

1935.

~~Kenya~~

No. 38131/1

SUBJECT

C0533/459

Royal Patronage

Prefix Royal

Use of - by Nairobi Golf Club

Previous

15619/29

Subsequent

See 4127/2/35 Gen

1936

Mr General

50338

503

7/4/64

601
"Royal"
Hants Golf Club

St J. Bryan said we should receive an application
from the Hants Golf Club to be called "Royal" & he
desired to support it strongly if we would do
what we could.

21
11.11.35
11.6

1. A. Governor Wade 272 _____ 6th June '35.

Here, a petition submitted by the Hants Golf Club asking
that H.M. may concede to the Club ^{the privilege} using the designation
"Royal".

It seems that to merit the
extension of the Privilege of using
the designation "Royal", a Golf Club
must be one of 'the very leading
Clubs of the Empire' (see the
Memorandum at No 1a on 15/6/34).
Applications were made by Governors
in behalf of the Lutetia Golf
Club in 1925 and again in 1926, &
in 1925 the Gov. of Barbados made
a request in behalf of the
Livingstone Club. Neither of
these Clubs were regarded as a
leading club etc. The privilege
was however conferred on the
Colombo Golf Club in 1928.

22088/37
2270/28

Royal
Hants Golf Club

from the Hants Golf Club to be called "Royal" He
denied to support it strongly. I do not know what we would do
what we could.

14 June 1935

1. A. Lawrence Wade 272 _____ 6th June 35

Here, a petition submitted by the Hants Golf Club asking
that H.M. may concede to the Club ^{the privilege of} using the designation
"Royal".

It seems that to merit the
extension of the privilege of using
the designation "Royal", a golf club
must be one of "the very leading
Clubs of the Empire" (see the
Memorandum at No 1a on 15/6/29).
Applications were made by persons
on behalf of the Entasse Golf
Club in 1925 and again in 1930, &
in 1935 the fr. St. Barbara made
a request on behalf of the
Livingstone Club. Neither of
these clubs were regarded as a
leading club etc. The privilege
was however conferred on
Colombo Golf Club in 1938.

22088/27
22087/28
copy

I think that the name

to the privilege in the case of
Nairobi - is that, once it is
granted, applications will be
made by the Golf Clubs of
the Capitals of all the other
E.A. Dependencies.

In view of the large European
population of Kenya, I think it
can be argued that the merits
of the Nairobi Club are stronger
than those of Entebbe and
Livingstone - and that it can be regarded
as one of the leading clubs
of the Empire.

The despatch may go to
H.M.'s P.S. with a note
saying that the Golf Club
is supporting the petition
(of 18/9/28 Kenya)

C. G. ...
27/31

Mr. Lloyd.
Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir Joseph Byrne mentioned this
proposal to me in conversation and said that he
wished to support it as strongly as he could.
He thinks that the Nairobi Golf Club is quite
important enough to be called "Royal" and he
says it is also quite different as regards size
and importance from any other Club in Tropical
East Africa. It appears that the Club has got
630 members and is considered to be in a sound
financial position. The petition has been

very

very carefully drawn up and I think covers every
point on which information is desired, and the
application is supported by the O.A.G. and by Sir
Joseph Byrne.

in 1929 & 1928.

I note from the minutes on 15619/29 that
the proposal has been up before and that it was then
decided, though with some little doubt, that the
Nairobi Golf Club was not important enough to be
recommended to His Majesty for the royal dignity,
though the Agricultural Society of Kenya was. The
Golf Club has now had six years longer life and I
think that it can be reconsidered, so I send this
forward for approval. If the application is agreed
then it will have to be submitted to His Majesty's
Private Secretary with a view to obtaining his
approval.

I do not think that to call the Nairobi
Club "Royal" would be a real justification for
extending a similar honour to Entebbe or elsewhere
else. Kenya is different and the fact may as well
be recognised.

J. G. ...
27

Mr Lloyd has found this to be
in view of X of Mr. Keble's minutes. I
think this might go to H.M. with
an S.P.'s effort.

J. G. ...
X Deben
Solomon has the
letter I signed that we
can ask for
Nairobi.
W.C. 27.25

P.T.O.

Sir J. Mailey

I think that you would see

These cases are always rather doubtful;

but on the whole I wd support the

Governor's application.

? As proposed

W.S.

10/7/35

Application kept to original

in 1934 & 1935

W.S.

W.S.

2 P.M. (6/1/35)

15 July 1935

W.S.

note

11 Mr. G. A. Dept.
11 June Dept.
C. E. A. Dept.

2/ MR. FLOOD (4/7/35)

Major Hardinge, (Buckingham Palace) telephoned about receiving ^{my} letter for the application of a grant of Title Royal to the Nairobi Golf Club.

Major Hardinge said that before they could consider this application he would like to have some further particulars of the history and status of the Club and of its comparative standing with other Golf Courses in the Colonial Empire. He further enquired whether we had consulted the Home Office in respect of this application, as he imagined this was the usual practice. I gather that the Palace relies on the Home Office very largely for ascertaining that a certain uniformity is preserved in the matter of these applications for grant of Title Royal, ^{so as to ensure} ~~ensuring~~ ^{of uniformity} that a fairly definite standard is maintained.

E. S. Ford

19/7/35.

(I now enclose 10/7/35 for K. as per the book in office)

Major Hardinge telephoned yesterday. He is anxious to get a reply from us as quickly as possible as he is going away to the country on the 20th & will not return before the 25th.

We have now asked for a definite reply. It is suggested that we should refer to the Home Office after we have received a reply from the Club. We will then refer to the Home Office with a view to obtaining a decision of a high standard.

3 To Major Standings - 26 July 1935

4 Major Standings (O.D.) 27 July 35

State that the King approves the grant of the title 'Royal' to the Nairobi Golf Club, that any suggestions regarding the general principle will be communicated later.

I submit Draft Draft
C. Ross with
31/7/35

5 To Kempt, 582 (1 answer) 3 AUG 1935

Genl. Dyson No 534 - 14.10.35

Trs. letter from Royal Nairobi Golf Club requesting that an expression of its club's appreciation of the privilege of having prefix 'Royal' may be conveyed to H.M.

? And the duplicate is original to His P.S. is a letter from the G.S.

C. Ross with
8/10/35

To Major Standings (1/6/35) Com 9-11-35

8 Major The Hon. A. Standings - 9. 11. 35

Accto. (7) returns (6) encl. which has been laid before The King.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE for Kenya here with
C. Ross with
14/10/35

To Kempt, 934 (6 answer) 15 NOV 1935

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

10. Filling. ----- s/o ----- 18th. June, 19

Transferred to 1936 file.

Inquires whether there is any possibility of permission being granted to the Nairobi and Muthaiga Golf Clubs substitute words "His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VIII" on membership rolls; and whether Nairobi Club will receive some form of warrant in respect of permission to use the prefix "Royal".

Mr. Grossmith.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Party. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

Sir,

KENYA.NO. 582

O.A.G.

①

I have etc. to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 272

of the 6th of June ^{containing enclosure} ~~was forwarded~~ a petition ^{submitted on behalf} ~~from the officers~~ of theNairobi Golf Club, ^{and} ~~in which they~~

asked that His Majesty, the King might

be graciously pleased to concede to the

Club the privilege of using the

designation "Royal"

to inform you that

His Majesty has been ^{graciously} pleased

to approve the grant of the title prefix

"Royal" to the ^{name of the} NAIROBI GOLF CLUB.and I shall be glad if you will ^{no doubt} ~~inform~~

the petitioners to be informed

accordingly.

I have, etc.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

FURTHER ACTION.

to concede to
the Club the
privilege of
using the
prefix "Royal".

the petitioners to be informed

accordingly.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

27th July, 1935.

R

Dear Boyd,

No 5

Thank you for your further letter of yesterday about the method of dealing with applications from the Dominions for the use of the prefix "Royal" with particular reference to the case of the Nairobi Golf Club.

I am desired to say that, in the circumstances, the King approves of the grant of the title "Royal" to the latter Club. I return herewith the despatch from the Acting Governor of Kenya.

When I next see Wigram I will have a talk with him about the general principle, and if we have any suggestions to make, we will communicate with you again.

Yours sincerely,

F. H. L. Knollys

E. B. Boyd Esq., C.M.G.,
Colonial Office.

38131/32 K.

C.O.

Mr. Grossmith. 25/7/35

Mr. ~~Howarth~~ 26/7/35

Mr. ~~Winn~~ 25/7

Mr. ~~Boyd~~ 24/7/35

Sir G. Tomkinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Stuchburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Party. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Secretary for Mr. Boyd's signature

to American

Downing Street.

26 July, 1935.

DRAFT.

MAJOR THE HON. ALEXANDER HARDINGE
C.B., C.V.O., M.O.

Dear Hardinge,

You asked me with regard to the application to His Majesty for the privilege of using the prefix "Royal" by the National Golf Club to let you know by what principles we are guided in submitting such applications.

We have been looking through our records to see whether there is any definite ruling as to the grant of the title "Royal" to sporting clubs, but we have not been able to find any precedent

FURTHER ACTION.

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson,

Sir G. Tomlinson,

Sir C. Boleynley,

Sir J. Stuchburgh,

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

These are the examples by which we have been guided in considering whether an application merits the title of a Club. I have not been the hostess in recent years to any such applications.

DRAFT.

See memorandum on 15/6/19/104 Kenya.

Taken from letter 16/9/22 on 11/3/24

1337/2

opinion, to restrict the privilege of the title "Royal" to the very leading golf clubs throughout the Empire.

The last occasion on which His Majesty was pleased to confer the privilege on a Colonial golf club (as apart from a Dominion golf club) was in 1926 when the Colombo Golf Club received the honor.

It was considered that the club might well be regarded as *coming within the scope of Lord Stamfordham's recommendation* throughout the Empire.

As regards the Nairobi Golf Club, *the Govt* felt that the Club was of sufficient *standing* and importance to *justify* warrant the necessary *his* of Statute recommendation *in support of the* club's application to His Majesty.

The club is quite different as

FURTHER ACTION.

ruling on the subject. In a circular despatch to Colonial Governments in 1899 Mr. Joseph Chamberlain stated that it had been decided that this distinction should be restricted in the Colonies to "institutions of eminence, long standing and secured financial position, and devoted to national, charitable and scientific objects". In view of this ruling, applications received for the grant of the title "Royal" to golf clubs in the Dominions and Colonies were at one time invariably refused on the ground that golf clubs were not "institutions devoted to national, charitable and scientific objects". But of recent years the ruling has been interpreted more leniently, and certain applications for the title "Royal", received from golf clubs in the Dominions and Colonies, have been submitted to, and approved by, His Majesty. The only general ruling on this subject was a statement by Lord Stamfordham in 1926 that it would be well, in His Majesty's opinion

6/23/25 - 7/23/25

~~relative size and importance from any other~~

~~club in Tropical East Africa. We felt that~~

~~the application had been carefully drawn up~~

~~and that it covered every point on which~~

~~information would be desired.~~

We have fully appreciated, in view

of Lord Stanfordham's statement, that the

status of the club would have to be indeed

high for an application for the privilege

of the prefix "Royal" to be recommended to

the King; and, before submitting it,

we discussed with Sir Joseph Byrnes,

the Governor of Kenya, who was then

on leave in the country, who assured

us that in regard to importance

the club had no rival in Tropical

East Africa.

E. B. Boyd

(Signed) E. B. BOYD.

C. O.

38/131/25

10 2

Mr. Crosswith 19/7/35

Mr. Freestone 10

Mr. Douglas 17/7/35

Sir C. Parkinson

Sir G. Tomkinson

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

C.D.
R 11 JUL
D 15

15 July 1935

Dear Lord Wigram,

DRAFT.

The Rt. Hon. the
Lord Wigram,
G.C.B., G.C.V.O., C.S.I.

6 July 1935
(in original)

I enclose herewith, to be
laid before the King, a despatch
from the Acting Governor
of Kenya, together with
a petition from the
Officers of the Nairobi
Golf Club, asking that
His Majesty may be
graciously pleased to
confer upon the Club
the privilege of using
the prefix "Royal".
Sir Joseph Byrnes, the
Governor of Kenya, who
is now in this country

FURTHER ACTION.

endorses the views expressed
in the despatch.

Mr Mac Donald would
wish to give all proper
support to the petition, and
he would be glad if you
would be good enough to
ascertain His Majesty's
pleasure in the matter.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) E. B. ROYD

KENYA

No. 273



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA



6th June, 1935.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the accompanying petition submitted by the Nairobi Golf Club asking that His Majesty the King may be graciously pleased to concede to the Club the privilege of using the designation "Royal".

2. It is understood from the petitioners that within the last two years this privilege has been granted to the Durban Golf Club, and that, though five Golf Clubs in Africa have now been similarly honoured, the privilege has not yet been accorded to any Club north of Salisbury.

3. It will be observed that one of the reasons adduced by the petitioners in support of their request is that His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, during his visit to the Colony in 1928, frequently played on the course and honoured the Club by his acceptance of an Honorary Life Membership.

4. The bestowal of the privilege by His Majesty would give the liveliest satisfaction to the members of the Club and would be highly appreciated throughout the Colony. I trust, therefore, that you will feel able to submit the petition to His Majesty and to give it your support.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Arncliffe

MAJOR THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1

NAIROBI GOLF CLUB.

P. O. BOX 221
NAIROBI,
KENYA COLONY.

To His Excellency,
The Officer Administering the Government
of Kenya Colony.

12
16th May 1935.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

This, the humble petition of the Nairobi Golf Club
showeth:-

1. The Club, situated in the Capital of the Colony, is the oldest Golf Club in Kenya and, as such, has been appealed to for assistance and advice (in their formation and afterwards) by nearly all of the 23 other Golf Clubs affiliated to the Kenya Golf Union, which is now the ruling body of the game in this Colony: in fact for over 20 years until the formation of the Kenya Golf Union, the Nairobi Golf Club was looked upon as the golfing Authority of Kenya.

Of the six Presidents of the Union elected to date, four are members of the Nairobi Golf Club.

The Amateur Golf Championship of the East Africa Protectorate (now Kenya Colony) was instituted by the Club in 1910 and played on the Club's Course regularly (the period of the Great War excepted) until 1924 after which date the Union admitted three other Golf Courses to Championship standing.

In 1924 the Club instituted its Easter Tournament which has been played regularly ever since and, in Easter this year, the Club entertained nine visiting Club Teams which came in from all parts of the Colony including Kitale 280 miles to the west and Mombasa 330 miles to the east. In 1934, the visiting teams honoured the Club by presenting to it a very lovely Shield commemorating this annual event from its inception.

It is humbly submitted the Club is an institution of considerable eminence.

NAIROBI GOLF CLUB.

To His Excellency
The Officer Administering the Government,
Of Kenya Colony.

P. O. BOX 221

NAIROBI,
KENYA COLONY.

16th May 1935.

Reference No.

-2-

2. The Club was first started by a few enthusiasts, it is believed, in 1903: from 1908 it has worked under a constitution and the continuous record of its Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings from 1908 are in existence and carefully preserved. The foundation of the Club is in fact almost coeval with the start of Nairobi, the Capital of the Colony, and it is humbly submitted the Club is an institution of long standing.
3. The Club is a Member's Club and in its own name it holds a lease from the Crown of 436 acres for 99 years from the 1st. May 1922 at a rental of £.108. per annum. On this area has been laid out an eighteen hole competition (and Championship) Course and also a nine hole Course. There is a large Club House substantially constructed of Stone with a tile roof: there are some 550 Members and the Club is in a very sound financial position.
4. His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, very greatly honoured the Club during his visit to the Colony in 1928 by accepting Honorary Life Membership: His Royal Highness has frequently played on the Course and has in fact played in at least one Club competition.
5. Under Rule 4. Section 16. of the Constitution, the Governor of the Colony and the Members of his family and personal staff are entitled to be honorary members of the Club with full privileges and without fee. Successive Governors have honoured the Club with their Membership and four Governors have held the position of Captain or President.

NAIROBI GOLF CLUB.

P. O. BOX 221

NAIROBI,

KENYA COLONY.

To His Excellency,
The Officer Administering the Government,
Of Kenya Colony.

16th May 1935.

Reference No.

-3-

6. The Club is in close proximity to the Lines of the King's African Rifles stationed in Nairobi and, since its inception, very close and friendly relations have been maintained: special terms are granted to the Officers and non-commissioned Officers of the Regiment, inter alia, they pay no entrance fee to the Club: in this connection it may be mentioned that on two occasions the Club Championship has been won by a serving Officer.

7. In connection with the Annual Sir Edward Grigg Empire School Foursomes Competition, every School entering has the right to hang its shield in the big lounge of the Club House: in this, the fourth year of the Competition, 46 schools have hung their shields, a custom and a collection which we believe is unique in the Empire.

8. Although five Golf Clubs in Africa have been honoured with the prefix "Royal" there is as yet no Club north of Salisbury with that honour. We believe we are the fifth largest Club in Africa as regards Membership.

The Members of the Nairobi Golf Club therefore humbly pray that in this the Jubilee Year of His accession to the Throne, His Majesty may be pleased to accede to their humble request that the Club may be honoured With His Majesty's permission to use the designation of "Royal".

And as in duty bound Your Excellency's petitioners will ever pray,
For and on behalf of the members of the Nairobi Golf Club.

W. K. Mackenzie

President

J. W. Leonard

Past President

Arthur C. P. Marshall

Past President and Club Trustee.

Signed at Nairobi this Sixteenth day of May 1935.