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NEW ENTRY

MACHRIHANISH DUNES

McLay-Kidd, 2008
Machrihanish, Mull of Kintyre, Argyll
7,175 yards, par 72

Green fees: Until October 31, £79;

Nov-Mar, £40.

Contact: 01586 810000.

www.machrihanishdunes.com

Club comment: New course.

Old Tom Morris said of this corner of Scotland: "The Almighty Maun hae had gowf in his e'e when he made this place." Next door to Machrihanish Golf Club, laid out in 1879 by Old Tom himself, the Dunes is the creation of Scot David McLay Kidd. Like Morris, he saw great potential in the towering Atlantic dunes. He identified 23 "natural holes" - ones that needed minimal effort to make to ready them for play - and the best 18 now constitute the new layout (with six greens and five tees right by the water's edge). It's a pilgrimage, but well-appointed cottages on site and regular flights from Glasgow make it far easier than the trek Old Tom used to make.



MY FAVOURITE COURSES

JOEK HOWARD
GOLF WORLD

I have played at 97 of this year's Top 100 courses and Machrihanish Dunes is probably the one I would like to play, if allowed to play only one for the rest of my life. The much heralded young designer, David McLay Kidd, has created a raw, spectacular masterpiece on the west coast of the Mull of Kintyre, just a stone's throw up the coast from the more famous Old Tom Morris Machrihanish Golf Club. Machrihanish Dunes is the first championship links built in Scotland on a Site of Special Scientific Interest in over 100 years (there are rare orchids and insects in the area) and don't be surprised if it climbs steadily up the rankings over the next 10 years.

THE BEST HOLE

1st

It is a fabulous start, a downhill par 4, straight out towards the Atlantic. Open your shoulders, as the fairway doesn't start to narrow until after driving distance. Your second shot is played blind to a punchbowl green (elevation below).

