

Growing Donald Ross Society prepares for reunion

PINEHURST, N.C. — The Donald Ross Society, whose membership has grown to 1,100 in six years, will hold its annual meeting April 20-23 at the Mid Pines and Pine Needles courses here.

Members will play golf, socialize, exchange ideas, and present financial assistance to apprentices of at least two architects working on golf course restoration projects.

The Ross Society "has had a lot to do with the move toward restorations rather than renovations," said Michael Fay, acting secretary and co-founder the society along with Barry Palm, Steve Edwards and Bruce Taylor. "More clubs are seeing their

Ross, [A.W.] Tillinghast, [Alister] Mackenzie or Willie Park Jr.-designed golf courses as an asset with value, and are restoring them rather than building something new and different."

Because of its interest in promoting "pure restoration," the Ross Society is often contacted by club officials whose courses were designed by the "classic architects."

"We will research the [Ross] archives in North Carolina and contact our architects network to see if we can find the original plans of the course considering renovation," Fay said. "We will recommend where to look for aerial photos. Aerials of any-

thing near a body of water are in the naval archives. And we recommend [architects] we know will do true restoration work."

Fay said he works with the superintendent and architect on a job, checking the course before and after the restoration.

The society boasts members in 39 states and six foreign countries. Fay said 25 or so are architects, 30 to 35 are superintendents, and a number are golf professionals, including Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Paul Azinger, Ian Baker-Finch, John Cook and David Graham.

More information on the society and the meeting, people may contact Fay at P.O. Box 403, Bloomfield, Conn., 06002.

Mackenzie book

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the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin. Readers of the manuscript can go on my dream trip to Cypress Point, Pasatiempo, Augusta National, The Royal Melbourne, The Eden course at St. Andrews and others, and perhaps feel the true 'spirit of St. Andrews,' " Haddock added.

Peter Alliss of BBC, ABC Sports, called the book "a masterpiece. I've never read a more interesting book on golf — page after page of common sense and information — a bit of magic to lift the spirit."

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, who also has read the manuscript, said: "It is an incredible find for golfers and it is as if the reader gets a chance to sit down with Alister Mackenzie and meet not only a brilliant architect, but one of the most provocative characters the game has produced.

"When you sit down and read the book, it is written in a wonderfully entertaining style, full of great anecdotes of his contemporaries such as Hagen, Sarazen, Jones and other friends of Mackenzie that teach valuable lessons to all golfers."

This manuscript gives "a window, or insight, into Mackenzie's mind as a designer," Hurdzan said.

Reading the original manuscript is like sitting in Mackenzie's living room sipping a few Scotches while listening to the legendary genius talk of the evolution of golf, the general principles of course architecture, the economy of golf course construction, the ideal holes and golf course, the art of greenkeeping, how to shoot in the 70s at age 60 and some thoughts on golf, which are the titles of the seven famous chapters of his book.

In his forward to "The Spirit of St. Andrews," Bobby Jones states: "An astonishing amount of golf — that is, good golf — is played between the ears. If this were not so, I doubt if we should trouble ourselves to play the game."

Haddock added: "Dr. Mackenzie's wife (Haddock's grandmother) was an artist who did the greens drawings, water colors of golf holes and paintings—some of which I plan to have hanging in my home."

What is Haddock going to do with the original handwritten manuscript? "I have not made a decision yet and all I can say, for now, is that I am mulling over a few ideas!" he said.

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"The Spirit of St. Andrews," by Dr. Alister Mackenzie, foreword by Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, will be available at \$24.95 this month from:

Sleeping Bear Press, Brian A. Lewis, Publisher, 121 South Main St., Suite B, P.O. Box 20, Chelsea, Mich. 48118-0020; telephone 800-487-2323, 313-475-4411; Fax 313-475-0787.

The book is also available from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in Lawrence, Kan.; 800-472-7878.



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