

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



## Ibom Golf Club

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

www.lemeridienibom.com

Dear Member,

It is encouraging to report that the rainy season seems to have passed now and the golf course is responding well to the increased temperatures. The first development from the change in the weather has been the opportunity to remove the local rule of - lift, clean and place - that is such a necessity throughout the rainy season.

From Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October the ball has to be played as it lies, although we have kept the provision for a free drop in the increasingly unlikely event that a player's ball plugs "through the green". The definition "through the green" refers to all areas of the course with the exception of hazards and water hazards, and does not as many think refer to an area or position "beyond the green of the hole being played".

Those members with buggies will now be allowed to start using them once again on the course, and are asked only to contact the Pro Shop to check that all of the administration associated with the storage of their buggy at the clubhouse is in place. In however the case of anybody new wishing to keep a buggy at the clubhouse, then I must ask that they first approach me so that we can provide them with a copy of the new "Buggy Owners Agreement", which must be signed before any vehicle can be granted access so the property.

This is probably also a very good time to remind all of our golfers that the resort does not possess any buggies for hire at this point, and that under the rules of the Buggy Owners Agreement member's buggies may only be released to their owner, or to somebody that the owner has confirmed to me by email, has their permission to use their buggy.

This new understanding regarding buggies will go a long way towards ensuring that member's property is more respected and the resort's responsibilities are more clearly defined.

**Roger Yates**

**Golf Club Manager**

## Upcoming Events

**Clubnite – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Members Day Competition – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Members' Birthday Kitty – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

### *Manager's Comments*

I'd like to remind members of the changes to the membership fees for 2017 that will come into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

Membership Fees 2017	Early Payment - End of January	
	NGN	NGN
Full Membership	110,000	90,000
Country Membership	70,000	65,000
Family Membership	180,000	170,000
Junior Membership	30,000	25,000

It helps the financial planning for the club if by the end of January we can have 95% of our membership fees paid, so in an effort to encourage members, we have decided to significantly reduce the yearly fees for those members that comply.

From February 1<sup>st</sup> the full fees will apply to everyone and it is anticipated that by March 1<sup>st</sup> all those members with unpaid fees will undergo a membership re-classification. So in order to avoid any potential future misunderstandings please be aware that in my eyes:-

- *a member of Ibom GC is only somebody who has paid their annual subscription for the calendar year in which they wish to play*
- *anybody else who once might have been a fee paying member is considered either - a Suspended or a Past member – and as such has no rights to any of the current benefits of membership.*

## Golf Club News

### Members Inter Club match with IBB Golf Club

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October some of the members of Ibom GC will make the journey to Abuja to compete against our golfing friends at the IBB club. The match will take place over the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October and it is hoped that the 24 players from Ibom will be able to continue their run of success in Inter Club matches with a win over IBB who no doubt will hope to benefit from home advantage.



It is not that long ago that a very strong visiting team from NUGA were defeated at Ibom, but I suspect that the IBB team may well prove to be a sterner test for our members over the very different challenge that the Abuja course poses.

This match is likely to be followed closely by a return match in Uyo before Christmas, all of which will create interest in the 4 Club Event that we hope to play in early 2017. These inter-club matches are tremendous golfing occasions where an individual success against an opponent may contribute significantly towards an overall team success in a way that I feel individual success in events will struggle to match for our club development.

So if our team go north and perform bravely, then all of our club members will be able to enjoy the success that a win produces. We know that at Ibom we are hard to beat, if not impossible to beat, but what of our ability on the road.....let us see?

## The Unity Cup – an Inter State 4 Club Team Invitational Tournament

It is hoped that we will be able to add an exciting new event to the 2017 Golf Schedule with the launch of an inter-state club team match play event that will be played at Le Meridien Ibom Hotel & Golf Resort over a 4 day period in early 2017.

### Proposed Format

- Each invited club will compete against each other on an inter-club basis once – there will be 24 players per side competing on a match play basis in pairs (4 Ball Better Ball – off handicap)
- The winners of each individual game in the match will score 2 points for their team – 1 point for a half game
- The club team with the most points will be declared the winner of that inter-club match
- The club team that wins the most inter-club matches will be declared the winner of the tournament
- In the event of a tie between clubs – the club with the most individual points scored in the tournament throughout all three inter-club matches will be declared the winner.
- In the event of a tie on points scored the clubs will nominate two players to play on behalf of their team in a sudden death play-off.



## The LM Open 2016

Despite the challenging economic conditions that engulf Nigeria at present it has been decided to host the LM Open in the first week of December – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>. Once again the event will feature a Sponsor's Trophy within the tournament format, as we wish to appreciate and recognize the huge contribution that sponsors make to the hosting of these prestigious events.

The resort has indeed been fortunate to have enjoyed a strong relationship with very loyal group of sponsors over many years, all of whom have been willing to partner with them to produce what is widely felt to be the best amateur event of its type in Nigeria at the resort.

It is our sincerest hope that companies will feel able to support us once again, particularly as this year we will be changing the prize structure slightly by making the overall winner prize, coming from the best net score rather than the best gross score.

***“It is our sincerest wish in 2016 that every competitor should and will feel able to compete for and win the overall prize.”***



## Caddies Competition

The annual Ibom Caddy Competition took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> and some 50 caddies competed hard to win some of the best prizes ever seen in an event of this type.

It was through the exceptional generosity of Jean Luc Turmel, a previous Director of Engineering at Le Meridien Ibom, that 2 sets of Ping irons and 2 Taylor made woods were added to the prizes already donated by the resort, all of which made the prize table look more in keeping with a corporate day than a caddy's competition. There were additional generous cash donations made by members, which meant that it was possible for all of the competitors to go home with something after their efforts on the course and their resort sponsored lunch.

### The results of the 2016 Ibom Caddy Competition

The addition of golf coaching to the longstanding Caddies Training Program that has prospered so well under Miscah Enang our professional Caddy Master's experienced guidance, has been a qualified success. Having recognized very early on in my tenure as Golf Manager just how many of our "golfing" caddies had a genuine desire to learn about the game of golf and the yearning they shared to improve their skills, I was delighted to support this initiative.

As you will see from the scores in the 2016 caddy competition, the development of the games of the caddies in the last 12 months has been significant, and it is hoped that the continued benefits of the coaching work being done by Victor Assam will see their scores getting lower and lower with each passing year.

I have always believed that there are tremendous benefits to be gained from our caddies playing the game, not least the increased awareness that it helps to develop in them around what exactly a player needs, and doesn't need from them when they are out on the course.

I remain convinced that from this much greater interest in the game there will be an almost unwitting improvement in the level of interest shown towards their clients, which in turn can only add to the golfing experience of every player using a caddy at Ibom.

	Name	Gross Score	
Overall Winner	Peter Johnson	82	
2nd	Venus Eyo	83	38
3rd	Daniel Sylvanus	83	43
4th	Charles Akpan	85	39
5th	Gift Edem	85	41
Ladies	Ini-Obong Ita	121	

## Ibom Golf Academy

The introduction of international standard coaching to Ibom is starting to benefit everyone associated with golf at the resort, be they caddies, members or resort personnel.

The improved range of coaching experience available to golfers of all abilities means that whatever standard you have reached, the academy professionals will be able to move you to the next level given time.

The resort continues to sponsor the member's Clubnite Coaching each Friday evening, and members are now enjoying the opportunity to tune up their game before each weekend game.

The development coaching that is being led so ably by Emmanuel Achayi is already producing a steady stream of new members to the club, and will no doubt continue to do so into 2017.

Coaching is now available at the following tariff, with all fees payable in the Pro Shop before each lesson.

### Coaching Fees

- **Roger Yates – NGN 7,500 per 45 minutes**
- **Emmanuel Achayi – NGN 4,000 per 45 minutes**
- **Victor Assam – NGN 4,000 per 45 minutes**

Whilst The Ibom Golf Academy will continue to work with the resort to try to promote golf and encourage the improvement of all players through its designated promotional coaching sessions such as Clubnite Coaching, or Get into Golf coaching programs, it should be respected and understood by everyone that all other individual or group golf lessons will only be given on a fee paying basis.





## Golf Rules



If the above clip won't play for you for any reason then please use this link –  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPuIhTZDeGU>

**NB** -It is always advisable to look up the rules yourself if you are unsure and never simply accept the word of another player because they are a lower handicap or have been playing longer – If in doubt look it up!

## Latest update on Ibom GC Local Rules

The improved weather conditions in the past two weeks has allowed us to rescind the local rule concerning – Lift, Clean & Place – as from the 15<sup>th</sup> October **the ball must now be played as it lies, except for when a ball is plugged through the green**, in which case it may be **lifted, cleaned and dropped** as near as possible to where it originally lay.