

A course called Clare.

I have been lucky enough to play all the golf courses in County Clare in the last 12 months and have been putting together my favourite 9 holes from all the courses, some have been too challenging to make my perfect 9 hole course but that does not mean that they are not great holes.

Hole 1 has to be the first at Doonbeg, what a view and the perfect start to any round of golf, a par here will boost the confidence and is a great introduction to any links course.

Hole 2 is the tricky par 3 hole 9 at Kilrush, carrying water all the way to the green and water on the right of the green, if you do not hit the flag with your tee shot then you are in for a big score.

Hole 3 time for a par 5 and the 12th on the Championship course at Lahinch, big tee shot required and it still leaves you a massive shot to get close to the green for a short iron with your 3rd. The green will kill you if you do not get close to the pin. Plenty of pot bunkers to eat you up if you fall short.

Hole 4 and another big drive required across water on the 7th at Woodstock, if the tree does not block out your second then you have another fine shot over water in to the huge green.

Hole 5 gives you every opportunity on a par 3 to make a birdie or a triple bogey, the 17th at Shannon. Out on the edge of the Shannon peninsula and the wind can destroy your tee shot. Leave it short

and you are in the Shannon, go big and you could find yourself half way down the 18th fairway.



Hole 6 and back to Lahinch and the 8th hole on the Castle course. Another big carry over water and the green can be driven if you are brave enough, but a load of trouble if you are short, not for the feint hearted.

Hole 7 is the 10th at East Clare, again a drive over water to a dog leg fairway and a long uphill second to a very tricky green. Trees



and water can ruin your first and second shots and accuracy in line and distance is the key to success on this tricky par 4.

Hole 8 is my second favourite hole in the County, the 7th at Dromoland. A little par 3, fantastic views from the tee box overlooking the green, the lake and the Hotel. Being short here is OK but go left, right or long and you are in big trouble. Any ball sitting on the green will give you a lot of pleasure in the walk down to the green.

Finally, hole 9, my favourite hole in County Clare is the 7th at Spanish Point. It can be your best friend or your worst enemy. The drive has to be on the left of the fairway to give you any chance of hitting the green in two shots. Go down the right and you have an impossible second shot over the mine and no chance of holding the green.

This hole is the perfect end to any round of golf as the pleasure in reaching the top of the hill and firstly seeing your ball still on the green and then looking beyond and seeing the fabulous Wild Atlantic Ocean cannot be beaten in Clare, Munster or Ireland.

A stunning par 3 9 hole course that would have the greats of golf queuing up to play. I am sure you all have your own opinions on the greatest holes in Clare, why not put them down on an email and send to spanishpointgolf@gmail.com. I will collate and see what comes out as the favourites.

Author: Les Seal