



ADVENTURES IN GOLF

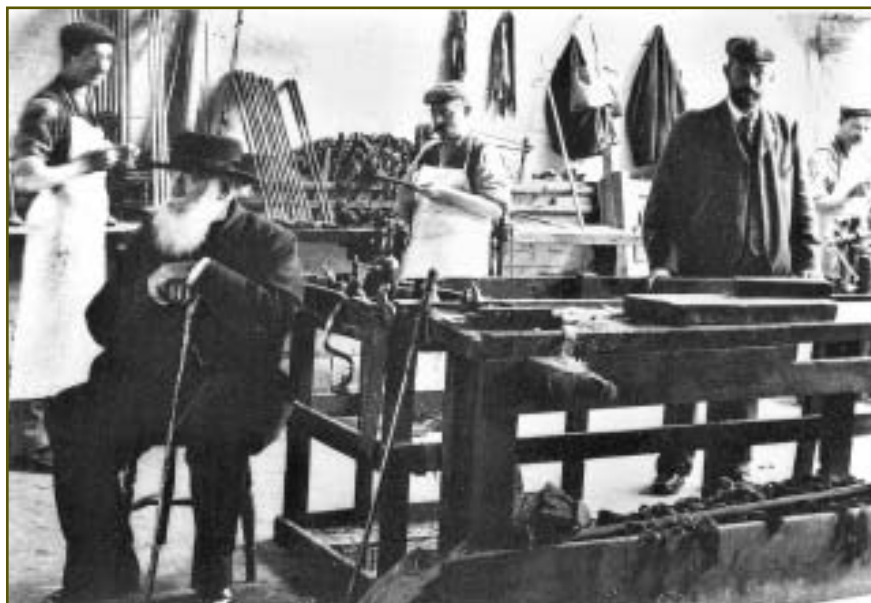
Autumn 2006

The Year In Review

It was **Mickelson** in **The Masters** and **Ogilvie** at the **US Open**, but there was an air of inevitability at **Hoylelake** as **Tiger** led virtually from start to finish. Despite the course being lengthened to well over 7000 yards for the tournament, **Woods** used irons from almost every tee but still seemed to reach the par 5's with ease. His faultless putting and immaculate short game in an error-free display put the kind of pressure on the rest of the field that no-one could handle. **Sergio** and **Ernie** looked like genuine contenders for a while, and the aggressive **Chris DiMarco** never gave up the chase, but there was only ever going to be one winner. With his third win in this event, **Tiger** matched **Jack's** record in **Open Championships**

and tied **Walter Hagan's** career record of eleven victories in majors.

The course throughout the week was



links golf at its summer best: **sun-bleached fairways, wispy rough and fast greens**. In glorious sunshine and little wind, the conditions were benign, but the challenge was to find the fast-running fairways

in order to achieve the necessary spin to hold the greens. **Woods'** strategy was therefore to ensure he hit the fairways by striking irons from the tees. As ever, his solid game plan and intense focus produced peerless results.

With the heat wave continuing, the elder statesmen of the game left the **Royal Liverpool Club** for **Turnberry**, where **Tom Watson** was defending his Seniors' title and relishing the prospect of yet another win in Ayrshire. **As Turnberry** celebrated its centenary, benign weather conditions

over the first two days saw a number of players at eight to ten under par. As the wind freshened over the last two days however, the **Ailsa** showed her teeth and **long-time leader Loren Roberts** was caught on the



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line by **Eduardo Romero**. That silken putting touch of Roberts proved decisive, however, as the popular American rescued his par on the first play-off hole with a superb long putt, while Romero three-putted after an immaculate approach.

Several exciting new projects will add to the golfing attractions of Scotland and Ireland in the coming years. **Donald Trump is using**



Honolulu-based Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo to create the master plan for his new resort - dubbed **Trump International Links**, Scotland – near **Cruden Bay**. The project includes two championship links golf courses, a 450-room, five-star hotel, 650 holiday homes, a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse, a 10,000-square-foot conference centre and a spa.

One of the golf courses will be designed to host major events and **is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008**. It is hoped to bring the Open

Championship here one day. "It's one of the last true links courses in the world," says Mark Yoshizaki of Wimberly's Orlando office and senior project design manager of Trump International Links, Scotland. The golf courses are being designed in partnership with **Tom Fazio II** and the project is said to be costing in the region of \$550 million.

Also in Scotland, the developers of **Kingsbarns** plan a hotel and golf course complex at **Castle Stuart**, near **Inverness Airport**. There are to be two 18-hole golf courses, a driving range and clubhouse, 57-bedroom hotel, 28 apartments, a spa and leisure centre and 120 timeshare units. The site covers 440 acres and offers stunning views over the Moray Firth towards Dornoch and the Northern Highlands.

Ernie Els is designing a signature course at the \$200 million **Kinsale Harbour Resort** in County Cork. The course, which takes its name from a historical local landmark, will be known as **Hangman's Point**. It will sprawl across 260 spectacular acres of land once occupied by Kinsale Racecourse and overlook the Celtic Sea with breathtaking views of the coastline.

Hangman's Point will be a designated **PGA course** managed by **PGA Golf Management**. In addition to the course, there will be a golf academy staffed by PGA professionals and will be available to locals as well as visitors.

Besides the course and golf academy,

the project will include a 200-room, **5-Star deluxe Hyatt Hotel**, a number of lodges, conference facilities and a destination spa. In addition, an equestrian complex is planned with international-standard indoor and outdoor arenas.

With the new **Sheraton Hotel** at **Fota Island** just across the bay, these developments will significantly increase the marketing synergy enjoyed in the Cork area. And that should lead to visitors spending more time here to the benefit of all local businesses.

Ryder Cup 2006 K Club, Straffan - Ireland

As we look forward to the end of this season, thoughts inevitably turn to the **Ryder Cup**. Based on performances at the Open Championship, you would have to believe **Tom Lehman** is a happier man than **Ian Woosnam**, as both captains ponder team selection. Europe's big guns, **Sergio** excepted, failed to feature at Hoylake, with **Padraig Harrington, Darren Clarke, Luke Donald** and **Paul Casey** all having disappointing weeks. **Colin Montgomerie** missed the cut, but in the two months between the Open and the Ryder Cup there is ample time for form to change.

If you are visiting Ireland for the Matches, give some thought to your plans in Dublin – restaurants are already heavily booked, so don't leave things until the last minute! **If you do not have tickets, but would still like to go, get in touch and we'll try to find a last-minute package for you.**

The Open Championship at Carnoustie: 19 – 22 July 2007

Golf has been played over the links at Carnoustie since the **1500's**, but the present course came into being in **1850 when it was designed by Alan Robertson** of St Andrews. Some 20 years later the legendary **Old Tom Morris** improved and extended the course to 18 holes, and in **1926 James Braid** extensively redesigned the Championship course.

James Braid's work was universally acclaimed, but it was still felt that the finish was weak, so prior to the 1937 Open Championship the final 3 holes were redesigned by **James Wright**, a local man, and he produced what has come to be regarded as the toughest finishing stretch in golf.

The **1937** course remains much the same today, so the challenge 'the modern golfer' takes on is the one

which confronted the player 70 years ago. Minor changes are proposed for next year's Open, but taking out some trees behind the 6th tee to improve the links character and refurbishing the bunkers on the course are the most important of these alterations.

Carnoustie remains a public links, and the opportunity is there for everyone to play the Championship course. There are many local golf clubs, all of which have playing rights over the course and the clubs themselves have a proud and interesting history. Carnoustie's contribution to golf, however, has been as much through its people as through its course. **In the early 1900's many young Carnoustie men emigrated to the United States** and took with them not only club making skills but golfing talent in abundance. Many golf clubs in the United States can trace a direct



line to Carnoustie through the contribution given by these immigrants from Scotland. Many became club professionals, some were engaged in course-building and design and others became teachers. **The most famous of these was Stewart Maiden who was Bobby Jones' first and only teacher.**

In a recent poll by *Club Golfer Magazine*, over 80 percent of Scottish golfers **voted Carnoustie the most difficult course in Scotland**, so next year's event will doubtless once again provide the sternest of tests. In chronological order, previous Carnoustie champions are **Tommy Armour, Henry Cotton, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Tom Watson and Paul Lawrie**. Only the last of these is not a household name, so it is ironic that Lawrie won his championship when this toughest of Open courses was playing at its most difficult, with tigerish rough and intimidating wind.

Championship Course, Carnoustie

Hole	Yards	Par	S.I.	Hole	Yards	Par	S.I.
1 Cup	401	4	10	10 South America	446	4	3
2 Gulley	435	4	4	11 Dyke	362	4	15
3 Jockies Burn	337	4	14	12 Southward Ho	479	5	9
4 Hillocks	375	4	16	13 Whins	161	3	17
5 Brae	387	4	12	14 Spectacles	483	5	1
6 Hogans Alley	520	5	2	15 Lucky Slap	459	4	7
7 Plantation	394	4	8	16 Barry Burn	245	3	13
8 Short	167	3	18	17 Island	433	4	5
9 Railway	413	4	6	18 Home	444	4	11
Out	3429	36		In	3512	36	
Total	6941						

News from Scotland

St Andrews Links Trust, the organization that runs the town's public courses, is currently creating a new 18-hole course to add to its existing portfolio of six courses. It will be a 'pay as you play' course, open all year round and should be ready for



public play by **Spring 2008**.

Following the coastline east of St Andrews, the seventh course is two miles from the town centre, overlooks the sea and already affords some spectacular photography. The designer, **Scotsman David McLay Kidd**, created **Bandon Dunes** in Oregon. Each hole will have a choice of five tees and the course will play between 5300 and 7200 yards – approximately. The new course will be the 6th seaside layout in only a 9 mile stretch between St Andrews and Crail – the others being the two courses at the *St Andrews Bay Resort*, *Kingsbarns* and *Crail* (Balcomie & Craighead Links).

The Trust's new *St Andrews Links Academy*, a major extension to the original practice centre, has now opened for business. New outdoor and indoor bays have been built, **including 4 high-tech bays with video cameras and launch monitors**, providing the latest digital

analysis and ball-tracking technology, along with a separate area for computer analysis of putting. **The new development also incorporates an external ball-testing centre for the Royal & Ancient GC and a club-fitting facility.** The upgraded centre is available for multiple uses, including simple warm-up facilities, tuition location or a group outing venue. In addition, they welcome digital video of your swing (despite your location around the world), in which they will review and provide feedback to you electronically.

The *Royal & Ancient GC* has announced that **The Open**

Championship will return to the Old Course in 4 years' time and will be played from **15-18 July, 2010**. The Home of Golf last hosted the championship in 2005, when Tiger Woods won his 2nd Open title and joined Jack Nicklaus as a two-time winner on the Old Course. **The championship in 2010 will mark the 150th anniversary of the first Open in 1860 at Prestwick**, and be the 28th time it has been played at St Andrews.

Phil Mickelson has become one of the founding members of *St Andrews Grand*, a private club due to be developed overlooking the 1st tee and 18th green of the Old Course. For those familiar with St Andrews, the red-bricked university hall of residence (Hamilton Hall) directly behind the 18th green

of the Old Course, has been sold to American company **Wasserman Real Estate Capital**. Twenty-three 3 & 4-bedroomed apartments are planned, ranging in size from 1,400 to 1,930 sq ft and with membership bonds costing from \$1,400,000 to \$3,500,000. Work is scheduled to commence this October. The parent company recently secured a co-ownership interest in *Kingsbarns Golf Links*, which since its opening in 2000 has proved a huge success.

Charlie Sifford, legendary African-American golfer and civil rights pioneer, was made an honorary **Doctor of Laws** by the *University of St Andrews* in June. He challenged the USPGA Tour's Caucasian-only clause to become its first black member in 1960, at a time when the only African-Americans on tour had hitherto been caddies. **Winner of the Hartford Open in 1967 and the Los Angeles Open** two years later, he played 422 events on the tour and was inducted into the **World Golf Hall of Fame** in 2004, the first African-American player to be so honored. His

degree ceremony coincided with a visit to St Andrews by the **Young Golfers of America Association** for a match against local children.

Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, a favorite with many of our clients, is to host the **Walker Cup on 10-11 September 2011**. Founded in 1780, the club is the **sixth oldest in the world** and a classic links golf course. The venue hosted the Senior British Open Championship in





2005 – won by Tom Watson – to great critical acclaim from both competitors and spectators. The club received its royal title from King Edward VII in 1903 and the **'five minute rule'** – now applied globally as the time allowed to search for a lost ball – **was first adopted by members at Aberdeen as far back as 1783.**

Travel & Leisure Magazine's readership recently voted *Inverlochy Castle* 'Best Hotel in Europe' and 8th overall worldwide. This excellent loch-side country house near **Fort William** is overlooked by **Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Great Britain**, and sits in some of Scotland's finest scenery. A superb place to break the journey on the Loch Ness and Great Glen route from Inverness down to Glasgow or Edinburgh. Please contact us for more information on **Inverlochy Castle.**

Royal Dornoch Celebrations

Celebrating 100 years of Royal Charter Status, the Club held a weekend of golfing and social

functions for those members able to participate, with a dinner dance the highlight of the weekend. The Big Band Sound came to town in the guise of the Woodlands Dance Orchestra, complete with

three vocalists, and a great night was had by all. We extend our congratulations to the Club on reaching this notable milestone in its history and hope the next century is just as successful!

Our Favourite Holes:

We continue the series by examining our favourite short holes:

Carl Johnson – US Office

England & Wales: Royal Birkdale #12, 181 yards

Just a shade over 160 yards from the visitor tee, this is a gem of a short hole, played to a raised green with a steep bank in front falling away to two cavernous bunkers. Two more nasty potholes flank the entrance to the heart-shaped putting surface. The nightmare scenario is having to play out backwards from either of these since the two predators at the foot of the slope lie in wait. This is one hole where you're happy to be on the dance floor, regardless of distance from the band!

Ireland: Ballybunion Old #8, 137 yards

One of the great joys of Ballybunion is to reach the 7th tee and survey the view down the back nine. Miles of golden sand to the right reach out to the Atlantic Ocean, and to the left is a bewildering range of dunes which contain some of the finest holes in golf. The short 8th is one of these, since the landing area is only about 10 yards wide and the penalty for missing the green is bogey for the good players and double-bogey or worse for the less gifted. The views from the tee are spectacular and a par here feels like a birdie on most holes!

Scotland: Carnoustie #16, 245 yards

The finish at Carnoustie is one of the hardest in golf. When Tom Watson won his first Open title here in the Seventies, he never once made par on this hole! Into any kind of wind, the green is out of reach for ordinary mortals. And a line of pot bunkers up the right hand side intimidates the slicer, just as two wicked specimens on the left wait for a hook. The green is raised with gentle banks on all sides helping errant shots into wispy rough, which makes for difficult up-and-downs from whichever side you have to play. Watch out for this hole to be a turning point in next year's Open!



Ken Hamill – US Office**England & Wales:
Silloth #9,
124 yards**

Played directly into the prevailing wind, the yardage on this hole is normally misleading. Regardless of that, a straight shot is imperative as the narrow green is ringed with bunkers and there's even a sizeable one well short of the putting surface designed to hamper the long pitch-and-run. At the furthest point of the course, the views are stunning – Southernness and the hills of Southern Scotland beckon across the Solway Firth, while the mountains of the English Lake District rise beyond the course to the south. A series of grassy mounds flanks the green to the left and the ground falls away between the bunkers on the right-hand side. The green itself is fairly flat, but subtle borrows still make even the shortest putt a test. Make par if you can!

**Ireland:
Portmarnock #15,
183 yards**

This, for many, is Portmarnock's



signature hole. Out-of-bounds lines the right hand side, although the drop to the beach, which lies far below the course boundary, makes the retrieval of a wild slice academic. Again, the hole plays into the prevailing wind and the safe option is to bale out left and hope to chip-and-put. With two bunkers guarding the left approach, however, this is never easy – and nor is putting on a sloping green usually slick due to the sun and wind.

**Scotland:
Prestwick: #5,
206 yards**

For the modern purist, the thought of a blind par 3 is anathema. For traditionalists like myself, blind holes are only truly “blind” the first time they are played and holes like the Himalayas at Prestwick imprint themselves on the memory to such an extent that I normally know exactly which greenside bunker I've reached. Uncertainty is part of golf's charm, and nowhere is uncertainty more predictable than here at Prestwick!

Mark Stevens – US Office**England & Wales:
Royal Liverpool:
#13, 159 yards**

For those watching the Open, this hole was played as the 15th. The view from the tee extends across the estuary of the River Dee to the mountains of North Wales, but the view of the green shows menacing bunkers in a semi-circle around the front, dangerous mounds lurking

behind and out-of-bounds to the left-hand side. The wind is normally helping, which makes distance a modest challenge, but hitting the putting surface is a must for those seeking par.

**Ireland:
Waterville: #17,
153 yards**

This is a majestic par 3 played along the line of the beach to a circular green, which falls away to the left into a kidney-shaped bunker. “Avoid



the left” is the advice on the course guide, but don't mess with the right either, because the beach is waiting less than twenty yards away! Some people find the scenery a distraction. I simply feel it enhances the whole golfing experience here – and I think you will, too.

Scotland:
St Andrews Old: #11,
172 yards

Bobby Jones once tore up his card here and locals tell you it plays anything from a wedge to a driver depending on the wind. A past captain of the R & A once halved with his partner in eleven shots on this hole, after both players had



reached the green with their tee shots. The wind was so strong, in the course of putting out they both called penalties on themselves when the wind moved their balls at address. They also both putted into bunkers and both holed long putts for their scores! You'll understand how that could happen when you play here: the green slopes severely from back to front; the guarding bunkers ("Strath" and "Hill") are penal and there is no way anyone wants to be over the back!

Jamie Gardner – Scotland Office

England & Wales:
Royal Lytham & St Annes: #1,
206 yards

Most championship courses start

with par 4's. At Royal Lytham, the opening hole is reminiscent of Prestwick, with the railway line running along the right-hand side of the hole. Nine of the course's 197 bunkers ring the green and the ideal shot is a gentle draw to get the ball running up the green towards the flag. Ian Woosnam did that to perfection a few years back in the final round of The Open, finishing just two feet from the pin. He then found his caddie had left two drivers in his bag and he incurred a two shot penalty – what a heart-breaker when in contention for victory.

Ireland:
Royal Portrush: #14,
205 yards

Called "Calamity", the name says it all. The route to the hole skirts a deep drop of quarry-like proportions, which runs from the tee to the green along the right-hand side of the fairway. With rough and mounding to the left of the green, this hole has no need for bunkers – it's all about getting the distance and keeping your ball on line. Never less than a long iron, and often a wood, that's sometimes easier said than done, but the hole makes you want to come back time after time until you get it right!

Scotland:
Muirfield: #13,
146 yards

During final practice before his last Open victory here, Nick Faldo threw

three balls into a greenside bunker and proceeded to hole his first two recovery shots. He picked the third ball up! Knowing when not to be too greedy is a useful trait at Muirfield, and this short hole requires that approach. The green is long and fairly narrow, with very deep pothole bunkers on either side and a slope falling back to the fairway in front. Don't worry about the pin, just try to hit the middle of the green!



Siobhan Patterson–England Office

England & Wales:
Royal St George's: #16,
165 yards

Tony Jacklin holed in one here on his way to winning the 1967 Dunlop Masters. He used a 7 iron, but the wind can make club selection vary from an 8 iron to a wood. The green has lots of subtle contours and the bunker on the front left edge is reminiscent of the Redan Hole at North Berwick. Royal St George's is not one of the more scenic links, but this hole has a peaceful quality about it which soothes the nerves and lifts the spirits.



Ireland:
Royal County Down: #7,
145 yards

In front of the tee is gorse, a cross bunker lies across the width of the green and humps and hollows adorn the fairway and fringes. Only the top half of the flag is visible from the tee, but your view includes the little town of Newcastle lying in the distance at the foot of the Mountains of Mourne. Designer Old Tom Morris was fond of saying of each course he laid out that no finer site could be found. Standing on this tee you have to believe he meant every word when he accepted his fee of four guineas for producing RCD.



Scotland:
Turnberry Ailsa: #11,
177 yards

The Ailsa course is scenic throughout its length, but the stretch from the 8th to the 11th is perhaps the best of all, with the lighthouse close by the 9th tee and

the view from the 10th tee as fine as the one back from its green. Standing on the 11th tee you look back down the coast over both these holes, with Ailsa Craig away to the right, the mountains of Arran in proud relief and, on a clear day, the outline of the Mull of Kintyre clearly visible. The shoreline curls around the 11th tee and follows the line of its fairway on the left to a well-bunkered green. Walking up the fairway affords fine views up the Firth of Clyde and, in a stiff south-westerly, this may be your last chance to relax before the long journey home into the wind!

David Patterson – England Office

England & Wales:
Aberdovey: #12,
149 yards

Bernard Darwin's spiritual home in Wales deserves a mention for its unique flavour and enjoyment. Everything about Aberdovey is delightful – the small town nestling on the banks of the estuary is charming, sailing boats bob cheerfully on the water and the little railway into town adds an unusual dimension in an age dominated by the motor car. From the drive on the 1st, often through grazing cattle, to the final putt Aberdovey provides memories at every turn. None more so than the tee shot at the short 12th, where you'll feel that Royal Troon's Postage Stamp has been placed on an enormous hummock in the middle of the fairway. In any kind of wind, and there is usually plenty, this target is a mighty challenge!

Ireland:
Lahinch: #11,
140 yards

This is one of the few remaining reminders here of the work of Alister MacKenzie – a delightful short hole, where the green snuggles into the dunes. At the furthest extremity of the course, the views over the Atlantic are impressive. Keep your focus, however, because the slope on the green not only deflects inaccurate tee shots, but it will derail casual putts as well.



Scotland:
Royal Dornoch: #10,
150 yards

At Dornoch, the turn for home comes at the long 9th, but the protection of the hillside means the 10th can give the first real indication of the strength of the prevailing wind.

The hole is not long, but a two-tier green from which balls roll off in all directions is never easy to hit and a number of deep bunkers complicate the issue at the front and on the left. The view is simply outstanding, taking in the sweep of Dornoch beach with Tain and Portmahomack across the Firth.

Kinsale & Old Head

Thanks to capital investment the road system around Cork is now excellent, which means you can arrive at the airport and be enjoying the Georgian splendor of *Ballymaloe House* a few miles east of town in thirty to forty minutes. Alternatively, you can be settling into **Hayfield Manor**, a modern hotel in the university quarter of Cork, which combines opulence with traditional design, or strolling



along the atmospheric main street of Kinsale.

Kinsale is Ireland's self-styled "gourmet capital". In fact, it has a number of excellent restaurants and pubs, but food is just one of several attractions and the city fathers have been extremely pro-active in marketing their town. Sailing events, a rugby tournament, jazz and thespian activities all play their part in keeping the place humming during summer. And the multi-colored houses are home to a diverse collection of nationalities as migrant workers join their Irish counterparts to bolster the thriving service industry.

Good hotels abound, with the **Blue Haven** and **Old Bank House** now under the same ownership and both refurbished to a high standard. As you might expect, the larger Blue Haven feels like the quaint hotel it is, with busy restaurant, lively bar and bright, well-appointed rooms. Old Bank House is altogether smaller, quieter and more refined, yet it's only fifty yards along the street. Those who prefer deluxe accommodations will choose **Perryville House Hotel**, however.

Perryville House, owned and run by **Andrew** and **Laura Corcoran**, and Laura's brother Barry McDermot, this lovely old house faces the harbour and has a variety of quite beautifully appointed rooms arranged around a leafy courtyard. The proportions of



the old house are reminiscent of the gracious town houses to be found in Dublin's best Georgian squares, and the owners **demonstrate excellent taste in their choice of furnishings and décor**. Fine antiques complement Persian rugs and polished wood floors, while the eclectic collection of traditional landscapes and hunting scenes on the walls are interspersed with eye-catching modern paintings.

Dinner, drinks, & golf with David & Siobhan Patterson

Given the variety of restaurants in town, Perryville offers only breakfast but, whether your preference is for traditional Irish or the continental buffet, you will not leave disappointed. And, across the hall, the comfortable sofas in the sitting room provide the perfect place to relax, with Barry a most genial host for your pre-dinner drinks, before

setting out to sample the gastro-nomic delights of Kinsale.

We met Andrew and Laura at **Toddies**, currently the best place in town. They are a striking pair: Laura, an elegant blonde with a charming smile and Andrew, at six feet four inches tall, very much the fine sportsman he still is – former rugby star, now keen skier, golfer



and sailor. After half an hour of ice-breaking craic, and **a couple of pints of Guinness**, we retired to our table to sample the succulent cuisine on offer. Barry had recommended the **Black Sole**, which Siobhan and I duly ordered to find that his high commendations were well-merited. Andrew and Laura selected other dishes from a menu on which every item would have been a desirable choice.

The evening flew past, no doubt helped along for Andrew and myself

by our consumption of large quantities of excellent wine. By midnight I was feeling very bullish about the prospect of playing Old Head the next day, while Siobhan was circumspect – always a bad sign, I find, since the next day's performance is invariably inversely related to the previous night's confidence levels.

Despite a slightly dull head the next morning, driving to **Old Head** is very simple from Kinsale and we pulled into the car park to find Andrew unloading clubs into **Gerry Palmer's** courtesy buggy, which took them to the clubhouse. We followed suit and accompanied our host into this superb facility where we met **Susan O'Donovan**, who handles reservations and **Danny Braffil, Director of Golf**. Andrew teased Danny about his spare frame, but Susan was quick to his defence, reminding us all that you "can't put weight on a thoroughbred". Then we went to the practice range to hit a few balls before **Paddy**

(Danny's father) called us to the tee, giving us a brief historical overview of the course in the little stone shrine by the start.

Danny, it was decided, would partner Siobhan but we all got strokes according to handicap. Danny's classic swing sent his tee shot about 300 yards up the middle, Siobhan was decently short of that, but on the same line, while Andrew and I agreed to meet at the green as we left the tee in opposite directions. A **dogleg right, slightly uphill of**

around 400 yards played to an elevated green, it was just a short iron in for Danny. But, with a shot, Andrew manfully saved the half and we crossed to the 2nd tee, which gives majestic views down the course to a green set on a cliff edge. **The short 3rd**, too, has a green built right **on top of the cliff, which means anything left or long is gone forever.**

The 4th is a superb par 4 of 415 yards, a dogleg left with deep bunkers at the angle of the fairway. The **carry over the second of these is about 250 yards**, which proved to be no great inconvenience to Danny, even into a bit of breeze. Sensibly, Andrew and I kept out of trouble by hacking our way up the right-hand side, while Siobhan played boringly up the middle as usual. Thanks to our shots from Danny, we won this one and held our advantage over the next two holes – a long par 4 followed by a good par 5 to a well-bunkered green. **The short 7th is 158 yards from the medal tee to a target which measures 17 yards by 32 yards.** The cross wind and the intimidating drop off the right-hand side to the ocean make the tee shot here a fearsome prospect. Except, of course, for Danny – all square!



The 8th and 9th bend left, with cross-bunkers a feature at both, before a short walk leads to the 10th tee and another par 5, this time containing a right-angle dogleg, where a long, straight drive can run out of fairway, as Danny proved. The short 11th is another scenic par 3, but the view from the 12th tee is one every player will remember. The wind had freshened and we were now playing straight into the breeze. Reminiscent of the 9th at Turnberry, the drive is played to a fairway angled right to left, with a steep drop off the left edge all the way to the ocean. Unlike the Ailsa's signature hole, however, don't sigh with relief once you've hit the fairway, as you then face 250-300 yards along an ever-narrowing



green carpet into a putting surface scraped into the bank side. It is right on the cliff edge and only 20 yards wide. The ridge of rough to the right is not an attractive option.

With 150 yards to go, privately I reflected smugly on the fact that I was still playing with the same ball I'd used on the 1st. Naturally, I hooked the next shot into the ocean, then watched in horror as Andrew belted his approach high over the ridge on the right. Heroically, he managed a Mickelson flop shot and salvaged a six, and, when Danny failed to get up and down from over the back we thought we were in good shape. We had forgotten, of course, that Siobhan had a ten-footer for birdie.

At just over 200 yards, the uphill 13th is a wood for most of us, while a good drive is required to clear the cross bunkers on the par 4, 14th. The 15th is a genuine birdie opportunity at only 284 yards, while the 16th is a very tough short hole, with no margin for error on the right due to the cliff edge and a ring of bunkers guarding the front and left. The 17th extends to 632 yards from the championship tees, but even at 578 yards from



the whites it is a monster. Looking out towards the lighthouse, the views are sublime.

You must walk back on the 18th to see the view from the championship tee, set beside the lighthouse, which gives a superb prospect of the banana-shaped fairway and undulating green set below the low-profile clubhouse. We all wanted to finish well and, despite our trials and tribulations earlier in the round, standing all-square Andrew and I felt we could make our strokes count on the last.

Danny, of course, hit a monster down the middle and a perfect approach, but three-putted like the gentleman he is. Andrew and I could do no better than 5's and, you've guessed it, Siobhan rolled in a four-footer for a net birdie and the win!

We retired to the sun-drenched terrace for drinks and sandwiches, exchanged compliments with owner John O'Connor, and extracted a promise from Andrew to bring Laura (and Barry) over to England or Scotland for a return match.

ADVENTURES IN GOLF



Since 1977, Adventures In Golf has customized golfing itineraries for thousands of parties, large and small, with each program carefully designed to maximize the enjoyment of your dream trip – to Britain, Ireland, or other destinations.

Our key staff, with over 130 years of combined travel experience and offices in the United States, England, & Scotland, offer peerless service and in-depth knowledge of these historic countries and their golf courses. Additionally, we work closely with our hotel, transport, and golf partners to make certain you receive an exceptional vacationing experience. You state your objectives - we ensure they are met.

We are one of the few tour operators who can offer unparalleled access to St Andrews Old Course (as well as to many other famous courses, such as Ballybunion, Royal County Down, Old Head, and Royal Troon). To further enhance your St Andrews experience, a member of our Scottish staff will meet you at the Old Course with your personal caddy, and our local staff will be ready to assist you throughout your stay.

As your advisor, we will guide you through each stage of your trip. Determining the most appropriate accommodations, formulating the best transportation options and, best of all, securing tee times on the famous courses and hidden gems of your choice! As you might expect, we also assist you in the finer details, such as dinner reservations, sightseeing, fishing, shopping, and any other guidance you may need, making your experience that much more memorable.

This formula has produced an ever-increasing list of satisfied customers, as commendations in *Passport*, *Forbes*, *Sky*, and *Connoisseur Magazines* bear testimony. Additionally, as a Premier Q Club Travel Partner of *Andrew Harper Travel*, we extend our service to a still wider audience.

By the way ... when you call our office, you will be answered by one of our staff. For we believe, in this business, there is no substitute for the personal touch.

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