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**FEATURE  
THIS WEEK**

## WHEEL come to you

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# Christmas market set to be a cracker

'We are delighted at the variety of shops taking part'

CAMPBELTOWN'S shops and businesses are pulling together to make a new Christmas market a festive cracker.

The event next month is the brainchild of Explore Campbeltown which is delighted at the response from its members

Around 35 businesses and outlets, including clothing shops, have already agreed to take part in the market which will be in the Malt Barns at Springbank Distillery on Sunday, December 8 between 11am and 4pm.

#### Promote

Explore Campbeltown has taken off since it was started earlier this year to promote the town's products and services.

Its spokeswoman Mairi Paterson told the Courier: 'We have had a great response to the Christmas Market.'

'We are delighted at the variety of shops taking part to complement

the craft and hot food stalls.

'It should be a super, fun-filled day for the family which, being under the cover of Malt Barns, where Springbank will provide heating, will not be affected by the weather.'

'There will be also mulled wine and hot toddies and hopefully a Santa's Grotto.'

'Called Explore Christmas in Campbeltown, it is an opportunity for any of our partners to showcase what we have to offer.'

'We plan to decorate the area with plenty of fairy lights and decorations as well as having some local musicians playing Christmas songs to give it a real festive market feel.'

CalMac will also be at the event, promoting the new Campbeltown to Adrossan ferry link which will resume service in spring.

## Million dollars up for grabs



## Cheers - and down in one!

Champagne celebration....did one of these four golfers win a life-changing million dollars at Machrihanish Dunes last Saturday? See full story on page 15.08\_c44golfrrnt01

### Top award for pipe major

THE man behind Kintyre Schools Pipe Band has received a top award for 'services to piping'.

Pipe Major Ian McKerral received the Balvenie Medal at the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championships at Blair Castle on Saturday.

See page 3

### Favourable wind for firm

WIND Towers (Scotland) Ltd continues to go from strength to strength, with a reported doubling of production in the past few months.

The Machrihanish-based business, which employs a staff of 135, is increasing its efficiency and winning new orders.

See page 3

### Former police station bought

THE former police station on Castlehill, Campbeltown has been bought.

New owner Michael Taylor, owner of Mull of Kintyre Sea Tours, hopes to convert the building, unused for the past four years, into storage space, studios and possibly small offices.

See full story on page 14.

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# One shot away from a million dollars

FOR a few glorious, tantalising seconds, John Paterson from Carradale imagined, 'It could be me!'

As the ball hung in the air heading straight for the 14th hole at Machrihanish Dunes last Saturday, he was in with a genuine shout of winning a Lottery-sized million dollars.

Alas, while his line was true, the ball stopped some yards short of the pin.

'For a few moments, it was incredibly exciting,' the 45-year-old told the Courier.

'I was very nervous. I was playing a Carradale Golf Club ball and just focused on the words on the ball as I prepared to hit it.'

'Perhaps, if it had not been so windy...'

John, a nine-handicap member of Carradale Golf Club who starts working soon with Cal-Mac, was the nearest of four finalists to clinching the 'Mach Dunes Million'.

Drawn at random as part of the golf club's life-changing promotion, the quartet all agreed it really was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

'It is all a bit surreal,' admitted Gary Quinn, 57, a strategic relations manager from Balloch, Loch Lomondside, before leaving for the golf course.

Gary, a 16 handicap and the only finalist to have previously had a hole in one, observed: 'You don't get many chances, no matter how slim, to win a million dollars.'

Despite the 14th at Mach Dunes last Saturday being a short 139-

yard par three, with the pin near the middle of the green, a hole in one was always going to be a long shot. The estimated odds of doing it are more than 12,000 to one.

Better odds than winning the Lottery, but then a lot more than four people are in every Lottery draw.

And the golfers had just one shot each.

Machrihanish Dunes took out insurance against the hole in one happening, and the whole event was videoed for verification purposes.

Gary added: 'We've been put up for two nights at the Ugdale with our partners or a friend and given two free rounds of golf - so we are all winners already.'

Fiona Larnach, 42, an Edinburgh accountant who plays off nine, said: 'We have nothing to lose, it's a lovely



John Paterson with his Carradale Golf Club ball which got nearest to the 14th pin. 08\_c44machmill03

All eyes are on the ball after Mark Love hits his million dollar attempt. 08\_c44machmill04

place and a superb opportunity.

'I just hope I look like I know what I'm doing.'

Mark Love, 46, a systems manager from Livingston with a 14 handicap, said beforehand: 'It's nerve-wracking. One of my friends got two hole in ones in the same round. I'd like a bit of his luck.'

Among those watch-

ing was Jimmy Kidd, one of the designers of the golf course. He said afterwards: 'Everyone was hoping that someone would get the magic hole in one - that would have been perfect.'

'It would have been a fabulous story and brought wonderful publicity.'

'It has been a great, fun occasion regardless.'

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