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# JULY NEWSLETTER

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## Ibom Golf Club

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

[www.lemeridienibom.com](http://www.lemeridienibom.com)

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Dear Member,

I write this to you on my first full day back at Ibom after what was an enjoyable time with my family and a fairly restful period in Ireland.

I must firstly thank Emmanuel and the rest of the golf team for doing what seems to have been a first class job in my absence. Having spoken with him I know that he in turn would like me to pass on his thanks to the membership for the huge level of support that they extended to him during the past 4 weeks, as this was his first foray into a leadership role in golf club management and I think that he showed to you all, the potential that I know he has for this challenging work.

It was very pleasing to also read of the success of the launch of the Ibom Clubnite, which saw the new floodlight facility in use for the first time. This is a wonderful new addition to the Ibom membership experience and I'm sure that members will increasingly make good use of this excellent piece of Julius Berger crafted engineering.

As we move into the second part of the year we will continue to work hard to try to improve the value of an Ibom membership, knowing as we do that these are increasingly challenging times financially for both the membership and the resort itself.

The resort's management has always been incredibly supportive of our efforts to grow both the membership and to encourage the development of the game within Akwa Ibom State, but it now perhaps needs to be more fully recognized by our members that the resort is also impacted by the financial conditions that have sadly become the norm in Nigeria in recent months, which must lessen their ability to be quite so generous with club related activities until the economy improves significantly.

I know that you will all appreciate the above message and the need therefore to be as understanding as possible during what I'm sure will be a period of readjustment for us all.

I certainly look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks and working with you towards our shared goals.

**Roger Yates**

**Golf Club Manager**

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## Upcoming Events

**Clubnite – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

**Members Day Competition – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Members' Birthday Kitty – Saturday 30th July**

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### **Membership Subscription Update**

We continue to attract new members and to re-engage with our past members all of which keeps us moving on toward our 2016 membership target.

**Reminders** - Those members that chose the split payment method of payment of their subscription for 2016 are respectfully reminded that they willingly entered into a contract with the Captain & the Club to make staged payments, knowing that the penalty for non-payment would automatically result in the forfeit of both membership benefits and all fees paid to that point.

A review of all such contracts are now under way and albeit reluctantly, the agreed penalties will be triggered in all those cases where it is merited.

Those members that have paid their fees in the past 3 months are reminded that the fee due was NGN95,000 and not the discounted fee of NGN 85,000 that was available for early payment in January & February.



## Ibom GC involvement at the 2016 Curtis Cup

My recent leave saw me involved with two of my pupils Meghan Maclaren of England (World Amateur Golf Rankings No. 28), and Maria Dunne of Ireland (WAGR 167) in the Bi- Annual Curtis Cup matches between Great Britain & Ireland and the United States of America.

This was the 39<sup>th</sup> match between the two sides and this year the match was held at Dun Laoghaire GC in Dublin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### History of the matches

The first Curtis Cup Match was played in 1932 at the Wentworth Club in England, and was won by the American team. The trophy, a silver bowl of Paul Revere design, was donated by Harriot Curtis (who had won the U.S. Women's Amateur in 1906) and her sister Margaret (who had won it in 1907, 1911, and 1912). The Curtis sisters had competed in the 1905 British Ladies Amateur at Royal Cromer Golf Club, where an informal match had occurred between teams of American and British golfers, and they wanted to promote the international friendships in the world of women's golf. The cup is inscribed, "To stimulate friendly rivalry among the women golfers of many lands."

Discussions between various golf associations had been underway since 1924—the Curtis sisters had originally donated the trophy in 1927 to help these discussions along—but it was not until 1931 that the USGA and LGU agreed to co-sponsor the event. It was hoped that the French Golf Union would eventually participate, but that never occurred.

The Curtis Cup Match is played every two years in even numbered years, alternating between the two sides of the Atlantic. Each team consists of eight golfers. In 2004, then fourteen-year-old Michelle Wie played for the U.S. becoming the youngest player in Curtis Cup history. She won both of her singles matches. The United States won the 2008 event, extending its overall lead to 26 wins to 6, with 3 ties. This match also saw a historic first, with Team USA's Stacy Lewis becoming the first player ever to go 5–0 in a single Curtis Cup Match.[1] Bronte Law became the second player to achieve the feat in 2016.



### Format

The competition involves various match play matches between players selected from the two teams of 8, either singles, foursomes, or (starting in 2008) fourball. The winner of each match scores a point for their team, with ½ a point each for any match that is tied after 18 holes. If the entire Match is tied, the previously winning team retains the Cup.

A foursome's match is a competition between two teams of two golfers. The golfers on the same team take alternate shots throughout the match, with the same ball. Each hole is won by the team that completes the hole in the fewest shots. A fourball match is a competition between two teams of two golfers. All four golfers play their own ball throughout the round. Each hole is won by the team whose individual golfer had the lowest score. A singles match is a standard match play competition between two golfers.

The original format was a single day of competition, with three foursomes' matches in the morning and six singles matches in the afternoon, for a total of nine points. In 1964, the format was changed to two days, with three foursomes and six singles matches each day, a total of 18 points. In 2008, the format changed to a three-day competition, with three foursomes and three fourball matches on each of the first two days, and eight singles matches on the final day, a total of 20 points.



**Meghan MacLaren holing the winning putt on Saturday morning**



**The winning GB&I team with the trophy after the Sunday's singles finished**

This was a truly great experience for me to be involved directly with the team each day and also having the opportunity to make my contribution to the play of my two players, who went on to win 3 and 2 points respectively. I thought this point's haul was very credible against some tough opposition and I'm sure their play in the event will now propel them both to bigger and better things in the future.

In sharing this post I hope that this significant coaching achievement demonstrates the high level of coaching expertise that is available at the Ibom Golf Academy for both Ibom members and guests of the resort.

The opportunity to significantly improve the playing standards in the club, the State or indeed the country has arguably never been better so please contact [roger.yates@lemeridien.com](mailto:roger.yates@lemeridien.com) for details of our bespoke coaching packages.

Click here to see my pupils in action on day 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twThkSFAeA0>

## Golf Club News

### Clubnite

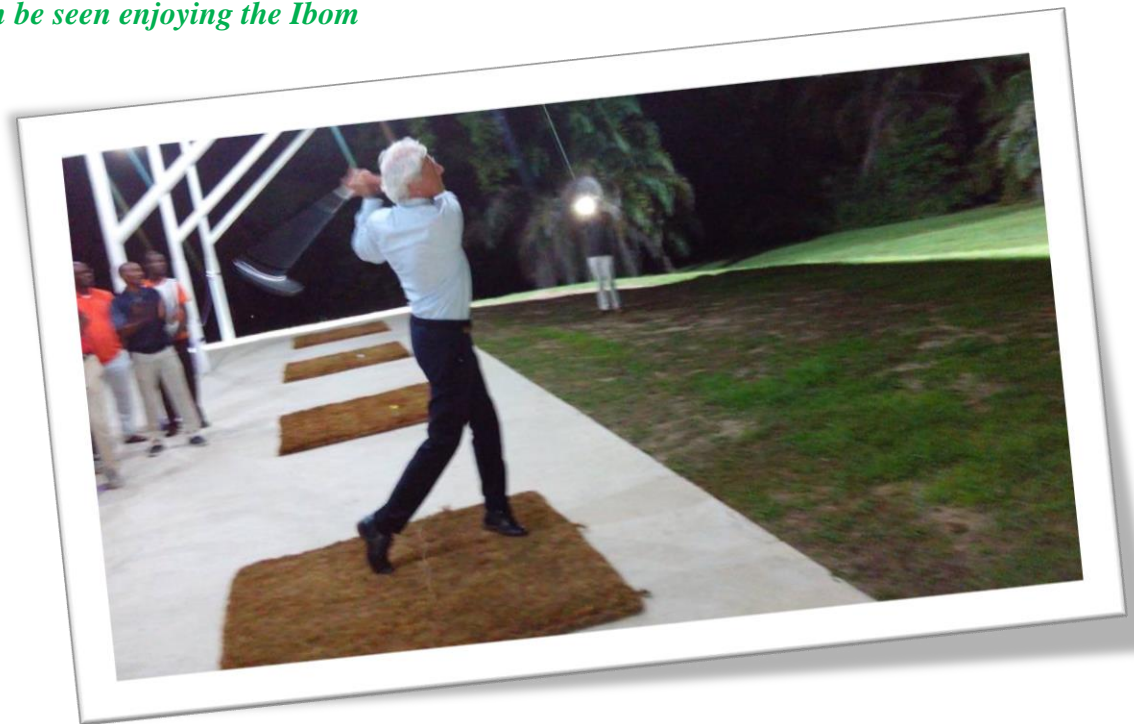
**So how it will work** There will be a competition from 1.00pm each Friday, using the same competition format of the Sunday Members Day competition - namely two separate 9 hole competitions -this will allow members to play either 18 or 9 holes depending on the time that they have available to them. There will be a prize giving for the competition later that evening once all the cards are returned and it is anticipated that members will really enjoy the opportunity to take a bite to eat or share a drink with each other.

To try to add something extra to the Clubnite experience the member's coaching sessions that were previously held on Saturday will now be moved to 6.30pm on Friday. These sessions have proved popular for those members who wished to have one of the professionals look at their swing, and suggest ways to improve on it, and once again the coaching fees for these sessions will continue to be sponsored by The Le Meridien Hotel & Golf Resort.

The success of the Clubnite, as with so many things to do with the golf club will depend more on your level of support than any additional input by the management, or sponsorship by the resort. The future of your golf club is ultimately defined by the spirit of its members and it will only develop if you want it to and are prepared to play your full part in its success.

*Players of all levels can be seen enjoying the Ibom*

*Clubnite – so be sure to come along yourself, and bring your friends for what is fast becoming an enjoyable Friday night out.*



## Golf Course News

**Local Rule** - Due to the seasonal conditions – lift clean and place will be in play on all closely mown surfaces, and embedded balls through the green may also be lift cleaned and dropped. This will be reviewed constantly and amended where necessary, so please look at the notice board or in the Pro Shop for up to date details.

Buggy use will be reviewed constantly and players are asked to respect the decisions made by management to protect the course during periods of heavy rain.

