

Mach 2

It finally appears that golfers making the pilgrimage to Scotland's historic Machrihanish Golf Club will have the chance to play its much-anticipated sister course.

Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club, a David McLay Kidd layout, is scheduled for a soft opening May 2, with an official opening July 21, according to the developer, Southworth Development. The 7,300-yard seaside links sits adjacent to historic Machrihanish Golf Club, an Old Tom Morris design, about five miles west of Campbeltown on the southern tip of the Kintyre Peninsula in southwest Scotland.

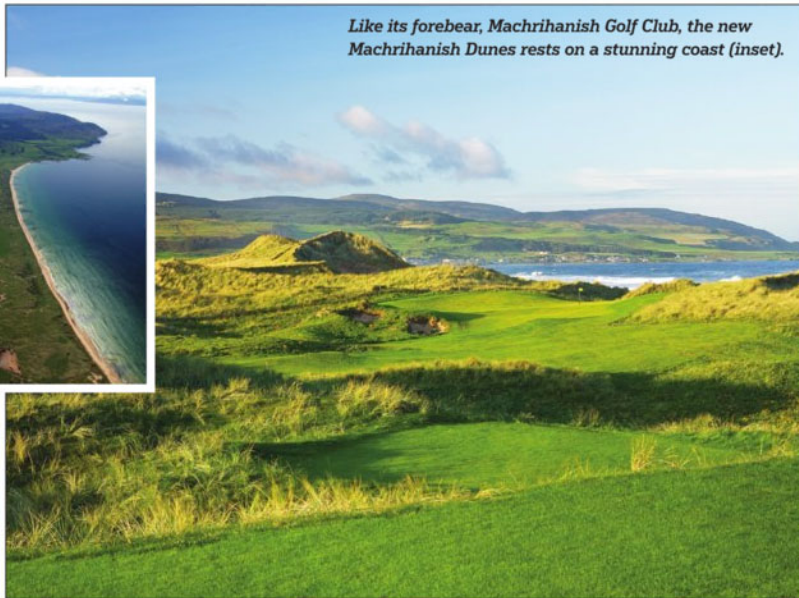
Campbeltown used to be a busy port town with nearly three dozen whiskey distilleries, and Campbeltown Airport has one of the longest runways in Europe. But the region has been hammered economically in recent decades. With the addition of the second course, the Machrihanish developers and tour operators

envision the area becoming a popular stay-and-play destination.

To that end, Southworth Development is building golf cottages and renovating the Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish and the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown. Southworth

recently purchased what it described as a "controlling interest" in the Kintyre Development Co., which has been developing the property. Southworth has been a minority shareholder since 2006.

— Martin Kaufmann



Like its forebear, Machrihanish Golf Club, the new Machrihanish Dunes rests on a stunning coast (inset).

COURTESY OF MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB/ANDAN BRADLEY

Book Review

The Pinehurst cure

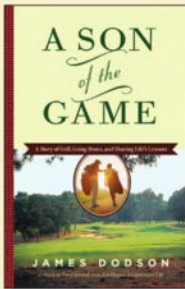
A town founded as a sanctuary for tuberculosis sufferers now serves as a haven for golfers facing a midlife crisis.

Welcome to Pinehurst, N.C., created in 1895 by an undercapitalized visionary, James Tufts, and built to look like a small New England town. Tufts didn't play golf, but he had enough sense to find someone who knew the game well: recent Scottish émigré Donald Ross. More than a century later, the town is the American counterpart to St. Andrews as a spiritual home to the game.

As told by veteran golf writer James Dodson, Pinehurst and the adjoining town of Southern Pines work because of their small-town neighborliness, with golf serving as the language and practice of everyday existence. Everyone in town, it seems, is a golf pilgrim. Tom Stewart, who operates a museum-like golf shop in town, is a former PGA club professional who

played the Asian Tour, spent three weeks with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, ran (unsuccessfully) for Congress, and speaks in epigrams about golf and life. "A good golf buddy," he says, "is nature's compensation for being unable to pick your relatives."

Dodson makes his own early-50s malaise the basis of this rambling, conversational narrative. It's less a plot line than a series of musings about his life as writer-in-residence with a highly regarded community newspaper, *The Pilot* (circ. 25,000). Dodson's status is no fall from grace; it's a voluntary excursion down the back roads of a region he has known since his childhood. After decades of writing for major dailies and magazines, he now has the time to relax with his family



A Son of the Game

>> By James Dodson
>> Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, N.C., 2009
>> 304 pages; hardcover
>> \$24.95

and to share the game with his teenage son, Jack.

This is a very Southern set of stories, with the emphasis on people. No tale comes off sadder or more disappointing than Harvie Ward's, whose early promise as an amateur golfer got ambushed by bitterness and alcohol. And yet in later life, before his death in 2004, Ward returned to Pinehurst and redeemed himself, if only partially.

Dodson's vision of golf and of small-town life is entirely mythic and traditional. He has never met a sentence that couldn't be made more complicated with a subordinate clause or two. A close reader of the text might wonder whether the game can sustain itself on the basis of rocking-chair bonhomie. Maybe it can't. But Dodson has tried hard to make the case.

— Bradley S. Klein