therefore, key communication can become diluted.

As the Golf Club is not the Admin for this Group, most posts will be sent with commenting in TURN OFF COMMENTS mode.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

To make Holes 17 and 18 at West Cliffs safer and to avoid extensive waiting on the Tee, a traffic light system will be introduced based on motion detection technology. Basically, when the group in front have moved out of range, the traffic lights will turn green indicating it is safe to play. The technology is proven to be effective. The cost of this improvement is of the order of a few thousand euros. The recent Course Report has highlighted the ongoing investment in Bunkers and Drainage upgrades on the course. Other investments include new technologies to reduce dependency on chemicals.

2. AVAILABILITY OF BUGGIES

It is often the source of great frustration to members when buggies are unavailable. Shortages are particularly acute in the peak season. Buggy demand has seen a 20% increase this year. Next year an additional 10 buggies will be made available at both West Cliffs and PDR. This will involve the installation of additional electrical and storage infrastructure to charge and maintain the buggies. Work is scheduled to start later this year.

3. REY ESTATES PRO AM

The Rey Estates Pro Am will take place on 23rd and 24th February next year.

There are already 45 Teams enlisted (maximum is 52). Hurry if you are not yet registered and wish to take part.

4. ACCESS TO THE COURSE

As mentioned above, the volume of players on the course is high. The overall number of rounds are around 2000 higher than last year (For PDR this level is still lower than the 2007-2010 average) What has grown are the number of members. We are at 565 members today. In 2022 we had 482 members. What this indicates is that there are a higher number of members chasing the same number of rounds. The issue is further compounded by the fact that 77% of the membership are Overseas (30 round per year) members. This year, there are a high number of our overseas members currently in residence simultaneously with high numbers of Visitors. The % of rounds by members and their guests have increased steadily over the last few years. For the months of October and November this year, members guests are paying 400 Green Fees.

Despite this, if planned, members can access the course, albeit not necessarily at their preferred times. We have one member who played 173 times last year!!

The Club holds on average 4.5 Competitions and Events every week throughout the year. Situations where players cannot play due to waiting lists are extremely rare. At Estoril by example, members are given tee slots to hold 2 competitions per month throughout the year.

The key message emerging is that we need to plan our golf. We will continue to work with Francisco to mitigate this situation.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

5. COST OF SOCIAL EVENTS

I often receive feedback from members regarding the cost of social events. Indeed, over the last few years we have seen a steady increase in costs.

I recall one member challenging me at a recent event where we had a BBQ, unlimited wine/ beer consumption for 4 hours, music on the terrace overlooking the PDR sunset. It made me think, where else could I get so much for 45 Euro's. As a result, a simple benchmarking exercise was undertaken to enable comparison of prices. The entities approached proved to have a similar or slightly higher cost, and these excluded the cost of transportation away from the Golf Club. So even for our members residing outside PDR there was no obvious cost benefit. As always, this issue remains under review.

6. HANDICAP ISSUES

The Handicap Committee are constantly working to assure that Club Competitions are played on a level playing field for all members, whether their home club be PDR or overseas. The policy of playing records has been in place for many years. The introduction of WHS has generated much discussion. The primary function of the Handicap Committee is to ensure its proper implementation, NOT to defend it.

We have been aware that some members have struggled to converge their overseas and Portuguese Handicap Indices. For members from CONGU jurisdictions this is compounded by the fact that CONGU Slope Tables do not include the Course Rating - PAR component. Therefore, CONGU Golfers lose 2.7 shots from the yellow tees at PDR. To get some clarity, we wrote to the English Golf Union (part of CONGU) for some clarification. Below is the response we have received:

1. "Until the USGA and R&A complete their project to merge all WHS systems, the only solution (which is the responsibility of the golfer) is for identical records to be maintained at each Home Club.
2. Members should not have two different handicaps, as per the answer to Q1 above. Tee sets are rated to exacting standards, by trained teams globally.....Finally, CR - PAR is something that will be introduced here in GB&I in the early part of 2024, with comms and workshops for all club handicap committees to attend."

It would therefore appear that the global WHS objective has some way to go before we get the new Handicap system we have been promised.

In the interim, we will have no alternative but to request playing records be submitted as a prerequisite to Competition participation.

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Club.

Ralph Simon Darby

Fergus Denhamer

Pedro Lameira

Isabel Cabrita

Juergen Kormann

John Harrison

Sherry Harrison

Brian Caulfield

Helen Caulfield

James Stafford

Grainne Stafford

Alejo Jose

Hye Lim

Welcome to you all.

We look forward to meeting you at our club events in the near future.