

The core of my book, *The Golf Odyssey With The Real McCoy*, centers on a list of the best golf courses in the world and my quest to play all of them. The list changes every two years. On this site you will be able to track all the changes and challenges over a 28 year period.

The first list of the best courses in the world was published by *GOLF Magazine* in 1979. It consisted of 50 courses presented in alphabetic order. The same format was used with the next list published in 1981. Then in 1983 the list was still the top 50 in the world, but ranked in numerical order. Then in 1985, the list was expanded to the top 100 courses in the world ranked numerically. This format has remained in place for each subsequent list.

With huge gratitude to my MIT educated numbers guy, **Paul Rudovsky**, the following pages list all 201 courses that have been on one or more of the 20 biennial rankings produced in the odd-numbered years. There are a lot of courses, locations, dates and numbers involved so the presentation format is challenging in order to bring consistency. It can become almost mind numbing to try to absorb so many - courses (201), countries (30), and lists (20 x 100 courses). I have chosen to begin near the international date line in Japan and work westward to the USA. Each year involved is also sorted by numerical order starting in 1983.

On subsequent pages the biennial rankings are presented by year starting with 1979. In order to track my progress, on each list I indicated the courses already played when the list was published and also the progress made in the two subsequent years until the next list appeared. Also presented are the additions and removals.

As a *GOLF Magazine* panelist beginning in 1986, my first voting responsibility was for the 1987 list. It is an honor and great fun reviewing every candidate course I have played over the years. The *GOLF Magazine* nomination list in 2017 had 522 courses and I have played 398 (76%). In my mind, I replay each course with all the circumstances, including all the travel. Remembering all the nice people I have met remains very special.

In 1988, I first completed playing the World Top 100 (1987 list). The non-USA quest began with the 1979 list on October 19, 1979 at Carnoustie, Scotland. The world quest finished on November 12, 1988 at the Gary Player Country Club in Sun City, South Africa. At the time the geographic location was designated as Bophuthatswana. I like to think of the international part of the odyssey as starting in traditional **Scotland** and finishing nine years later in remote **Bophuthatswana**.

Since the 1987 list there has been 15 subsequent lists with 82 course added and removed. I have played all 82 of the additions. With an October 2018 trip to Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong I finally completed playing every course that has ever been on at least one of the 20 lists. Thus, I became the third member of the "201 Club". Fellow panelists Paul Rudovsky and Tom Clasby had previously played all 201.

Finally, you can down load the PDF files to your computer and then play with the numbers to your hearts content using Adobe Acrobat DC.