

Thursday International

Probably the most popular competition held in our club is the THURSDAY INTERNATIONAL. More than a golf competition it is a weekly social event bringing together members of all nationalities in a friendly atmosphere.

The competition is always a "pairs" competition open to all members over the age of 18. Ideally it should be a "male/female" pair, but two ladies are allowed to play together.... never two men.

The format of the competition is, first and foremost, to HAVE FUN & MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF LIKE MIND and vary between, Fourball Betterball, Greensome, Greensome Chapman, Scottish Greensome, Greensome "Duo" and Greensome "Trio". All are Stableford competitions.

After a friendly game at least 80% of the players attend the prizegiving around 7pm. where there is a very jovial atmosphere with a large lottery table as well as prize vouchers for the winners in each category.

The origins of the competition go back to the early 1990's when a few members decided that something had to be done to bring couples together and not just have a Men's & Ladies Day every week.

From old records it can be seen that the number of players in those early days there were around 20/25 couples with players paying 225 pesetas entry fee (about 1.50€) with this money divided between the best 6 couples.

1992. Windy but nice weather!	
Jan 2. Delanteros y Zagueros.	
52 x 225.-	11.700.-
Prizes:	
1. Helga + Heinz Hommerath	
2. Susi + Nils Scholz	
3. Evelyn + Jan v. Schelt	
4. Pamela + Jim Payne	
5. Pam + Ken Tunnicliff	
6. Reville + Helga Bilgaut.	11.600.-
	<hr/>
caja	<u>100.-</u>

The competition has always been a competition run by members for members and, as its popularity grew, members who have devoted their time and efforts into keeping the competition running smoothly include Susi Scholz & Nina Digsmed, Hans & Ans Tolymeyer (grandparents of Marisa who now runs our new Pro -Shop) and Steve Warren & Pam Robinson.

In 2003 Derek & Judy Harrington took over running the competition and, after 13 years, are still doing so.

Occasionally, when Derek & Judy have to go away, Gerry & Linda North step in and run the competition to ensure its continuity.

Judy & Derek have permanently lived and worked in Spain since 1966, initially in Cataluña where they also started and ran the very successful "Birdie Club" at the "Emporda Golf Club" in the Girona province. This competition, based on a similar idea to our Thursday International, is still being held every week at that club.

During 2015 the members playing in the competition in the "high" winter season sometimes reaches 190 which is the maximum number able to get around the course in daylight!! Even either side of the "high" season there is always an average of between 120 to 150 players.

During the months of July & August there are no competitions as many of our "international" members return to their homeland.

Since 2003 over 1000 members have, at some time or other, played in the Thursday International.

In 2015 there were 35 competitions celebrated with over 4.500 players playing, an average of 128 players per week. Over 12.000€ worth of vouchers, to be used in the club restaurant or Pro-Shop, have been given out and Judy has shopped for over 6000€ of lottery prizes.

So for those regular players we hope you will continue to support this "social event" which now has become very well known on the Costa del Sol and, in many cases, has attracted new members to our club.

And to all members who have not played in the Thursday International....."it's time you did"