

MAMACS RETREAT

BY DUNCAN MCMONAGLE



WELCOME TO MAMACS RETREAT GOLF CLUB

MAMACS RETREAT IS AN 18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE BUILT WITH TOURNAMENT PLAY IN MIND OFF THE BACK TEES, BUT HOPEFULLY OFFERS A FAIR TEST FOR GOLFERS OF ALL ABILITIES.

SITUATED ON A SANDY PENINSULA, THE COURSE FEATURES LARGE SANDY WASTE AREAS WHICH IMPACT AND DICTATE STRATEGY, AND A LARGE LAKE WHICH FEATURES STRONGLY ON A NUMBER OF HOLES.

THE COURSE OFFERS A MODERN TWIST ON CLASSIC GOLF HOLE DESIGN AND SHOULD OFFER PLENTY OF STRATEGIC VARIETY AND SHOT MAKING OPTIONS DEPENDING ON THE CONDITIONS AND THE GOLFER'S AMBITION(!).

THE DESIGN WAS INSPIRED BY NUMEROUS TRIPS TO THE GREAT GOLF COURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND WITH MY FATHER - "MAMAC" TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN - AND IS DEDICATED TO HIS MEMORY AFTER HE PASSED AWAY ON 1ST JANUARY 2011. MY FATHER INTRODUCED ME TO THE GAME OF GOLF, TAUGHT ME ITS RULES, ITS ETIQUETTE, AND WHEN TO GIVE THE OPPOSITION A 3FT PUTT FOR A HALF... ALL OF WHICH I WILL ALWAYS BE TRULY THANKFUL FOR.

HOLE NAMES

1. DOUBLE TROUBLE
2. SAHARA
3. TEMPTATION
4. LONG
5. REDAN
6. ROAD (REVERSE)
7. BIARRITZ
8. ISLAND
9. CAPE (KUMMEL HUT*)
10. SETH'S DOUBLE DOGLEG
11. SHORT
12. BRANCASTER
13. DOUBLE DOGLEG
14. REEF
15. MAMAC'S FOLLY
16. MERION
17. EDEN
18. HOME

A NUMBER OF THE HOLE NAMES WILL BE FAMILIAR, HOWEVER THESE ARE NOT INTENDED AS DIRECT REPLICAS, MORE INSPIRED BY THE GENERAL STRATEGY OR SPIRIT OF THE ORIGINAL HOLES. SOME WILL BE RECOGNISABLE FROM THE CLASSIC COURSES OF THE UK BUILT PRE-1900S WHILST OTHERS ARE INSPIRED BY WHAT IS NOW CONSIDERED THE 'GOLDEN AGE' OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE - DOMINATED BY SUCH CREATIVE TALENTS AS DR. ALISTAIR MACKENZIE, CHARLES BLAIR MACDONALD, AND A. W. TILLINGHAST. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HOLES ALSO BASED ON WELL KNOWN HOLES WHO, ALTHOUGH GIVEN A VERY DIFFERENT TREATMENT AT MRGC, WILL RETAIN THERE NAMES OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE ORIGINALS. THESE INCLUDE THE 12TH 'BRANCASTER' - BASED ON THE 8TH AT ROYAL WEST NORFOLK (OR 'BRANCASTER' AS IT IS KNOWN LOCALLY) AND THE 16TH "MERION" WHICH OWES MUCH TO THE ORIGINAL BUT HAS AN EXTRA OPTION OFF THE TEE TO TOUGHEN UP THE CHALLENGE OF THE TEE SHOT. YET OTHER HOLES ARE PURELY FICTION BASED ENTIRELY ON THE PLOT AND NATURAL STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES, THESE INCLUDE THE 1ST, 3RD, 15TH AND 18TH.

N.B. MAMACS RETREAT FEATURES FAST, UNDULATING GREENS/GREEN SURROUNDS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE PLAYED ON THE "VERY DRY" SETTING IN PGA2000 WHICH RENDERS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A FLAT GREEN PRACTICALLY UNPLAYABLE.

**KÜMMEL, ALSO CALLED KUMMEL OR KIMMEL, IS A SWEET, COLORLESS LIQUEUR FLAVORED WITH CARAWAY SEED, CUMIN, AND FENNEL THAT ORIGINATED FROM HOLLAND DURING THE LATE 16TH CENTURY. IT IS A FAVOURITE IN MANY ESTABLISHED GOLF CLUBS IN THE UK AND IS THE PERFECT TONIC HALF WAY THROUGH A ROUND ON A COLD RAINY DAY ON THE BRITISH COASTLINE!*

