



Guides to the Golf Courses in Britain

Two new guides to the golf courses in Britain will hit the bookstalls in time for the Christmas stocking.

The AA Guide to Golf Courses in Britain and the PGA - Golf Guide - Where to Play and Where to Stay

Price wise, the best value for money is undoubtedly the PGA Guide, offering 364 pages of information for £3.95. The AA Guide has 268 pages and costs £7.95.

This year's eleventh issue of Where to Play and Where to Stay contains a wealth of information not only listing every golf course in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, but each section of the country is introduced by a leading provincial golf writer who has used his local knowledge to introduce the 'little gems' in his region. The golf courses that may not be to championship standard but are nevertheless a joy to play.

So many golfers set off on a golfing holiday with only the big names in mind and miss out a nearby 18 holes of golfing paradise known only to the locals.

As an example it is worth quoting Tony Garnett, the Sports Editor of the East Anglian Daily Times a self confessed long handicapper, who admits to knowing as much about the rough on most East Anglian courses as he does the fairways.

"The golfer who sets up base in West Suffolk is also well catered for with well designed parkland courses. My favourite is the nine hole course at Flempton, which I enjoy even more than the more famous Royal Worlington, which is less than half an hour away. Flempton has 91 bunkers which must be something of a record and they give visitors a warm welcome....."

Discussing Barnham Broom he says the course is notable for its rivers and lakes, some of which are quite deep. *"The last time I was there I heard a bit of a commotion behind the reeds in one of the ponds. I supposed it was a swan, but to my surprise a diver, fully equipped for the job started to emerge from the water. He threw a bag of balls onto the steeply sloping bank and there was nothing he could do as they rolled, one by one, back into the deep muddy water!"*

Similar articles prefacing the sections are included from such notable journalists as John Drake from the Yorkshire Evening Post, golf writers John Reece in the West Country, Bob Jenkins of the Scottish Sunday Post, Brian Barron, Northampton Chronicle and Echo and Chris Smart, Welsh correspondent for the Western Mail.

This golf guide with a forward by Europe's Ryder Cup Captain, Tony Jacklin is excellent value for money and an essential reference for any golfer tempted to stray from his home course.

Although the AA Guide lists the British Golf Course alphabetically it was puzzling to discover they have completely ignored those in Northern Ireland, particularly as the main article, by that doyen of golf writers Peter Dobereiner, occupies nine pages telling the reader what a marvellous golfing experience awaits one in the Emerald Isle.

Perhaps the AA are producing a supplement for their members. If not there is always Where to Play and Where to Stay to refer to for details!

TECHNICAL 2



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