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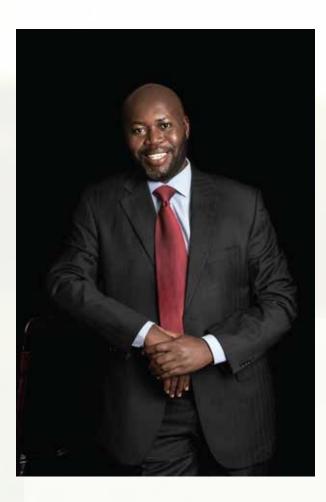
**ISSUE 003 - SEPTEMBER 2020** 

A Limuru Country Club Newsletter

# LCC Board service with integrity **Local Rules** it pays to know them LCC Restaurant re-launch on 12/09/2020

Golf • Tennis • Squash • Bowling • Cricket • Hiking

### **Editorial**



Welcome to the September issue of the **Country Vibes.** I hope you and yours are keeping safe during these very unusual times.

### **New Normal**

Covid-19 has created a new normal. The secret to surviving these times, is to remain agile. If you are spending your time whining, complaining, and sulking, you will find out sooner or later that it is not worth it. Instead, pick yourself up, wipe off the dust, find something new, create if you must, but do not stay stuck.

The shutdown of the clubhouse became an opportunity. In the face of the government directive to shut down the clubhouse, a decline in member patronage, no income from traditional revenue sources, the Board chose to see opportunity instead of allowing the current circumstances to cause disillusionment. It has taken many weeks but, in the month of September, members will be gifted a refurbished LCC Restaurant.

### **New Chef**

We have a new Chef and we promise you a new food experience. Between 7:00am and 11:00am we will serve you an amazing English breakfast. During the day you will have a choice of different sandwiches to choose from. When you next make your lunch or evening order, please make sure you try out any of these new meals.

- Stuffed Butterfly Fillet Steak,
- Red Chicken Curry,
- BBQ Baby Pork ribs,
- Grilled Pork Loin chops.

### New Kiddie Meals

The kids have not been left out either, we will share with you our new kiddie meals, so the kids can come to the club a lot more often and know they are part of our big happy family.

This is just phase 1 of many phases ahead. There's a members bar and sports bar to be refurbished, a recreational park to be built, there's new menus to be served, more gymkhana sport opportunities to be enjoyed, more fun for the kids, so much more to anticipate in the days ahead.

Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come. Happy reading fellow Country Vibers.

Cousin Bob

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the third edition of the LCC Newsletter- Country Vibes. This August edition comes to you in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, a scourge that has led to one of the worst health and economic crisis of our time. The entire world has felt the impact of this unfortunate situation and our club has not been spared. When the year began, nothing quite prepared us for what we were to experience.

We had developed great plans, sponsorships were lined up, a new membership drive was ongoing, we were about to embark on the re-launch of gymkhana sports and facilities, and then Covid-19 came upon 118.

The government ordered a shutdown of clubs, eateries, and bars with a curfew to boot. member patronage declining, sliding revenues, new hygiene protocols, etc. we had to quickly find a way to steady the ship, keep the club afloat, and plan for the days ahead.

I am very thankful for the immense support from our members who have remained very loyal and have come through during this time. Despite the difficulties in the business and work environment, members have continued to fulfil their obligations to the club with minimal default. The Board is encouraged and energised to continue to find ways to keep the club running as it makes bold decisions.

We will continue to prioritize member and staff health and safety by adhering to the MoH and government guidelines on the prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

Our Newsletter this month is a testament of what are we currently doing "To provide a consistently premier country club experience for members, their families and guests with exceptional golf, sporting



and dining facilities in a friendly environment that fosters fun and fellowship" as stated in our mission.

### Staff and HR issues

At the end of July, the Board announced the resignation of our General Manager Thomas Ruto, who had only been recruited four months earlier. The resignation came after very robust discussions on the future of the club and the need to have 'steady hands' on a day to day basis in light of the impact of Covid-19.

We are convinced that Covid-19 and its attendant challenges requires out of the box thinking, innovativeness, and an agile mindset. To this end, the Board is engaged in finding a replacement for Mr. Ruto.

Management has taken a detailed review of our staff compliment to make it leaner, effective, and efficient. Strict and expensive protocols by the government on employee engagement, closure of our bar, lower patronage, reduced revenues etc. have resulted in the decision to retain fewer staff at the club. The smaller workforce has enabled us to find a way to deliver at all levels, this is evidenced in the improved service delivery, course maintenance and increased use of technology.

### **Caddies**

MoH guidelines on Covid-19 strictly prohibits the use of caddies at golf clubs. The import of this directive has been that our caddies are banned from accessing the club, which means they must find other means to earn their keep. The Board took a decision to support the caddies by creating a support line on Mpesa as well as an initiative to receive and distribute foodstuffs to them. Both initiatives were successful, and the club was able to provide some well needed support to the caddies.

I am very thankful to all the members who made contributions in cash through Mpesa or in kind by donating foodstuffs. Thank you to KEGS, the Senior Golfers and the Mbugua Clan who gave generous food contributions. Please see below a summary of the contributions received and how they were distributed.

Total amnt received	Amount Disbursed to caddies			Balance in Account
KSH 409,000	Date	Cost per food package To	tal cost	
	06/04/2020	138@1000	KSH. 138,000	
	24/04/2020	148@498	KSH. 73,704	
	06/05/2020	146@665	KSH. 97,090	
	13/06/2020	148@520	KSH. 76,960	
	17/08/2020			23,246

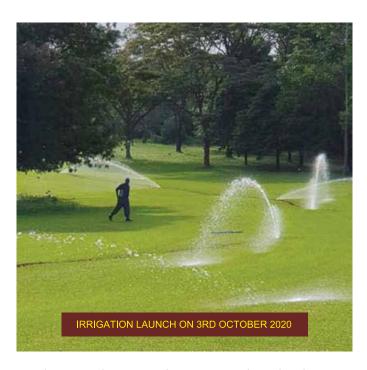
In trying to find alternative ways to support the caddies, while keeping the course in playable condition, the Board took a decision to engage them as spotters to help spot errant golf balls, fill in divots, repair pitch marks, and rake bunkers.

Interestingly, many golfers are getting used to carrying their own bags or dragging their trolleys, so that the concept of caddies will be very different in a post Covid club.

### **Irrigation Project**

In our last Newsletter, we informed you of on-going negotiations with KPLC for an upgrade of our generator and purchase of an Incomer and Distribution Switchboard. The Covid-19 pandemic unfortunately interrupted progress, however, we now have a higher capacity generator and the Switchboard has been delivered and is awaiting installation and commissioning.

The original project cost was Kshs 29.5m. Additional costs of Kshs 2.2m relating to power upgrade, pump housing and installation of manholes for the gate valves, and costs of the Incomer and Distribution switchboard have pushed the total project cost to just about Kshs 32m. We have so far collected Kshs 16.8m from Kshs 24m billed to members.



We have paid Irrico Kshs 18.5m and paid Kshs 1.7m of the additional project cost of Kshs 2.2m.

System automation masts have been installed around the course, however, in the recent past, we have noticed golf ball damage on some masts, this is being addressed by the irrigation committee to ensure their safety. We urge our golfers to be careful not to damage the masts on the course. The KPLC connection is now complete. The contractor is testing the system and the automation works.

### **Restaurant Refurbishment**

In December 2019, as part of strategic priority No. 3 of our 5 -year 2020/2025 strategic plan "to improve existing and develop new club infrastructure", the Board sought for quotations for the development of new designs for the refurbishment of the clubhouse. This plan was already in progress when the Covid-19 outbreak happened in March.

The shutdown presented the club with an opportunity to start refurbishment. refurbishment was projected to cost Kshs 2.7m, 90% has been paid and the balance of 10% will be paid on completion. During the build, the contractor encountered several challenges on the floor substructure and the roof superstructure. There was also a lot of internal and external damage on the building resulting in variations to the contract costs and moving the completion timeline beyond the agreed six weeks.

The completed project will comprise the refurbished building, refurbished furniture, upgrade of the audio-visual equipment, re-tiling and repainting of the reception area, re-roofing and repair of water leakage at the cashier's office, a new canopy and landscaping at the club entrance. We hope to finish all this in time for a September re-opening.

### Kitchen

We are constantly looking for ways to improve the food and beverage offering to our members. In the coming days, members will see changes to the food menu. Our kitchen, however, needs a total rebuild and we have received several proposals on new layouts and equipment. All these require between Kshs 5m and Kshs 10m. We also hope to build a mini kitchen next to the sports bar and possibly another at the bowling area. These are key projects that we hope to draw the full support of members.

### **Bowling and Recreational Area**

The restrictions on the number of members that can be allowed to congregate at any of our facilities at any one time, has a negative impact on patronage and on revenues.

To address this, the Board is looking to expand the and tennis recreational accommodate more people.

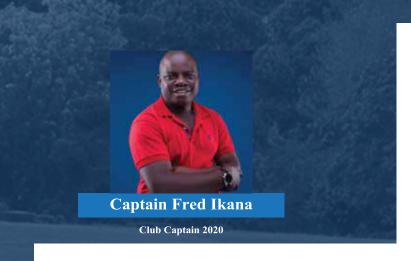
We have received proposals and the project committee is considering various implementation options.

When complete, an additional 100 pax will be able to use the expanded space, that includes a 370m jogging track, improved bowling greens, refurbished tennis courts, a five-a-side football rink, new toilets and changing rooms as well as a new mini kitchen and bar.









# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

In my Captains report in the "Country Vibes" in March 2020, I spoke about the club looking forward to a very good year. We had filled our weekends and Club nights with sponsored events, evening functions, prize giving etc. It was all systems go. As a result of Covid-19, the Club had to shut its doors, something it had not done in decades. Walking around the deserted club with its drawn curtains, switched off lights, with almost no one in sight, has been quite eerie. We were hit hard, but we are slowly finding a way to move on safely and with your help, we will succeed.

### Saturday Sponsored Golf Days and Club Nights

The true value of sponsored events has been our sponsors engaging with clients and members over a full day of golf and then celebrating together in the evening over a meal and drinks. With covid-19, the once vibrant, noisy Saturday and Wednesday nights are gone. Members leave for home immediately after their round of golf. To find a way out and to bring back some sense of normalcy, the golf and sponsorship committees have been working hard to develop new sponsorship options and have come up with these special packages.

Occasion	Amount
Saturday sponsorship	From 50,000
Wednesday Club Night Sponsorship	From 20,000

Both packages will allow a sponsor to have a complimentary four-ball as well as an opportunity to advertise their business on our social media platforms and through online channels.

On these sponsored days, token prizes will be available, and winners will receive communication on how and when to pick up their prizes online.

### **Caddies**

We no longer have caddies. Members have had to learn to hit straight, follow the flight of the ball, fix the bunkers, wipe their golf ball, all the while dragging a 10 Tonne trolley. Over time, players have adjusted, either carrying fewer clubs, emptying the bag of all unnecessary contents, investing in battery powered trolleys, or not playing golf at all. To make life a little easier, we have introduced a new concept of spotters, a group of former caddies whose work is to help members find their errant golf balls, and keep the course in playable condition by fixing divots etc.

### **Technology**

When we instituted online bookings earlier in the year, we ran into some little resistance, with some members preferring the notice board system or a call to the Golf Admin. In the new Covid-19 dispensation, not only has it become mandatory to book online, recording scores has also become technology driven. This adoption of technology will hopefully also enable us to finalise the development of the Club App and make things a lot more efficient.

### **Other Changes**

Reciprocation rules have been adjusted to allow a reciprocating guest to give a 24-hour notice to play on all days except Wednesdays, competition Saturdays, and Public holidays. Green fee paying guests are allowed to play golf on all days except club nights, competition Saturdays and public holidays.

### The Course

The Course is in very good playing condition. The fairways reward every good shot, the roughs are doing what they do best, and the greens are holding. No one in the recent past has been heard to blame the course for their poor scores and/or loss of a bet. The weather has been an ally so that everyday has been good enough for an excellent round of golf.

I look forward to the return to normalcy, however, I have also come to appreciate some of the changes that Covid-19 has brought on us. I urge us to continue to observe all MoH rules on hygiene and social distancing and pray that you and your family remain safe.

### LIMURU COUNTRY CLUB **UPDATED LOCAL RULES**

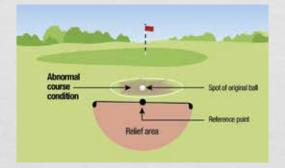
(To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf)



The perimeter fence left of the 1st hole, right of the 4th hole, behind the 5th green and right of the 10th, 11th and 12th holes.

The fence around the swimming pool to the right of the 1st tee, the line of white stakes to the cut furrow continuing round the front of the clubhouse to the point where the furrow joins the boundary fence to the right of the 10th hole.

The cricket pitch/driving range area, within the cut furrow when playing ANY hole. The nursery area defined by the trench surrounding the hedged nursery area, the trench left of the 7th hole; left of the 8th fairway, right of the 15th fairway and behind the 16th tee.



### 2. Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16)

### Edging Grooves Near Putting Greens:

Edging grooves around putting greens are ground under repair but relief is only available if a ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing.

Protection of young trees: Young trees and shrubs are identified by white stakes or bands. If such a tree or shrub interferes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, the ball MUST be lifted without penalty and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 14.3.

Flower beds around teeing areas: All cultivated flower beds around the teeing areas are no-play zones and are to be treated as an abnormal course condition. Free relief MUST be taken from interference by the no play zones under Rule 16.1f.

# LIMURU COUNTRY CLUB UPDATED LOCAL RULES

By Fred Ikana - Club Captain 2020

Course Watering installations: All fixed sprinklers are immovable obstructions and relief may be obtained as follows: For any course watering installations close to a putting green, in addition to the types of interference described in Rule 16.1a, when a ball lies in the general area, interference also exists if the course watering installation is: on the player's line of play, is within two club-lengths of the putting green, and is within two club-lengths of the ball. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. (Exception – There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.)

*Distance Markers*: All distance markers are immovable obstructions and relief may be obtained as prescribed under Rule 16.1b. (Exception - There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.)

Roads & Paths: All dirt/murram roads and paths are integral parts of the course unless white-lined. The road running across the 10th and 18th fairways and ahead of the men's tee on the 9th hole is ground under repair and a player is entitled to relief as per Rule 16.

### 3. Ball deflected by Power Lines

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit the power lines or power pole supporting the power lines, during play of holes No 2 and No 7 respectively, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for how to proceed).

### 4. COVID-19 Related Guidance

Scoring in Stroke Play (Rule 3.3b): Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it). It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place. It is not necessary to physically return a scorecard to the Committee. The Committee can accept the scores through a scoring app or in another way.

*Bunkers:* Players are requested to make their best efforts to smooth bunkers using their feet or a club. Even so, the condition of the bunkers is likely to be abnormal and uneven. As such, players are entitled to preferred lies in bunkers, and are allowed to drop the ball in the bunker within one club-length not nearer to the hole than where the ball came to rest.

### Penalty for breach of Local Rules

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty

### **Code of Conduct**

- \* *Ready Golf:* Players are encouraged to play Ready golf to ensure faster play but always ensure their safety and the safety of others on the course.
- \* *Mobile Phones:* Talking on mobile phones is strictly prohibited during play.
- \* *Slow Play:* Your place on the course is immediately behind the team ahead of you.
- \* *Flagsticks:* Players are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times.
- \* *Submitting scores:* All players are expected to submit their scores to the committee at the end of every qualifying round no later than 6.30pm



# SERENA HOTEL

# LADY CAPTAIN'S CORNER



LADY CAPTAIN WAIRIMU THANDE

Lady Captain 2020

Since the onset of the lockdown enforced by the government due to the ongoing global and health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the often chatty ladies section of Limuru Country Club, has been rather quiet.

In June, the ladies hosted and held a Mock Medal event, which was received with much enthusiasm by the ladies. The event attracted upwards of 20 ladies who played a round of 18. From July, the ladies section anticipates to hold monthly medal events.

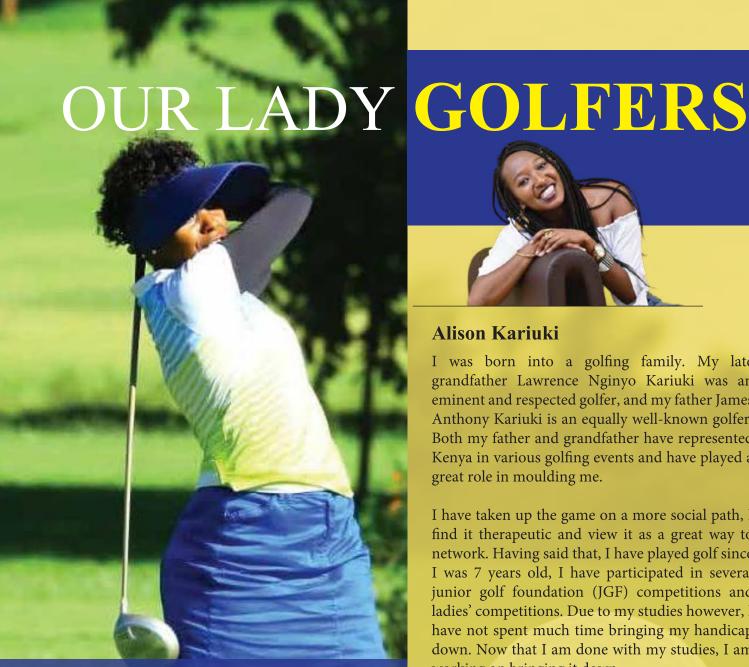
Adhering to the guidelines put in place by the Government and the Ministry of Health to mitigate the spread of the virus, presentations and gatherings have been put on hold.

Outside of golf affairs, we have a vibrant ladies forum on social media where we communicate and interact often and check-in on one another.









### Ida Wairimu

Golf has been my go-to 'safe place'. Somewhere I go to escape the tough realities that we have to face every day...more so during this unprecedented time of Covid-19. When I started playing golf a few years ago, it was really a way to pass time of sorts. It however has turned out to be the best decision I made.

The discipline it instils in me goes over and beyond the course. The conversations and friendships that I have picked up along the fairways if I am lucky to be "on" are truly inspirational. There's no better feeling than to sink that putt with Arnold Palmer's words ringing in your ears, "Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated. It satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented".



### Alison Kariuki

I was born into a golfing family. My late grandfather Lawrence Nginyo Kariuki was an eminent and respected golfer, and my father James Anthony Kariuki is an equally well-known golfer. Both my father and grandfather have represented Kenya in various golfing events and have played a great role in moulding me.

I have taken up the game on a more social path, I find it therapeutic and view it as a great way to network. Having said that, I have played golf since I was 7 years old, I have participated in several junior golf foundation (JGF) competitions and ladies' competitions. Due to my studies however, I have not spent much time bringing my handicap down. Now that I am done with my studies, I am working on bringing it down.

### Priscilla Waithaka

I took to serious golfing early 2019 and I must say it has given me a whole new perspective on a number of issues, chief of which is valuing my spare time. I have met amazing golf buddies and made new friends.

Thanks to golf, I now have something to share with family members who love the game. The game has nurtured in me traits like patience and learning and to leave the past in the past.

### KENTMERE

HOMES - TIGONI



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\*offer valid for Limuru Country Club members only



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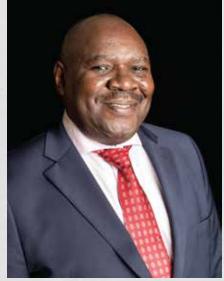
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### **OUR "NEW" RESTAURANT**

### **BEFORE AND AFTER**



Dining Front



Dining Front



Coffee Counter



Coffee Counter



Cubicle



Cubicle

### **OUR "NEW" RESTAURANT**

### **BEFORE AND AFTER**



Reception



Back Exit



Dining Back



Reception



Back Exit



Dining Back

# OUR JUNIOR GOLFERS



### Itimu Kiruti, 13 years old

My experience with golf has been and still is an interesting one. It has had its ups and downs, odd and indescribable moments. Which most of the time, left me at a confusing overall opinion on the sport.

I began playing at around the age of 7. I played with my dad and sister, and from then on it became our go to activity. I did not really look at it as a sport, but more of a hobby or leisure activity I had with my dad and sister. It was a fun way of spending time together and that was my main perspective of it at the time.

I would say I begun enjoying golf as a sport rather than a leisure activity when I was around 11 or 12. I was just good enough to enter junior tournaments and matches and begun to feel the thrill of the actual sport. I played more often and wanted real progress and when I made progress, I was always sure to invite my dad to a game to show off to him. Now I would say I am now more interested in golf than I ever have been. I am really interested in how to improve my swing and get visible progress. My main goal is to improve my handicap. I play once or twice every week and enjoy seeing progress and like to practice what I want to improve.

If I could give myself one piece of advice, it would be to 'take it easy and enjoy the game.' Simple advice, easy to understand, yet crucial. For me at least.

### Kaguamba Muriithi Gatu, 8years old



My name is Kaguamba Muriithi Gatu. Am 8yrs old and I go to Thika Road Christian School. When I was 3yrs old, my father introduced me to various sports like skating, swimming, football and finally golf. I used to watch great matches on TV with him and my sister and also my mum. He then bought me plastic golf clubs and balls which I used to play with in the house. I liked it because I did it in the house very easily.

After a few months, we started going to Limuru, Muthaiga and Windsor golf clubs to take my dad for tournaments and I enjoyed seeing him play. When I turned 5yrs, dad bought me real clubs and I was very happy. I started being trained by him and coach Muchangi and participated in junior golf tournaments in our lovely Limuru course. Since then I have won several trophies in my category, Dad has never won any.

During this Covid19 break, I returned 5 cards and now waiting to get my HC.

I love the sport very much and I follow PGA, Euro, and Kenya Open fixtures. I like Tiger Woods, DJ, Hideki, English, Sebastián, Morikawa, Harding and others like Mathiaka and of course Mr. Gatu. I enjoy my family 4 ball team. especially when I win all of them. My dream is to play and bring many trophies to Limuru Country Club. God bless you.

### OUR JUNIOR GOLFERS



### Kiumbiro Mumbi Gatu 11 years

My name is Kiumbiro Mumbi Gatu. I am 11 years old and attend Thika Road Christian School. I am in Class 5. When I was 5 years old my Dad introduced me to golf and other sports like skating. At that time, my dad bought plastic clubs for my brother and I to learn golf. We used to enjoy watching him play during tournaments and I wondered why he has never won a trophy. Only prizes.

I started using real clubs when I was 6 years and have played tournaments and won 3 trophies and 2 medals. Since I have played in Limuru Golf Club, Nanyuki Golf Club and Nyeri Golf Club, I would like to play in other clubs too.

I love the 4 ball we play with my dad, mom, and brother and I am happy to win sometimes. I have returned my 5 cards and I am just waiting for the Limuru Golf Pro and Junior Golf team to give me my handicap. I love golf because I can do it during my free time. When I am not in school or swimming, I choose to play golf.

My favourite golfer is Collin Morikawa and Tiger Woods. I also like a girl named Belinda who plays nice golf and I dream of becoming a pro golfer like coach Muchangi who trains us at such a lovely course in Limuru Golf Club. God bless you.

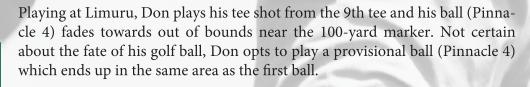


### Leo Mwangi Gitonga - 13 years

If you told me two years ago to say something good about my golf right before playing a nine, I would laugh and go in to play a gross score of 80 on that nine. Golf has been an interesting and perilous journey. When I first started about 6 years ago, I could barely hit the ball beyond fifty yards. I have taken countless lessons and long days trying to improve different elements of my game. It was easier before I was handicapped since I did not have to worry much about my score. Now its different and more exciting. Though I haven't been consistent, golf has taught me many things that have helped me; it has taught me to forget all the little negative things that bother me, and to calm down and keep moving on.

It has been the sport that has been most beneficial for me even in other areas of my life. Even though I do not have many awards or trophies yet, I plan to keep pushing forward to get better. I am not perfect at my game and though I don't plan for it to be my career, I want to make a name for myself in golf.

### Rules of Golf #3



Don plays another provisional ball (Pinnacle1) which ends up on the fairway about 140 yards to the green. Don finds both the original ball and the first provisional ball inbounds and lying about a foot from each other but cannot differentiate which the original ball was from the provisional. How does Don proceed?

- A. Since he cannot tell the two balls apart, they are both considered lost and he plays the second provisional (Pinnacle 1) as his fifth shot.
- B. Don chooses one of the two balls to play and proceeds with it as the original ball
- C. Don chooses one of the two balls as the provisional ball and proceeds with it as the ball in play. He will be playing his fourth shot. The other ball is considered lost.
- D. As he cannot identify which the original ball is, Don returns to the tee and plays his third shot off the tee.

Please send your email "answer to Rules of Golf #3" to feedback@limurucountryclub.co.ke



With Peter Ng'ang'a



Modern day golf was invented during the year 1457 in Scotland. Golf was banned three—times for years after it was invented because the Scottish government believed it interfered with military training.

- \* Tiger Woods made his first hole-in-one at the age of eight. *Wengine hapa*, 2-club is a myth.
- \* Almost 80% of golfers will never have a handicap under 18.
- \* Phil Mickelson is naturally right-handed, but as a child he mirrored his father's swing and learned to swing as though he was left handed. Our very own 'Gap' Muchangi, golfs right but is left handed.
- \* The average golfer has a 12,500 to 1 chance of making a hole-in-one.



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