

Citation for WICOBA 73-78/80

When the members of the 73-78/80 here in the UK began to meet in the early nineties, they decided to invite their wives and young children to a get together to celebrate their families and grow their friendships. This active set organised the 75th Founder's Day Anniversary dinner and dance and the ICOBA Europe sports event which is what has now grown into the NSF Sports day which is the largest Nigerian event outside of church here in the UK.

Is it any wonder that the drive and vision so visible in the Old Igbobians would also exist in their spouses who have since become an association in their own right and a leading group of WICOBA (Wives of ICOBA). The various independent outings and holidays undertaken by this group of women (perhaps to the surprise of their men) and their support for one another over the years has grown the bond between them and set them out as formidable ladies with a clear set of objectives on how to make a meaningful contribution, especially in Nigeria.

In 2018 this group of ladies decided to fund the secondary education of one Nigerian child. The natural choice of school was, of course, Igbobi College, their husbands' alma mater. After a series of consultations with the Principal of the school, a pupil who would otherwise no longer be able to continue his studies at Igbobi College was chosen. Since September 2018 these exemplary ladies have been paying the pupil's tuition fees and are set to continue this noble act till when he leaves Igbobi College. These ladies did not have to do this and were in no way compelled to do so. Their ambition is to get the wider WICOBA involved with the aim of sponsoring more young men.

This group of ladies are the wives of the 73-78/80 set and one other WICOBA from the 73-77/79 set.

For their generosity and exemplary contribution to the life and prospects of a Nigerian young man who they have never met they are this evening collectively recipients of the ICOBA Europe Merit Award for Services to the Nation.

