

12th October 2021

Dear Alto Members

It is now some time since I last wrote to you back in May in the AGM notice papers.

In the meantime, we have seen a number of changes to the environment surrounding international travel and an increasing level of occupancy at Alto Club from what was a very low level during the first five months of the year. Over the summer period, occupancy levels have been extremely high with 97% on average for the end of July and August and levels of 75% to 80% for September and October.

A number of positive announcements have been made by both the UK and Portuguese governments, including the abolition of the Amber and Green travel lists from 4th October and the removal of the requirement to be tested prior to entering Portugal, if you are in possession of a NHS Vaccination certificate. All of this means that we are now in a situation where international travel, whilst not back to normal, is no longer subject to some of the uncertainties that it was.

Throughout the current year the Committee have reiterated their position that they hoped to be able to repeat the maintenance fee credit which we applied to members who had not been able to travel (and had not rented or exchanged their weeks) to the Resort in 2020, in 2021. This remains our intention subject to finalising the cost savings which we have been able to achieve and compiling and checking the list of members who will qualify. However, given the changes to which I have referred above, the Committee have come to the decision that any members who choose not to travel from week 44 onwards (arrivals from 30th October 2021) will not qualify for any maintenance fee credit as their decision not to travel will be treated as a disinclination to travel rather than due to government restrictions. If you have banked your week(s) with an exchange company, this decision does not affect you.

Whilst we understand that some members might be disappointed in this decision, the Committee is very clear that the offer of the maintenance fee credit was only to remain in place whilst Government restrictions remained in place and that a resumption of normality is required at some point. Moreover, the Club's ability to offer a maintenance fee credit is dependent on it being able to achieve cost savings at the Resort and occupancy has been such over the past few months that the level of savings is significantly reduced.

I hope to be able to confirm the level of maintenance fee credit to be applied to those members who qualify in 2021 in my Newsletter to accompany the 2022 maintenance fees. However, it is likely that due to the time necessary to check the credits and to apply them to members' accounts, the credit will not appear on your account until January 2022.

Finally, I would like to reassure members that I have travelled to the Algarve in September and am planning to be there again towards the end of this month. My experience of the travel process was extremely safe and relatively hassle free. I hope members who are planning to visit the Resort have as enjoyable an experience as I did and I look forward to seeing some of you there. As always, our advice is to check the relevant government websites and with your airline for any requirements that might still be in place at the time of your travel.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Smith, Alto Club Associates Chairman