

American Golf Architects Federated

THE American Society of Golf Course Architects, the first of its kind in the world, has been organised by the men who plan and build golf courses in the United States. Ten charter members of the new Society met at Pinehurst Country Club to discuss a constitution and draw up a code to govern the conduct of their business. They were the guests of Donald J. Ross, president of the Pinehurst Club, honorary president of the Society and the foremost golf architect in the United States. Mr. Ross, who has been associated with Pinehurst since 1900, is a native of Dornoch, Scotland, and in America he has laid out over 600 courses.

The chief purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest in better golf architecture and construction and to reduce costs of maintenance, which, like everything else, have been rising steeply. The use of modern tools, such as the bulldozer, is credited with keeping down the cost of laying out a new course, and also in reducing the cost of maintenance because the bulldozer enables a good, varied course to be laid out on flatter ground than was formerly considered possible by the simulation of hills and rises which provide the right kind of layout but are not subject to wash and other damage from

rains that increase maintenance costs on older courses. Cutting down hills and the levelling of difficult grades is popular with many clubs because this reduces the physical strain on older players and enables clubs to retain these players.

Qualifications for membership in the Society has been set in four classes.

A regular member must satisfy the Board of Governors that he is responsible and competent to design, maintain and direct construction of a course. He must be at least thirty years of age, and have no less than six years' experience in golf-course design and construction; have designed at least five creditable courses and directed construction on at least the same number.

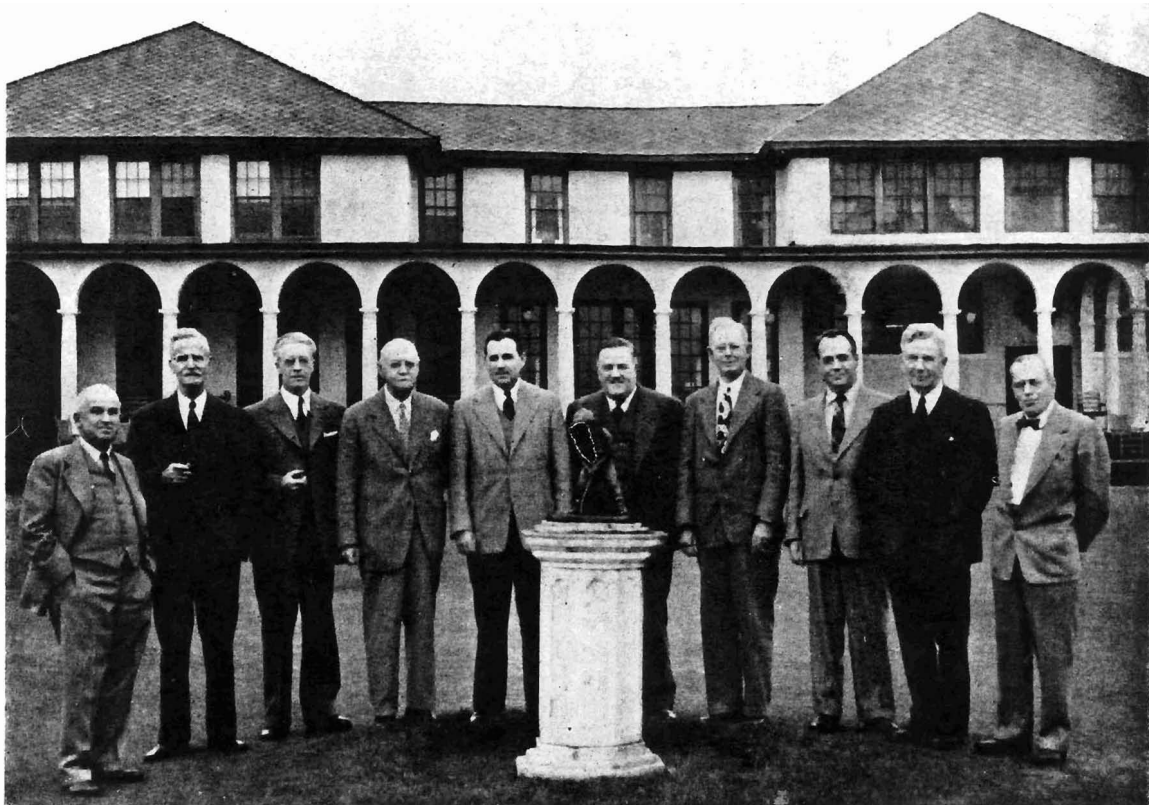
Complimentary membership is open to amateur golf-course architects who do not accept payment for course architectural work, and who are patrons of and have made notable contributions to the science of golf-course architecture.

Honorary membership is open to professional golf-course architects who have made notable contributions to the profession or to the advancement of the game itself, and Senior membership to members who have been in good standing for ten years or more and have reached the age of seventy years.



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The American Society of Golf Course Architects gathered at Pinehurst. There is a similar Society in Great Britain. *Left to right*: Arthur P. Bell, Pasadena, California; Robert White, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; William B. Langford, Chicago and Palm Beach, Florida; Donald J. Ross, Pinehurst, N.C. (*Honorary President*); Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago (*President*); Stanley Thompson, Toronto (*Vice President*); William F. Gordon, Doylestown, Pennsylvania; Robert Trent Jones, Montclair, New Jersey (*Secretary and Treasurer*); William H. Diddel, Carmel, Indiana, and J. B. McGovern, Wynnwood, Pennsylvania.

WITH regret we learn of the sudden death of Donald Ross. Mr. Ross, 75 years of age, was a native of Dornoch where he learned under the late Mr. John Sutherland the science of turf production. He was constructing courses right to the end and a few days before his death he entertained Henry Cotton to tea at his home adjoining the third hole at Pinehurst. He was stricken with a heart attack and he died after two days in hospital. When news of his death reached Pinehurst clubhouse two tournaments had started. Some members considered the tournaments be cancelled and the club closed but it was decided that as Donald Ross had lived for golf all his life, that he would have wished for the tournaments to go on; for the golfers to continue to play the game. The flag at the club was lowered to half-mast. The tournaments were completed.