

# Tom Doak's Pacific Dunes Edges Out Pebble Beach on Top 100 Courses You Can Play



Photo by Kevin Frisch / Resort & Golf Marketing

Golf Magazine celebrates public golf courses in its September issue with the release of the 2008 Top-100 Courses You Can Play – a biennial ranking of the top courses across the country where membership is not a requirement to play. Pacific Dunes, Tom Doak's Links-style masterpiece in Bandon, Ore., edged out Pebble Beach Golf Links for the top spot on the list.

"What Pacific Dunes has going for it is that it's totally back to nature," says Joe Passov, Golf Magazine's Course Rankings and Architecture Editor. "There are no homes; there are no roads; there are some truly gigantic dunes that occupy holes; various routing quirks that are a lot of fun that you don't see elsewhere – back-to-back par 3s, four par 3s on the back nine alone – and you've got more ocean views there than you do at Pebble Beach."

-- Taken and edited from a Golf Magazine release <http://www.GOLF.com>

## SLICE OF LIFE

### Recalling Royal Birkdale and a certain caddie



By Terry Moore

**O**n Sunday afternoon at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, a smiling and very relieved golfer will be named the "champion golfer of 2008" and will hoist the famed claret jug of the Open Championship, aka the British

Open. This will be ninth time Royal Birkdale will have hosted the Open Championship and I always look forward to watching its majestic dunes-laden landscape confound the world's best golfers.

Forgive me for being a "course dropper" but I have played Royal Birkdale and found it to be wonderful although a stern test of true links golf. It was back in 1989 when I traveled to England to cover the Ryder Cup Matches at The Belfry in Birmingham. Several months before departing, I contacted budding course designer and world golf traveler Tom Doak and asked him for some advice on playing some courses in the region. Doak not only kind-

ly offered several "must play" suggestions but also generously mailed me a Michelin road map with the suggested courses and the routes to them highlighted in bright magic marker. A pre-Mapquest travel guide! With the itinerary in hand, I then wrote the suggested golf clubs, introducing myself and asking for a teetime on such and such a date. In my letter to the Secretary of Royal Birkdale, I distinctly remembered asking for his assistance in reserving one of his best caddies for me. I knew Birkdale would be a challenge especially for a first-timer and an able caddie would be an invaluable resource and ally. Okay, now here's the rest of the story.



Photo by Getty Images

Royale Birkdale