
MAY NEWSLETTER



Ibom Golf Club

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

www.lemeridienibom.com

Dear Member,

The first 4 months of the 2017 seem to have flown by us, and inevitably are thoughts start to turn to the different challenges of playing golf through the Akwa Ibom rainy season.

This seasonal certainty will produce some challenges for our course maintenance team along with our golfers, and it would seem to me that “planning your day” needs to take on a whole new significance if the sometimes torrential downpours are to be avoided.

There is no doubt that our golfers are marginally less affected than the course maintenance team through this period, as often the selection of a more judicious tee time will prove sufficient to see them being able to enjoy their golf without too much rain interruption. For the course maintenance team however, they tend not to be as fortunate as the golfers, as their work is organized much more according to the cutting needs of the course and the time frame needed to deliver on the various course maintenance plans that they have ongoing at the time.

Where the resort is indeed fortunate is that the golf course at Ibom generally responds very quickly to any rain event, however intense, as the combination of a sophisticated drainage system and the fairly porous soil system that is found on this site, tends to guarantee that our golfers will always be back playing fairly quickly, once the rain stops.

The more recent addition of the driving bays to the practice range has meant, that for the dedicated golfer who wishes to work on their game, there will never be such thing as downtime caused by adverse weather conditions at Ibom as practice or tuition sessions can continue at any time, even at night by special request.

All of the above is certainly helping to make Le Meridien Ibom, the golfing “must visit destination of choice” for most Nigerian golfers including those that are new to the game.

So let’s try to look forward to meeting the challenge of the next few weeks together and keep on golfing whatever the weather might throw at us!

Roger Yates

Upcoming Events

Members Day Competitions – every Sunday in the month

May 27th Members Birthday Kitty

May 26th Members Clubnite

Subscription 2017 Reminder

I’d like to thank all of those members that have paid their subscription fees for 2017 and enjoyed the discounts that were available to them.

Please be aware that on April 1st I will change the membership status of those members with **outstanding fees** to that of **Suspended Member**.

Judging by the impact of this on the 2016 season, I know now that there will be a situation where these newly suspended members will arrive at Ibom with an expectation of playing golf.

Golf will of course be possible for these golfers but only if they;

1. Pay their outstanding fees for 2017
2. Pay the Green Fee of the day in the Pro Shop
3. They are a resident in the resort

So in order to avoid any future misunderstandings please be aware that ;

- ***I will challenge anyone that I believe has not followed either steps 1,2, or 3***
 - ***I will do my utmost to defend the value of the Ibom membership on behalf of those members who have paid their fees for 2017.***
 - ***I have already given you three months access to the golf course & privileges of membership without paying, so please don’t ask me for a further extension as a refusal often offends***
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Golf Course News

I am pleased to report that discussions are ongoing between the Commissioner for Tourism, Jardin our course maintenance providers, and the management of the resort to try to find a better way of managing the maintenance and future development of the Ibom golf course.

The State is taking a very positive and pro-active approach to this issue, and all parties are committed to the same idea of making the Ibom course the best course in Nigeria & West Africa. It is the clear intention of all concerned to be in a position to update government, members and resort visitors as soon as a new plan for the course can be agreed upon, and implemented, as clearly there will be some negative impact on golf at Ibom as a result of this new way forward.

We all recognize that it will be impossible to carry out this work without some disruption to our golfers, but in lending their support to this initiative I'm confident that our golfers and particularly the Ibom GC membership, will appreciate the resort management's decision to seek and support any initiative that will see the reinstatement of our course to the former levels of consistency of playing surfaces, improved quality of grass coverage, superior green speed and better trueness of surface roll.

Every effort will be made during the period of such a program to minimize any adverse effect that such work might have on any golfer's enjoyment and with this in mind, all work will be organized principally through a very careful selection process which will prioritize firstly which greens to work on until all 18 are completed, and then when best to move to the next priority on the list.

It is our professional belief that this new working model is essential if the course is to be brought back to its previous levels of playability and presentation, and where we do believe we are fortunate, it is in the fact that Jardin are the only course maintenance team to have been ever commissioned to work on the Ibom course, so it goes without saying that their knowledge of what was once the norm here, is unparalleled.

It is hoped that if the first phase of this initiative with the greens proves to be as successful as we hope, then a similarly planned and executed program can quickly follow to improve the consistency and presentation levels of the bunkers and the tees on the course, which again if successful can only further enhance the golfing experience for both our Ibom membership and our hotel guests.

These are certainly challenging times, but we believe that with the right level of commitment, expertise, investment and planning, it should still be possible to make the improvements that all of our feedback tells us is both immediate and necessary.



Updated Ibom GC News

Members meeting – Friday 14th April 2017

There was a meeting of the members at the golf clubhouse during the evening of the 14th April, at which the club captain, Usenobong Akpabio, was able to update members on his plans for 2017 and to take their feedback on how they felt about the club, its direction and the progress they would like to see made in the future.

The Ibom Golf Club has always wanted itself to be seen as “a true Members Club”, where the members feel very much involved in and a tangible part of the decision making process that surrounds those matters over which they have an influence. The progress that has been made in recent times is largely down to a much better understanding by the Golf Management team that those decisions that are fully supported by the membership have a far swifter impact than those that do not.

The regular consultation process that has been developed between the captain – on behalf of the members, and the golf manager – on behalf of the resort, is another reason why things are moving in the right direction for the membership of Ibom, and membership enquiries from outside of Uyo regarding joining the club are on the rise.

The main points from the meeting for those of you who weren't able to attend were as follows;

- Produce a membership fixture list to include – a monthly club kitty day.
- Introduce an annual match play event for members – the suggested Members Match Play Ladder being thought of as a possibility as a format.
- Arrange a number of Inter Club matches – The Unity Cup (for Ibom + 3 invited clubs) being championed by the attendees of the meeting, along with the possibility of other individual challenges to clubs not included in the Unity Cup event.
- The need for members to look for other golf related activities that will make the club both active and more interesting to current members & potential new members.
- Scheduling the last Friday of each month for the Ibom Clubnite – this will be a members get together social event.

These ideas and others will now be looked at by the Golf Manager and his team with a view to making the members' wishes into a reality if possible.

A further reminder on Food & beverage consumption – items brought on to the property

I thought that it would continue to be useful if I took this opportunity to once again clarify for everyone that uses the golf clubhouse, the Starwood Hotels policy regarding the consumption of any food & beverage items that were not purchased at the resort or prepared by our F&B team.

I think that this really is a very simple policy for all golfers to appreciate and understand – **there are no circumstance which allows for food or beverages purchased or created outside of the property to be brought on to the property for consumption here.**

I continue to mention this as sadly despite featuring this topic in the last newsletter it continues to be noted by the golf and resort management that some members continue to disregard or ignore this rule.. I'd still like to believe that perhaps this is only due to an individual member's ignorance of the policy's existence – whether this be with the consumption of herbal drinks, or other food items or drinks - or perhaps there is still a mistaken belief that somehow their Ibom GC membership status excludes them from portions or all of this policy – **I still wish to make it very clear that it does not and I have been reminded by the resort's senior management to continue to police such abuses of the resort's policy in the strongest terms possible.**

Please understand - This is a key Food & Beverage - Health & Safety policy and one that we all take very seriously at the resort, so we ask for your support and understanding in this matter from this point forward.

Golf Rule of the Month

The recent Ladies 1st Major of the year in the USA, saw our first rules controversy of 2017. American golfer Lexi Thompson seemed to be coasting to victory until approached by LPGA rules officials on the 13th hole of her final round, who were there to inform her that it had been deemed that she had incorrectly marked her ball during round 3, and although not noticed by anyone within her group at the time, an eagle eyed viewer had called in to report what they thought was a clear breach.



The rules officials having reviewed the footage that was at the center of the complaint (see above or click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owtqxhZYvqQ>), agreed with the viewer that a breach had in fact occurred, and then they applied the appropriate penalties. 2 shots for the infringement followed by a further two shots for signing for an incorrect scorecard.

All you need to know about marking your ball on the green







