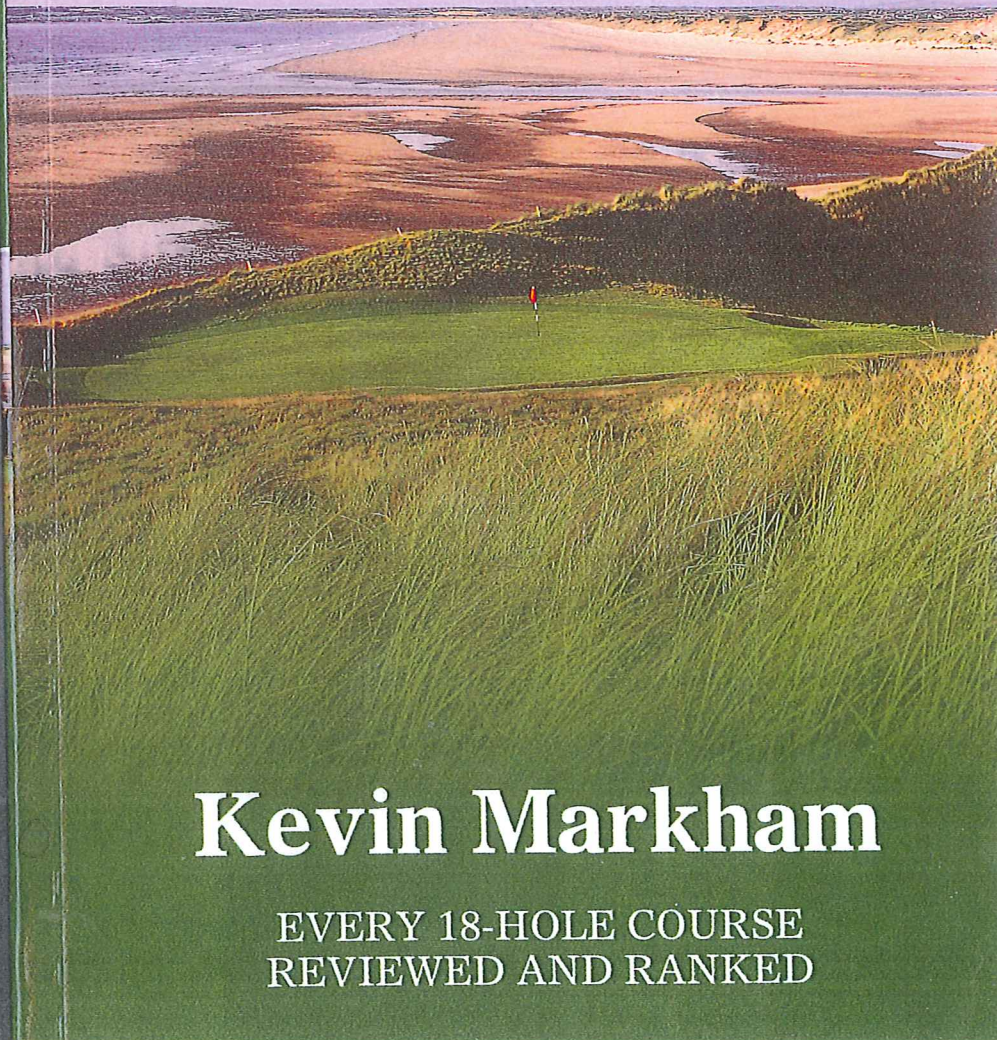


HOOKED

AN AMATEUR'S GUIDE
TO THE GOLF COURSES OF IRELAND



Kevin Markham

EVERY 18-HOLE COURSE
REVIEWED AND RANKED

THE ISLAND Established 1890

PASSION ON THE PENINSULA

The Island and Portmarnock are often compared. One has the class of a master craftsman; the other has the electricity of wild genius. This is a little peninsula of links heaven – it's a great mix of holes and thrills and challenges and fun. And dunes: you arrive at the club and they're just waiting for you. Stand on the 1st tee and they squeeze the fairway into a channel that makes for a tricky opening. And so it continues.

There are flat fairways and tumbling fairways. There are perfect bunkers, but not too many. Greens, with great backdrops, beg to be attacked but will punish you if you make mistakes. There are high tee boxes, treacherous, ball-swallowing swathes of rough, protected wildlife sanctuaries, marinas. You get the idea.

The golf is superb and the opening nine (eight par 4s to start) are short enough that you can score. Once you figure out how to play the greens and keep control of your aggression off the tee (no driver please on the 5th and 8th), you will feel you are playing real golf. Wind can smack you from every side as the routing is

smart and holes never go in the same direction. The 4th to 6th holes, the crazy 8th, 12th and 18th are excellent holes, but the stretch from the 13th to 16th is the best of the bunch. I last played here twenty-five years ago, and I remembered well the 190-m tee shot into the wind on the par 3 13th, and then the needle-like drive down the 14th.

Everything you could ask for, but not so difficult that you won't enjoy yourself.

FAVOURITE HOLE

Par 4 14th. 318 m. A low but rough-hewn dune ripples along the left. The marshes beckon on the right. And a narrow fairway streaks down the middle. A short hole that should have the wind behind and begs for a big swing . . .

TOUGHEST HOLE

Par 3 13th. 192 m. Imagine a strong breeze in your face. What do you play when there's little bail-out area and it's all carry? Need I say more?

POINTS

CD	A	G/F	B/W	L	F	V	G Ex	Total
18	8	9	10	8	10	8	19	90

THE COURSE

- Par 71
- Length: 5,972 m (green)
- The Island Golf Club, Corballis, Donabate, Co. Dublin
- Tel: +353 (0) 1 843 6205
- www.theislandgolfclub.com
- Green Fees: €135

COURSES NEARBY

Beaverstown
Corballis
Donabate
Malahide
Turvey