NJORO COUNTRY CLUB – ESTABLISHED BETWEEN 1899-1901

REF: COMPETITION AND MATCHES RECORDS BOOKS (1925-1950)

INTRODUCTION

There is no specific reference to the establishment of Njoro Country Club, however it is believed that the club existed by the time the railway line was reaching Kisumu by 1901. Meaning Njoro Country Club is now about 123 years old. The competition book contains various matches/tournaments played against various Golf/Country Clubs either at home and/or away.

Thus it is noted that:

1. Entries for all/any competition were to be made in the record book(s) before striking/teeing off.
2. All entry cards were to be signed by opponents before being postponed after the game and be placed in a specific box in the club house.
3. A golfer could deduct his/her handicap however it was the responsibility of the golf committee to check and deduct handicap.
4. Golfers were to play on full handicap.
5. Most games/tournaments were played and medal matches.
6. Golf rules/instructions/information was written in the book at the end of which entries were made by the players.
7. If entries were insufficient the captain cancelled the competition.
8. The captain always signed at the end of the entries at home or/ and away.
9. Njoro Country Club and Gilgil G C, Highland G.C (Molo) and Muthaiga G.C had very close reciprocation.

10. The competition books were well kept with relevant details e.g sponsors, venue, member of entries, results etc.
11. Njoro C.C started competing against Thomson Falls (Nyahururu) and Nairobi Royal G.C (Nairobi) in 1946.
12. It was noted that golfing events went on even during the war years (1940-1947).
13. Njoro C.C used to meet the following clubs that were affiliated to Kenya Golf Society: Mutahiga, Railways, Gilgil, Mombasa, Kiambu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Thomson Falls, Ruiru, Karen.

COMPETITIONS/TOURNAMENTS/MATCHES

1. **The Stroke Competition (Started in 1925)**
   - 18 holes medal match
   - Played on Sundays
   - Entry fee 1/=

     Continued until late 1940s King George 5 Club Gold Medal (Started June 1926)

- An annual event to celebrate King George 5 birthday.
- Open to all
- Entry fee 2/=

2. Tangakati Cup (Started in 1926)

- A 36 holes tournament played between Njoro and Nakuru annually – 18 holes in Njoro on first day and 18 holes in Nakuru in second day.
- Each club had to form a team.
- Ladies were to play 9 holes only.
- The winner was to hold the Cup/Prize for one year.

3. The Monthly Medal (Currently Monthly Mug) (Started formally on 15.8.1926)

- The mug to be engraved N.C.G.C
- Played also between Njoro and Gilgil G.C (W.E.F 7.11.1926)

4. The Captains Prize (The first one played 28/11/1926)

- Open to all golfing members
- Medal play on full handicap

- It had different sponsors

5. **Njoro Country Club Championship (Started in Dec 1926)**
   - I8 holes medal play
   - Entry fee 5/=
   - Golfers formed teams on the basis of where they lived eg Njoro vs Ravine and Rongai (March 1927), Njoro Vs. Gilgil (April 1927)
6. **The Ronald Marshall Challenge Cup (The first competition was on 3.6.1927)**
   - Annual competition
   - Three days competition
   - A knock-out tournament
   - Different sponsors
7. **Inter Club Competitions (Running Easter 6-9 April 1928)**
   - Knock-out basis
   - 18 holes medal foursome (2 days event) Entry fee 5/= Participating Clubs:

- Nakuru
- Muthaiga
- Kiambu
- Mombasa
- Railways
- Nairobi - Njoro
- Eldoret

Note: Njoro was position 3 with 7 events after Nairobi (11 points) and Muthaiga (8 points)

8. Bogey Competition (Started in 1928)

- ¾ Handicap only
- Monthly competition for both Gents and ladies
- Entry fee 2/=
- Medal play

9. **The Hider Cup** (Started 22/3/1931)
    - A 36 holes match play on ¾ handicap
    - 18 hole match play on ¾ handicap and final
    - 36 holes- thus semi-final plus final (5 days)
10. **Ladies Monthly Spoon Competition (Jan 1931)**
    - Ladies only
    - Silver spoon prize (different sponsors)
    - Medal play
    - 18 holes
    - Entry fee 1/= (post entry 2/=)
11. **The Biston Cup (Started in September 1931)**
    - Annual event
    - Mixed foursome, 18 holes match play
    - Played at Njoro
12. **The Gooding Cup (Started /Introduced on 6/12/1931)**
    - Introduced by Mr. and Mrs. Gooding in memory of their son Lient.Comor C.W.V Gooding

- This was open to all clubs affiliated to K.G.U
- Men foursome
  - In morning:- Men's foursome against Bogey, over 18 holes on ¾ of the combined handicap of each couple.
  - In afternoon: - The two leading couples to play a final over

    18 holes, at match play, on the same handicap.
  - In case of ties:
    - ✓ In the event of a tie in the morning, the couple returning the best card for the first nine holes shall quality for the final.
    - ✓ In the event of a further tie, the players with the lowest combined handicap shall so qualify.
    - ✓ In the event of a third tie, the couple having the lowest individual handicap on its side shall be deemed to qualify.
    - ✓ Entry fee 10/=

- ✓ Sponsor – different
- ✓ Gooding Cup associated with Subsidiary Tombstone Competition over 9 holes
- ✓ The winner's name written on score board.

13. The Penthathlon Competition (Introduced in 1935)

- The competition was introduced by Njoro Country Club against Gilgil G.C
- This was a two day event played at Njoro or Gilgil in exchange.
- The members of both clubs lounged for the annual weekend event.
- An annual event involving the following:
  - Golf
  - Cricket
  - Bowling
  - Bridges

- Tennis

14. **The O.C.T.U (Officer Cadet Training Unit vs. Njoro Country Club Competition)** Started in 1940
    - This continued during the war years
    - Foursome event – 18 holes – medal match.
15. **Njoro Country Club Vs. Egerton School of Agriculture (1947)**
    - A monthly event- friendly
    - Foursome medal play
16. **The Tobby Gibson Cup (may 1947)**

    Annual event

There were friendly tournaments between Njoro CC and clubs such as Kakamega, Kericho, Gilgil, Royal etc