



SUMMER GOLF **No 1 Doonbeg, Co Clare**



1 WHY ALL THE FUSS?
An hour's drive from Shannon airport, it's the only course in Europe designed by Greg Norman and the only proper links course he has created. Last week's Open champion Stewart Cink, right, popped in for a round before Turnberry and it clearly didn't do him any harm. The views of the Atlantic are breathtaking

2 AM I IN LINE FOR A BEATING?
As with all links golf, that depends on the wind. High handicappers and those who struggle to keep the ball on the short stuff will struggle — it's quite possible Shergar could be hiding in some of the thicker rough. But it's a fair, fascinating challenge and the greens are rarely short of perfect

3 AND AFTER THE GOLF . . .
If the weather's good, walk along the beach or sit outside the clubhouse bar for a beer and compare yourself with the others teeing off the first and coming up the 18th. If you booked for a night at the Lodge (see below), be sure to eat in The Long Room, the main restaurant. There is a very good spa, an invaluable resource in keeping golf widows on board

4 ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?
You may have heard about the 100-yard par-three 14th hole, which can require anything from a five-iron to wedge, depending on the wind. England cricket great Ian Botham has listed Doonbeg, along with Waterville and Portmarnock, as one of his favourite courses. American football legend Dan Marino, Keith Wood, left, and Terry Wogan are members and have served on the advisory board



5 ANY RECESSION-BUSTING DEALS?
Two nights' bed and breakfast, plus two rounds of golf and dinner on one evening in Darby's, the clubhouse restaurant, for €350 per person sharing doesn't sound like a great deal . . . until you get there. The accommodation is first-class, the service better (if that's possible) and the food is all sourced locally
Visit www.doonbeggolfclub.com for more