

Double Crossword

No. 258

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid

Cryptic Clues

Classic hole redesigned



The newly designed third hole at Royal Dornoch, showing the proximity of the houses to the course.

ONE of the classic holes on Royal Dornoch Golf Club's internationally-renowned Championship Course will be fully re-opened in March after being re-aligned.

The re-design of the 413-yard 3rd hole was approved at the club's annual meeting in August 2013. Work started in October and was completed by mid-December.

The club was formed in 1877, but in recent years houses have been built overlooking the hole. To ensure safety for home owners as building has increased, the club took action to re-align the hole, while striving to preserve the course's integrity and reputation among golfers from around the world.

The design work by Mackenzie & Ebert Ltd and construction by the Royal Dornoch green keeping team means the 3rd fairway has been moved to the right by about 25 yards towards the sea, away from the course boundary. This will encourage golfers to play the hole more to the right.

Neil Hampton, Royal Dornoch Golf Club's general manager, said: "Golf course design does not stand still and we have to evolve alongside the development of Dornoch as a whole.

"Safety concerns and a desire to exist harmoniously with our neighbours are of paramount importance to us. But we also had to consider the impact any re-design would have on the character and status of the course, to maintain our standing among players from around the world and our ever-improving world ranking.

"I believe we have achieved the right balance which suits both local residents and our playing clients."

Fairway bunkers have also been moved under the changes and will now be visible from the tee and will test the better players. The design has been completed by old fairway turf being transplanted to blend into the new lay-out and whin bushes moved into the left valley.