

EL PARAISO NEWS

During July and August, hot winds and high temperatures make golfing during the summer months a game best played early mornings and late afternoons.

Now that September has arrived, the temperature is returning to more comfortable levels, giving the best playing conditions where golf can be enjoyed at all times of the day.

MIXED INTERCLUB FINAL

The grand finale of the Mixed Interclub Competition took place at El Paraiso on Friday 5th August when we played host to 72 players from six participating clubs from along the coast. This annual event, now in its fifth year, is not only a very competitive competition, but takes on the nature of a family

reunion as members from all six clubs renew acquaintances, and relive past glories. With the coming together of so many nationalities, it is truly an international day – or as the French would say - jeux sans frontieres.

9-HOLE SCRAMBLES

Sunday 21st August saw the last of our series of late afternoon short 9 hole scramble competitions, followed by a rather longer barbeque and prize giving on the terrace. One or two of those who lingered over an extra glass of rioja, were inadvertently refreshed on the outside by the eruption of the irrigation system from the adjacent 18th green - the quickest some of them had moved all evening - whilst the contents of their glasses were simultaneously being diluted!

UPCOMING EVENTS

As the very high temperatures of summer abate, we look forward to the return of many of the members who prefer to spend the summer months in cooler climates. In celebration of this, our traditional Members Week takes place commencing with a reception on Sunday 25th September. There is a full programme of competitions during the week culminating in a celebratory dinner and prize giving on the following Friday evening, the 30th September. Inevitably after the long summer months, fingers are nervously crossed that the first autumn rains will decently hold off until the start of October. After a solid week's golf, the swings and handicaps should be well honed in preparation for the Men's Club Championship in October. This is played over two consecutive days as a Scratch Strokeplay Competition, and tends to separate the men from the boys, but not however in the Ladies Scratch & Handicap Competition, which is also played over two days in October!

ON COURSE WORK

As is normal, we tackle some major on course projects during the summer and this year was no exception, when much work was accomplished. Following three years of very heavy winter rains, a series of deep drains were excavated and installed around



CHIPPING & PUTTING AREA



LUNCH - MIXED INTERCLUB COMP

the perimeter where surface water runs down the side of our valley and ultimately onto the course. We found our domestic drainage work on the course was more than capable of handling the heaviest of rains, but that which reaches us by courtesy of local urbanisations and badly drained roads, was more than we could handle. At the same time, additional drainage was installed to some fairways where the old systems were due for replacement. Our programme of verti draining and sanding was accelerated to allow any surplus surface water to drain more readily, and was accomplished with the minimum of disturbance to members and visitors alike. The members who remained at the club throughout the summer will have inadvertently polished up their bunker play, as occasionally the sand remained on the surface before the irrigation system could wash it into the fairways. Let us all pray that the new drains will have little need of being tested to the full, in the hope of a much drier winter this year - wherever one is playing golf.

Those of you who have not visited El Paraiso in recent years, will notice one or two of our old and perhaps more prominent trees are missing – mostly due to old age and dangerous condition. Happily the more observant will also see the many new trees planted in the rough around the course and on four principal holes. The trees which are all species indigenous to Andalusia were mainly donated by members, and we are very grateful for their generosity. The course will be greatly enhanced by the new trees, the visual effect of which will become evident throughout the changing seasons. However, in the future, members may not have the same enthusiasm for these trees when finding themselves having to play from olive groves, where previously a clear sight of the green was afforded!

"Green fingers" in our garden areas are still very much in evidence as plants and shrubs appear to install themselves overnight, as if by magic. A large bank adjacent to our 12th tee has been cleared and an olé of oleanders (can anyone think of a better collective noun?) has been planted, the result of which should be a bright splash of colour as one looks over the top of a restorative glass of beer from the terrace,

across the 18th green to the 12th tee.

The summer months are also an ideal time to cast an eye over the clubhouse to see what needs to be done. With many members away at this time of year, the opportunity was taken to repaint both the inside and outside, keeping the colour scheme in sympathy with the type and style of our "finca clubhouse". There is nothing like a facelift to lift the spirits and the "old girl" if I may call the clubhouse that, is quite rejuvenated!

LADIES SECTION

And on to the Ladies Section - which goes from strength to strength. In early October, our Lady Captain Polly Dilasser has arranged an Away Day by coach which will whisk the ladies off for a day of golf followed by a late lunch, at Benalup. This is always a popular outing with different courses chosen each year, and the ladies are always appreciative of being so well organised. Another highlight of the year is the Ladies Invitation Day on the 24th October which gives El Paraiso ladies an opportunity to invite friends from clubs in the area, as well as from overseas. As we go to print, there is a great deal of activity and steam emanating from the ladies committee!

FOUR LEGGED FRIEND

There is however, some sad news to report. For many years now, El Paraiso Golf Course has been home to a campo dog - or more accurately, a lady dog. No-one really knows how she came to us, but she has lived through all weathers in various sheltered spots around the course. There are many theories as to how many years she's been with us but it must be over 12 years since she first arrived, with a damaged hind leg. The injury slowly healed but left her with a very uneven gait, from where she got the name of Hoppy. One of our long served members took on the responsibility for Hoppy's welfare and should he be a moment or two late in delivering her daily dose of rations, Hoppy's bark was a reminder that could be heard around the course. She was never approachable and always remained the wild campo dog to the end, whilst fiercely protective of her domain should another dog presume to visit.

Sadly she died in August, quietly of old age and is now buried in a wooded area on the course.

THE EL PARAISO GOLF CLUB JUNIOR TOUR 2011

The junior "tour" continues to be popular, with the second and third events played on the 17th July and 28th August. There were some very good scores, as the results show:

17th July Gabriel Wittschier 44 stableford points Sara Garcia 75 scratch Miguel Angel Añon 75 scratch

28th August Elena Pany 46 stableford points Jaime Celaya Camuñas 45 stableford points Laura Pany 75 scratch

Laura plays off a handicap of 9.4, and told our club professional Daniel Westermarck:

"I played really well today, especially my iron shots to the green. This is my lowest score ever, and it could actually have been even better if I hadn't had a double bogey 6 on the last hole, but I am really happy" With two tournament events to go, leading the overall stableford ranking is Devika Patel with 114 points just 2 ahead of his brother Vikas. Miguel Angel Añon is leading the scratch ranking six shots ahead of Sara Garcia Real.

The next tournament is on the 4th of September and the Final is on the 27th November.

That's all the news for the present, except to remind you that today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday! On that confusing note, it just remains for me to say adios, from El Paraiso's correspondent.



MIGUEL ANGEL AÑON



El Paraiso Golf Club

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