
MAY NEWSLETTER



Ibom Golf Club

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

www.lemeridienibom.com

Dear Member,

We are now very swiftly approaching the anniversary of my arrival at Ibom, and it is therefore perhaps an opportune moment to review my time here, and highlight what progress has been made.

I would have to say that two positive developments within the Ibom GC; the appointment of the 1st Captain, and the re-engaging of the membership with the resort - has pleased me the most. As my experience tells me that it is impossible to have a successful golf operation without a vibrant membership offering at its heart.

I believe that at Ibom we have been able to assist the birth of a new trust between club members and the resort, which can only help in the effort to re-establish the course as the finest in Nigeria, an accolade that for many years it once held.

I have particularly enjoyed helping Roger Edwards and his team from Jardin on finding different ways to try to improve the presentation levels of the course, and ideas that might improve the layout without incurring huge expense. Our most recent decision, to return the course to its original routing will be by far our biggest and most costly plan, but I'm sure it will be well received when golfers see the better balance it offers them with the difficult stretch of holes 1-4 soon to be faced as holes 10 – 13 on the new layout.

I particularly like the reinstatement of the finishing hole in front of the clubhouse because it must surely foster a type of atmosphere which is not possible with the location of the current finishing hole. Putting out on the final hole in front of the critical gaze of the Ibom members will not be for the faint hearted, and I'm sure for all that try, the good natured banter afterwards will be a joy to experience.

The management team of Duff, Emmanuel, Mercy, Miscah and Victor have given me tremendous support throughout this first year, and to see them develop individually in their careers as well as they have, is another area that I am very proud of. To work with them on a tournament weekend is professionally a very rewarding experience, as they take responsibility for their role in the tournament plan, delivering it with great commitment and enormous good nature.

So all in all I feel that much has been achieved in a relatively short space of time, and yet there remains much more to do if we are to make Ibom, the center of golf in Nigeria.

Roger Yates – Golf Club Manager

Upcoming Events

SPG Event - May 13th, 14th, 15th -

the biggest annual amateur invitational golf event in Nigeria – generous prizes, great enjoyment and a quality time for everyone guaranteed.

May 28

Monthly Medal – Member's Kitty

Membership Update

Please be aware that the current membership list is now updated each Friday and circulated to the management team in the resort as golf membership discounts in the resort, can only be applied to members of the golf club.

I must thank those members who have seen their membership status move to suspended member for co-operating so fully with the terms of their new status. For them playing golf remains possible at the course, but only as either, a hotel guest or as a green fee paying player.

The management team has tried to act as tactfully as possible with the people adjusting to this new situation, but thankfully there has been a wide level of appreciation from the members for our action, which has made dealing with everyone quite straightforward.

I would like us to keep building the club membership which starts by us retaining as many members as possible each year.

I am always happy to discuss with suspended members how they might best become re-instated, so please if you would like to discuss your options please don't hesitate to get in touch.

SPG Invitational Tournament

The SPG Invitational is returning to the resort on the weekend of the 13th, 14th, and 15th May, and all SPG members are invited to enter this much loved event.

The tournament will be a Strokeplay event played on Saturday 14th May and Sunday 15th May with a two tee start each day, and starting times on the final day being allocated according to Saturday's scores – in other words the leading players will tee off last.

Once again there will be a wonderful selection of prizes available, including the overall winner prize - which this year will be awarded the player with the **best nett score over 36 holes** and not the best gross score as had become the tradition in the event. The overall winner will receive two return Business Class tickets with Emirates Airline (Lagos to Dubai), and a stay at the Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa.

It has also been possible through the generosity of our sponsors to offer prizes in 5 categories, each with a 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize along with a male and female 'Nearest the pin' & 'Longest drive' prize each day. Early indications are that this will be a very well-supported event with players travelling from all over Nigeria to compete, so only entries with full payment can guarantee a starting position.

Entries for Non Ibom GC members is **NGN 140,000** (includes 3 night stay + breakfast and full tournament package)

Entries for Ibom GC members is **NGN 120,000** (includes 3 night stay + breakfast and full tournament package)



The Starwood Preferred Guest program – what is it and how does it reward you?

SPG gives you the richest elite benefits in the industry, including the opportunity to achieve Gold or Platinum status for life.

Other notable benefits include:

- Free Night Awards: Redeem for stays — even during holiday periods. If a standard room is available, it's yours.
- SPG® MomentsSM: Tee off with your favorite golf pro, head backstage with the band or walk the red carpet — your Starpoints give you VIP access like no other to sporting events, culinary experiences, concerts and more.
- Guaranteed room availability
- Best available room upgrades at check-in, including Standard Suites
- 4pm. late checkout, subject to availability at resort and conference center hotels
- SPG Nights Benefits award Platinum members with even more after 50, 75, and 100 nights in a calendar year

Golf Club News

Clubnite to start soon

The introduction of the new floodlight coaching bays has given us the first opportunity to develop a **Clubnite for members** each week – the first date of which will be sent out to members soon. In setting up the Clubnite we have tried to create an afternoon/evening activity for members that will include a competitive element, a coaching component and a social environment for members.

So how will it work? We intend to run a competition from 1.00pm each Wednesday, using the competition format of the Sunday Members Day competition, namely two separate 9 hole competitions as this allows members to play either 18 or 9 holes depending on the time that they have available to them. There will be a prize giving later that evening once all the cards are returned and it is hoped that members will then 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 it has been agreed that the member's coaching sessions that were previously held on Saturday will now be moved to 6.30pm on Wednesday. These sessions have worked really well for those members who wished to have one of the professionals look at their swing, and suggest ways to improve on it.

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, as it is perhaps worth remembering that any golf club is ultimately only ever defined by the spirit of its members.

It will only thrive and develop if you want it to and are prepared to play your full part in its success.

Golf Course News

Without question the biggest addition to the golf offering in 2016 has been the improvements made to the practice range with the recent construction of 4 covered coaching bays. The bays are in limited use now but it will no doubt be the addition shortly of some floodlights which will completely transform the golfing experience at Ibom, as for the first time it will allow for night time coaching and practice.

The much awaited introduction of the Ibom Golf Academy Program can now happen as the coaching and practicing of golf will remain possible despite the intervention of night or the worst effects of the rainy season.



Here is a magic moment captured on Hole 16 – a Hole in One for one of our members Uwem Okoko . Well done sir!



