

EL PARAISO NEWS

Gale force winds, icy roads, dull, overcast days - no, sorry, that's the British weather!

But here as I sit and write, we are still enjoying warm balmy days and blue skies. No doubt there will be rain in the coming months, and the gardens and golf courses will all enjoy some natural water, and the net beneficiary will be the bars and restaurants we will use to find shelter and sustenance from the wet weather!

LOOKING BACK

As the year draws to a close, there have been many changes at El Paraiso Golf Club during the last twelve months. Whilst a number of palm trees have been lost to attack from the invasive red beetle, we have planted over 50 new trees, including mimosa, jacaranda, olive trees, pine trees and adelfus. One of our members has adopted the 16th hole and with the assistance of the

Greenkeeper John Wallace, has planted many trees and bushes on both sides of the fairway. In years to come, the name of Ronan Henry will no doubt be invoked as some of us struggle to play a shot from behind one of those skilfully planted bushes. Our thanks also go to Viveros del Valle from Urb. Bel Air who have donated plants and bushes to help make the entrance full of colour with plants and bushes, lending it the charm of an authentic finca. The volunteers on the garden committee have spent the summer creating colour on the course, thanks to the generosity of other members in bringing cuttings and plants from their gardens. We hope they will continue to bring their green fingers and gardening knowledge to El Paraiso, and anyone who is willing to help, need only call Tony and Lynne Girling who can always use an extra pair of willing hands.

During the summer months,

additional peripheral drainage around the course was installed, and has already proved its worth following two days of heavy rain in November. Let's hope it doesn't have too strenuous a job to do over the next couple of months! This year saw the inauguration of a Juniors Tournament at El Paraiso. A number of competitions were played, culminating in the Final at the end of November. This has proved a popular event, run by our Club Professional Daniel Westermarck who has worked hard during the year to promote the club both in his work with the junior section and also in promoting El Paraiso when playing in his professional capacity on tour. On the social front, our Social Committee headed by Deirdre Cordiner, have done a wonderful job in organising events to bring members together during the year - everything from a romantic dinner by candlelight, to a barbeque on the terrace. The smooth and professional running of the always popular Easter Week Competition in April, and Members Week Competition in September, would not have been possible without the aid and assistance of willing volunteers. Another highlight of the year was an Old Time Music Hall show put on by the members themselves. Whilst many people worked hard to put on this extravaganza, particular thanks go to Averil Crowley for bringing the show together and producing a



unique entertainment. Social events arranged for the members, by the members, will always be successful so long as we all continue to support them.

LOOKING FORWARD

The last day of 2011 is a celebration of the end of one year, and the start of the next. At El Paraiso that meant an evening of good food, good company and dancing into the early hours. Over 90 members broke open their party bags at midnight, and some even managed to eat their 12 grapes in unison with the 12 strikes of midnight! With the usual solemn resolutions made - and yet to be broken, New Year's Day commenced with a Texas Scramble. There was a shotgun start (duly muffled, for those who might have been over-refreshed the previous evening), followed by some light refreshments. This is always a popular competition, and a festive start to the New Year. We think we are the only club on the coast who produce a Members' Diary each year, and for those who have not collected theirs,

the office keeps one for each member. Likewise, an El Paraiso Calendar arrives in November and visitors are able to purchase a practical memento of their visit to our club.

For members, this is not only a useful reminder of club events taking place during the year, but also dates of key events are listed, such as the London Olympics, and the Ryder Cup which takes place in Illinois this year. On the social front, January is normally a quiet month following a hectic December, which saw the Ladies Christmas Party, President's Day and the Club Christmas Party, all taking place in the same week! Luckily, all this activity occurs in the early part of December, before many members leave to join their extended families at Christmas time. But when February arrives, out come the red roses and candlelight in readiness for the Valentines Night dinner. Onto March, when the Captain Vince Cappi has his special day, which the whole club looks forward to. At the time of going to press, the specific details are still under wraps. The Lady Captain Polly

Dilasser also has a competition day and lunch for all the ladies during March, and both events are keenly anticipated.

The year continues, with the Easter Week Competition, culminating in the Drive In of the new Club Captain, followed the next day by the Drive In of the new Lady Captain. We all wish Laurie Perring and Brenda Henry every success in their year, and trust they find time to enjoy themselves in between all the hard work they will be doing!

So if anyone reading this article is considering joining a golf club in the area, why not ring our Managing Director Estelle des Georges and come and have a chat with her. There are a number of different types of memberships available - one of which is sure to suit. The number is 952 883 835.

In the meantime, to all who have read the news from El Paraiso Golf Club, a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and remember that the people who gave us golf and called it a game, are the same people who gave us bagpipes and called it music!



El Paraiso Golf Club

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