

Donald Ross Society winning members, answering the call

By Peter Blais

Current British Open champion Ian Baker-Finch recently became the 400th member of the Donald Ross Society.

Formed less than three years ago to help preserve the works of and pay tribute to the legendary golf course architect, the society now lists some of the golf industry's top players, architects and superintendents among its growing ranks.

It has also helped some members find work. Greens committees at several Donald Ross courses have hired architects for remodeling projects, in part, because they were Ross Society members, according to President and founder Barry Palm.

Among them are architects Stephen Kay at Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville, Mass., and Winchester Country Club north of Boston as well as Ron Forse at Hyannisport (Mass.) Country Club.

"In some cases the clubs have come directly to us looking for architects," Palm said.

Others who have joined the society include PGA players/architects Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Weiskopf and David Graham; architects Michael Hurdzan, Keith Foster, Ken Kavanaugh, Gary Panks, Dan Maples, Craig Schreiner and Ron Garl; and superintendents Brad Kocher (Pinehurst Golf & Country Club) and Charles Passios (Hyannisport CC and Golf

Course Superintendents Association of America board of director member).

As of the second annual meeting last May at Pinehurst, the society had already received 130 requests from Ross courses seeking historical data. The society has been able to fill about 60 percent of those requests, Palm said.

"If we have the blueprints, we'll photocopy them and make them available," Palm said. "If we don't have them, we might be able to help locate them elsewhere. We've found

Ross drawings in local zoning board office files, stuffed away in drawers at course maintenance buildings and other places.

"Sometimes we're successful. Other times we've found that plans went up in flames when the old town hall burned down. You never know."

Ross' daughter has indicated she may donate many of her father's papers and drawings to the Tufts Archives in the Given Library at Pinehurst, Palm added.

The two-day fall meeting at Salem

Country Club in Peabody, Mass., drew 70 people. The third annual meeting is scheduled for April 14-18 at Pinehurst No. 2, site of October's PGA Tour Championship, is one of Ross' most famous courses. Twelve of Ross' 385 layouts are among *Golf Digest* magazine's Top 100 courses in the country.

The society also raises money for its Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund, given to a student of golf course architecture.

"The Donald Ross Society was started as a way to recognize the

tremendous contribution Mr. Ross made to American golf and to promote his spirit to people who appreciate classic golf course architecture," Palm said.

"I am personally very gratified that more than 400 people across America have become members of our society in just two years. It is a real testament to the greatness of Mr. Ross."

For more information write Donald Ross Society, P.O. Box 403, Broomfield, Conn. 06002, or telephone 203-243-1433.

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Wood, Verplank join Heckenkemper on Okla. design

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — PGA professionals Willie Wood and Scott Verplank assisted architect Randy Heckenkemper in designing the city's newest golf course, the daily-fee SilverHorn Golf Club, which opened in August.

Developers David Hardin and Elby Beal said the \$5-million SilverHorn was built to fill the need for a high-quality, championship-level facility in the area.

"SilverHorn is tough enough to challenge the scratch player, yet forgiving enough for the casual golfer," Hardin said.

The course features up to six tees and plays from 5,400 to 6,839 yards.

Louis Pugh is superintendent of the 170-acre course which is dissected by four winding creeks through eight holes.

Golf Works Construction Co. built the course. Resort Management of America is managing it.

Credit Pulley alone

Royal Virginia Golf Club in Hadensville, Va., was designed by Algie Pulley. Lester George, now with Colonial Design, was project manager and lead design coordinator. In a Golf Course News article in November the course was described as a co-design of Pulley and George.

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