



CONTACT: Mike May (561-317-6111; mmaymarketing@gmail.com)

GOLFERS: GET READY TO PLAY ENGLAND’S ATLANTIC LINKS

Former St. Ives Resident Returns to Cornwall As Travel/Golf Writer

WELLINGTON, FLORIDA – June 9, 2017 – If you write about it, they will come. That’s the attitude that Wellington, Florida-based (an former St. Ives resident from 1977-1981) golf writer Mike May is taking as he prepares to travel to England this June to play golf on the [Atlantic Links](#), a group of six championship links courses at five golf clubs located in the three counties in the southwest of England: Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset. The six premier championship links are [Trevose](#) and [St. Enodoc](#) in Cornwall; [Royal North Devon](#), [Saunton East](#) and [Saunton West](#) in Devon; and [Burnham & Berrow](#) in Somerset. These six courses, clustered along the northern coast of the southwest of England, overlook the spectacular North Atlantic Ocean.

Burnham & Berrow is the closest of the six courses to London, just over a two-hour drive, west of London’s Heathrow Airport. Trevose is the furthest course from London, a four and a half hour drive west of the British capital.

May’s trip through the Atlantic Links begins on Friday, June 16, where he has a 12:58 pm tee time at Burnham & Berrow. May will conclude his first day by spending the night on the premises of Burnham & Berrow in [The Dormy House](#). This structure, a one-minute walk from Burnham & Berrow’s first tee, can house eight people in four twin-bedded rooms.

“It is a simple and convenient place to stay when playing this championship links course,” says Karen Drake, managing secretary at Burnham & Berrow, located in Burnham-On-Sea. “Those who stay in The Dormy House have the chance to get fully immersed in the Burnham & Berrow experience.”

May’s next round of golf will be over the championship links designed by the great Harry Colt at the Trevose Golf & Country Club near Padstow, Cornwall on Monday, June 19. That evening, he will stay at Trevose in one of the 4 to 5 star-rated self-catering apartments or lodges which are located on-site. The following day, Tuesday, June 20, May will wake up to the sound of crashing waves, seagulls

squawking, and the cleansing scent of the fresh Cornish sea air and then drive north into Devon where he will play a round at Royal North Devon. That evening, he will spend the night at the [Saunton Sands Hotel](#) which is located adjacent to the club and overlooks the spectacular sandy beach that stretches for miles near Braunton in Devon. On Wednesday, June 21, May will remain in Devon and play 36 holes at Saunton East and Saunton West. After that day, May plans to do as the locals do, so to speak, and have fish & chips for dinner at [Squire's Fish Restaurant](#) in nearby Braunton. This restaurant is considered by many to be the number one premier fish & chips restaurant in North Devon. He will conclude his journey along the Atlantic Links by playing 18 holes at St. Enodoc, a James Braid layout, located in Rock in north Cornwall, on Monday, June 26.

“We are pleased to host Mike on this editorial tour through the Atlantic Links,” says Helen Heady, a spokesperson for the Atlantic Links. “Mike’s proven qualities as a writer and his passion for golf are why we are delighted to have him as a guest at our courses this June.”

It’s worth noting that **Royal North Devon**, once referred to as Westward Ho!, is the oldest golf course in England and is known as the ‘St Andrews of the South.’ While that golf course is steeped in history, the golf artifacts and collectibles inside the clubhouse at Royal North Devon have made this a must-see destination for golf historians from around the world. Three-time Open Champion Sir Nick Faldo feels that if **Saunton East** was in a part of England with better infrastructure, it would have hosted The Open Championship by now. Faldo also said that playing at **Saunton East** and **Saunton West** is one of the most enjoyable 36-hole golf experiences in Great Britain. Over the years, **St. Enodoc** has lured a host of legendary Open Champions to its fairways including original course designer James Braid, Henry Cotton, Jim Barnes and Tom Watson, which adds to the prestige of this exceptional course. Five-time Open champ J.H. Taylor once said that **Burnham & Berrow** is “one of the most sporting courses conceivable.” And, **Trevose** is such a first-class venue that the English Men’s Amateur Stroke Play Championship was held at this classic Cornish links course as recently as 2008.

Another benefit to playing the Atlantic Links is that there are many non-golf sightseeing venues in the area such as Stonehenge; the remains of the Roman baths in Bath; one-of-a-kind seaside villages such as Clovelly in Devon; and countless coastal communities in Cornwall that all claim to have the most delicious fish & chips and best seaside views -- plus the finest cream teas -- in all of Great Britain.

“For years, golfers from around the world have been flying to Great Britain, where they have made a beeline for Scotland to play courses like St. Andrews (the Old Course and the New Course), Turnberry, Royal Dornoch, Carnoustie, Gleneagles, and others,” says May. “Now, with my stories about the Atlantic Links, I’m focused on educating golfers about the great golfing opportunities in the southwest of England. In Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, the weather is better, the cost of golf is affordable, the quality of the championship links golf courses is as good, tee times are more accessible throughout the year, and it’s a shorter commute to the courses from London. Once Americans get a taste of the Atlantic Links, the word will spread about this trail of six championship links.”

In many respects, this golf expedition to the southwest of England is a ‘homecoming’ of sorts for May who lived for four years in the late 1970s/early 1980s with his family in St. Ives. When May lived in St. Ives, his parents (Chris and Joanne May) co-owned and co-operated the Pedn-Olva Hotel in St. Ives from June 1977 to July 1981. It was there, while playing golf at the nearby West Cornwall Golf Club in the village of Lelant, that May’s connection to golf was nurtured and blossomed. May was also a playing member of the St. Ives RFC, where he played for the Colts under the coaching leadership of Matthew Stevens. While in England, May took and passed his ‘O’ Level and ‘A’ Level exams at Truro

School in Truro, Cornwall in July 1981. He then returned to the U.S. to attend the University of Florida, where he graduated from in May 1985.

At the end of his journey along the Atlantic Links, May plans to return to his former hometown of St. Ives, where he will play yet another editorial round (or two or three) at the West Cornwall Golf Club, which is the oldest golf club in the county of Cornwall and arguably one of the most scenic golf courses in the United Kingdom with views of the beautiful St. Ives Bay from 16 of its 18 fairways. Upon arrival at the West Cornwall Golf Club, he plans to donate a series of golf-related merchandise to the club which can be used as prizes in upcoming club competitions. May plans to be in the greater St. Ives area from Saturday, June 17-Monday, June 19 and then again from Saturday, June 24-Wednesday, June 28.

While on the tour of the Atlantic Links, May will be wearing golf apparel provided by Carnoustie, Antigua and Gold Toe Golf socks; using Titleist Pro V1 golf balls provided by Matt Godek Rugby & Soccer Supply; golf shoes supplied by New Balance Athletic Shoes; new PerformanceGrip Pro golf gloves provided by Bionic Gloves; hitting Mizuno JPX 850 irons (courtesy of the PGA TOUR Superstore); and using woods from Krank Golf. Visit Britain is providing airfare support for May's trip to England. To honor the playing of this year's U.S. Open at Erin Hills in Erin, Wisconsin and the inaugural Senior LPGA Championship at the Pete Dye Course in French Lick, Indiana in July, May will be wearing hats that honor and recognize both events. May's first round at Burnham & Berrow will coincide with the second round of this year's U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

"To play your best golf, you have to be wearing the top-notch golf apparel and using great equipment," states May. "I'll be ready for any course and weather conditions along the Atlantic Links. And, I'll be taking notes and pictures along the way."

He also plans to play the Perranporth Golf Club in Cornwall, a links course designed by five-time Open champion James Braid, as well as the nine-hole Isles of Scilly Golf Club, located on the island of St. Mary's in the Isles of Scilly, which is located roughly 30 miles off the southwest coast of Cornwall.

For more information about the Atlantic Links, access its website: www.atlantic-links.co.uk/

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