

## THE VIPINGO RIDGE GOLF CADDIES PROGRAM



This was an idea of Glad's House UK. Its objective was to train young men and women in Golf Caddy with the hope of giving them jobs in the golf industry. 25 young men and ladies were selected. In the first step we wanted most of them to come from the streets. However, with the security risks involved, we mixed those direct from the streets, those from Magongo area and those from the sports clubs under our umbrella. Several were tried out but finally 25 were settled.

Those selected from the streets included, Julius Simiyu, Ronald Simiyu, John Otieno, Koech Kandie and Ahmed Majambo (medi).

From the Coastal Queens Soccer club were, Christine Makumbo, Janet Otieno and Beatrice.

From the boxing club were Stephen Otieno, Vincent Juma, Barnard Kilongozi and lady boxer Mary Mwatu.

From the Coastal Kings Soccer Club were Moses Epili and Fredrick Gatibaru.

From Magongo community were Daniel Karisa, Mwatela Mazera, Paul Rotich, Marcos Bright, Ali Omar and Erick Charo.

Fred Gatibaru was elected team leader.

It started with a video training programme from a Canada charity called "Teaching Kids Business" then caddy masters from Vipingo come into Magongo to give theory lessons before the team of twenty driving to and from Vipingo. The whole December 2009 the team of twenty drove to and from Vipingo to be introduced to the game of golf and Golf Caddying by Caddy masters Promise and John.

In January the team of twenty moved to Vipingo. We rented them 6 rooms at the cost of 6000 shillings a month. They trained and learned Golf. They learnt to be Golf caddies. They worked as Caddies. For a full round of 18 holes they were paid 450 shillings while for 9 holes half a round they were paid 250 shillings. We organized a system where all the monies that they worked for were collected and channelled to Glad's House. In return, Glad's House paid each

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caddy a figure of 9000 shillings a month. This was latter reviewed and settled at 8000 shillings a month each totalling to a massive 160,000 shillings each month.



**Ronald Simiyu has now been transformed from a street boy to one of the best caddy in Vipingo Ridge.**

In August, Glad's House UK flew in three very skilled European Tour Caddies Association members – Paul Cast, Ken Herring and Brian McConnell. These were very fine men. Some of the money to pay for this trip was given to Glad's House by the charity of the European Tour Golf Players – The Tour Players Foundation – we thank them all highly. The master Caddies from Europe trained all the Caddies in the Vipingo Ridge. A total of 44 caddies were trained and issued by certificates. This made them very happy and Vipingo RidgeGolf Club arranged a presentation ceremony and party for everyone – we all had soda's!

Glad's House UK also collected assorted second hand Golf club and flew them to Mombasa. The total duty for getting the Golf Clubs was 89,000 shillings. With this, Caddies are expected to find more time to practice Golf. Sometimes next year, Glad's House UK plan to fly two or three caddies to England to work in the European tour. Caddies who have been wining the caddy tournaments are almost sure of making it to England. After 11 months down the line, this is what we came up with.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- All of them have been trained by international caddies and have certificates as caddies they can therefore get jobs as Golf Caddies in any other Golf Course in Mombasa or Kenya.
- All of them now well understand Golf. They do participate in different golf tournaments and most of them have always come out as outstanding golfers. Among these group is Janet, Ronald Simiyu, Julius Simiyu, Mary Mwatu and Ali Omar.
- Morally, some have transformed to the extent that one will never believe that they came from the streets. Julius Simiyu has now stabilized to the extent that he has now taken his younger brother from upcountry. He has financed his circumcisions and every month he sends his Mum some of the money he has earned. He plans to enroll his brother to the local primary school next year. He says he wants to remove some of the burden from his mum who now aging. He wants his brother to have education and not be like him who never went to school.
- Erick Charo just finished his secondary education last year. He has saved 22 thousand shillings. He was hoping to keep on saving so as to join the school of hotel industry once the Vipingo club house opened. Boxer lady Mary Mwatu also saved a good amount of her money. She was hoping that she could land a job in store keeping as she has a diploma in that. Boxer Barnard Kilongozi has been able to build a nice mud brick house for his family at their rural home.
- Vincent Juma and John Otieno both have their families with them in vipingo while Janet and Beatrice both have their children with them.
- Many others also now take care of their extended family members. The best example here is Ali Omar who takes care of his old Grandmother. Fredrick Gatibaru who educates his children and also acts like a guardian to the street-boys and the whole team. He is the oldest member of the team.
- The most interesting part of it all is the transformation of street boys into normal citizens and good golf caddies Julius and Ronald remain the most outstanding.

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## DISAPPOINTMENTS

We have learnt a lot from the caddy experience, not all good!

- Most boys were not ready for that kind of money (8000 per month). They therefore wasted it on leisure among the Medi, Stiven Otieno among others. Others like Marcos Bright, Daniel Karisa, Mwatela Mazera, Paul Rotich and Koech Kandie will never tell on how they have been spending their monies.
- Because of the time and distance, proper coordination and supervision has been lacking. It has been therefore not been easy to control or motivate the team. Some have therefore misbehaving and it takes time before problems can be detected and prevented or even remedies be found.
- We hope to remedy the above problems soon, as we are buying a farm near Vipingo and will offer accommodation and support for the caddies there. We will have a full time social worker at the farm plus leisure things for them to do as well as learning, reading, writing and arithmetic.

## NEXT ACTION PLAN

- Find a plot of land in Vipingo to build a dormitory and an office so as to well coordinate the program and activities of Vipingo.
- Maybe up the number of those who have not been conducting themselves well.
- Give independence to most of the group selected from Magongo (get what you work for).
- Continue to support those that we feel venerable (10 in total).
- Retain Fredrick Gatibaru as we still need him as a guardian to the venerable street boys.
- Form a compulsory savings scheme of which all of them shall register so as to make sure that they use the monies they get wisely.
- Make more frequent visits so as to adequately supervise the group.
- Revisit the program together with the team after another three months.
- Give Beatrice another one month (December) so that she can finish up on the hair salon program that she had invested in.
- We also need to find illustrate rules of golf for those who cannot read.



## **THE SANITARY TOWELS PROJECT**

The program was once again re-launched. In this program, different people buy in bulk sanitary towels. These towels are stocked in our office and members of the Coastal Queens soccer or Basketball teams turn up and collect them at their time of need. Members of the taekwondo team also do come for them.

## **SPORTS**

### **BOXING**

#### **THE KENYA NATIONAL BOXING LEAGUE**

Every year, the National Boxing Association organizes the National Boxing League. Teams that win their Provincial Leagues represent their respective provinces in the National Boxing League. However, because of costs involved, most teams do not participate as needed.

Early this year, Havana was welcomed into the National Boxing League team's family. The other teams are The Kenya Police Boxing Club, The Armed Forces Boxing Club, Kenya Prisons Boxing Club, Administration Police Boxing club, Nairobi Dallas Boys boxing club, Nakuru Boxing Club, Central Province Combined team and Nyanza province Combined team.

With funds from Glad's House Kenya, our team took part in most of the games organized in venues all over the country and our boxers did do well. To make a strong team, our club partnered with Kisauni United Boxing Club under Coach Lemmy Katibi. We combine with Kisauni so as to share our resources. Lemmy is a committed straight forward boxing Coach and for this reason we fill prudent to share what we have with him so as to help develop boxing as a sport in this region. Our two clubs also played two friendly matches against our on selves in Vipingo and Ukunda.

It should not been forgotten that it's only our team which has a boxing ring in Coast province. It's this ring that holds all the provincial and national events held here in Coast Province. This ring was shipped from UK and modified by funds from Glad's House UK. Of late, the Kick Boxing association has also been using the same ring.

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BOXING

# POLICE RETAIN LEAGUE TROPHY

Law enforcers retain the giant Yamashita Trophy despite falling to soldiers in the last leg of the national league in Mombasa



LOST: AFABA's Joshua Ndere and Police's Elly Ajowi in past league action.

★ FINAL LEAGUE RESULTS

- L-fly: Shaffi Bakari (Havana Mombasa) bt James Kinyua (AFABA);
- Fly: Thomas Kasina (Police) bt Harrison Mathuku (Prisons)
- Bantam: Nick Okoth (AFABA) bt Fredrick Oryango (Havana Mombasa)
- Light: Joseph Njogu (Prisons) bt Moses Gitunga (AFABA)
- L-welter: Victor Onyango (Police) bt Steve Oryango (AFABA)
- Welter: Nick Abaka (AFABA) bt Jacob Kimanthi (Prisons) RSC01st round
- Middle: Tobias Okayo (Police) bt Vincent Otieno (AFABA)
- L-Heavy: Joshua Ndere (AFABA) lost to Daniel Shisia (Prisons)
- Heavy: Aziz Ali (Prisons) bt Fred Onyango (AFABA)
- S-Heavy: Victor Ombok (AFABA) bt Peter Opudi (Police)

BY SAMSON ATEKA

KENYA Police are the 2010 national league champions.

They emerged top after the weekend's action packed contests at Mikindani in Mombasa. Despite finishing third, Police secured the four foot Yamashita trophy, the most coveted amateur boxing crown in the country.

Armed Forces Amateur Boxing Association (Afaba) won the fifth leg with 22 points. The 1999 champions Prisons were placed second with 16 while Police completed the top three places on 18 points. Police attributed their third position in the coast tour to changes in their squad.

"We didn't field all our Commonwealth Games' boxers—Benson Gicharu, Peter

Mungai and Elly Ajowi—and it affected us in some way. But we are taking a full squad to the Kenya Open tournament though we hope to make a few changes when we resume training today," said Foreman.

Police retained the giant Yamashita trophy with 115 points ahead of Afaba and Prisons who garnered 109 and 99 points respectively.

The fifth and last leg also registered surprise results with Afaba's two-time Commonwealth Games light-heavyweight bronze medallist Joshua Ndere losing to long-standing former Kenya international Daniel Shisia.

Afaba's welterweight Nick Abaka also caused a stir when he forced Prison's Jacob Kimanthi into submission. Referee,

Steve Gachera was called up to halt the proceedings save Kimanthi from Abaka's wrath. There will be no resting for the pugilists this time round as the Kenya Open Championship is slated for November 18-20 in Nanyuki.

Afaba played without the services of three boxers—Black Moses Mathenge (knee injury), super-heavyweight Michael Okwisia (military training) and Dick Ombaka. National junior team coach Musa Benjamin sung praises of the Havana Mombasa's 17-year-old Shaffi Bakari who upset Afaba's James Kinyua. "He (Shaffi) is such a refined boxer and a sure prospect for our youth team. He jabs well and possesses good defensive skills," said Musa. Havana boxers also played a promising game under the watchful eye of Fred Acholla.

The star newspaper had this to report on after the conclusion of the National Boxing League