

Alhaji Drammah Golf Academy

Creating the Alhaji Golf Academy

Alhaji Drammah

“A complete and true Golf Professional”

Alhaji started his love of golf when he was 12 years old in The Gambia. With little resources, only one small course and very little playing opportunities, he decided golf was a passion, a calling, but most of all a true love of the game.

Alhaji first started on the streets by making his own club from a piece of steel and fixing a makeshift head on the end that could be adjusted. This was all way before it was even invented. His dedication and practice regime meant he would finish school, then go off to hit the range balls he could acquire and use. Putting hours of effort and time into training and even caddying so he could understand course management, the etiquette of golf, but to understand the mental game as well, he was able to rise through the ranks of golf and be spotted by and encouraged by various Gambians who helped him with his first real set of clubs and the potential to go and play in tournaments.

Alhaji started to play in The Gambia and won his first tournament, this led to invitations to Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Nigeria and other African PGA tournaments, whereby he competed and progressed up the rankings. Having turned professional in 1993, his main focus was to play in Europe and thus earned the opportunity in 1998 to go to his first Open golf championship in Stockport, UK.

Alhaji's fundamentals, professional drive and his ability served him well on the playing circuit, but a higher calling is his passion and teaching of the game to young kids who will be the next generation of golfers to grow up in the Gambia. His aim is to create a pathway for the younger generation to learn the fundamentals of golf and enable them to potentially playing professionally or simply developing the game their country and neighbouring regions for future generations.

Alhaji's dream and desire has taken shape in the form of the Alhaji Drammah Golf Academy, which is based in and around The Fajarah Club. The start up, development and building of an academy that will provide golf lessons, teaching techniques, guidance and education, but a self-belief that everything is possible through training, education, drive and perseverance.

Alhaji and the golf Academy participants are highly motivated, dedicated, reliable, trustworthy, honest and driven. These characteristics are shown in Alhaji himself.

As one client said “I haven't met a more humble and sporty golf professional with such extensive experience of golf, as a professional, an instructor and mentor. He Communicates confidently, concisely and has the ability to make you feel comfortable. He is a smart and articulate professional at all times”.

Alhaji Drammah Golf Academy

The Fajara Golf Club, Fajara, Bakau New Town, Atlantic Boulevard, Serrekunda

The Gambia

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The Alhaji Golf Academy

The new Alhaji Golf academy will be based in and around the Existing course of the Fajarah club, which is located in the Gambia. The new academy will be headed by Alhaji Drammah, who is the top pro golfer in the country for many years, and is highly respected within the local community, the PGA and the club itself.

The Vision of Alhaji and the new academy is an initial 10-year project. Designed initially to create a pathway to golf for local kids at school level for the entire region, which will offer the opportunity to learn the game from a fundamental perspective, with learning the basics of the game of golf combined with education and a pathway to growth.

The academy will focus on kids from 8-16years of age. These children are currently educated in schools locally and would use the academy to learn the basics of golf, grow their skills, receive mentorship and to become stewards of the game for future generations in The Gambia.

The academy has set out its early goals of creating the following

- A practice facility which will encompass
 - Driving range to practice
 - Artificial putting green
 - Bunker corner
 - Individual practice nets
 - Chipping area
- Clubs for use by the kids at the academy of ages 8-16
- 6 x half sets for kids
- 12 x half sets for use on the course
- 20 x 7 irons for practice
- Apparel/caps/Gloves of various sizes
- 3-hole short course with artificial greens
 - The 3-hole Design would consist of a par 3,4,5 with various t-boxes
- Small classroom for homework and school work after school
 - so kids who come to practice can also do schoolwork
- 3 x 40ft containers converted to classrooms
 - These containers will be used as classrooms, Office, Storage
- Aluminium frame tent

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What We Are Doing

At the moment, the new academy is sourcing materials and equipment which it can use in the new set up. They will have a website running in a few weeks, new telephone numbers, some locally printed materials and a curriculum for the academy. A local team has offered to do construction work and procure local materials for building and construction. A web designer has offered to create the website, a designer the new logo and printed materials. This type of help lowers overheads and costs, so that what goes to the academy is for the kids in the academy

As an example of item's that need to be procured and supplied, we need to acquire the basics and start from scratch, as there is virtually no suppliers or very limited facilities and suppliers of golf related equipment in the region. Something as simple as range balls, the mats that the kids will hit from, the netting that will cover the driving range and the clubs that the kids will use. These are the fundamentals that we are arranging in the coming weeks.

All of these items we are now reaching out to companies and individuals who can help us to set this in motion. We will gather the materials and then ship them from the Netherlands, or if directly supplied by a company from their origin. One of our aims and that of Alhaji, is that as much of the financial resource that is supplied, goes into the academy to help the kids.

For small shipments of 4-10 cbm, we will use a local shipping service based in the Netherlands, which currently sends shipments to The Gambia, for larger shipments we have designated a freight forwarder who will handle a complete container shipment for the academy.

General

This is but a small part of the next coming 10 years development of the project. We are hoping that your participation or that you are reading this will encourage you to consider helping to create a unique academy that is built from a solid foundation with a view to making a difference. We look forward to informing you of more things to come and what the developments are.

As with any project that requires support, you, your company or association will be considered as partners and suppliers. All references to your participation will be mentioned. We always will ask if we can place your name in any articles, media outlets that the project is covered by. We would request that you supply a JPEG or PDF of your logo so that any printing of your name or insertion into media can be done on your behalf. In addition, we will send any pictures of your product or assistance when it has arrived and in place at the academy. We hope that in the coming months we will be able to show you the great work your assistance has created.

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