

GOLFERS FOCUS ON DIANI

130 players prepare for annual regional Masters tournament

BY MAARUFU MOHAMED



Florence Karimi in action during just-ended golf tournament at Nyali golf and Country club course on Saturday. (PHOTO: MAARUFU MOHAMED/STANDARD)

Over 130 leading amateur golfers from East Africa sharpen their clubs ready for the 17th edition of the annual Diani Beach Masters tournament at the par 72 Leisure Lodge Golf Resort from Friday.

The golf club's manager John Davies Junior said the three-day event will start on Friday afternoon. "I have been receiving registration from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and one from Nigeria. We are ready to host the championship," said Mr Davies.

He said 60 handicap nine and below golfers will battle for the DBM green jacket (gross competition), while the rest (with handicap 10 to 20) will compete in the Subsidiary Stable ford competition.

The 36 holes gross competition will start on Saturday and those who make the cut, proceed the following day. The 18 holes stable ford event will only be played on Saturday.

The event starts on Friday at 5:30pm with all golfers participating in the Longest Drive Competition.

Davies said the championship will have prizes for the best Gross Scores in over 36 holes, Best Nett Scores in over 36 holes for men, ladies, juniors and seniors.

Davies said the home club's single handicaps like Amos Kamau, who is a former national player and Hitesh Kumar, stand good chances of winning, if they make use of the home advantage.

This annual event is Kenya's most celebrated Golfer of the Year tournament (GOTY) that attracts players with valid handicaps including East Africa's best amateur golfers.

Golf official Dionz Malinzi will lead the Tanzanian players, who are expected to ship in the largest legion of golfers.

The tournament started at the club in 1998 as a championship event and is one of the major events in the Kenyan Golf Union calendar of events.

Leisure Beach Resort Chief Executive Officer John Mutua said the management was ready to host the championship, adding that the club's course designed by Thommy Fjastad, is characterized by rolling fairways, 88 challenging bunkers, appealing water features and impeccable greens.

He said the 18-hole golf course offers a wonderful panorama of tropical impressions,

which will inspire golfers with its beauty, and challenges.

Mutua said the full size driving range has a chipping green and bunker for practice and the club's course, which measures 6,084 meters (6,632 yards), has been maintained to a high standard with irrigated fairways running through palms.

Meanwhile at the pat 71 Nyali course, home club's handicap 15 Florence Karimi scored 69 nett in Division One to lift the September 2015 medal sponsored by Johnnie walker. Club mate handicap 28 Jayasinghe Sumali, on 66 nett, won the Division Two title.

Playing in the Division One, the club's handicap 5 Mathew Githinji on 69 nett, won the August Mug, while club mate handicap 16 Sandeep Gudka on 70 nett, won the Division Two. Handicap 23 Tony Nyachama, who had 66 nett, won Division Three.

At Vipingo Course in Kilifi County, Muthaiga's handicap 12 James Muguiyi won the Monthly Mug event on 76 nett, while Windsor's handicap 11 Sheena Turner finished second with 80 nett. Singona's handicap 14 Steve Wairia was third on 81 nett.

OTHER RESULTS:

LIMURU: WINES OF THE WORLD: Overall winner-K.Karaya-Windsor (07)-41pts, Runners up-Joel Gachanja-Limuru (28)-41pts, Third-I. Wainaina-Limuru (07)-39pts.

KIambu: FRIENDS OF CAPTAIN BY P.MDUATI. Overall winner-Stephen Karanja (05)-68nett, Runners up-Elud Mungai (20)-68nett, Third-Timothy Kihara (08)-69nett.

ARUSHA: RHINO AUTO MOBILE SERVICES: Overall Winner-Kush Lodhia (12)-38pts, Runners up-I.Wanyache (03)-38pts, Third-Somji Mahmood (10)-36pts. Kenya Railways: Spike stop: Overall winner-G.S.Padam (14)-41pts, Runners up-R.N.Maina (15)-37pts, Third-H.W.Gichohi (16)-35pts.

THIKA: BIMASURE INSURANCE AGENCIES: Overall winner: Men- Watson Burugu-39pts,Runners up-J.M.Kanyi-38pts,Third-Ben Mugambi-38pts,Lady winner-Jacqueline Wanyivu-40pts,Runners up-Mumbi Njuguna-37pts, Guest winner-F.N.Ndegwa-39pts.

MOMBASA: CLUBNITE: Division-one winner- W.Kaguta-Ny-a(05)-74nett,Division two Winner-Aloise Ogola-Mombasa(13)-69nett., Division Three winner-J.Kihoro-Nyali(28)-71 Nett

ROYAL: LAIBON SOCIETY: Overall winner-George Tucker-Karen (15)-39pts, Job Kamau-Royal (18)-38pts, Third-Ben Handa-Royal (07)-37pts.

Karen: Migumoni Subsidiary by Carmax: Overall winner-Alex Kabuga (15)-41pts, Runners up-A.Nkiri (19)-39pts, Third-Lawrence Kiambi (16)-38pts.

WINDSOR-PALM HOUSE FOUNDATION CHARITY: Overall winner-Nahitu Wachira-Muthaiga (03)-41pts, Chris Mann-Default (10)-40pts, Third-Y.Assaria-Default (25)-38pts.