

FRANCISTOWN GOLF CLUB

The course

Francistown Golf Club is a 9 hole golf course, situated in the city centre, adjacent to the city's referral hospital, Nyangabwe. Like Selebi-Phikwe, Francistown golf course's playing surface is the browns as opposed to the greens.

The club is the property of the community. Despite its nearness to the city centre, the club is not fenced yet because it has not raised enough funds to reach that goal.

Francistown golf club today is facing serious challenge to attract membership. There are 40 paid-up members. It has no full time officers unlike the likes of Gaborone golf club.



FRANCISTOWN GOLF CLUB HOUSE

Calendar of events: Monthly medal: Chartacc, Adpro Champions League, and various corporate events. On average the Francistown golf club hosts 24 competitions per year, according to competition secretary Peter Podise. The Francistown Club also hosts the annual BGU event, the Northern Open.

History of the club

According to the founding Permanent Secretary to the President(PSP) Phil Steenkamp the Francistown club was started in the colonial era in what was then

the Tati Reserve. The Reserve before independence used to run its affairs according to its own laws. Black people were barred by the Tati Reserve laws from taking part in golf.



4th Hole

Steenkamp says he was particularly responsible in ensuring that the racist laws barring Batswana from taking part in golf in Tati are abolished in 1965 after the first general elections that saw the late Sir Seretse Khama installed as the founding president of Botswana. Steenkamp says the first time Batswana played golf in Francistown was in 1965 and he recalls playing in the first multiracial golfing event there.

The oldest club in the country

Francistown Golf club is the oldest golf club in the country although people do not exactly have the exact year it was founded. Its 100 year lease expired in 2005, meaning that the club could be well over 103 years old now.



Looking up the 1st and 10th Hole

More than just golfing

The Francistown golf club is part of a sports club that also boasts of bowling, tennis, squash facilities around the same area.

Chairman: Mahwi Benjamin

Captain & Competition Secretary: Gary Greaves

Secretary: Sareta Seale

Treasurer & Assistant Competition Secretary: Andrew Seale

Bar Manager: Lingani Good

Committee Members: Nico Van Rensburg, Dion Frost, Johann De Lange & Peter Podise

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the name of the club?

FRANCISTOWN GOLF CLUB

2. How did you come up with the name of the club?

NAME OF THE TOWN/CITY!!!!

3. What are the wishes of the golf club and what challenges do you ever come across?

Biggest Wish: To have a fully grass course, at present we play on a sand course with oiled 'Browns' (no greens!)

4. Who started the club and how?

Exact date and by whom not know but we have evidence that golf has been played in Francistown since the 1920s.

5. What was the main reason for the club to be started in your area?

The love of golf!!

6. How many members started the club and how was the club started?

Not known – refer to answer 4.

7. How many members does the club have now?

Annually, we have around 60 plus paid-up members.

8. How do you take your club to the community? How often do you get new members and how do you motivate them?

Membership is open to all, no restrictions. Beginners can earn a handicap after just 10 rounds and we have a development officer offering free coaching, through the BGU development programme.

9. Where is the club situated? Why did you decide to locate the club at the area where it has been located now?

Central Francistown – The lease on the land for the golf course expires in March 2010 and after that the club will be looking for another home.

10. Most of Batswana tend to understand that golf is meant for the elite only; how do you make Batswana understand that golf can be played by everyone else?

Refer to answer 8.