

Moka Blog

NEWSLETTER

THE 9TH HOLE

Many thanks go towards our membership who have adjusted to the many changes in an effort to ensure the course remains open.

We cannot imagine a day without golf. Some may view as a sport whilst for many others, a place where great friendships were created. Golf plays a big part in the lives of many who have passed and many who still get dressed, drive to the golf club and get set for hours of what they term as “life’s fulfillment”

As we continue to improve the clubhouse and course, in light of many constraints, we again wish to thank you in advance for your patience.

We are elated to announce that the Café and Pro Shop is fully open offering a range of specially priced items. Some further updates requiring urgent attention include purchasing of new parts for the existing worn equipment as well as machinery for the maintenance. The river erosion damage to the 9th fairway remains critical, eating away at our fairways and soon greens. The damage expands to an estimated 500 ft in length. The 9th Hole needs our attention. We ask members to partake this Saturday 10th October 2020 in the ladies’ restoration project REDO. Happy golfing!



Our Pro Shop is having a SALE!

- \$50 off Ladies' & Men's Polos
- 10% off ALL Clubs and much more

See Pro Shop for further details



Specials Everyday All Day at the Café

Look out for deals on food and beverage, including alcoholic drink specials.

Grab & Go.

COMING SOON

Our “on course” drinks cart – bringing the café to you our members. See you at your tee box.

Look out for “café delight game” a day the café spoils you with food and drinks.

We are ready to serve you, **on and off the course.**



Tentatively Book Your Group Tournament

As Christmas is around the corner we wish to invite groups to tentatively book your group tournament.

Please email or contact Delano at sagoffice2@gmail.com | (868) 734-4386

Remembering Club stalwarts David L. Martin



Photo left: **David L. Martin**

David was born on 16th June, 1934 and passed away on 21st July, 2016.

As a young man, he played cricket for Queen's Park Cricket Club and in 1970 he joined St Andrew's Golf Club, eventually becoming a life member.

He served on Management Committees for a few years, mainly as Greens Chairman. He considered his proudest golf moment as winning a pro-am with English pro Paul Carragil. At the time he was playing off his lowest ever handicap of 7.

His associates thought the strongest area of his game was his short game, mainly putting and chipping.

Some of his regular golfing companions were Bill Agard, William (Slim) Whan Tong, Bill Macdonald and Peter Hale.

He played a major part in helping his three grandsons become scratch golfers and go on to play for Trinidad. He was coach, companion and very motivational.

Three of his favorite golf courses were Caymanas in Jamaica, Hilton Head in Florida and St Andrew's in Scotland.

David's favorite after-game "beverage" was Rum, lots of ice and a dash of Sprite. He was also known for fearlessly speaking his mind.

A favorite quote that he often used was "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

Quiz Question

Where was the first St. Andrews Golf Course located?

- a. Independence Square
- b. St. James
- c. The Queen's Park Savannah

Answer: C. The Queen's Park Savannah



Photo above: **Valeria Alcala**

Valeria Ortiz Alcala (1914 to 2020)

Information supplied by her son Paul

This longstanding member recently passed on at age 105.

She was born in Port of Spain on 9th December, 1914, and grew up on Abercromby Street opposite to St Joseph's Convent. She attended St Joseph's Convent and passed her School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams, placing second in the island in the HSC. She was invited to teach at the convent while still only sixteen years old.

During World War II, she was recruited to work in the Censorship Department which vetted letters before they were delivered to the addressees. She was employed there for her fluency in English, Spanish and French.

After the war, she worked in the administration of the Electricity Board of T&T (now T&TEC). Next, after obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Languages and Education, she was employed by the Caribbean Commission (an arm of the United Nations) as understudy to Dr. Eric Williams. When Williams resigned to enter the political fray, Valeria was appointed to head the education department of the Commission.

When in the late fifties the UN decided to relocate the Commission's HQ to Puerto Rico, she did not fancy making the move. She resigned and went to England where she was accepted at London University and Gray's Inn to study law. In less than three years, she passed the Bar Exams and obtained both the LLB and LLM.

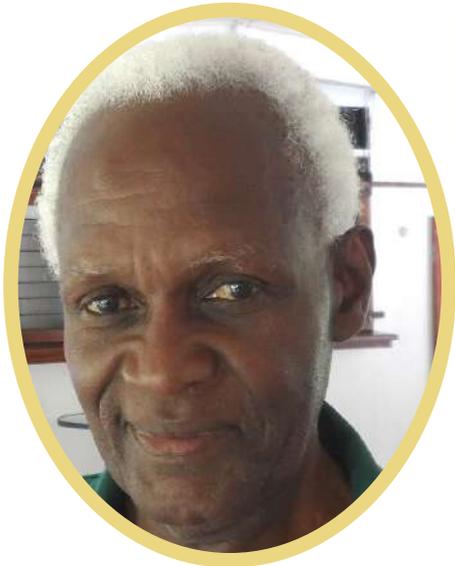
Returning home in 1963, she was admitted to the Bar and joined the prominent practice of Algernon Wharton QC. While practicing, she also found time to do some lecturing at the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School. Later, she established her own practice, accepted several new graduates into her chambers as juniors and took silk.

Around 1977, Valerie joined SAGC and developed a love for the game of golf. She played with several of our lady members as well as with some of our members of the Dawn Patrol.

She also sometimes played together with me and the games were played in a very competitive spirit ... with no quarter asked and none given.

One of the most memorable incidents was playing the short 15th where she normally hit her 5 wood off the tee box. On this occasion, her drive went into the large deep drain beyond the green. Undeterred by her age, replaced knees and adamant discouragement from me, she ventured into the drain and hit her second shot. This shot hit a stone at the top of the bank, flew high into the air and then dropped on the green, eventually rolling into the hole for a birdie.

Valerie retired from both her law practice and golf when she was about 93 years old. She had hoped to continue playing golf for several more years but she had developed a frozen shoulder that stayed with her until her passing.



Joe, the fixer man

(The below is based on an article by David Brizan.)

Joseph Adolphus Samuel, better known as Joe, was born in Patience Hill, Tobago. He was born into its agricultural productivity, from hard work and long working hours.

At the age of seven, he worked with his carpenter uncle while he lived under the guardianship of his paternal grandmother who helped to instil spiritual values, including honesty. Quickly he developed the discipline of looking and learning from anyone; he disassembled watches and made his own tools.

Photo above: Joseph Samuel

Making things work so stirred his interest that when there was no electrical power in his grandmother’s house, he made up lights utilising a battery and a switch.

At age 15, firmly entrenched in the culture of self-reliance, he was brought to Trinidad and started studying bookkeeping, eventually staying with his eldest brother in San Juan. He took a stand to “never give up” and within a short time, he secured work on Stollmeyer’s estate in Santa Cruz, cleaning cocoa trees and picking grapefruits. He then taught himself to drive the tractor at work. A St Andrew’s member, seeing this, advised him that Moka was looking for a tractor driver and he was hired at a pay of \$40 per week.

Joe is self-taught in welding fabrication, electrical installation of houses and golf cart repairs.

At Moka, the kudos come easily: “dedicated”, “never late” and “when he sees something to be done, he just does it”. He does not accept any overtime, stays if necessary to get the job done and still reports for work on time the following day.

Throughout his entire work life, he has always worked Monday to Sunday. After his wife died more than 24 years ago, he continued to work diligently and has chosen to stay single, not wanting to disrupt his children’s home life.

Joe has built his own home and has been able to assist his children in many areas to help them save thousands of dollars.

His work advice to colleagues is: “Stay silent, under all circumstances, even when spoken to in the wrong way.”

Having such an industrious, selfless, honest and longstanding employee has also saved St. Andrew’s Golf Club lots of money.



First Citizens Results of First Citizens Monthly Medal – Saturday, 29th August 2020

		Front	Back	Gross	Net
1st	Tyrone Leong	36	36	72	67
2nd	Neil Fairfield	44	45	89	68
3rd	Angela Hodgkinson	51	43	94	69