
ADVENTURES IN GOLF

Autumn 2010

Old Course, St. Andrews - Guaranteed Tee Times

By the time our readers receive this newsletter in November, we will have received our 2011 Tee Time Allocation for the Old Course, in St. Andrews. Because we confirm our tee times on a first deposit-received basis, we urge you to contact us today. We will have guaranteed tee times from April through October for four or eight golfers. Additional golfers can be accommodated upon request. It is worth noting - **we are one of only a select few companies in the world** to receive an allocation of Old Course tee times.

Please do not confuse a guaranteed tee time with the Ballot. We have clients regularly mention the Ballot in lieu of an actual guaranteed tee time, but they are not interchangeable. **The Ballot is a lottery system**, in which the Links Trust draws names from a list on a daily basis ... there are some winners ... and some losers. Although we have had very good experience when having to Ballot our clients over the years – **there is certainly no way to guarantee success.** And, when trying to access the Old Course in the summer months your Ballot application is competing with dozens of others on the same day. **So, be sure to inquire as to our current tee time availability as this is the only way to guarantee you'll tee it up on the Old Course.**

Adventures In Golf Trip Turns Into Championship!



2010 Doonbeg Norman Trophy Winners

From left to right: Brian Costello (JMP Principal), Joy Craft, (Doonbeg Founding Member), Brian Shaw (Doonbeg Head Professional), Mark Hollinger (JMP Principal), & Brendan Murphy (Real Estate & Membership Director)

The Year in Review

Just how many impossible shots did Phil Mickelson pull off to win the Masters?! You felt sorry for Lee Westwood, but he was the first to tip his hat to the genius of Phil and reflect that he'd simply been beaten by an outstanding performance on the day. **Awesome is a much over-used word, but it describes Mickelson's final round at Augusta to perfection.**

In the US Open at Pebble Beach, Graeme McDowell surprised a lot of people by holding his nerve to edge out Havret and Els, and leave Tiger and Phil in joint fourth as the highest placed Americans. Of course no one at Royal Portrush admitted to a sense of shock: their man has been on the radar for a while now and they knew he was in a rich vein of form.

For the 150th anniversary of the Open Championship St Andrews provided a memorable tournament, with conditions varying from benign on the opening morning



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to unplayable for a short time on Day Two. Over the final two days the course was challenging, but the leaders coped well and the back nine on Sunday proved to be something of an anti-climax. **Louis Oosthuizen**, never less than three shots ahead, moved seven shots clear of nearest challenger, Paul Casey, at the 12th and maintained that advantage up the finishing stretch. Lee Westwood came through to claim another second place finish, but Tiger looked out of sorts, despite finishing tied for 23rd, while Phil was back in a tie for 48th place, **along with last year's winner Stewart Cink**.

Germany's **Bernhard Langer** fired a three-under par 67 to win the **US Seniors Open** at **Sahalee Country Club**, a week after he captured the Senior British Open crown eight time zones away at Carnoustie. Local favourite, **Fred Couples**, chased him home, but two-time Masters champion Langer became the first golfer to win back-to-back senior majors since **Tom Watson** took the Senior British Open and Tradition in 2003. **Bernard called his two weeks of triumph some of the greatest golf of his legendary career.**

It was perhaps fitting therefore that Langer's compatriot, **Martin Kaymer**, should capture the **92nd US PGA Championship** at **Whistling Straits**. What a venue! 1200 bunkers, a course with links character and some fabulous risk-and-reward holes to tempt the world's top players. Pete Dye at his best!

Winning the **Tour Championship** and **Fedex Cup** at East Lake gave **Jim Furyk** a massive injection of cash and confidence as he approached **Ryder Cup** week at **Celtic Manor**, the first time ever the event had been held in Wales. Celtic Manor boasts three fine courses – **The Montgomerie**, **The Roman Road** and **The Twenty Ten Course**, which was built to stage the



2010 Ryder Cup. The first course to be built specifically for golf's greatest team tournament, it measures 7,493 yards off the back tees, has a par of 71 and presents a fearsome challenge.

Water threatens on half of the holes, **no less than six holes vie for "signature hole" status** and several examples of risk-and-reward holes spice up the match-play scenario. The starting holes have a links character with some long rough and greenside swales, before the middle section introduces the water hazards. A tough finishing stretch culminates in a real sting in the tail at the 18th. Nine of the holes owe their origins to the **Wentworth Hills Championship Course**, which was sacrificed in the remodeling of the resort for the Ryder Cup, while nine new holes were created along the Usk Valley. Throughout the new layout spectator viewing was a major consideration to ensure that the enormous galleries would get the most from their visit.

For the first time in Ryder Cup history, however, weather problems were so severe that play was extended into a fourth day. What a finale we

witnessed! The American team had shaded the rain-affected early sessions and pressures of time required innovative re-scheduling of the second day with the result that Sunday's play consisted of a mixture of fourballs and foursomes. Europe overturned a six-four point deficit to lead 9 1/2 to 6 1/2 going into Monday's singles, so five points were needed for victory. And five points were all they got as **Stricker**, **Woods** and **Mickelson** finally showed their true class and **Ricky Fowler** came back from Dormy Three to halve with **Eduardo Molinari**. **Overton** and both **Johnson's - Dustin and Zach -** recorded notable wins but Graeme McDowell just held off a late run from Hunter Mahan to secure the necessary final point for the Europeans.

And what of the course? **Owner, Sir Terry Matthews**, claimed the Twenty Ten Course had drainage equal to any course in the world and the weather conditions in Wales allowed the course to prove his claims to be legitimate. The design met with universal acclaim, with the finishing holes in particular providing the sort of drama, which has made this match the leading event in golf.



Now in its 17th year, **The Links Cup returned to Turnberry**. Weather conditions ranged from good to extremely challenging, but despite the difficulties some excellent performances were recorded. **Chick Kozloff** led **Saucon Valley** to another superb victory, hotly pursued by **Rod Day's Merion** team. Only 14 strokes covered the entire field, with newcomers (to Turnberry) **Linville** and **Fisher's Island** serving notice of their golfing prowess. In the Ladies Event, the **Kozloff** name again featured, with **Cheryl** being joined by **Betty Marsh, Astrid Heidenreich** and **Edith Gengras** in victory on the final day. A memorable awards dinner on the final night took place at **Cloncaird Castle**. We should also note earlier in the week, we welcomed back the youngsters from the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra for a most popular return visit to the Links Cup.

Ireland's Northwest Region – a must visit for all golfers

by Mark Stevens

Most clients' first trip to Ireland consists of the southwest region and Dublin. While these two areas boast the most world-ranked golf in Ireland, many people don't realize how wonderful and cost effective the **northwest region** truly offers. Others may also argue the driving logistics are too much in the northwest, but we have to disagree as they are no different than the southwest. The following paragraphs are my thoughts during my recent visit to Ireland's Northwest, with an attempt to **compare courses and driving logistics to other areas in Ireland.**

Day 1 – After completing the Links Cup in Scotland, I landed in Dublin just past noon. I made my way to Enniskillen and the new Lough Erne Resort. The drive was uneventful and smooth, with a total commute time of under three hours. **As a comparison, the driving time from Shannon**

Airport to Killarney is also 2.5-3 hours. From the moment I arrived at Lough Erne Resort, I was impressed. In fact, my visit there was so memorable we have opted to dedicate the next section of the newsletter entirely on the **Lough Erne estate.**

Day 2 – I enjoyed a wonderful full Irish

for **Donegal Golf Club**, I found the couple mile single lane country road an appropriate entrance to this isolated "hidden gem". The clubhouse is modest, but the practice range and chipping area were superb. This golf course is an absolute must play while in this region. The views and course



breakfast, then made my way north to visit **Solis Lough Eske Castle**. The setting at Solis Lough Eske Castle is very tranquil and serene; a true Irish country estate feel. The rooms are upscale and large in overall size with modern and well laid-out bathrooms. Solis Lough Eske is a five-star castle resort with a world-class spa, perfect for couples or high-end gents transferring through the **Donegal** area. I then headed down the road to have a quick look at **Havey's Point Hotel**, which enjoys a perfect waterfront location. The hotel was very clean and well kept with a number of staff about to attend to residents. I would classify Solis Lough Eske as luxury five-star and Harvey's Point as a solid 4-star alternative; two ideally contrasting options depending on the clients' needs.

From Lough Eske I headed south to Donegal. Exiting the N15 at the sign

layout are exceptional and I look forward to a return visit. **My driving time from Harvey's Point and Lough Eske was less than 20-minutes – almost no areas of the southwest offer a 20-minute driving time to golf.**

Day 3 – After departing Lough Erne, I traveled southwest towards Sligo, and I found the N15 to be very navigable. Turning onto the R281 towards Rosses Point the road narrows considerably, but the ocean views and seaside village make for a pleasant and scenic drive. **As a comparison, this drive was just over an hour, which would be an exact equivalent journey from Killarney to Tralee or even Ballyunion.**

Given my busy schedule of golf and hotel tours, I had just enough time for a lightning fast round in which I found **County Sligo** to be very playable, and particularly enjoyed the views across



Sligo Bay from the perched fairways. From my brief tour, I would certainly list County Sligo as a must. Before returning to the roadways, I found comfort in the County Sligo Clubhouse and enjoyed a bowl of soup and half sandwich. The staff and members at County Sligo were all pleasant and very welcoming.

From County Sligo, I continued south and joined the N59 towards **Ballina**, the road meanders through the Irish countryside and is rather uneventful in regards to sights. The scenery begins to pick up as you exit the N59 and join the R313 towards the **Mullet Peninsula** and **Carne Golf Club**. As I arrived at Carne the sun was starting to set, but I did have enough light to have a solid look at the course. In fact they were closing the pro shop, but the club Pro was kind enough to allow me to play the front nine. With time against me, I made my way through the first nine at Carne in just over an hour. I found there to be several blind shots, which would make playing the course more than once a requirement if scoring was vital. The dunes were massive and the views were calming. Although the sun was setting and my pace of play was in hyper-drive I found the front at Carne to be a unique golfing experience. My only regret is I did not have sufficient daylight to play the back nine, as several locals informed it is the stronger side. **This was by far the longest golf commute so far at just over 1.25 hours on scenic roads from Carne to my hotel in Ballina. As a comparison, the drive to either Waterville or Old Head from**

Killarney is over two hours each way! And, the Ring of Kerry to Waterville is far more of a “white-knuckle” road than the R313 to Carne.

I do not want to take any time describing the hotel I stayed at in Ballina, as it has become very tired. Many years ago, we used it for more

standards. Until this unnamed hotel has funds to refurbish, we will be avoiding it with our clients.

Day 4. From downtown Ballina the commute to **Enniscrone** was no more than 15 minutes. **Again, there are almost no courses in the southwest and even around Dublin that offer**

such a short commute. I had the pleasure of meeting the **manager Pat Sweeney** before I ventured out on the links. The weather could not have been nicer for a round of golf, bright sun, light wind and very comfortable temperatures. As I was making my way around the links I grew increasingly impressed with overall layout. Blind shots were not the norm, and all of the holes amongst the massive dunes were cut into the land perfectly. There is a total of 5 par 5's on the course all demanding precise shot making and keen strategy to score par. The 14th hole named “Valley of the Diamonds” is a 542 par 5 which is carved into the largest dunes on the course, playing uphill most of the way until the last 75 yards which start to descend towards the green; one false shot on this par five and you can kiss par good bye, and perhaps leave bogey out of

the equation as well. Before I teed off on the first hole, Pat Sweeney had proudly informed me with a smile on his face to add 10 strokes to my handicap while playing Enniscrone, and as I completed my round, I could see Pat was not joking. I was truly impressed with Enniscrone, and can confidently stamp it as a must play. When thinking of a course to compare it to, Lahinch came to mind several



budget conscious clients, but it obviously has seen some heavy traffic over the last few years. **This is why time and time again - our clients trust our services – we don't simply rely on hotel reviews online. We actually go to these hotels and stay there before recommending to our clients.** Then we return a year or two later, to ensure they have kept their level of quality to our exacting Adventures In Golf



times, but I would have to say Enniscrone is even more dramatic and more scenic when compared to Lahinch. I enjoyed a post round pint and the “catch of the day” in the clubhouse before making my way back to Ballina to visit the **Ice House Hotel** and **Mount Falcon Hotel**.

The **Ice House** is located just north of city overlooking the **River Moy**. The décor and overall design was definitely trendy, but still classy. **The Pier Restaurant and Bar** with its glass walls allowing views of the Moy provides the perfect ambience for casual dining and cocktails. The spa is located in the basement, and was first class. Rooms are individually designed with a modern flare while enjoying views of the River Moy.

Mount Falcon Estate is located off the N26, just south of Ballina. I was fortunate to meet the owner / manager of the estate, Alan Maloney who gave me a grand tour of the hotel and grounds. The bedrooms are very spacious and tastefully decorated, staying true to its Irish country estate roots. The large en suite bathrooms were all recently redesigned with white tiled flooring, separate tub and standing shower. We then toured the **hotel restaurant**, aptly named “**The Kitchen**” as it is located where the original estate kitchen used to be. Atmosphere in the restaurant was very comfortable, again keeping in line with the Irish feel. There is no doubt about it, Mount Falcon is a superb property with a caring, hands on owner who is willing to go the extra mile to keep his guests happy.

Continuing south, I arrived at **Glenlo Abbey** just before sunset, but did have enough time to walk several holes on the hotel’s nine hole course. The course was a decent parkland layout, and

would be perfect for warming up on arrival day or a quick nine in the afternoon before dinner. The hotel staff was very helpful and welcoming. The hotel itself was very clean and well kept, with mix of contemporary and classic decorations of local flare. My room was generous in size with a large window overlooking the **Pullman Restaurant** and golf course beyond. Dining options at Glenlo are a plenty. The **Oak Cellar Bar** is located in the



basement of the main hotel and offers guests with a casual / pub style atmosphere; perfect for post round gatherings. The Pullman Restaurant offers guests a unique dining experience. **The Pullman is an award-winning restaurant comprised of two classic dining carriages from the historic Orient Express**. The woodwork and decorations match the décor of the golden years for the Orient Express and the atmosphere is warm and cozy. **The River Room is the hotel’s traditional and more formal restaurant**, and also where breakfast is served each morning.

Day 5 - Unfortunately the sunny weather had given way to dark and rainy skies. I ventured west on the N59 through **Connemara National Park** and on to **Connemara Golf Club**. The ride from **Galway** is scenic, but does

become more difficult to navigate from Clifden and beyond as the roads become increasingly narrow and winding. In total, the commute from Galway takes approximately 1.5 hours. You certainly get the feeling of remoteness at Connemara, and the surrounding seas have a most beautiful hint of green. I made my around the original 18 holes in under 3.5 hours and despite the rain and less than stellar play I found the course to be fair and would

consider it a must play for all those visiting the Galway region.

Connemara is less undulating when compared to the likes of Enniscrone & Carne. However, the course does enjoy a very scenic and unique setting amongst the **12 Bens Mountain Range** and Atlantic Ocean. It is truly an enduring monument to one of Ireland’s all time great course designers – the humble Eddie Hackett.

After my round I made a pit stop in the quaint seaside town of **Clifden** and warmed up with a bowl of **Irish stew** at **E.J. King’s** where there was not a seat to be had. The stew was perfect and the live Irish music added to the friendly atmosphere. Before I departed from Clifden, I decided to make a quick stop into **Walsh’s Bakery & Coffee Shop**. Homemade pastries, breads, cakes, pies and fresh coffee were in abundance making it a difficult place to leave. A short stop in Clifden after playing Connemara is certainly well warranted.

I made my way back towards Galway and spent my final night in Ireland at **The Park House Hotel** in Galway City Center. The Hotel was very vibrant and quite busy, helped by the fact it was Saturday. The Park House was exceptionally staffed and help was never far away if needed. When drawing a comparison to like hotels the **Scores Hotel** in St Andrews came to mind, as



both are in an exceptional location and offer a good overall value.

As for a city, Galway is full of life.

Quay Street, located just a short walk from the Park House is the center for nightlife in the city. **Quay Street is lined with pubs, restaurants, shops & talented street performers.** Live music can be found at many of the pubs, and drinks are allowed along the street if you wish to stay outside and enjoy the fresh air. **The vibe on Quay Street was very festive, positive and upbeat.**

Day 6 - I made my way out of Galway and joined the N6 to the N18 with no problems at all. **The commute from Galway to Shannon Airport took just over an hour**, of course traffic was light given it was a Sunday morning, but the ride should not take much more than 1.5 hours. My flight went off with out a hitch.

From my recent Northwest journey, I would suggest the following itinerary to our clients:

Day 1 – arrive Dublin - transfer to Lough Erne, play Lough Erne optional

Day 2 – play Lough Erne, stay at Lough Erne

Day 3 – play Donegal, stay at Lough Erne

Day 4 – play Sligo, stay at Mount Falcon or Glasshouse

Day 5 – play Carne stay at Mount Falcon or Glasshouse

Day 6 – play Enniscrone, stay at Glenlo Abbey or Park House Hotel

Day 7 – play Connemara, stay at Glenlo Abbey or Park House Hotel

Day 8 – transfer and depart Shannon Airport



Lough Erne Resort: A True Five-Star Irish Experience

by Mark Stevens

The recently completed five-star **Lough Erne Golf Resort** located just north of **Enniskillen**, inhabits 600 acres of pristine and isolated lakefront property. Home to Northern Ireland's first five-star hotel, the resort also includes private self-catering lodges, a world-class spa, and championship golf course designed by the great Nick Faldo.

The 120-room hotel cleverly mixes modern five-star amenities with a traditional Irish country estate feel.

And, the attentive, welcoming hotel staff is always there to greet you with a warm Irish smile. All the rooms are spacious, plush and tastefully decorated with most enjoying panoramic views of the **Faldo Course** and **Lough Erne** beyond. For those looking to enhance their stay even more, the luxury suites will be the top-choice, and will surely not disappoint. **The Faldo Suite** in particular offers guests with beautiful views that can be enjoyed from the

stone balcony. The Faldo Suite bathroom is fit for a king, and even has a flat screen television for your viewing pleasures while soaking away the aches of the day's round.

The Faldo Course will exceed even the toughest of critic's expectations. Set amongst the lake and surrounding woodlands, the course carves its way around the property and fits the landscape perfectly. The flow of the course is very pleasing to the eye from tee to green with each hole enhancing the natural beauty of Lough Erne. The short par 4 10th hole is one of the most picturesque and unique holes in all of golf, and the par 3 17th was recently voted the best par three in the UK & Ireland! **Kudos to Mr. Faldo for a job well done.**

Lough Erne Resort also offers non-golfers with a wide range of activities ranging from fishing, horse-riding, canoeing, cycling & even flying lessons! If you prefer to stay in and relax the **world-class Thai Spa** is "the place to be". Massages, wraps, golfers treatments, and facials are just a few of the

experiences offered at The Thai Spa, and the relaxation pool, hot tub, steam room & sauna are the perfect way to enhance the relaxation process.

Located approximately two and a half hours from Dublin Airport and close to an hour from Belfast International Airport, Lough Erne Resort is very accessible and a must stop for those expecting only the best.

Oitavos Dunes, Portugal

Our entire staff tends to continually focus on our favorite golf destinations, such as this historic links in Ireland and Great Britain. However, we should not forget to mention we also offer our same unparalleled service to **more tropical destinations**. After all, even the most hardcore golfers are not going to travel to Scotland in late October or November. It is during those months, you want to visit the warmer countries such as **Spain, Portugal,** and even **New Zealand** (although the Kiwi true summer starts in mid-December). In Portugal, we have been keeping a close eye on the newly constructed hotel



entitled “**The Oitavos**”, owners of the world-ranked Oitavos Dunes course, which is located only 20 minutes from Lisbon.

The Oitavos hotel recently opened its doors, presenting guests with a **142-guestroom luxury five-star hotel** offering views of either the **North Atlantic Ocean** or their world-ranked course, each with their own private balcony. The hotel also offers **16 suites** of at least 64 square meters (almost 700 sq. feet). As one would expect with a five-star hotel, The Oitavos offers a

world-class destination spa and an outdoor seawater swimming pool.

Uniquely, the parking is underground so as to avoid the unsightly views of a large car park. Additionally, the hotel offers **fitness and tennis facilities** at the nearby racket club. For the horse-lovers, the resort offers **horse riding** at the **Quinta da Marinha Equestrian Centre**, which is considered one of the largest and best equipped centers in the Iberian Peninsula. With a history dating back to 1924 when a horse-racing track and grandstand were built. Its facilities have been continually improved over subsequent decades. There are now 230 stables occupied mainly by horses kept for jumping, dressage and riding.

As for golf, the hotel proudly offers the world-ranked Oitavos Dunes course, designed by the Arthur Hills design firm, and opened in 2001. **Golf Magazine** currently lists this inland links course at **88th best in the world**.

Please stay tuned for more details on this luxury property and golf course, as we plan on exploring **The Oitavos hotel & Oitavos Dunes** course further. There is some strong interest by the Links Cuppers to possibly host the first event in Portugal since the Links Cup’s inception 17 years ago.



E-Newsletter – Please Help Us to Help You

We are asking for our readers' email address – why? We know many of you have been enjoying our bi-annual hardcopy newsletter for the last thirty-years, and we have **no** intention of discontinuing anytime soon. However, with the fluctuating economy and electronic world we now all live in, many hotels and golf clubs are releasing **limited time offers** and **special deals**, which cannot wait until our next newsletter mailing. In order to notify our readers of these exceptional limited time offers, we send periodic e-newsletters to the email addresses you have provided. **If you are not currently receiving our e-newsletters and would like to**, we need your email address in our database. Simply go to <http://www.adventures-in-golf.com/> and type your email address into the **eNews Sign Up** box (refer to photo below). It's that simple, and you'll start to receive monthly emails with special announcements and exclusive offers. **And, rest assured -- we do not inundate you with emails** – we typically only send **one every six weeks!**



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links: Home | About Us | Newsletters | Testimonials | Corporate Packages | Request Info. Below this is a "Destinations" menu with links for Scotland | Ireland | England | Wales | Spain | Portugal | New Zealand. A "Contact Us" button is also visible. The main content area features a "Luxury Golf Travel Tour Packages to Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand and More" section with a "Welcome to Adventures In Golf" message. Below the message is a paragraph of text about the company's history and services. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is an "eNews Sign Up" form with an "Email:" input field, a "Go" button, and a "Privacy by SafeSubscribe" notice. A green star icon with an arrow points to the "eNews Sign Up" form.

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