

## Royal Dornoch Golf Village - Pinehurst, North Carolina

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Royal Dornoch Golf Village complete with golf course and clubhouse was recently created in the pinewoods of North Carolina as an expression of the admiration felt by many Americans for Donald Ross of Dornoch, Scotland. In 1898 Ross landed in Boston with few dollars in his pocket but with the skill of golf as second nature in his person having acquired that in his boyhood on The Links of Dornoch.

Two hours by car north of Inverness, Dornoch dignified with its 700 years old Cathedral is the County Town of Sutherland - the Viking "Sudrland." A golf links since 1610 it has been a school of golf since 1886 when "Old Tom Morris" St. Andrews laid out the eighteen hole course which the rich English quickly discovered and regularly frequented ever since.

Early in 1972 an envoy from Old Dornoch brings official greetings along with a replica of the Dornoch Coat of Arms for presentation to the New Dornoch in the woods of North Carolina. The envoy is Donald Grant, historian of Royal Dornoch Golf Club and an authority upon the Royal and Ancient Game. A veteran golfer, Grant has won trophies at home, in Switzerland, in Austria and, in 1928, represented New Zealand against Australia in a kind of Walker Cup match.

Donald Grant began to swing a club in the days of the old guttie ball which he often played out of water the "Burn" being the hazard. Younger than Donald Ross he was very friendly with the Dornoch-Pinehurst veteran in his later years and visited him ~~every time he came to the U.S.~~ <sup>many times</sup> It is surely fitting that Donald Grant should be the envoy now to establish the direct relationship between Dornoch, Scotland, and the new Dornoch across the Atlantic.

The most northerly first-class golf course in the world, its latitude 58 degrees north of the equator, like Churchill on Hudson's Bay, Royal Dornoch is one thousand miles nearer the Pole than Pinehurst. Yet golf throughout the winter is quite usual there on fine grassy terrain. An oceanic, almost a cosmic force, The Gulf Stream, swings out from the Florida coast to cross the Ocean and lave the coasts of North Scotland giving Dornoch its mild climate and year round golf winter and summer.

Donald Grant