

Magongo News

An update of events in Magongo, Mombasa, Kenya

Editors Introduction

This addition of the Magongo News is written by a new volunteer who is currently working with us. Andrew James (AJ as he is know). After school he joined British Aerospace at 16, did a 4yr engineering apprenticeship HNC in production engineering. Then moved into the IT dept and stayed there for few more years. Took voluntary redundancy and did a

round-the-world trip for just over a year. he has had a variety of roles in IT with a lot more traveling between contracts. He heard of Glad's through a great mutual friend Efrem Leigh. His IT skills have come in handy for the cybercafe and his engineering background recently helped him with smashing holes in the bottom of oil drums so they can be used as mobile plant pots to grow vegetables in!



Andrew 'helping out' at Papasa

The Weather
It's still not the end of the rainy season

despite being

told by at least one 'expert' a week "That's it for the rainy season". It is now as I'm typing this hammering it down outside and this is the heaviest rain I have seen in the 6 weeks I have been here, The rain only last a few minutes but is enough to fill all the pot holes again.

The roads are suffering especially in Magongo as the repairs are mainly carried out only on the main roads. There are some major potholes in the Kwahola Magongo Matatu route one of these is around three feet deep, it would be deeper but it's full of sunken Matatus.

Glad's House Caddies

We now have 43 caddies working at the Vipingo Ridge Resort, all doing well.

Nyali Annual Caddies Tournament
Four teams of caddies from the golf clubs around Mombasa met to play their annual tournament.

The teams were:-
Vipingo Ridge golf club (sponsored by Glad's House)
Nyali golf club
Mombasa Golf club
Leisure Golf club

There were 67 players split into a mix of 3 and 4 ball teams. The format was a 'shotgun start' where each team walks to their allocated starting hole and all then tee off at 8am sharp. After 6848 shots the last team checked



and presented their score cards at 1pm. The scorecards were entered onto the scoreboard to much excitement and a few arguments (and the odd mistake)

The Vipingo team received best lady, 2nd 3rd and 4th in the Class 'C' Caddies Tournament and 2rd and 3rd in the Class 'B' tournament for the more experienced staff. (All pictures posted on www.flickr.com/photos/gladshouse/)



Kenyan Ladies Boxing Team - Training Camp

June saw the arrival of the Kenyan Ladies boxing team for a two week training camp. The team consisted of 14 boxers two coaches a manager and assistant. The training was held around Magongo in the Bomu primary school. Former Kenyan Olympic athlete, Fred (Bokey) Achola was running the training with the assistance of Riziki who looked after the ladies when they were in Magongo. I attended one training session and it was very strenuous (just to watch) the level of fitness was



very impressive.

I was able to capture some video, trying not to get too close to the very powerful jabs.

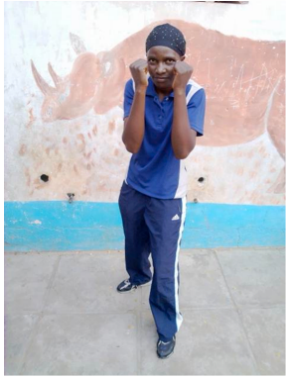
These are also available on Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/gladshouse

The warm down consisted of the ladies jogging on the spot whilst standing in a circle and singing in Swahili "Praise be to God" - the coach then walked round behind the ladies and with out warning pushes one of them into the middle of the circle where they had to dance to the song. This obviously helps coordination and stance and balance. It was also great fun for all involved.

Glad's House
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Mary Mwatu



One of our boxers is Mary Mwatu, a local lady who also played a very impressive round in the recent Nyali Golf tournament. Mary has a chance to compete in the World

Ladies Boxing Championships in September to be held in Barbados depending upon her next few fights and we all wish her the best of luck

Building & Land

We are awaiting final planning permission. The only holdup is a rubber stamp from the Mombasa Municipal Council on the changed plans from a Nairobi Architects office. In the meantime, we are using the land as our centre for running Papasa. Some of the street boys wanted to plant some vegetables but it would have been a crying shame to start only to have all their work undone when the building starts. There have been very good average attendance in June, however some



days are better than others. Local donations have enabled the boys to get Chapattis, Beef, Chicken, and



Sodas or Fruit drinks at least once a week. Today on the menu is Ugali and Lentils.



There have been a few new arrivals, four young boys from Nairobi turned up on Wednesday. This was following Tuesdays street work when Abdul and Pamela told them about Papasa. They have not returned, possibly because on their first visit one of the older street boys paid their fare into Magongo and now they can't afford the fare.



Glad's BEAD House and other new 'enterprise schemes'

Rooms have been rented in Magongo near the Glad's House and MOYO offices and these are being converted into spaces for our latest 'enterprise schemes.

The first is a 'bead factory for the boys



who have an aptitude for bead work (making bracelets necklaces, rings etc). They can work in a more organised surroundings and there is accommodation for them as well. To assist the boys who will be moving into the rooms five other boys will be paid to help with room clearance and painting next week.

Where we are based in Magongo Misho is the end of a Matatu bus route so we are planning to open a Tyre Repair and a Jet Wash business soon. The tyre shop will be equipped with a semi automatic tyre changer and compressor. Training will be offered to the boys who show an interest and aptitude and will be an invaluable skill in their future. Currently we are searching for available tyre changers



and even looking at import costs. The Matatu Jet Wash idea has been delayed because the site is right on the main road and too close to the many passing foot passengers who on days like today (nearly 30 °C) probably wouldn't mind get covered in the drifting spray from the jet wash but that could not be guaranteed. The local authority was not too keen either! Our 'Plan B' for the front area now is to open a café. The Kitchen would be out the back there is a small room opening onto the road side which will be the reception area and the land at the front is to be concreted then covered and used for diners. Please visit www.GladsHouse.com for full information also please visit Flickr



for more pictures. We are all now awaiting August for the Annual 'Football Extravaganza' and the return of the Sky Sports programme Soccer AM to make a follow-up programme to "Rocket in Africa"