

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Ibom Golf Club

Le Meridien Ibom Hotel & Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

www.lemeridienibom.com

Dear Member,

As we wave goodbye to 2015 and look forward to the promise of a better 2016 I'd like to thank you all for making my time at Ibom so enjoyable.

It has been an interesting challenge to try to pick up from where IMG Golf Management left the club, and to try to move it in the direction that the membership and the resort would like to see it go – onwards and upwards.

There is no doubt that there is a huge passion amongst the membership to see the club develop in a way that might reflect well on both the resort and the State, all of which has made it easier for me to make the changes in operational practices that were needed.

The co-operation of my team has been extremely encouraging and it is their desire to develop more professionally from the training, and the new ideas I have introduced, that has led to what many is a completely different atmosphere now within the golf experience at Ibom. I'm certain that as the team grows in experience and knowledge we will be able to fine tune things in a way that will see continuous improvement in the operational performance of the golf team, well into the future.

Our membership numbers are starting to increase now and we are already well on our way to achieving our 2016 membership development targets, even before the new subscription year arrives. I'm confident that with the continuing support of the membership we stand a good chance of out-performing what I once believed were ambitious membership development targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very prosperous and rewarding 2016, with hopefully far more birdies than bogeys on your cards.

Roger Yates



Upcoming Events

January 2

Members Clinic Hour – & every Saturday in January

January 3

Members Day – & every Sunday in January

January 30

Monthly Medal – Member's Kitty

An Event to certainly look out for – SPG Invitational in April 2016

Important Announcement

The 2016 annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2016.

The subscription for the new year is **NGN 95,000**, but if paid before the end of January there will be a reduction of **NGN 10,000** allowed, which will make the fees due only **NGN 85,000**.

All members have only until the end of February to complete their payment for the year, after which those with unpaid fees will be suspended until the outstanding amount has been settled. - A suspended membership carries no playing rights on the course, nor holds any handicap privileges or resort

The Golf Course

There is a real need for us in 2016 to address the overall conditioning of our bunkers, as many of them have sadly fallen below the standards you would expect of a course of this quality.

Whilst the playability of the bunkers are not really in question, it is the decaying of the edges of the bunkers and some other areas of wear and tear that are now starting to adversely affect people's perception of the Ibom golf course. The work that is now needed to re-establish the original quality of the bunkers is both time consuming and costly, as some of the bunkers will need drainage work along with re-edging or re-sodding.



The greenside bunker on the left of the 18th green (above) is a great example of the challenges that will need to be addressed in the New Year by the course team. As you look at this image you can see clearly that fresh edges will need to be cut, the bunker lining re attached, drainage lines added, and the turf surrounds re-instated.

I hope that dialogue can be started soon with all of the interested parties so that necessary funding can be made available for this vital and long overdue work to be carried out.

LM OPEN 2015 – Results

This year's LM Open was planned and continued despite less than ideal economic conditions because it is without doubt one of the best loved golfing weekends in the Nigerian golfing calendar. Whilst it has always been considered a very serious golfing event it has also now developed into a much cherished weekend break for so many of the competitors that the resort wanted to do all that it could to keep the event on the calendar if at all possible.

The result of all that hard work was that this year's event was considered by many of the 93 players that competed to have been the most successfully organized event so far, which is testimony to the hard work of the Hotel & Golf teams who planned and ran the event.

There were some 19 prizes available over the weekend, including 15 category net prizes which were based on either handicap, age or gender, along with the newly added Sponsors prize, and the overall winner prize which was awarded to the player with the best gross score over the 36 holes.

The course was in good condition for the tournament despite the arrival of the Harmattan in the weeks leading up to it, and yet in some ways it was the very presence of the Harmattan that helped to make playing conditions even more tolerable for everyone, producing as it does much cooler mornings and greatly reduced humidity than Ibom would be known for.

			
		Score	Player
Overall Winner	Best Gross	168	Okey Igweh
Sponsor Trophy	Best Nett	173	Joseph Tauok - Air France
Category A	1st Nett	152	Okey Ananaba
	2nd Nett	153	Sola Omilabu
	3rd Nett	157	Winston Strasser
Category B	1st Nett	155	Uwem Udoh
	2nd Nett	157	Dennis Osubu
	3rd Nett	158	Adokiye Ikpoki
Category C	1st Nett	156	Babasola Awoyongbo
	2nd Nett	171	Basil Monwe
	3rd Nett	173	Dapo Otunla
Ladies	1st Nett	153	Helen Ayo
	2nd Nett	162	Abiodun Hassan
	3rd Nett	176	Nora Spiff
Veterans	1st Nett	164	Alek Musa
	2nd Nett	167	Sonny Gberevbie
	3rd Nett	169	Oseni Ahmed
Nearest the Pin	Hole 3		Simon Okwuokei
Nearest the Pin	Hole 16		Anthony Elias

Ibom Golf Club looks forward to 2016

The members of Ibom GC met at the clubhouse on Monday the 21st December to take part in a Members Information Meeting, the purpose of which was to outline the progress that had been made since the departure of IMG, and the opportunities that exist for substantial progress in the 2016 season.

The improvements that had been made were outlined to the assembled members and they included;

- Increased membership numbers: +26%
- IBS club management software installed – retail, membership, and course management controlled.
- Regular weekly email to members with weekend results, and a regular monthly newsletter – club website has now been built & is looking to launch in 2016
- A better organized playing schedule is in place – with ongoing discussions about how to improve it with new additions for 2016
- Weekly member's only coaching clinic launched – Ibom Golf Academy established with full coaching programs – clinics, groups, individual and residential
- Plans for the introduction of the first club captain of Ibom GC in 2016
- A comprehensive membership recruitment plan is in place
- A course development plan is in place

The highlight of the evening was without doubt the introduction of Usenobong Akpabio as the club's first captain chosen from the club's membership.

The club is indeed fortunate to have found somebody with both the golfing ability and the personal skills needed to represent it so ably within the Nigerian golfing community.

During his acceptance speech the new captain thanked the management of the resort for its support, the members for the confidence shown in him, and he pledged to work tirelessly to ensure that Ibom GC engaged more directly with the State authorities to earn their continued trust and support.

He encouraged everyone associated with the club to do their utmost to tell the story of "the new beginning at Ibom" to their friends and family members so that the early positive signs on membership recruitment could be multiplied to the point where tee bookings for the course became the norm.

In closing he said how much he was looking forward to 2016 and he felt that if even 50% of the ambitious plans outlined by the golf club manager at the meeting could be achieved, then 2016 would be a tremendous year for everyone at the club.

The meeting closed after a brief Q&A session.

There has already been a lot of things that have been improved upon from a membership perspective in 2015 and with the support of the new Ibom Captain, there is a huge amount more that will be achieved in 2016. I would like to finish this newsletter by wishing every member of Ibom GC and their families a very prosperous and rewarding New Year 2016

Roger Yates

