

ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Islands that are 6-minutes apart and sit in the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean sea. We show you where to play, stay, zip line and mountain bike

LIVERPOOL

The 2017 Open Championship special with features on the History of Liverpool and where to stay, play and eat during your visit

PLANET GOLF REVIEW

ISSUE 6

VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT

The latest equipment reviews from Mizuno, TaylorMade and Ping

PUTTING

We spend a day with James Wood of Crews Hill GC in his Quintic Putting studio

APPAREL

Oscar Jacobson's 2017 golf collection and FootJoys HyperFlex II

WELCOME

I am writing this eds letter after just having played at Buenavista Golf in Tenerife – look out for the review in the next issue. I am sat at a table overlooking a swimming pool and straight out to the Atlantic Ocean. Across the ocean sits the Caribbean Islands of St Kitts and Nevis where I visited earlier this year to play in the annual Admiral's Cup ProAm. The tournament is a great way to visit the islands, play some stunning golf courses and enjoy the islands other activities and we have features on zip lining in St Kitts and mountain biking in Nevis.

This year's Open Championship returns to Liverpool's Golf Coast at Royal Birkdale and we not only give you the lowdown on where to play, stay and eat on your visit to the Open Championship – or if you decide to follow in the footsteps of the pros or want to visit the home of The Beatles – we also give you a taste of the history of that great port city. And for those that love their architecture and history with their golf John Hinchliff brings it all to life.

MEET THE TEAM

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In this issue, Charmaine with the help of Bernadette Mason brings you hotel and spa reviews from Liverpool, St Kitts and a particularly special story of the love affair behind Mount Nevis hotel. There is also a sneak preview to a new resort on St Kitts which has an Ian Woosnam designed course that also offers some fantastic views of the Atlantic Ocean.

The equipment and apparel sections brings you new products from Mizuno, TaylorMade, Ping, Oscar Jacobson and FootJoy. We also have a special feature on putting and how important it is to your game and how you can improve it with the help of the Quintic putting system.

I hope you enjoy the issue and it gives you plenty of information to help you choose your next golf destination, hotel and spa visit or new equipment and apparel for the year ahead.

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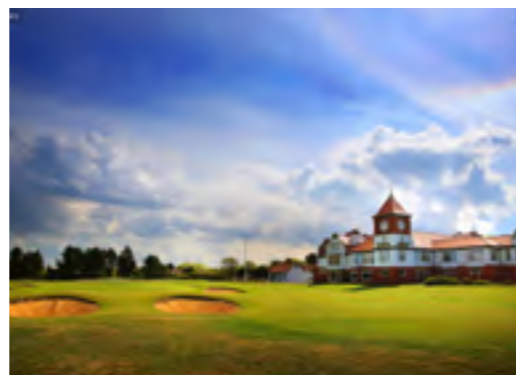


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LIVERPOOL

REVIEW



Liverpool - Royal and Ancient

Liverpool was formally established by King John in 1207 as he needed a port in the North West of his kingdom which had easy access for voyages to Ireland and Wales, and so Liverpool is both “Royal” and “Ancient”!

The “Royal” connection is perpetuated in the names of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club (actually in Hoylake across the River Mersey), the Royal Liverpool University Hospital (currently undergoing a £330m redevelopment) and the Royal Liver Building - distinctively the roost of the city’s two biggest Liver Birds and Liverpudlians’ favourite building.

Evidence of Liverpool’s “Ancient” origins is less obvious to find - a long-standing tradition of urban regeneration has wiped away all buildings from the city’s first 500 years, with the Bluecoat School (now a centre for contemporary art - see <http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk>) in School Lane being the city’s oldest surviving building. Opened in 1717, the Bluecoat celebrates its tri-centenary in 2017 and is an obvious starting point for a study of Liverpool’s heritage and current arts.

The settlement of Liverpool actually began before the royal charter as a landing point on the East bank of the River Mersey for the ferries across the river which were run by the monks who were based in [Birkenhead Priory](#) (link) ound 1150 and is the oldest building in Merseyside - its setting shamefully destroyed by industrialisation which has its own heritage story. The adjacent Cammel Laird’s shipyard →



LIVERPOOL - HERITAGE AND NOW

From a river that used to ferry monks from the Wirral to Liverpool to becoming one of the most important ports in the world, John Hinchliffe takes us on an historic journey

Above: Liverpool owes its origins to its strategic maritime location and a thirst for commercial trade.

was the launch-place of the Ark Royal in 1932 and before that the CSS Alabama, built under cloak of secrecy in 1862 for the Confederate States under the instruction of James Dunwoody Bulloch. The monks ran the ferries well before Gerry Marsden penned his famous tribute to the humble “Ferry ‘cross The Mersey”. At its peak in the 19th C. there were seven ferry terminals on the Wirral all converging on Liverpool’s Pier Head. [The ferry \(Link\)](#) still operates as a commuter service and a tourist cruise and offers the best way to experience the most recognisable urban waterfront in the UK.

The settlement of Liverpool grew to around 500 people during the 13th Century and although no building survived from that period, the seven medieval streets laid out then, adjacent to the river in the form of a letter “H” did survive and helps us to locate the starting point of the city: Castle Street, Old Hall Street and High Street, parallel to the river and Chapel Street, Water Street, Dale Street, and Tithebarn Street running towards the river. Successive redevelopments with newer and bigger buildings have transformed the area from a small fishing village. The reclamation of the tidal margins to create docks and the Pier Head has distanced the old centre from the river itself but some memory of its ancient past is evoked by wandering down the narrow cobbled alley of Hackins Hey and into the enclosed yard at the back of Thomas Rigby’s Inn on Dale Street.

The town and its maritime activities grew slowly over the first four centuries but by the mid-16th century Liverpool’s ships were regularly trading with Spain, Portugal and France, in addition to coastal trading with the rest of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. When the Spanish Armada put to sea against England in 1588, it was the Liverpool merchant, Humphrey Brooke, who brought the news of the forthcoming attack back to this country. By the middle of the 17th century Liverpool’s merchants were trading further afield - with America and the Caribbean. For good reason, the statue of Columbus outside the Palm House in Liverpool’s Sefton Park bears the inscription: The discoverer of America was the maker of Liverpool.

The first recorded American cargo to arrive was brought by James Jenkinson in The Friendship, in 1648 and consisted of 30 tons of tobacco. The foundation of European communities on the American continent and the

“THE MONKS RAN THE FERRIES WELL BEFORE GERRY MARSDEN PENNED HIS FAMOUS TRIBUTE TO THE HUMBLE “FERRY ‘CROSS THE MERSEY”

formation of the British West Indian colonies heralded a new era of trade through the port and an increase in shipping across the Atlantic. English manufactured goods, coal and salt were exported and the new colonies sent back sugar, rum and cotton, much through the expanding town and port of Liverpool.

In 1665 a sugar-refining business was established in a building off Dale Street, processing sugar from the West Indies - a precursor to the later and much bigger Tate and Lyle refinery. The greatest trade in any one single cargo was the import of raw tobacco, mostly from Virginia. No such “evil weed” is imported into Liverpool but for centuries its storage and transformation into smoking and chewing tobacco and snuff was a staple in Liverpool’s economy. It generated the need for the construction of the Stanley Dock Tobacco warehouse in 1900 - its 27 million bricks making it the largest warehouse in the world!

By the end of the 17th C. Liverpool was the third trading port in England, behind London and Bristol. It had 24 streets, and a population of about 6,000. Celia Fiennes, described it as

‘London in miniature...with long, handsome, well paved streets lined by... houses of brick and stone built high and even. It was very rich with an abundance of persons... very well dressed and of good fashion.’ Contemporary paintings of the waterfront show that the shoreline, then along the Strand, was dominated by Liverpool Castle (demolished in the 18th C.) the Tower of Liverpool (re-built twice on the same site but still standing in the early 20th C. incarnation) and the Church of St Nicholas (also still standing but rebuilt in stages).

OLD DOCK - THE WORLD’S FIRST

But there was a problem, the port facilities in Liverpool at the beginning of the 18th C. were severely restricted and could not cope with the increasing size and numbers of ships. In any event the port had developed despite its natural geographical conditions, not because of them. The river itself is an inhospitable harbour: with the second highest tidal range in the country - up to 12 metres (twice a day); mud banks along the waterfront at low tide; swirling eddies and →

Liverpool Waterfront circa 1725 with the entrance to Old Dock, Timber Pier and the Customs House beyond



“THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE FOR THE PORT OF LIVERPOOL HAD BEGUN. NOT ONLY WAS IT LIVERPOOL’S FIRST TRUE DOCK BUT IT WAS THE WORLD’S FIRST COMMERCIAL ENCLOSED WET DOCK”



Mann Island Development and across Canning Dock framing view of Tunnel Ventilation Tower

rushing currents of up to 8mph in the river and; prevailing cross-winds. A natural tidal pool ran inland from the river front to the South of the town, following the present route of Thomas Steers Way, Paradise Street, and Whitechapel. The Pool was a “haven” from the turbulent river but it was of restricted size and became a muddy creek at low tide. Something had to be done to enable the port of Liverpool to continue to expand. The construction of a new enclosed wet dock, where water levels were maintained constant with the level of the quayside, was the answer.

In November 1708, as the newly elected borough MPs, Sir Thomas Johnson and Richard Norris Esq. were empowered by Liverpool Corporation “...to treat with and agree a proper person to come to the town and view the ground and draw up a plan of an intended dock.” Liverpool’s first enclosed dock was built by Thomas Steers and opened on 31st August 1715. It is recorded in Nicholas Blundell’s contemporary diary that: “...The

Mulberry, The Batchelor and The Robert came into the dock on that morning and that “The Mulberry was the first”. The dawn of a new age for the Port of Liverpool had begun. Not only was it Liverpool’s first true dock but it was the world’s first commercial enclosed wet dock.

[Old Dock \(link\)](#) (as it later became known) was infilled in 1826 and the site has been redeveloped three times since then but much of it still stands in the heart of the Liverpool One shopping development and can be visited for free by prior booking.

A GEORGIAN TOWN AND ITS DIRTY MONEY

The growth of the port was accompanied by the growth of an elegant Georgian town and despite much loss of it since, beacons of classical architecture from that period illuminate the city’s streets. Liverpool Town Hall was built in 1754 to the designs of Bath’s architect John Wood, as an expression that Liverpool was a serious rival to Bath as a “centre of high culture”. The high-level

friezes on its side elevations proudly display exotic people and animals in representation of Liverpool’s trade with Africa at that time, transporting goods and regrettably people - by force of the gun.

Liverpool was not alone in profiting from the immoral trade in enslaved Africans but in the mid 18th C. it was the pre-eminent port for the organisation of that trade. It was said in 1797 that “...every Brick is cemented to its fellow Brick by the blood and sweat of Negroes.” Liverpool is now seeking reconciliation - it has since apologised for its role, has established the [International Slavery Museum \(link\)](#) and every year on 23rd August participates in Slavery Remembrance Day.

The Town Hall occupies a strategic position with a balcony, looking down Castle Street, Dale Street and Water Street, which has seen many famous faces from Royalty, The Beatles and Liverpool FC celebrating European triumphs. It retains its old title despite Liverpool becoming a city in 1888. →

VICTORIAN GLORY

Liverpool is now a predominantly Victorian city and some say the country's finest example, with stupendous banks, shipping offices, palaces of commerce, warehouses by the dozen and mansion houses, many displaying technological innovation as well as glorious decoration. Perhaps the grandest street is Castle Street, which despite its medieval origins is lined with buildings of Victorian splendour which are now changing into a popular cluster of [bars \(link\)](#), coffee shops and restaurants from where the architectural grandeur can be enjoyed rather than endured.

LIVERPOOL - HERITAGE AND NOW

Perhaps the finest individual Victorian building is the magnificent [St George's Hall \(link\)](#) - widely regarded as one of the finest neo-classical buildings in the world, designed by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes - when he was only 21 - is a testament to Liverpool's faith in youth. It opened in 1854, but, he initially designed two buildings - a law court and a music hall and only later it was decided to combine them as a single building. It resulted in the bizarre occurrence of people being sentenced to death in the courts whilst on the other side of the door people were enjoying an afternoon tea dance! It has undergone a major restoration and is now open as an attraction where visitors can shudder in fright in the cells and tremble in awe at the majesty of the Great Hall and, if lucky, enjoy a performance in the exquisite Small Concert Room.

In the 19th C. Liverpool was truly "Sailor Town", with many of its own population either a docker or a sailor and with an ever-changing population of sailors from around the world, enjoying the pleasures of the port whilst their ships were unloaded and refilled. The Liverpool Sailors' Home was built in 1852 to provide them with safe accommodation away from the "... land-sharks, land-rats, and other vermin, which make the hapless mariner their prey." (Herman Melville's Redburn). It had a curiously elaborate Tudor exterior and a cast iron galleried interior but was scandalously demolished in the 1970s. Some of the cast iron panels of mermaids found their way to Portmeirion in North Wales and some into the Malmaison Hotel in Princes Dock but the Liverpool-themed, maritime gates had been consigned in 1952 to a car park in Sandwell, near Birmingham where they

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Right: Gates from
Liverpool Sailors
Home in Paradise
Street

Below left: Jesse
Hartley's Victoria
Clock Tower



were like "a fish out of water". After much campaigning by Liverpool sea-dogs, the gates were returned to their ancestral home in 2011 and now act as a gateway on Paradise Street to Liverpool One, a testament to Liverpool's pride in its maritime heritage.

JESSE HARTLEY

Old Dock signalled Liverpool's rise to becoming one of the world's greatest seaports over the next two hundred years with a continual programme of dock construction stretching 7-miles along the East bank of the River Mersey - a remarkable achievement of civil engineering and commercial enterprise by the dock trustees and later the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. Perhaps the greatest praise should go to Jesse Hartley, Dock Engineer to the Port of Liverpool 1824-60. In that time, he built or remodelled all of Liverpool's docks and built monumental warehouses at [Albert Dock \(link\)](#) (transformed in the 1980s from dereliction to the most-visited free attraction in the NW), Wapping Dock and Stanley Dock (itself currently undergoing restoration - already an [award-winning hotel \(link\)](#) and generously sized [luxury apartments \(link\)](#) on the way. He also built the Victoria Clock Tower, as a gateway landmark at the entrance to the river and the docks, and much of the great Dock Wall of Liverpool, a defining comparator to the Great Wall of China! →



Above: Jesse
Hartley's North
Warehouse at
Stanley Dock, now
The Titanic Hotel



Active Pier Head and its three principle buildings

Below right:
Titanic memorial

Hartley contributed to Liverpool's waterfront as we see it today, more than any other individual but sadly his grave is lying forlorn in St Mary's Graveyard in Bootle, awaiting recognition of his achievements.

THE FALL AND RISE

Liverpool reached a zenith in the early 20th C. and nowhere can this be better seen than in the great expression of self-confidence illustrated by the four magnificent buildings at the Pier Head, on the site of the infilled George's Dock. The Royal Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building were dubbed The Three Graces by some unthinking PR consultant in the early 21st century and the title has stuck, even though the buildings hardly match the original representations of three graces - "youth, mirth and elegance" and in reality the adjacent (and slightly later) Tunnel Ventilation Tower by Liverpool's Herbert Rowse, is their architectural equal. If anything they should be the four graces! Even so, the Pier Head Group is a showstopper of an architectural ensemble, assertively looking across the piazza of monuments to those who have lost their lives

at sea and facing across the water to the New World. [The Royal Liver Building and Port of Liverpool Building \(link\)](#) are private offices but tours of the Ventilation Tower take visitors deep under the road tunnel which it serves and [The British Music Experience \(link\)](#) has recently opened in the Cunard Building to allow visitors inside the former first class passenger lounge on the ground floor.

During the 20th C. Liverpool's fortunes faded as war-time bombing destroyed much of the city and the port. Containerisation, increased trade with Europe, poor industrial relations and a slowness to modernise left the port floundering and the historic docks were a scene of industrial obsolescence, nay even a mausoleum! Liverpool became a shrinking city as its population fell from 840k in 1930 to 440k in 2000. In the 1980s, some ignorant politicians and academics called for the managed decline of the city but the city refused to die and retained a beating heart. Its cosmopolitan character and collective strength created a vibrant cultural scene of music, theatre, sport and comedians. The Beatles were four lads from Liverpool who shook the world in the 1960s, as the peak of the Merseybeat. Their →

"THE ROYAL LIVER BUILDING, THE CUNARD BUILDING AND THE PORT OF LIVERPOOL BUILDING WERE DUBBED THE THREE GRACES BY SOME UNTHINKING PR CONSULTANT IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY AND THE TITLE HAS STUCK"





Above: Pier Head in snow
Left: Pier Head from
Museum of Liverpool

**“MATHEW STREET A
MAZE OF BEATLES BARS,
STATUES IN ABUNDANCE
AND THE HOMES OF
JOHN AND PAUL OPEN
FOR PRE-ARRANGED
VISITORS, COURTESY OF
THE NATIONAL TRUST”**

legacy is as evident in the city today as ever, with [The Beatles Story \(link\)](#) at Albert Dock, Mathew Street a maze of Beatles bars, statues in abundance and the homes of John and Paul open for pre-arranged visitors, courtesy of the [National Trust \(link\)](#).

In the early 21st C. the port recovered and moved more tonnage of goods than ever before from its new facilities at Seaforth, in the hands of Peel Ports from 2007 and where £400m has been invested to create Liverpool 2 - a new riverside dock which opened in 2016 with facilities for the biggest container ships. Liverpool realised that its cultural strength and its maritime heritage were part of its DNA, its USP and its future.

In 2004, UNESCO recognised the Outstanding Universal Value of Liverpool and inscribed the historic docks and city on to its list of World Heritage Sites as “the supreme example of a commercial port at the time of Britain’s

greatest global significance” - demonstrating that Liverpool is a truly historic city. In 2008, Liverpool was European Capital of Culture (the best ever!) demonstrating that Liverpool is a truly cultural city. The designations increased the confidence and capacity of the city which is still going from strength to strength, as a unique place with high quality of life and as a visitor destination. New hotels, bars, shops, restaurants and venues are opening at a remarkable pace and, although much remains to be done to continue its renaissance, Liverpool is once again “The Pool of Life”.

The full story of Liverpool is told in the [Museum of Liverpool \(link\)](#) and what a fascinating story it is. **John Hinchliffe**

Hinchliffe Heritage

W: hinchliffeheritage.com

Liverpool - Heritage and Now



A HIDDEN GEM

Celebrating a birthday like James Mason or looking for a classic American burger after watching the Open Championship. The Free State Kitchen is the perfect place to end the day or start a great night.

My taxi is just pulling up at the junction of Hope Street and Maryland Street, I'm excited for I am about to meet friends at Free State Kitchen restaurant; I anticipate a birthday meal to remember.

As you may have gathered this is not my first sojourn to this wonderful establishment and I can already taste the spicy wings I will be ordering for my starter and the first taste of that ice cold Love Lane Pale Ale – a local beer from the Liverpool Craft Beer Company.

The Free State Kitchen mantra is “a contemporary twist on American classics, with quality locally sourced produce at the heart of our menu”. The staff are friendly, helpful and without being overbearing are always on hand when you want another beer.

The restaurant is the perfect size, not too big so you get lost in the crowd, but big enough that if you want an intimate meal for two not everyone can hear your conversation.

Depending where you sit you can watch the chefs hard at work preparing your meal, and like the wings, the burgers here are succulent, tasty and cooked to your requirements, throw in the Rosemary chips and it's heaven on a plate.

I normally go for the classic cheeseburger but I have ventured out from my comfort zone and indulged in a The Free State Hot Dog and the barbeque burger and I have not been let down.

The reason I can also recommend all the other dishes on the menu is because my friends have a variety of tastes and all have been impressed with the food whenever we have visited here.

So if you are here for the Open Championship and staying in the city centre or you are here on tour to play some of the fantastic golf courses on England's Golf Coast, or visiting Liverpool for its musical, sports, architecture or maritime history, make sure you put the Free State Kitchen on your must visit places to eat, your taste buds like mine will be dancing with delight.



From top to bottom: Spicy wings to die for. Classic burger with rosemary fries. Garden delights. A welcoming sign



A WARM WELCOME

Bernadette Mason finds a crackling fire to greet her from the biting winter chill on Liverpool's Albert Docks

Main: The Malmaison's warm welcoming interior design. Left: The hotel's entrance with the famous Liver Building as a backdrop



MALMAISON HOTEL

Liverpool, United Kingdom

By BERNADETTE MASON

It's mid December and the wind is whipping off the River Mersey with a biting chill, I quickly pay the taxi driver and run up the steps and through the heavy doors to the Malmaison hotel, but it's when I walk through those doors that it hits me, oh the warmth and I look over to see the big fire crackling in the round hearth with its large metal extractor and my spirits leap and my bones and soul beg for more.

I start to take in the rest of the foyer in with its large deep sofas and armchairs, the mixture of browns and beiges blend to give the hotel a warm welcoming feeling and on this bitter winter's day the only thing missing was someone walking up to me with a hot chocolate or cup of Horlicks!

The metal staircase harks back to a bygone era when Liverpool was one of the richest and busiest ports in the world – I found out later that some of the cast iron panels of mermaids on display here are from the Liverpool Sailors' Home from that time.

After check-in, I jump the lift to the second floor and open the door to my room, the view that greets me is captivating, the window – which takes up the entire wall – is looking out across one of the water channels and I can see one of the huge cruise liners in the harbour, it's a magnificent sight. Then I spot the bed, it is massive and I have to take a running leap onto it, it's an exhilarating feeling when you bounce on →

your tummy and face arms outstretched.

The colours are perfect. Pink, black and rich plum give the room an elegant but modern feeling. Next stop is the bathroom and I am not disappointed, the black floor tiles complement the white wall tiles and the large ritzy sink with its huge mirror is perfect for getting ready for a night out. The bath is deep and large, but it's the floor to ceiling black tiled shower room with its chrome fittings that give the bathroom its wow factor.

After freshening up I head down to the cocktail lounge with my sister who is on this trip with me, as we walk in the deep rich pinks and purples continue the theme of modern elegance, the bar also has a jazz vibe which is enhanced by it's friendly and 'no problem' attitude of the Malmaison staff.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It's Christmas and the hotel has a lively vibe to it which continues as we walk into the restaurant, the atmosphere in here is great, you can feel joy and happiness in the air and see it on people's faces. We notice that people have come to the bar and restaurant that aren't staying at the hotel, and with the various age ranges it's a wonderful reflection of the hotel's food and ambience.

We are given two menus, one is the main menu and the other is the Christmas menu but we both opt for the former. Looking at the succulent offerings on the main menu it was a tough choice.

The food is incredible and the dessert, well mouthwatering doesn't come close. A little tip, if you're indecisive over your choices like me, ask your waiter/waitress, they are more than happy to help with more detail or inform you of the popular choices.

We head back to the cocktail bar and a DJ is playing an eclectic range of music, it's the perfect way to gear up before heading into town to dance the night away.

After a lively weekend with the nights full from visiting the many lively bars and clubs, and days skating in Winter Wonderland to taking in the Tate and Liverpool museums, the Walker Gallery and wandering round the Albert Dock, not forgetting the fantastic shopping at Liverpool One – there is so much to see and do.

It's time to check out and we are both sad to be leaving not just a great hotel but a fantastic lively city that offers so much. The Malmaison is perfectly placed to not only capture the excitement on the links during The Open Championship and for your tour of the beautiful golf courses in Merseyside, but it's the perfect place to capture the wonderful exciting vibe of the city of Liverpool and we will certainly be back for more.

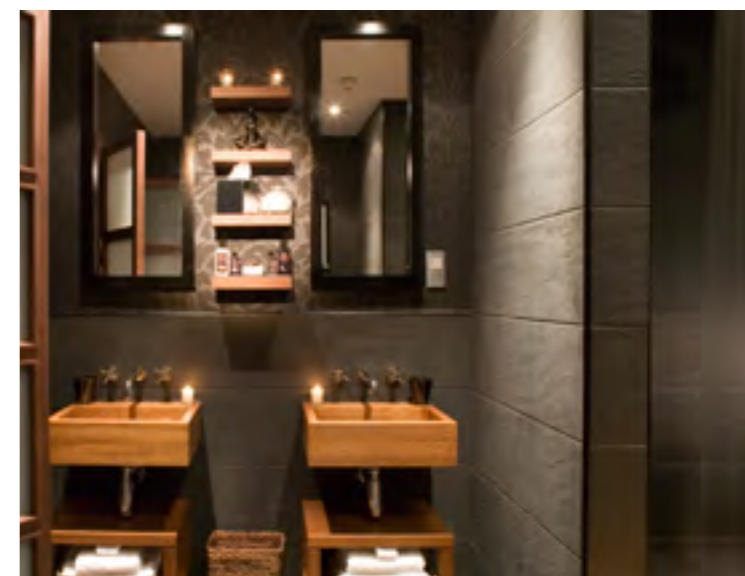
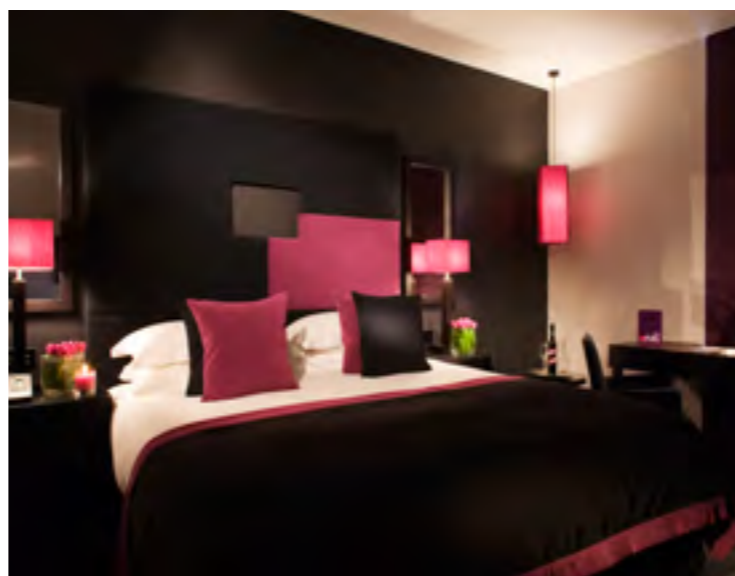
Malmaison Hotel

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Left and above:
The Malmaison's
restaurants and
conference facilities.
Bottom row: The
pink, black and plum
interior design of
the bedrooms and
perfectly designed
bathrooms



HOPE STREET HOTEL

Liverpool, United Kingdom

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Charmaine Hibbert finds out how a former 1866 coach and carriage works building has been transformed into one of Liverpool's first luxury hotels and restaurant.

Having undergone a dramatic transformation over the last decade, Liverpool is now firmly among the top city-break destinations in the UK – just ask Condé Nast Traveller magazine.

Everyone, at some point in their lives, should sample the atmosphere and nightlife of this thriving hotspot. It's a city that oozes style and passion: you just cannot help but be enveloped in the warmth and love of its inhabitants. It boasts an amazing maritime heritage, too, so make sure you take some time out to take in the historic attractions and spectacular views from the waterfront – particularly the Albert Dock – or perhaps, as Gerry And The Pacemakers once said, take a 'Ferry across the Mersey'. Talking of which, one can only marvel at Liverpool's musical history. It's the birthplace of The Beatles after all...need we say more? It's also home to two of the biggest football teams in the Premier League, Liverpool (at Anfield) and Everton (at Goodison Park).

The city centre is bustling with an array of trendy shops, bars and →



Above: Classic modern finishes to the Hope Street hotels entrance.
Right: Outside the beautifully renovated carriage and coach works building.





Left: The beautifully appointed rooms with their wonderful brickwork and natural light: Above and right: The carriage works restaurant and one of its succulent offerings.



restaurants, but if any of that isn't enough to tickle your fancy, try soaking up a bit of culture. Liverpool has more galleries and museums than anywhere outside of London. What better place to base yourself during this years Open Championship at Royal Birkdale than Europe's 2008 City of Culture.

HOPE STREET HOTEL

My recent visit to Liverpool was more business than pleasure, but it managed to cater for both. I had the privilege of staying at the Hope Street Hotel, the city's first luxury designed hotel and a little gem sparkling in the heart of its theatreland. A favourite with visiting celebrities, I was struck by its simplicity and contemporary feel. As soon as you walk into the radiant reception you are greeted with the warmest of welcomes, it

definitely goes beyond service with a smile.

Just like a kid on Christmas morning I couldn't wait to rush up to my room and take a peak at what this stunning hotel had to offer – and I must say, it was even more than I'd hoped for. The rooms are beautifully designed and flooded with natural light through large windows – each with a different view of the city – and the king-size beds are dressed with Egyptian cotton. You will not be disappointed.

The original building dates from 1866, and it was rescued from a semi-derelict state to become today's hotel in 2004. The London Carriage Works restaurant on the ground floor pays homage to its former incarnation as a place where coaches and carriages were made. In 2007, the hotel expanded and added an extension.

The restaurant's dining hall is simply wonderful, with exposed

brickwork and wooden floors (a theme which runs throughout the hotel). Something else that stood out from my dining experience, apart from the delicious, well-presented food, was the space we had to enjoy such culinary delights: a table for two was, in fact, a table for two, with lots of elbow room. The Hope Street Hotel goes above and beyond to provide the perfect hotel experience. It is hugely recommended as a perfect base from which to take in the stunning courses of England's Golf Coast followed by great food and sensational nightlife. I can't wait to go back.

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FEELS LIKE HEAVEN

James Mason plays some of the best courses on the planet and they all sit on a 40-mile stretch of coastline known as Liverpool's Golf Coast that is home to three Royal courses including Royal Birkdale host of the 2017 Open Championship

All photos: Kevin Murray - kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

If I had to choose one place on earth to play golf for the rest of my life, it would be an easy decision. From Fairhaven just north of Blackpool down to Heswall on the west coast of the Wirral Peninsula – some 40 miles as the crow flies – are 20 of the best courses you will ever get to play anywhere in the world.

Three are Royal Clubs, on the Open Championship rota and rated among the world's top 75 courses. Seven are listed in Golf Monthly magazine's top 100 courses in Great Britain and Ireland. And right in the middle, perched on the edge of the River Mersey, is a city with some of the UK's best nightlife and a unique heritage and culture.

Liverpool has to be one of the best golfing destinations anywhere in the world. Make that sport in general – it boasts the Grand National, the world's greatest steeplechase, and two

Premier League football clubs, both with proud histories and one (that plays in all-red) with a formidable haul of silverware down the years.

Welcome to England's North West, also known as the Golf Coast. This region will see the world's best players tee it up for the 2017 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale. It's a beautiful stretch of golf land, and if you're coming over to experience one of these unforgettable events, be sure to bring your clubs – you'll dine off stories of your golfing conquests here for the rest of your life.

ROYAL LYTHAM & ST ANNES GOLF CLUB

Let's begin our journey, north to south, at the 2024 Open Championship venue. Founded in 1886 and situated at its present site since 1897,

Royal Lytham & St Annes is recognised as one of the best links courses in the world. To date it's staged eleven Open Championships and two Ryder Cups.

Originally designed by the club's first professional, George Lowe, it was further improved in 1919 by Harry Colt, who spent four years repositioning some of the greens and tees, adding bunkers and lengthening the course. The result: a thinking man's course that resists all attempts to overpower it thanks to sublime protection – whether it be the greenside bunkering the many raised greens, where the approach shots needs to be thought through, or the lay up areas on the par-5s.

It's a course you will love from the opening par-3, or the 16th where Seve played that remarkable recovery shot on the way to winning his first Open Championship in 1979,

or the 18th where Gary Player put his second shot against the clubhouse wall. Lyham just oozes history.

ROYAL BIRKDALE GOLF CLUB

VIDEO

Next up is Royal Birkdale, this years Open Championship venue with one of the most iconic clubhouses in golf, opened in 1935, unchanged apart from periodic refurbishments, and standing imperious above the 18th green.

The original Birkdale Golf Club was founded in a house back in 1889 and moved to the Birkdale hills from its first home on Liverpool Road five years later. JH Taylor and Frederic George Hawtee were given the commission of creating a tough but fair test of golf in 1922, →

Below: The 17th green at Royal Birkdale.
Bottom: The final hole at Royal Birkdale with its iconic art deco clubhouse

Below: The clubhouse and 18th green at Royal Lytham & St Annes



All photos: Kevin Murray - kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

“FROM FAIRHAVEN JUST NORTH OF BLACKPOOL
DOWN TO HESWALL ON THE WEST COAST OF THE
WIRRAL PENINSULA – SOME 40 MILES AS THE CROW
FLIES – ARE 20 OF THE BEST COURSES YOU WILL
EVER GET TO PLAY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD”



Right and below:
The many faces of
Hillside and some
say a better course
and test of golf
than Royal Birkdale



“ALTHOUGH NOT ON THE OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP ROTA, IT HAS HELD
SEVERAL MAJOR TOURNAMENTS
INCLUDING THE 1973 BENSON &
HEDGES MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP
AND THE 1982 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP ”



All photos: Kevin Murray – kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

and their philosophy was to lay out holes in the valleys and between the sand hills, which gives some fantastic vantage points for spectators.

Royal Birkdale has a unique claim to fame: Tom Watson, at the height of his game, won his fifth Open Championship here in 1983. No one believed that he wouldn’t go on to equal Harry Vardon’s record of six Open Championships, but like Peter Thomson back in 1965 this proved to be the scene of his last triumph.

HILLSIDE GOLF CLUB

Right next door to Royal Birkdale are two other great courses. Hillside Golf Club and Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club have ranked 32nd and 58th respectively in Golf Monthly magazine’s Top 100. Hillside was founded in 1911 and took its name from a nearby farm where the links were located, and in 1923 new land was acquired from the Weld Blundell estate.

In 1956 Fred Hawtree was commissioned to redesign the course, and in 1967 the new layout came into play. Although not on the Open Championship rota, it has held several major tournaments including the 1973 Benson & Hedges Match Play Championship and the 1982 PGA Championship won by Tony Jacklin. There are two fantastic par-5s, the 11th and 17th, played through dune valleys. →



SOUTHPORT & AINSDALE GOLF CLUB

Southport & Ainsdale, or S&A as it's known locally, has hosted two Ryder Cup matches back in 1933 and 1937. Designed by James Braid in 1906, it sits among the dunes as a great test of golf. This is another track that starts with a par-3 as its opening hole named Trail (and it certainly is). At 204 yards, it has nine bunkers protecting the green that sits between the dunes.

Another hole you won't forget is the par-5 16th known as Gumbleys, apparently after a member who would spend a lot of time trying to get over the 20ft high sleepers and dunes that make the second shot to the green somewhat blind. →

Left and below:
 Sunset over the
 links at S&A and
 the nine bunkers
 that greet you on
 the opening hole.



All photos: Kevin Murray - kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

**"KNOWN AS GUMBLEYS,
 APPARENTLY AFTER A
 MEMBER WHO WOULD
 SPEND A LOT OF TIME TRYING
 TO GET OVER THE 20FT HIGH
 SLEEPERS AND DUNES"**



All photos: Kevin Murray - kevinmurraygolfphotography.com



FORMBY GOLF CLUB

VIDEO

If I was ranking these courses, Formby Golf Club would be in my top three (it made 41 in the Golf Monthly Top 100). The course has been through several redesigns, the original layout having been refreshed by Willie Park Jnr back in 1912. Not only does it sit among some beautiful dunes but several of its holes have stunning red pines lining the fairways, all within touching distance of the Formby Red Squirrel Reserve.

I love the opening hole here that runs along the side of the railroad tracks. The run of holes from the seventh to the ninth are all very tough but stunning-looking. Concentration is very much needed if you are not to wreck your scorecard. →

“NOT ONLY DOES IT SIT AMONG SOME
 BEAUTIFUL DUNES BUT SEVERAL
 OF ITS HOLES HAVE STUNNING RED
 PINES LINING THE FAIRWAYS”

Left and Right:
 There are not to
 many better sights
 in golf than when
 Formby’s gorse
 is up and the red
 pines are in full
 bloom.



Right and below: West Lancashire is probably one of the toughest courses I have ever played. Left: The new clubhouse, you will certainly be visiting the bar after a round of golf over this great links course



WEST LANCS GOLF CLUB

VIDEO

There is no let-up of quality courses, and next it's one of the unsung heroes along this stretch of coast – and in my opinion one of the toughest tests of golf you are likely to find anywhere when the rough and wind are up. West Lancashire Golf Club, which made it in at 77 in the GM Top 100, was founded in 1873, making it one of the ten oldest courses in England.

Created by Ken Cotton and redesigned by Fred Hawtree, it examines every part of your game. There are some great par-3s that rely on strategy, with pin placements that could see you 3/4 putting in the blink of an eye, with the green's subtle burrows. The elevated tee at the 13th will afford you some stunning views out to the Irish Sea and one of the toughest doglegs you will ever play awaits you at the 14th. →



**"THE ELEVATED TEE AT THE
 13TH WILL AFFORD YOU
 SOME STUNNING VIEWS
 OUT TO THE IRISH SEA"**



WALLASEY GOLF CLUB

We now cross the Mersey for the Wirral and our last two tracks. First up is the home of the Stableford scoring system, Wallasey Golf Club. Founded in 1891 the course was designed by Old Tom Morris with redesigns by fellow Open Champions Alex Herd (in 1901), Harold Hilton (1913) and James Braid (1929).

The Stableford scoring system was devised by Dr Frank Stableford, who was a member and Club Captain in 1936. The plaque can be seen on the second hole, which gives you an insight into the reasons why he devised this form of scoring. It's not the only commemoration on the course – look out for the plaque honouring Bobby Jones on the par-3 ninth.

There are some superb views across the Dee Estuary out to North Wales from the par-5 fourth tee. This is followed by the par-3 third, which faces out to sea and, depending on the wind, can play nearly every club in your bag apart from the putter!



Above: Royal Liverpool also known as Hoylake

Below: Hoylake was welcome back onto the Open Championship rota in 2006, it also hosted the first Walker Cup matches.



All photos: Kevin Murray – kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

ROYAL LIVERPOOL GOLF CLUB

VIDEO

Last but very far from least on your tour is the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, known as Hoylake, which was founded in 1869 on what was the racecourse of the Liverpool Hunt Club. Hoylake was awarded its ‘Royal’ prefix in 1871 due to the patronage of the Duke of Connaught, who was one of Queen Victoria’s sons.

The original design was undertaken by Robert Chambers and George Morris, younger brother of Old Tom. This was extended to 18 holes in 1871. Harry Colt redesigned the course in 1924 and Fred Hawtree had another go in the 1960s. The final redesign was undertaken in 2000/01 in preparation for the Open Championship in 2006.

Bobby Jones was not the first amateur to win the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool – that honour goes to Harold Hilton in 1887. In fact Royal Liverpool has held twelve Open Championships and was home to the very first Walker Cup Match in 1921. →

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

Malmaison

W: malmaison.com
T: +44 151 363 3640

Hope Street Hotel

H: hopestreethotel.co.uk
T: +44 151 709 3000

WHERE TO PLAY

Royal Lytham & St Annes GC

H: royallytham.org
T: +44 (0) 1253 724206

Royal Birkdale GC

H: royalbirkdale.com
T: +44 (0) 1704 552020

Hillside GC

W: hillside-golfclub.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 1704 567169

Southport and Ainsdale GC

W: sandagolfclub.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 1704 578000

Formby GC

W: formbygolfclub.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 1704 872164

West Lancashire GC

W: westlancashiregolf.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 151 924 1076

Wallasey GC

W: wallaseygolfclub.com
T: +44 (0) 151 691 1024

Royal Liverpool GC

W: royal-liverpool-golf.com
T: +44 (0) 151 632 3101

There are some fantastic holes on this track, but one of my favourites is the 390-yard par-4 ninth. Apart from the great coastal views from the tee, I love the second shot into this punch bowl of a green that just nestles in the dunes.

Well, that's the golf, and if you have the energy after each round there is so much to see and do in Liverpool. Don't miss Mathew Street and its Beatles trail (have a drink in The Grapes pub and get your photo taken in the very seats where the Fab Four once sat). Then check out the Pier Head's breathtaking architecture and ferry rides, the cluster of world-class museums at the nearby Albert Dock, and the retail-and-restaurant heaven of the huge Liverpool One complex. All within easy reach and ensuring that, as the famous song says, you'll never walk alone.

Right: The late great Severiano "Seve" Ballesteros playing in the 2006 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool. Below: Looking out across the links.



All photos: Kevin Murray - kevinmurraygolfphotography.com

"APART FROM THE GREAT COASTAL VIEWS FROM THE TEE, I LOVE THE SECOND SHOT INTO THIS PUNCH BOWL OF A GREEN THAT JUST NESTLES IN THE DUNES"

JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO EAT

Free State Kitchen

W: freestatekitchen.co.uk
T: +44 151 708 5005

Home Coffee

For a fantastic breakfast
W: homecoffee.co.uk
T: +44 151 653 7552

Cowshed

W: cowshedliverpool.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 151 708 7580

THINGS TO DO

Liverpool Football Club

W: liverpoolfc.com
T: +44 151 264 2500

Everton Football Club

T: +44 151 556 1878

Aintree Racecourse

W: aintree.thejockeyclub.co.uk
T: +44 151 523 2600

Top 100 *golf courses*



Royal Troon (Old) - Ayrshire & Arran, Scotland

26 ROYAL ST KITTS GC



28 FOUR SEASONS
NEVIS GC



30 IRIE FIELDS GC



31 MOUNTAIN BIKING



33 MARRIOTT ST KITTS



35 MOUNT NEVIS HOTEL



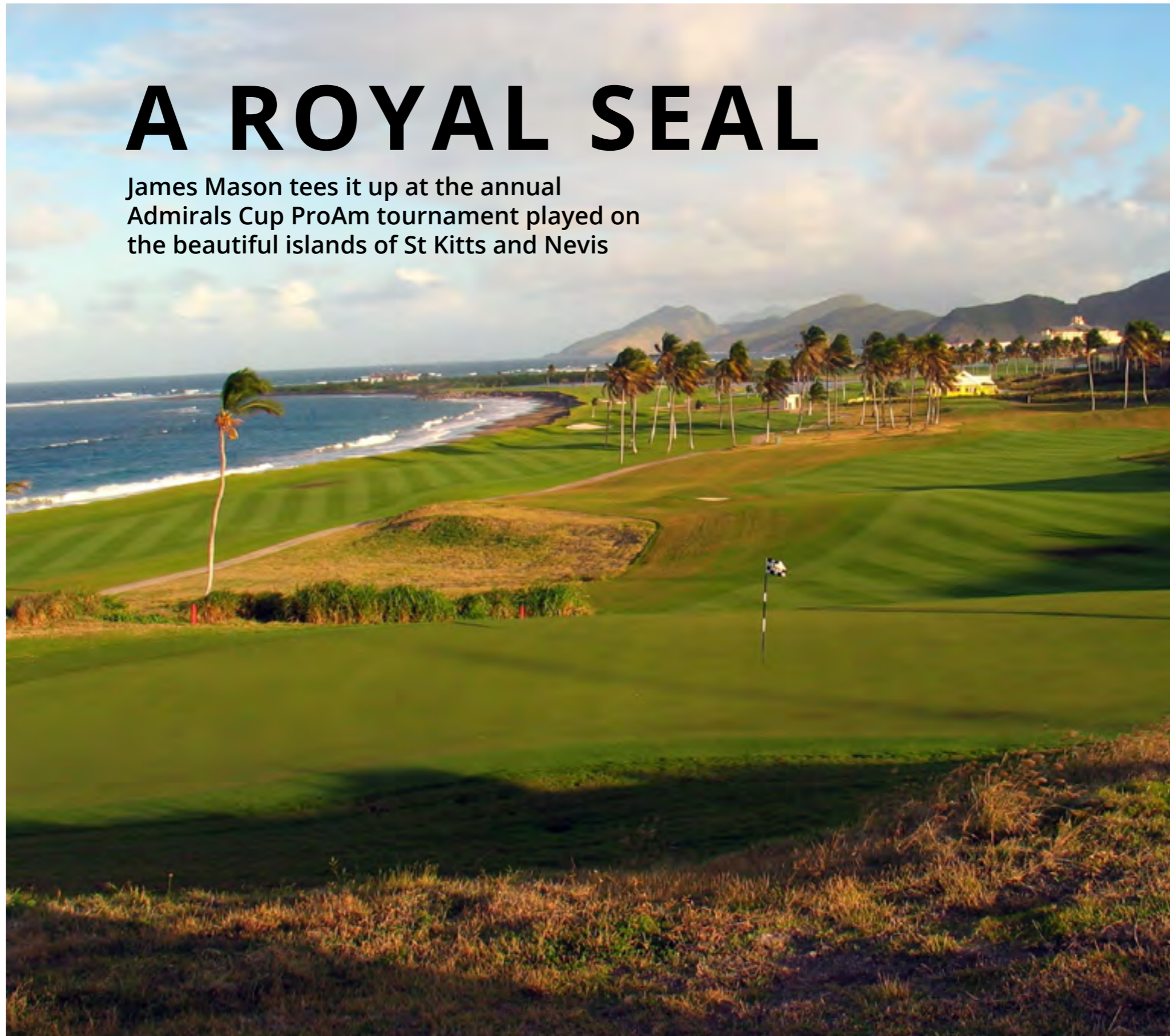
ST KITTS AND NEVIS

REVIEW

VIEW.COM

A ROYAL SEAL

James Mason tees it up at the annual Admirals Cup ProAm tournament played on the beautiful islands of St Kitts and Nevis



Looking back down the 14th hole and across to the 16th, 17th holes, with the stunning Atlantic Ocean backdrop

ROYAL ST KITTS GOLF CLUB

It's 6.30am and the sun is just about to rise over the Royal St Kitts Golf Club and I have positioned myself just behind the 14th green, it's a fantastic sight looking out across the 14th green to the 16th and 17th holes that run alongside the azua blue ocean and the white horses are gently breaking on the rocks that run along the side of the fairway.

I am here because it's one of the best times of the day to take photos and my clubs are on the back of the cart and I can't wait to play. My practice round is scheduled for 10.10am, before play gets under way on the three day St Kitts Admirals Cup ProAm, it's a great way to come and play the beautiful courses of St Kitts and Nevis and believe me you will enjoy every moment of it here.

After taking my photos I hit some practice balls and meet up with my team and smash my driver down the first, it's a great opening par 5

which gives you a birdie chance as long as you steer clear of the water down the right hand side!

The third is a great little hole that doglegs to the right and has the Caribbean Sea as a backdrop to the green. The 4th hole is the first of five par 3s on the course and from the tips two of them are over 230-yards across water, two others are over 190-yards and the 15th is the shortest at 161-yards and plays downhill with the Atlantic Ocean as its backdrop and what a spectacular hole that is. All the par 3s are strong holes here and fortunately there are five teeing options so you don't have to go for the full carries over water!

Canadian golf course architect Thomas McBroom done a fantastic job when he started the redesign of the course here in 2002. The front nine has some really strong holes but it is the back nine that will take all the accolades and it really all starts at the 591-yard 11th hole →

"IT'S A FANTASTIC SIGHT
 LOOKING OUT ACROSS THE 14TH
 GREEN TO THE 16TH AND 17TH
 HOLES THAT RUN ALONGSIDE
 THE AZUA BLUE OCEAN"



Above: Looking back down the 17th hole. Left: The stunning par 3, 15th with its Atlantic Ocean backdrop. Below: The first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean from the 11th tee.

VIDEO 



when you get that first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean in the distance. The 12th is the longest of the par 3s at 236-yards and from the tips it's a big carry over the water, 13 and 14 are great holes but the 15th, 16th and 17th is where you will be getting your camera out the most, they are truly spectacular golf holes with the ocean playing a leading roll running along the left hand side of the fairway on 16 and 17 with the 17th green sitting on a little peninsula.

The 18th brings you back to the clubhouse and while it doesn't have the drama of the ocean it has water running down the right with the green jutting into it, it's a tough but fitting finale to what is a tough course set in beautiful surroundings and one that will live long in the memory.

FOUR SEASONS NEVIS

It's a shotgun start to day one of the Admirals Cup ProAm and we are in our buggy on the way to the 15th hole. We climb the fairway and jump out, everyone turns to look back down the fairway – you may not have heard that but my jaw has just hit my knees - the view beyond the fairway is out to the glittering blue Atlantic Ocean with the yachts and boats both large and small bobbing up and down.

So many words come to mind and pass because they just don't really do this moment justice, it's a moment you truly have to experience yourself. The hole itself is a par 5 of 663 yards from the Championship tee and runs all downhill and you are better off taking a 3-wood or hybrid as you will be getting plenty of run so hitting the fairway is far more important than distance.

But let me put you back into sync and start from the first that is another par 5 and gives you a chance to open up with a birdie. There is more room to the left than you think and if you pick up a little bit of roll that is in the fairway you could be going into the green with an iron.

The second is a photo opportunity but for different reasons, sitting behind the tee is an old stone monument that sits perfectly in its surroundings. The third is a nice par 3 over water, bringing you to the 4th that takes you back towards the mountain which today sees the tip surrounded in mist and is nearly as impressive as those sea views.

It is easy to get distracted here with the ocean and mountain views, but the other fun distraction is watching the monkeys at play especially the



Views of the Atlantic Ocean and St Kitts looking back down the 13th fairway

VIDEO

babies as they play fight and wrestle with each other.

The course is tree and vegetation lined with some wonderful elevated tees offering stunning sea views. The course is a great design and Robert Trent Jones Jnr has done a wonderful job here and it truly has a fitting finale that starts on the par 3 14th that again looks out to the ocean and of course the 15th that leads to another par 3 that again takes full advantage of the ocean backdrop.

The 17th is a tough short par 4 but watch out for the large storm drain that sits right in the landing area, they have used local rocks to help make a practicality into a feature of the course.

If the 15th is the signature hole the 18th certainly comes close with the infinity green that looks like it just sits on the blue of the ocean, it really is a fitting finish to what is a wonderful golfing experience, the design will test your golf game and those views will test your power of concentration. →

“SO MANY WORDS COME TO MIND AND PASS BECAUSE THEY JUST DON'T REALLY DO THIS MOMENT JUSTICE, IT'S A MOMENT YOU TRULY HAVE TO EXPERIENCE YOURSELF”



The par 3, 16th with one of the many cruise liners that visit the islands and offer some spectacular views. Below: The awe inspiring 15th hole.



IRIE FIELDS GOLF CLUB

I am on the mini bus on my way to Kittitian Hills and there is a buzz in the air as today we are playing Irie Fields, an Ian Woosnam designed course sitting on the hillside looking out to the Atlantic Ocean and the islands of St. Eustatius, Saba, St. Maarten and St. Barts. I had a sneak peek at the course two days ago when we were shown around the stunning hotel and villas, which are in the middle of development, and we slightly badgered the owners into letting us play the course.

Standing on the tee of the 390 yard opening hole with two bunkers on the left, right in the landing zone, Zeke – Zeke Percival is the professional at Irie Fields – informs us to just take a 3-wood. The hole doglegs round to the right, but it’s the views to my right that keep me taking my eye off the course, they are truly stunning.

The second is the first of four par 3s all of which offer some fantastic views, this one plays

to a wide narrow green that is protected by four bunkers at the front and at 166-yards playing slightly up hill is a great test. The third is the first of four par 5s and at 535-yards from the tips it’s two mighty blows for the average golfer to make it in two. You also have to manoeuvre the ball between two trees that stand like guards protecting the very small undulating green which also has bunkers left and right. I laid up and just hit a wedge to give myself a birdie putt.

The forth hole is another great dogleg right that is played from an elevated tee, with the second shot having to be played over or threaded through some trees depending on how far back you are.

My favourite hole on the front nine has to be the par 5 seventh, it’s all risk and reward if you play your second shot blind over the bushes and heavy grass to your right, you may just give yourself a chance of making the plateau green in two. Or you can play up to the bunker on

“THE BACK NINE JUST KEEPS ON
GIVING GREAT HOLE AFTER GREAT
HOLE AND THE ICONIC PAR 3 TENTH
GETS IT ALL OFF TO A GREAT START”

the right of the fairway where the hole doglegs right to give you a view of the green and play a 9-iron/wedge into this smallish green and take your chances on a single putt birdie.

The back nine just keeps on giving great hole after great hole and the iconic par 3 tenth gets it all off to a great start. This is the courses signature hole with St. Eustatius and the Atlantic Ocean as its backdrop, it really is a camera moment and your group will all be posing for photos here.

The eleventh is another par 5 that sits beautifully in its surroundings and you will need to make sure you have enough club on the 12th to clear the stone wall that protects the front of the green. The sixteenth is another hole played from an elevated tee and offers some more fantastic views and this is the start of a rising crescendo to the course. The seventeenth is another great par 3 with more stunning views that brings you to what is a fitting finale to a wonderful golf course. At 519-yards from the →

Sunrise over Irie
Fields GC

VIDEO 



JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO STAY

St Kitts Marriott

W: marriott.com

T: +1 869-466-1200

Mount Nevis Hotel

W: mountnevishotel.com

T: +1 869-469-9373

WHERE TO PLAY

Royal St Kitts Golf Club

W: royalstkittsgolfclub.com

T: +1 869-466-2700

Four Seasons Resort Nevis

W: fourseasons.com/nevis

T: +1 869-469-1111

THINGS TO DO

Emerald Mist Spa

W: marriott.com

T: +1 869 4668530

Mounting biking Nevis

Wheel World Cycle Shop

W: bikenevis.com

T: +1 869 664 2843

Zip Lining

Sky Safari Tours

W: skysafaristkitts.com

T: +1 869 466 4259

“I HAVE PLAYED SOME GREAT COURSES BY THE SEA, BUT NOT ONE THAT OFFERS VIEWS LIKE THIS FROM EVERY HOLE, IT TRULY IS A WONDERFUL SETTING ”

tips played from an elevated tee it certainly gives you a chance to finish on a high.

The good news is that even if you miss out on making eagle or birdie, you will still be on a high from playing a course that has stunning views on every hole. I have played some great courses by the sea, but not one that offers views like this from every hole, it truly is a wonderful setting and Ian Woosnam has done a fantastic job making the most of them.

At the time of writing the owner is trying not to use fertilisation on the course and I totally understand that philosophy, my only concern is I am not sure it is possible. I think you can get away with not fertilising the golf course but when it comes to the greens I think he will have to bite the bullet.

It’s a philosophy that is used throughout Kittitian hills with everything being organic, it really is a wonderful place, but I bet there are a few metal nails holding those wooden beams in place throughout the complex!

Some things just need a little hand and I think once the course has finally bedded in a little fertiliser on the greens, isn’t straying too far from the resort’s raison d’être and it is a course and a resort that certainly demands the best and once the greens are bedded in this will be one of the must play golf courses in the Caribbean.



JOURNEY PLANNER

WHERE TO EAT

The Gin Trap

W: thegintrapnevis.com
T: +1 8694698230

Boozie's on the Beach

W: booziesonthebeach.com
T: +1 869-466-8921

Marshall's Restaurant

W: <http://marshallsdining.com>
T: +1 869-466-8245

USEFUL WEBSITE

Admirals Cup ProAm

W: golfstkittsandnevis.com/admirals-cup-proam
T: +1 869 465 4040

out and replace with rum and sugar cane for the voyages back to the old world.

At this point I have to admit it wasn't me that spotted the pieces of clay it was eagle-eyed Winston who informs me he turned one particular good looking piece into a necklace for his girlfriend.

My trail takes me to the remnant of Cottle Church, which was the first church in the Caribbean built for all people – regardless of colour – to worship together. We then head to Admiral Lord Nelson wife's old house that has now been converted into the beautiful Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, we pass old steam mills and stone windmills each with its own piece of history. I have to say there is no better way than to see the island of Nevis while waving to the local people who Winston seems to know every single one by name.

I have done the easy ride today and Winston offers options for beginners, intermediary and advanced riders and to suit everyone's fitness levels. They can last anywhere between an hour or three depending how much of the island and its history you wish to see, he will even customise a route to take into account the things you enjoy and would like to see.

As we cycle back along the sea front and back down on to the beach where his shop and workshop sits, I am so glad that I choose this option as a way of seeing this beautiful island, it has been informative, added to my fitness levels and my knowledge of the island and its people, but most of all it has been great fun.

Cycling with the sun on your back, the wind in your face and roads that are free of traffic, yes I could do this ride every day.



Not all the locals come with two legs



VIDEO



Putting my fear of vertigo behind me wasn't easy, but after the first ride I just wanted to feel that rush of air on my face as well as the adrenalin through my veins



ZIPLINING

It's my last day on St Kitts and it's an exciting one, I am in the taxi taking the clockwise route round the island with the Caribbean sea lapping the shore to my left, the sun is out and my hands are sweating, not because of the heat it's because I have so many emotions pumping round my body at the moment, fear, excitement, trepidation and adrenalin, it's a heady mix.

We pull off the main road and start the climb up the mountain, a third of the way up we stop and after signing some forms and going through a safety talk and pre run I am loaded into a four wheel drive and head further up the mountain.

I purchased a GoPro for this very excursion and as I turn it on, secure it to my helmet, I am then hooked up and I start across the canopy of the trees. Yes I am on a zip line, me who suffers more than a tad of vertigo, my heart is racing, I

feel nauseous, but at the same time there is that rush of adrenalin coursing through my veins.

A slight push from Baby Boy – one of the two local lads who work here and who are literally showing me the ropes – and I am hurtling down the zip line, oh my god the drop is even bigger half way across, I have the Caribbean sea some 800 feet below me to my left and I must be all of 200 feet above the canopy of the trees, I think if I grip my pulley any harder it will snap in my hands, but the rush of the wind in my face, the sheer feeling of flying, my vertigo disappears and the wonder of my situation takes over and then all too soon it's legs up into the impact position after seeing the signal from SKB – St Kitts Best and the second of my instructors.

I hit the loaded spring with a bang, this helps break my rapid decent and brings me to

a stop safely. The fear and vertigo have been completely exorcised from my body and I just want to get back on it. Fortunately for me there are three further runs each taking you slowly back down the mountain and offer some wondrous views of the island.

All too soon I am on the platform of the last run, it has the added bonus of being undertaken in one of the islands 5-minute rain storms and as the rain trickles down my face, my smile is beaming from ear to ear. Zip lining is a must do part of your trip to St Kitts and I am not even sure the word AWESOME is enough to describe the feeling as you hit the air as you come out of the trees and head out above them.

There is one word of warning I did wake on the plane with a muscle pull in my right shoulder and back, so be prepared for that, but it certainly wouldn't stop me doing it all again.

MARriott ST KITTS

St Kitts

By CHARMAINE HIBBERT

AND BREATHE

We all love to relax and unwind and Charmaine Hibbert finds out that laying on a lounge by the pool or ocean are just two of the many ways on offer at the St Kitts Marriott

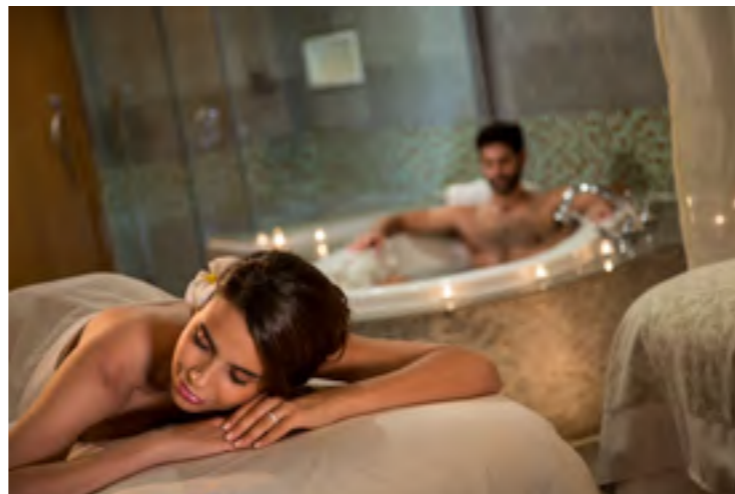
I just love the impact of the heat as you disembark from the plane after it's touched down somewhere hot, but enough about that. Our mini bus pulls up outside what can only be described as an old colonial home on steroids and that feeling is only enhanced as I make my way across the very spacious lobby area with its bright yellow paint and stairs that seem to disappear into the very high opened beamed ceiling.

After a speedy check in with staff who just radiate helpfulness with a welcoming smile I am on my way to my room, I always feel this is the moment of truth when you open the door to your room in any hotel, it sets the mood for any holiday or business trip.

And to my relief the room hits me with its cool air from the air conditioning – I have to say although I love the heat it was a welcoming feeling – the room is clean and large and the next thing I always check is the bathroom and with a nice big shower head and sparkling clean tiled floor, a smile comes across my face. The bed a nice king size that I →



Above and below: You can choose from lounging by the pool, the Atlantic Ocean or in the spa!



can sleep sideways on if I decide to come back from a night out after too many rum punches!

Unfortunately there is no sea view but I do have a nice big balcony that has two loungers and a table and plenty of room to manoeuvre around.

The Marriott offers a range of different meal options, my breakfast was included and with the choice of a buffet style or menu options, there is also the eggs counter where you can get your eggs cooked to perfection to any style you enjoy. Like the rest of the hotel the staff here are attentive to your every need and as soon as I put down my empty juice glass the staff are there ready with a refill.

TIME TO RELAX

The hotel sits right on the beach and you can while away the day next to the pool or take advantage of the activities on the beach or just lounge away under the sun and an umbrella.

One of the high points of my stay is the Emerald Mist Spa, after a day sunning next to the pool what better way to spend an hour after the sun goes down than in the relaxing hands of Gallio Gumbs who was my therapist. She used a product range called Éminence and the oil that Gallio used for my treatment was a combination of sunflower, jojoba oil, safflower and grape seed oil. Those oils and the deep back massage she gave me was without doubt one of the highlights of the week.

Other facilities available at the Marriott are three pools - one with a swim up bar - sauna, snorkeling, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and of course the gym which includes complementary classes, which I didn't have time for as I was too busy by the pool!!

Along with the Calypso breakfast room, which also serves lunch, there are seven other eating establishments ranging from the Royal Grille Steakhouse, the Blu Seafood Restaurant and La Cucina Italian restaurant to the Bohemia Beach Pool Bar & Grille and the Pizza Shack.

For those who like to see if lady luck is on their side the Marriott at St Kitts also has its own casino, which is situated in the lobby, but staying here I have felt like a winner all week and lady luck was on my side without stepping a foot inside the casino.

Marriott St Kitts

T: +1 869-466-1200

W: .marriott.com



Above and below: You can dine under the stars or in one of the many restaurants. Below right: One of the many rooms at the St Kitts Marriott.





Above: Sitting by the pool looking across the Ocean to St Kitts. Right: The beautifully appointed rooms of Mount Nevis



HOTEL

Nevis

By CHARMINE HIBBERT

A TRUE ROMANCE

Charmaine Hibbert finds out how a love affair spanning two decades and every continent settled for the seductive beauty of Nevis

The story of Adley and Sally Mage is a touching one, a young lad from Egypt falls in love with a girl from Wisconsin and they travel the world working for the United Nations so he would know the best spot in the world to build a home. As I sit watching the light from the candle on my table flicker in the beautiful warm Nevis evening, I have to agree with him, this is a wonderful place to build a hotel.

Mount Nevis is perfectly perched on a hill looking across the Atlantic Ocean over to the island of St Kitts, it really is a stunning view and one you could quite easily just spend hours, even days looking at. Throw in beautifully appointed rooms that make the most of that view but hats off to the interior designer who has accentuated the architect's vision and high-beamed ceilings.

My room's balcony is large enough to take two very comfy wide sun chairs and my own personal hammock – so I can while away the hours looking at that very view – and still have enough room to not worry about banging a foot or leg as you walk back and forth. →

If that wasn't enough I am sitting writing this review after sampling some wonderful local gastronomy, I of course went for local dishes, the Coconut Shrimp with sweet chilli dipping sauce just melted in the mouth and the freshly caught lobster was just pure heaven and came with locally grown fresh vegetables, the carrots and broccoli just have such a different taste when they are grown just down the road and delivered fresh.

The staff are friendly and genuinely warm and nothing is too much fuss for them. I was offered to stay at the Four Seasons hotel on Nevis where I had played golf earlier this week but I wanted to stay somewhere smaller and get to see more of the island than just staying at a resort. I am so glad I did, you can feel the stresses of the world disappear as your spirit lifts just looking at those views.

Yes Mr and Mrs Mage story is a love story that spans two different centuries, but their legacy to the world will span centuries and I am glad that I took the time to sample that legacy I now know where to come to sooth my soul, I recommend you come and sooth yours.

Mount Nevis Hotel

T: +1 869-469-9373

W: mountnevishotel.com



Above: One of the wonderfully decorated rooms. Below: The main building at night and the restaurant that looks across the pool to St Kitts.





39 MIZUNO JPX 900 DRIVER



41 TAYLORMADE
M1 IRONS

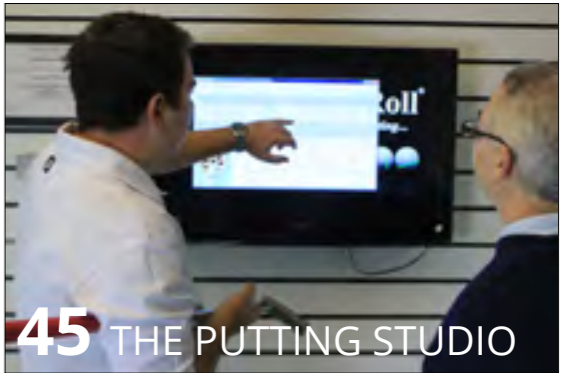
REVIEW



43 PING VAULT ANSER 2



43 PING VAULT OSLO



45 THE PUTTING STUDIO

VIEW.COM

EQUIPMENT



IT'S A LONG STORY

INCLUDING SLIDING WEIGHTS, ADJUSTABLE FACE ANGLE AND THE NEW SPEEDER EVOLUTION 2 SHAFT AS STANDARD.



#NOTHINGFEELSLIKEAMIZUNO

Find your nearest Mizuno Fitting Centre at golf.mizuno-europe.com

THE JPX900 DRIVER

Fast Track system with two 8 gram weights for flight control

JPX900 FAIRWAY WOOD

Fast Track system & Shockwave sole

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

James Mason throws Mizuno's new JPX 900 driver in at the deep end, when he puts it to the test at the annual Admiral's Cup ProAm in St Kitts and Nevis

The new Mizuno JPX900 driver has arrived just in time for me to test it in a ProAm Tournament in St Kitts. The distinctive Mizuno blue head juxtaposed against the orange of the Fujikura Speeder Evolution 2 shaft makes for a dynamic combination and I just love the look at address. I can't wait to smash one down the first at St Kitts Golf Club. →





Far left: Face view. Left:
The new matt blue finish at
address. Below: Mizuno's
Fast Track system

TECHNOLOGY

The first thing you will notice when you look under the hood of the JPX900 is the three-track weight system using two 8g weights. Mizuno with the MP-600 were the first to introduce the track system.

The three options give you as always, fade and draw options or you can put both in the natural position, but by moving the weight from high to low you can adjust the trajectory of the ball.

There is also a track to open and close the club face, now I feel this is a great feature as with the adjustability of the hosel which you can move from 7.5° to 11.5° – it also has three upright settings of 8.5° to 10.5° – it opens and closes the club face, with this added

track you can now move the clubface to where you like it to sit at address after you have made all the other adjustments to give you the best results for your swing.

The other key technology Mizuno have incorporated into the JPX900 is the multi-thickness face that has been strengthened in key areas to help boost ball speeds on those miss hit shots as well as the ones you nail in the middle.

CONCLUSION

I loved every minute of every drive I hit. The sound and feel at impact gives you so much confidence you can literally feel the ball crushing out from the face and flying down the fairway. The great thing is when you

can feel the club and ball like that you just want to keep hitting the driver on every hole.

I think the guys at Mizuno have done a fantastic job pairing the matt blue finish with the orange of the Fujikura Speeder 2 shaft, it's a combination that looks perfect at address and being able to move that extra weight on the bottom of the club to control how the face sits behind the ball after you have made your adjustments is a great idea.

If you are thinking of buying a new driver this year you have to put the Mizuno JPX900 on your testing list, when you feel and hear that sound at impact and see how good the club looks at address, well you can thank me later for pointing you in the right direction.



CLUB TESTED VIDEO

Mizuno JPX900

LOFT 9.5°

SHAFT Fujikura Speeder Evolution 2

FLEX Stiff

SET UP One 8g weight in draw,

one 8g weight in high

FACE SET UP Closed

RRP £399 / €479 / \$499

TUNED TO PRECISION

All the forgiveness of a game improvement golf club in a player's iron? James Mason puts the new TaylorMade M1 to the test in the heat of battle



Testing a new set of irons is always fun but the new TaylorMade M1 irons are about to be thrown in at the deep end as this is no ordinary testing trip, I am flying out to St Kitts and Nevis to play in the annual Admiral's Cup ProAm so these babies are going to be put to the test in tournament conditions over three days. →

TECHNOLOGY

The M1 irons feature TaylorMade's face slot technology which gives you more consistency and forgiveness on off-centre strikes and helps tighten your dispersion rates.

The M1 irons are more compact than the M2 and have a reduced offset face, a thinner topline and shorter blade length from toe to heel, these features are aimed at the player who likes to work the ball a bit more and gives the design a more visual appeal at address.

There are a couple of other things you will notice, one is the black notch on the heel of the club, this is a godsend for players like me who have a -4° flat lie and will enable my pro to take the lie down more easily and obviously the reverse is true for you taller

guys out there who have a more upright lie.

The wide sole is bevelled to give great turf interaction and works with a shallower face helping to lower the CG to give you that nice high ball flight. To achieve the more compact design on the M1 irons a 15g tungsten weight has been added to the toe in the 3-7 irons.

As you can imagine with all this technology the sound of the club at impact could be affected so TaylorMade have introduced their Geocoustic engineering, this works by using the fin badge connecting the back of the flexible face to the stiff back bar in the cavity which supports the face and takes out all those low frequency noises and gives you a solid sound at impact.

Right: The M1s stiff back bar and fin badge. Above right: Wide bevelled sole. Below right: Face slot technology.



CLUB TESTED VIDEO

Name TaylorMade M1 irons

SHAFT True Temper XP 95

FLEX Stiff

RRP £899.99 / €1049 / \$1199.99



CONCLUSION

As you can see there are a lot of technologies at work here and the iron offers a lot, it gives the better player the looks they are after with the compact head and to be able to work the ball, but it also gives you technologies for more consistency on off-centre strikes helping dispersion rates. I loved playing the irons in St Kitts and Nevis and being able to take these straight into a competition I think says a lot about how comfortable I felt with the results I was getting.

I liked the sound at impact, the way the club sat behind the ball at address and the height of the trajectory, last but not least the distance all this produced. No matter how good a player you are a bit of help on off-centre strikes is always good, dispersion is very important add the ball flight, distance and how good the irons look at address and I feel TaylorMade have produced a great iron in the M1 and I would certainly recommend you test them before making your final decision on what iron you will be playing with next.



UNLOCKING THE VAULT

Drive for show putt for dough. James Mason puts that old adage to the test with two of Pings new offerings during three days of competition golf

When my daughter saw both the Anser and Oslo putters next to each other, she said “Oh dad I like the look of those”, high praise for the designers in Scottsdale as she is more into fashion and doesn’t play golf. But she is right both putters look great especially at address.

I took both with me to test in the Admirals Cup ProAm in St Kitts and Nevis. →

Above: Pings new Vault Anser 2.
Right: The slate finish Vault Oslo.



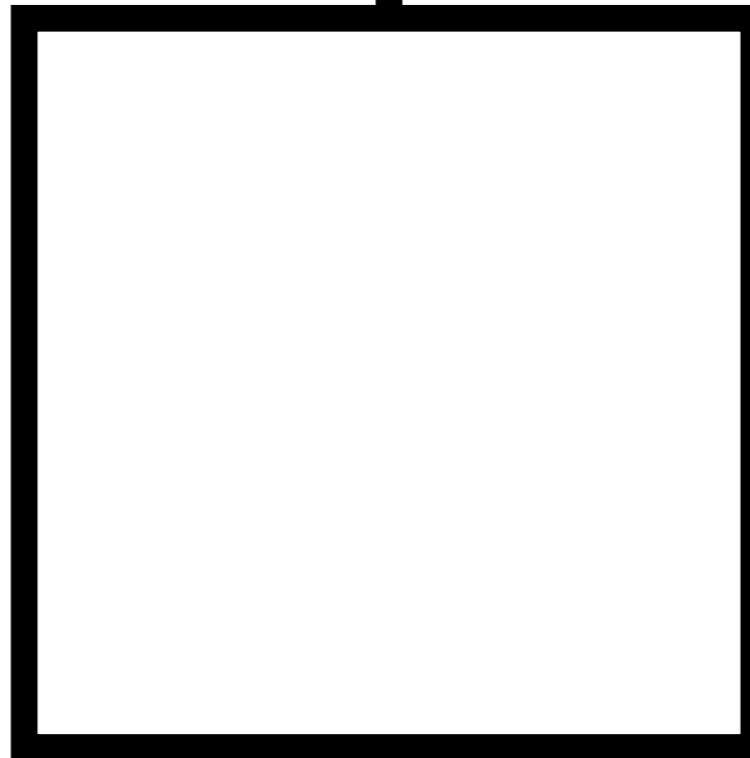
TECHNOLOGY

Ping have incorporated their patented TR face technology in the Anser 2 to help improve a player's touch and speed control, the individually milled face pattern varies in depth and pitch across the face, helping to maintain a consistent speed even on off-centre strikes.

The Anser 2 blade utilises a fully machined 303 stainless steel forged billet to help ensure quality, precision feel and sound and uses Ping's Pistol 62 grip.

ANSER 2 VIDEO

350g, fully machined 303 stainless steel
Available in Platinum or Slate finish
PING Pistol 62 grip
Slight Arc
35" std. length, 3° std. loft, lie angle adjustable plus or minus 4°.



Above Left and below:
Classic Anser design
incorporating the latest
technology



Above Right: The blue/
black/white head cover
design of the Vault
range: Below: The slate
finish Vault Oslo putter
at address.



TECHNOLOGY

Milled from 6061 T-6 aluminium on-site in PING's machine shop where craftsmen oversee every detail, including the milling of PING's new TrueRoll (TR) face technology. This technology helps improve stability and roll from the stainless steel bottom weighting, this also helps boost the putters MOI and lowers the CG.

The Oslo utilises a precision double-bend shaft that can be adjusted to match either a Slight Arc or Straight stroke type and has a small footprint and low-level sightline.

The new PING Pistol – PP62 – grip shape fits perfectly into the palm of your hand giving you a more-consistent grip pressure. The lightweight (68g), oversized grip's soft, tacky polymer construction helps to give you that all important feel when trying to make that 6-footer.

OSLO (MALLET) VIDEO

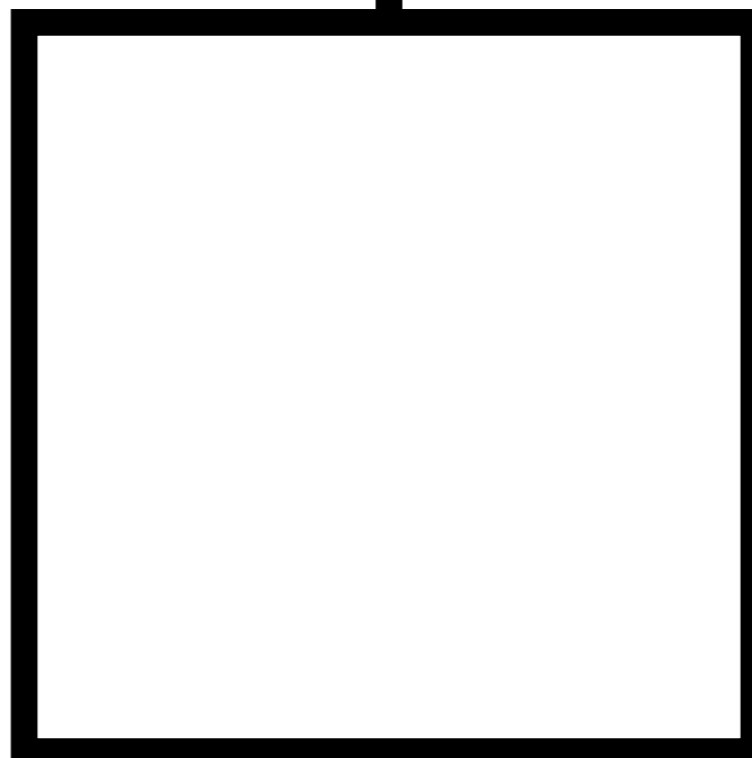
365g, fully machined 6061 T-6 aluminium body/17-4 SS sole plate
Available in Platinum or Slate finish
PING Pistol 62 grip
Slight Arc or Straight
Double-bend shaft
35" std. length, 3° std. loft, lie angle adjustable by plus or minus 2°





Left: The milled face of the Anser 2 with its true roll technology

Right: Ping's Pistol 62 grip that is used throughout the Vault range of putters



CONCLUSION

To take a putter straight into competition is a tough ask but I really enjoyed the new Anser – I still have my original bronze Anser so I have always loved the design.

The feel at impact was soft and the face milling certainly helped keep the distance when I didn't quite hit the putt out of the middle. I also enjoyed the pistol 62 grip, it sat perfectly in my palm and just added to the confidence I felt over the putter and making several birdies during the tournament also added to that feeling.

The workmanship is second to none and after spending time with James Wood at Crews Hill Golf Club on his Quintic System, the knowledge learned on that day helped me appreciate how good the new Anser 2 is. I would recommend you get one of these in your hands the next time you are in your professional shop.

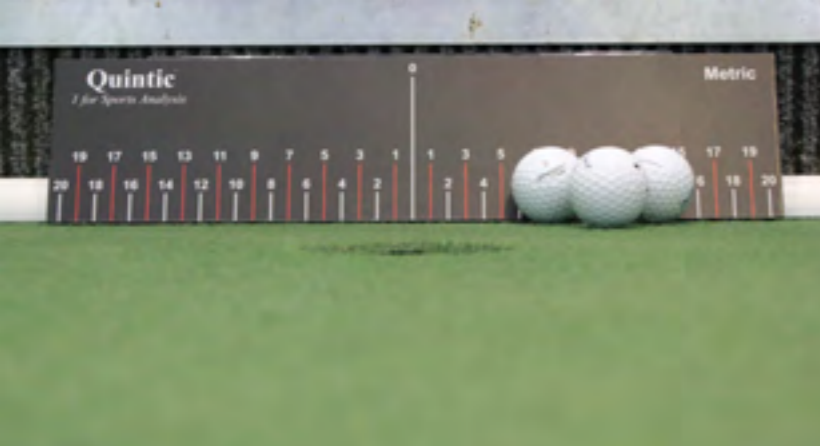
CONCLUSION

Firstly, I have to say I am a blade man and have been most of my life, but it came to light during a putting lesson with James Wood at Crews Hill Golf Club on his Quintic System – see feature in this issue – that a mallet style putter would suit my stroke better.

With that in mind the second day of the ProAm was the time for the Oslo mallet style putter to make its mark on the tournament, and like the Anser you could see straight away how the milling on the face helps keep the distance on miss hit putts - of which I hit a few - and adjusting to the mallet design took me several holes.

But once I was used to the different hand position the mallet putter puts you in I really started to just concentrate on the roll. The ball comes off the putter really well, that soft feel and sound at impact were perfect and I was really enjoying the slate grey finish at address.

I could certainly see - and my scorecard reflected this - the forgiveness a mallet gives you and I holed some very nice crucial putts. The workmanship like all the vault series is second to none and if you are in the market for a new putter I would certainly make sure you put the Oslo to the test.



PUTTING BY NUMBERS

Club Data Ball Data Summary Help												
Club Data Face Twist SPEED LAUNCH												
	Face Angle (°)	Face Rotation (°/sec)	Twist At Impact (°)	Impact Ball Speed (mph)	Impact Club Speed (mph)	Pre Impact Club Speed	Post Impact Club Speed	Impact Ratio	Launch Angle (°)	Shaft Angle (°)	Attack Angle (°)	
1	-0.57	-36.34	0.00	4.82	2.71	Accel	Constant	1.78	4.97	-0.55	1.58	
2	-0.18	-44.70	0.21	5.48	3.10	Accel	Constant	1.77	4.32	0.83	2.52	
3	0.35	-40.78	0.38	5.38	3.02	Accel	Constant	1.78	4.39	0.56	2.51	
4	-0.12	-29.66	-0.04	5.22	2.87	Accel	Constant	1.83	3.71	0.10	1.49	
5	-0.67	-35.59	0.28	5.68	2.82	Accel	Constant	1.80	4.37	-0.01	1.61	
6	0.09	-32.38	0.03	5.33	3.00	Accel	Constant	1.78	3.62	0.23	1.86	
7	-0.67	-44.70	-0.04	4.82	2.71			1.77	3.62	-0.55	1.49	
8	0.35	-29.66	0.21	5.48	3.10			1.83	4.97	0.83	2.52	
9	-0.18	-35.57	0.10	5.22	2.92	Accel	Constant	1.79	4.23	0.19	1.93	
10	0.39	5.48	0.11	0.24	0.14			0.02	0.40	0.47	0.47	
11	1.02	15.05	0.24	0.66	0.18			0.02	1.37	1.02	1.02	



The science of golf is becoming more prevalent as we all strive to improve every aspect of our game. James Mason looks behind the numbers of Quintic's putting software

How important is putting? Well let's take the best and worst putters on the European and PGA Tours. Last year, the best putter on the European Tour was Siddikur Rahman with 27.8 putts per round and on the PGA Tour it was Phil Mickelson with 27.54. The worst putter on the European Tour was Thomas Aiken with 31.5 putts per round and on the PGA Tour it was Andrew Loupe with 30.75.

If we round those numbers up you will see there is four putts per round difference between Rahman and Aiken and three putts per round between Mickelson and Loupe, over two days that's eight and six shots which is the difference between making a cut or not and over four days that adds up to sixteen and twelve shots and we are talking about the difference between some of the best golfers in the world.

Anyone who wants to improve takes lessons and the professionals have their coaches with them at least twice a month, but how many putting lessons have you had? I have to admit I have regular lessons but have only had one putting lesson and that was because Paul Foston - one of Golf Monthly's Top 25 coaches - wanted to spend 30mins on the practice putting green, not because I initiated it.

So I was intrigued to find out more about the Quintic putting system that James Wood of Crews Hill Golf Club in North London had installed in his shop. After the introductions →

Right: On the putting green for some practice drills. Below: Quintic software reveals key information about your putting stroke. Bottom: James showing me the video montage of my inconsistent address position



and setting up our cameras, James put my putting stroke under the microscope with cameras behind the hole, above the hole and to the side. Then it was the moment of truth and it really was, to find out I didn't address the ball consistently was bad enough – I know how important that is as a fundamental to the golf swing or putting – but to find out I wasn't even using the alignment aids on my putter was a real eye opener and that was just the start.

My back and through putting stroke to put it mildly was a joke and my putting stroke was about as consistent as Daniel Sturridges

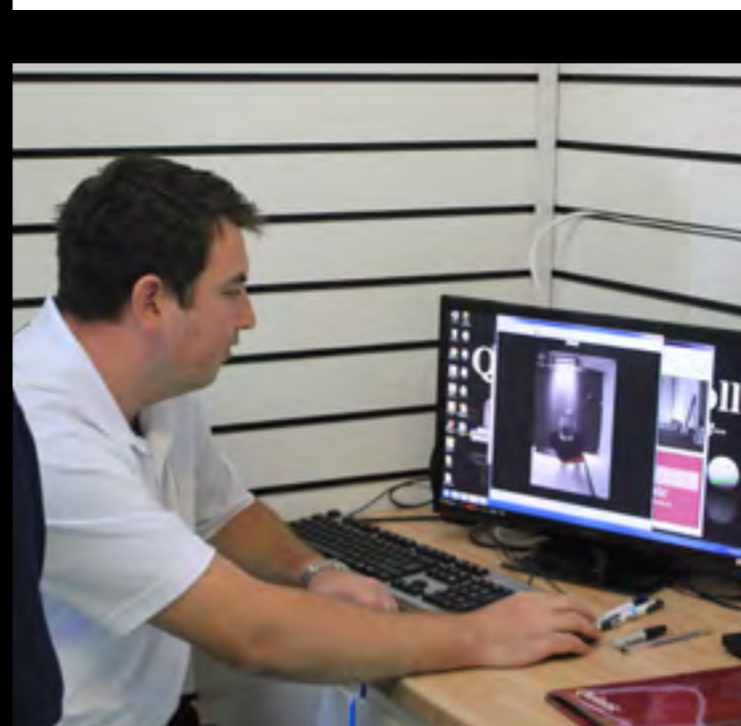
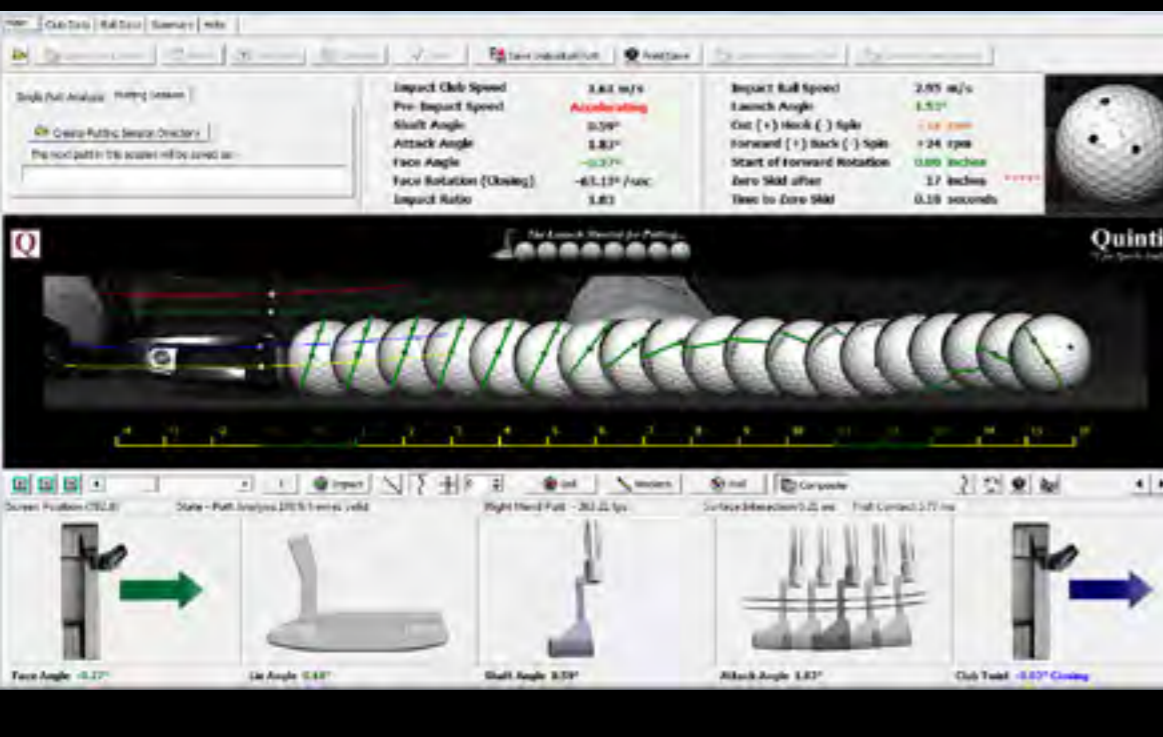
appearances on the pitch for Liverpool and to top it off the type of putter that I was using basically wasn't doing me any favours.

Now James wasn't there to try and promote a brand of putter and I am not going to name brands, what I will say is with a change of putter from my blade to a mallet style that was made to measure for my height and stance, putting me more above the ball and concentrating on a consistent set up, and by using the putters alignment aid I was suddenly holing more putts.

The next step was to go outside and go through a few practice drills to help me with my distance control and consistency. It was a great day and one I needed before heading off to St Kitts to review a few courses, test some new equipment, including two new editions to the Ping putter range and play in a ProAm. Did all that information from the lesson help, yes without a doubt. I took more notice to what I was doing on the practice putting green before going out, I made sure the putters I was testing were 33" and not the standard 35" I made sure I was setting up consistently and using the alignment aids that were on the putter. Did it help my putting during the ProAm? I have a nice little trophy to show it did.

Those of us who want to get the most out of our golf games practice regularly and have lessons, how many of those of us who do that take putting lessons, I would put at less than two percent. Do I think you should find a professional in your area who has the Quintic putting system and have a series of putting lessons? One hundred percent I think you should, just to see what is really happening during your putting stroke, not what you think is going on inside your head.

As the saying goes 'may your drives be true and your putts be few' and the Quintic system can certainly help make the second part of that a reality.





50 OSCAR JACOBSON APPAREL

REVIEW

53 FOOTJOY HYPERFLEX II



55 HILL BILLY



VIEW.COM

STOCKMAN

OSCAR
JACOBSON

OSCARJACOBSON.COM



JAMES MASON PUTS OSCAR JACOBSON'S 2017 FABRICS WITH THEIR UV RAY PROTECTION TO THE TEST OVER FIVE ROUNDS OF GOLF IN THE CARIBBEAN SUN AND THE WIND OFF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Protect & Serve



ACE TOUR POLOSHIRT
£55 \$70 €85

It's January and it's freezing outside, a parcel from Oscar Jacobson has just been delivered and once I get past the plastic straps and cut the tape holding the box together, carefully lifting the lid, a ray of sunshine streams into the room. Well that may be a slight exaggeration but the sight of bright colours lifts my mood and the thoughts of playing golf in shorts and a polo with the sun on my face fill my mind. →



TECHNOLOGY

Oscar Jacobson are introducing a new high-tech Torex Fieldsensor fabric from Japan based textile specialists, Toray. This fabric brings new levels of UV-protection for golfers who are in bright sunlight for 4/5 hours, reducing the amount of potentially harmful UV rays that penetrate the fabric.

The Torex Fieldsensor also helps disperse perspiration more efficiently by wicking it from the body side of the fabric to the outer side where it can then evaporate and diffuse more rapidly.

With 113 years of tailoring expertise, Oscar Jacobson have perfected trouser designs with innovative cuts and functional fabrics for maximum performance, better fit and enhanced comfort. Brent, Dave/Dave Tour and Laurent make up the Slim Fit line for 2017.

Not everyday is there blue skies and radiant sun and there are times you need to add another layer. Among the OJ collection to provide a solution on such days are



BARNEY TOUR VEST
£65 \$80 €100



DESERTROSE COLLIN TOUR
POLOSHIRT
£45 \$55 €65



IVO PIN POLOSHIRT BLUE
£55 \$70 €75



POCK TOUR HALF ZIP
EXOTICGREEN
£75 \$95 €120



SYLVESTER BALL
MARKER CAP
£24.99 \$30.99 €28.99



COOL SHORTS PANTS
WHITE
£65 \$80 €85



CLASSIC TOUR BELT
£40 \$50 €47



BAILY SHORTS BLUE
£65 \$80 €85



the classic Wyatt V-neck sweater and Rutger V-neck slipover that are woven from Cashwool. This is a 100% extrafine merino wool crafted by Baruffa at its Borgosesia plant in northern Italy. Cashwool uses the finest part of the fleece to create a soft, fluffy and luxurious-feeling yarn that blends aesthetic beauty with performance.

Main image on previous page and right: Oscar Jacobson has a selection of colour palettes that are coordinated to work together.



DAVE PRINCE OF WALES
CHECK GOLF TROUSERS
£99.99 \$124.99 €115.99

CONCLUSION

With the extortionate pricing from some of the airlines to fly your golf clubs, golfers have to come up with new ways to get both their clubs and clothes below the 23kg limit. Being able to mix and match outfits that look as good in a club/ restaurant as they do on the course is essential, and one way to beat those excess charges is to pack them in your hand luggage. Oscar Jacobson's new 2017 collection not only looks good but

with its incorporated technologies you get excellent quality clothing, protection from the harmful rays of the sun and it draws away your perspiration - that has to be great news! Add lightweight materials, great colours, fantastic designs that look great on exotic fairways as well as on your home course, I think you should take a look at this year's Oscar Jacobson collection, you will not be disappointed.

HYPERFLEX™ II

PERFORMANCE REIMAGINED

HyperFlex™ II features a completely reimagined BioMorph exoskeleton designed to mimic the ligaments of the foot. HYPERFLEX II delivers lightweight support, cushioning and enhanced flexibility to elevate your game to its highest level.



#1 SHOE IN GOLF

Explore www.footjoy.co.uk



Power Base

THE NEW FOOTJOY HYPERFLEX II LOOK GREAT, BUT HOW DO YOUR FEET FEEL AFTER TWO PRACTICE ROUNDS AND THREE ROUNDS OF COMPETITIVE GOLF COMING DOWN THE STRETCH?

Today's golf shoes have a lot to live up to, first impressions are important so a shoe has to have a great athletic design and be available in a variety of colours. It's not good having some great new season apparel if your shoes are battered and worn. But let's not forget the most important function of a golf shoe is that they are the platform for your swing.

If you have spent the winter working on your golf game with your professional, implementing tweaks that will bring about more consistency and better scoring that could all go out the window if your golf shoes slip or collapse during your back or down swing.

I took the new FootJoy HyperFlex II out to St Kitts & Nevis to play in the Admirals Cup ProAm. →



Above: The HyperFlex 2 cleat system: Right: Some of the colour options. Below: Sole and upper view



HYPERFLEX II
£145 \$159.99 €209

If you haven't purchased a new pair of golf shoes for a while then I would suggest you go and put a pair of the new Hyperflex II on

TECHNOLOGY

Let's start from the base up, first you have the Fast Twist System (FTS) a quarter turn secures and releases the cleat for quick changing. Each of the nine Pulsar Tornado spikes are surrounded by a cluster of smaller moulded spikes to increase traction with the ground giving you a solid platform for your swing.

The Xtra-thick Fine Tune Foam or FTF FitBed is the technology that brings the Hyperflex II the comfort and bounce you feel as you walk, all whilst keeping your feet feeling fresh during a 4/5 hour round, it also offers plenty of support and underfoot comfort. This all works with the Optimised Performance Stabiliser technology (O.P.S) which secures your heels and ankles throughout your swing.

When you pick up the shoe you will see what looks like a web covering the outside, this is the FlexGrid™ 3.0 BioMorph material, it is an athletic mesh which is meant to mimic and support the movement of your foot's tendons, this helps to work and support your foot during the pressure it is under whilst swinging the golf club at speed.

CONCLUSION

The Hyperflex II has built on what was already a great golf shoe and the added BioMorph material and Optimised Performance Stabiliser gives your tendons, heels and feet extra support at the critical points in your golf swing, giving you peace of mind, especially when you want to try and generate a few extra yards.

I must admit I love a shoe that you can take out of the box, get on to the course, play a round of golf and not a blister in sight. Throw in a great athletic design that is waterproof and comes in a variety of great colour options and you have to say FootJoy have done it again. If you haven't purchased a new pair of golf shoes for a while then I would suggest you go and put a pair of the new Hyperflex II on, you will notice the difference straight away and around the 16th hole of your next round your feet will be thanking you.

No pain plenty of gain

AFTER LEAVING THE BATTERY ON CHARGE AT HOME JAMES MASON FINALLY GETS HIS HEAD IN GEAR TO PUT THE HILL BILLY TO THE TEST – WITH A BATTERY THIS TIME!

I pull into the car park at Bletchingley Golf Club, park up and start to take the clubs from the boot of my car and set up the new Hill Billy trolley I am going to be testing today. I flick a couple of switches and the trolleys up in a matter of seconds, but then a thought hits me, I have left the battery at home charging! Oh well, the first test is going to have to be how it works without the battery.

TECHNOLOGY

The Hill Billy comes with two battery options, the lead acid or lithium kind, and when I remember to actually take the battery with me on my second try, I test the trolley using the Lithium battery, it is easy to charge and install, there are no wires to deal with its just a plug and play fitting.

Hill Billy uses a 3-way folding

system that is so easy to use and will fit in the boot of the smallest of cars, and the strapping that holds your bag in place takes seconds to secure. I used one of the Hill Billy bags, but the straps will hold any bag securely in its place.

The stop and go button that you turn to vary the speed to fit to your walking pace couldn't be simpler to use, and once you place your hands back on the soft-touch handle you are just a finger click away from stopping the trolley next to your ball or setting off to play your next shot. The handle is also adjustable so no matter your height you can adjust it so it works for you.

The Hill Billy is available in six trim colour options to work with the Black chassis, these are blue, green, cool grey, orange, pink and red. →



Top: There are six choices of colour.
Above: The seat accessory

CONCLUSION

Well the good news from Bletchingley Golf Club is the trolley was light enough to use without the battery!

But on a serious note once I remembered to bring the battery with me to Hadley Wood Golf Club it was a pleasure to use. I have already mentioned how simple the trolley is to assemble and fold back up, but I loved the easy to use stop and start dial and found the Hill Billy moved perfectly to my walking pace.

Slotting the battery into position couldn't be any simpler as was attaching and detaching the wheels when getting the trolley in and out of my car, and the trolley made easy work of the Hadley

Wood Golf Club topography.

I think what we all want from a trolley is something that doesn't take too much boot space, is simple to assemble and disassemble, with a battery that lasts and is easy to charge and click in place. A trolley with an adjustable speed that works with the pace we walk, holds your bag securely in place and is basically maintenance free, apart from having to get the air compressor out for a quick clean after 18-holes.

The Hill Billy offers you all those requirements at a great price. Just remember to put the battery in the car before you head off to the course!

HILL BILLY

Lead acid £259 \$325 €299

Lithium £359 \$450 €415

T: +44 (0) 1795 413 830

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Above: The six colour options. Right: The simple to use stop, go, speed adjustment and display handle. Below left: Easy to fold and store in your car boot. Below right: Plug and play battery.



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