

ACHIMOTA GOLF CLUB
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2023



Greetings, Fellow Golfers and Members,

We were blessed with a good rainy season, and the course is in excellent condition, especially the fairways and rough. On holes 12 and 16, the laterite areas are now grassed.

Work continued tirelessly to improve the greens. With the use of the right fertilizer, the greens roller, course workers extracting weeds, and cutting the greens at a slightly tighter/shorter cut, we have strengthened the grass base and improved the ball roll on the greens.

Some of the bunker profiles (holes 3, 7, and 13) have been hugely successful in preventing the sand from washing away into the middle of the bunkers. This might not be good news for some members who put it out of our bunkers, but it will add to their playability. Regarding the bunker on hole 1, a possible re-design is under consideration.

To assist us in maintaining the course to the highest standards, kindly ensure you or your caddy repair all divots/pitch marks and rake any bunkers after your shot.

Pathways have also been improved, a new wall installed at the hole 15 men's tee box, and the chipping practice area re-opened.

Over the last months, we have hosted some well-sponsored and patronized competitions, and my thanks go out to Play with Stephen, SMEC, Pakas Invitational, UKGCC/GCB, and the Ghana PGA/Pro-Am. Read more about these below.

In addition to the above, our Club has been selected to host a European Legends Tour event in October 2024 for the first time in West Africa. The Club President and I are members of the steering and planning committee, and as more information comes to light, members will be informed.

Yours Sincerely,

Sjoerd Grueter,
Captain

Competitions

We have had the privilege to host the following events during the last three months:

1. **Monthly Medal** competitions continue to grow. Most members applaud having tee-off times from number 1 and 10 tee boxes. We urge all members to join these monthly competitions for club esprit de corps.
2. **Pakas Invitational**. Again, “Pakas” Nana Darkwa, the re-modelled AGC Pro shop operator, hosted this year's competition. More than 120 players partook in the event, and all had a lot of fun. Do visit the Pro shop! Thank-you Pakas.
3. **Play with Stephan**. This event aims to generate funds for Autism and has become a prestige event on the yearly calendar, with many guests coming in from Nigeria. To Stephan Onaivi and his team, thank you, and congratulations on hosting your successful event at Achimota.
4. **Ghana PGA Professional Tournament and Pro-Am**. AGC hosted a professional tournament with the Ghana PGA during the first week in September. We are also proud to announce that AGC professionals filled the first three positions - Alfred Kwame, Lucky Ayisah, and Quarshie Atiso. The week concluded with a Pro-Am. 16 teams of three amateurs and one professional entered, and the feedback was that more team competitions should be arranged at the club. Congrats to team Crocodile Matchets (Ghana) LTD, who emerged as the winner. The format of the competition will be used at all future Ghana PGA Pro-Am's. A hearty thank you to all the individuals and companies that supported this event!
5. **SMEC Invitational**. This was the second hosting by SMEC and its energetic managing director, Jose Fernandes. It was a very generously sponsored and hugely successful day. A generous donation from SMEC has seen the placement of sandboxes (below picture) on all the tee boxes—a special word of thanks to Jose Fernandes for this additional initiative. May your business in Ghana thrive, SMEC. Much appreciated.



6. **UK-Ghana Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by GCB 70th Anniversary Golf Day and Enterprise**. 120 players competed, and once again, it proved successful to start from two tees. To Mr. Emmanuel Odartey Lamptey, DMD of GCB PLC, and his team, and to Ms. Adjoba Kyiamah (UKGCC) and her teams, word of thanks on this inaugural golf day, which hopefully will become a yearly occurrence.

House and Bar

The collaboration with Sunlodge has proven to be highly successful at the clubhouse and halfway house, becoming very popular, and members enjoy the relaxing atmosphere during or after their rounds. A

positive feature of our relationship is that Sunlodge management takes criticism and suggestions to heart and acts to improve.

The non-allowance of outside food or catering onto the premises adds to the turnover. Where alcohol is brought onto the premises by members, a corkage fee is charged according to the product's value. A corkage fee list is available. Please adhere to this. The MC will caution and act against any member refusing to pay such corkage.

The upgrade of both the men's and ladies' washrooms will be a priority during the beginning of 2024. The changing areas will be reconfigured to accommodate more seating and lockers.

The front window of the Proshop has been successfully altered to an entrance. We are constantly in contact with the owners of the Proshop to improve the offering and service. Look out for those attractive AGC logoed shirts, caps, towels, balls, ball markers, etc. Buy for yourselves and your friends abroad.

The conference facility and pergola are in regular use, and we encourage members to consider using this facility for their business conferencing.

Course Activities

Overall, the course is in a much better condition than at any time in the past, as per the feedback from many members. All five boreholes, booster pumps, and sprinklers are working.

Bunkers

An area that has been identified for improvement is the bunkers. Work has started on some of the bunkers, including edging that will control the wash away of sand to the middle of the green, as is now evident on hole three greenside bunkers and the bunker on hole seven greenside. Hole 7 and 11 bunkers have also been upgraded and filled with sand.



Bunker at hole 7

Bunker at hole 3

Practice Green

The lower section of the putting green will be elevated to the same level as the top section. This change is required to enlarge the putting area, as the lower section is underutilized, and the current soil base there does not allow for pin placements.

Tee boxes

The grass on the boxed tee-boxes is improving with time. There is "wear and tear" on the par three boxes, partly due to the record 3000 monthly games coming through the tee-boxes these days. More work is being done (rolling, using composted soil, divot boxes, etc.)

Improvements

To the delight of many senior members, the long-awaited steps at the exit of hole twelve green have been installed. The collapsed fence at hole fifteen men's tee box has been replaced with a 50-meter wall.



Steps from Hole 12 leading to Hole 13



New wall at Hole 15 tee box



Re-grassing at hole 16 "laterite" rough



Floodlit chipping area next to the clubhouse

Course maintenance

The course team is working non-stop to improve players' playing conditions. To assist us with this effort, **members are requested to ensure that bunkers are raked and divots are filled with the available sand mixture.** Please allow caddies to do what they get paid for and report any caddy that neglects to fulfill these basic tasks. Similarly, we urge members to **repair pitch marks on the greens**, even if they are not your pitch mark. This will help us to ensure a smooth roll and more birdies on your scorecard. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support in this matter.

Handicapping

We are the first 18-hole course in Ghana to be World Handicap System compliant. A revised slope and course rating measurements were carried out by representatives of the GGA (and R&A) and have been successfully implemented. These changes have also resulted in changing the hole indexes on some holes. These changes were also based on statistical data from more than 1,000 of rounds that have been recorded. **Members are encouraged to enter scorecards as required. This will help by keeping players' handicaps active and up to date, and therefore eligible to win competitions.**

Driving Range

A golf simulator will be installed during October to help analyze data from shots played. If successful, more such simulators will be added. More details on this will follow shortly.

A small practice green at the Driving Range is under construction and will be ready for play during October.



Driving Range Green under construction

The Academy member is still trying to find a sponsor to cover all the practice bays with canopies. Based on the current structure, the quotation received is approximately GHC 250,000. If you have any members or companies that can assist, kindly contact the GM.

Caddies

The Club embarked on a program to register all caddies with their Ghana cards. All caddies have been issued identification cards, and security will not allow any caddies onto the golf course without displaying their identity card. New caddies have applied in numbers with a good balance between men and women. A well-structured and documented training program for caddies is being implemented.

There have been a few incidents surrounding theft from members. **We remind members not to keep cash, credit cards, valuables, or phones on the club premises, cars, golf bags, lockers, etc. The Club is not liable for any theft-related incidents on its premises, much as it does its utmost to provide security.**

Thank you very much for your continued support of our Club,

Captain and Management Committee



When is an accidental shot an accidental shot?

<https://www.usga.org/contentusga/home-page/articles/2019/04/golf-rules-hitting-ball-with-practice-swing-zach-johnson-masters.html>

And to end off.....

