

New clubhouse is ace!

Think grand... think walnut panelling, plaid carpet and traditional tweed-covered chairs. Yes, Donald Trump's new clubhouse at the heart of his Menie golf resort in Aberdeenshire is now open.

The granite clubhouse offers visitors panoramic views of the coastline, and a stunning 18-hole championship golf course. Designed to complement the existing MacLeod House, visitors pass under a granite arched canopy to enter the building.

Inside, it is decorated with dark wood, including solid oak doors, walnut panelling and bespoke tweed, leather and velvet furniture, into which golfers can sink after a hard 18 holes, or before a superb meal in the brasserie-style restaurant.

It's a family-friendly venue where anyone can come and relax and enjoy themselves, before or after their round, and for non-golfers it's a place where you can come and enjoy food and drink and take in spectacular views of the dunes through impressive floor to ceiling windows.

With an extensive walnut locker room, golfers will be able to enjoy the glamorous Trump touch even between games.

A spokeswoman said: "We've always had this fantastic, world-class golf course and now we've got a world-class clubhouse to match.

"We have an off-course experience that can mirror the quality and service that you would expect on-course."

Andrew McNair, director of Covell Matthews Architects, led the construction of the extravagant new building.

He said: "Mr Trump had a clear vision to create a club-

house that embraces the existing vernacular style as exemplified in MacLeod House, the architectural centrepiece of the golf resort."

Trump International Golf Links, Scotland opened in July 2012, and as he teed off for the first time, Mr Trump described it as "something really special".

However, even before the course had been completed, there was a question mark over the rest of the multi-million pound development due to controversial Aberdeen Bay windfarm. Mr Trump vowed not to continue with his plans if the 11 turbines were approved, as he believes they will ruin the views from the resort.

The legal battle over the proposals, which were eventually approved, continues but Mr Trump is confident they will not be built.

Earlier this year, he signalled his commitment to the future of the resort by lodging plans for a 400-capacity ballroom and banquet hall and a 30-room staff accommodation building, as well as 850 houses and nearly 2,000 holiday homes.

There are also plans to build extra hotel rooms in the 19-bedroom MacLeod House and Lodge hotel on the Menie Estate, while a proposal of application notice is being lodged for the MacLeod Course, the second 18-hole course.

Donald Trump said: "We've still got plenty of land left for the second course, which will offer tremendous views."

The Scottish Open is expected to be played at Trump Links in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

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The new clubhouse dubbed the "jewel in the crown" of Donald Trump's golf resort in Aberdeenshire

