Ross Society gaining membership, eyes regional events

Eger: Holding a U.S. Open on Pinehurst No. 2 would be ‘fitting tribute’ to designer

The USGA title event is booked through 1996. Eger, current North/South Amateur champion, shared the speaking spotlight with former N/S Amateur titlists Peggy Kirk Bell (1949) and Harvie Ward (1948). Eger, 48, made his first N/S title try in 1990. Eger was among prominent golf names welcomed into the Ross Society, now 3 years old and numbering 525 members. Ian Baker-Finch sent along with his membership application a scorecard he’d used while winning the 1991 British Open. Other new members included PGA Tour standout John Cook and golf course architect Arthur Hills of Toledos, Ohio. Hills joins peers Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Jack Nicklaus, Stephen Kay, Ben Crenshaw, Ron Prichard and Tom Doak. The Ross Society was formed to assist with restoration and preservation projects at golf courses designed by Ross and contemporaries. Barry J. Palm of Phoenix, Ariz., Donald Ross Society president and co-founder, said some day his organization hopefully will be headquartered at Pinehurst. From such a base, he declared, the society could serve the members and the game, and continue to promote Ross’ memory. Palm, assistant executive director of the Arizona Golf Association, pointed out that Ross members are from 40 states, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

“I like the idea of a U.S. Open on No. 2. I am sure that would be a ‘fitting tribute’ to Ross as an architect,” Eger said of the course that Pinehurst would have to meet several USGA stipulations, such as course conditions and greens fitness in June.

Compared to tractor gang mowers, the Toro 450-D weighs less and is equipped with wide 31-inch tires that spread the weight for the lowest PSI, further minimizing turf marking.

Kay: Keep it classic

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Kay intends to cling closely to the classic look in two 18-hole golf courses he is designing this year—Blue Heron Pines near Atlantic City, N.J., and Stanton (N.J.) Golf Club. Blue Heron Pines will be a mixture of Pine Valley, Bethpage Black, Oyster Harbors and Pinehurst No. 2, which are all on sandy soil with pine and oak trees, similar to Blue Heron Pines.

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