



Donald Ross – 1926  
Dick Wilson - 1950

## **ORIGINAL DESIGN DOCUMENTATION**

**For:**

**Delray Beach Golf Club**  
Delray Beach, Florida

Prepared By:  
Sanford Golf Design

**DECEMBER 1, 2020**

**For:**

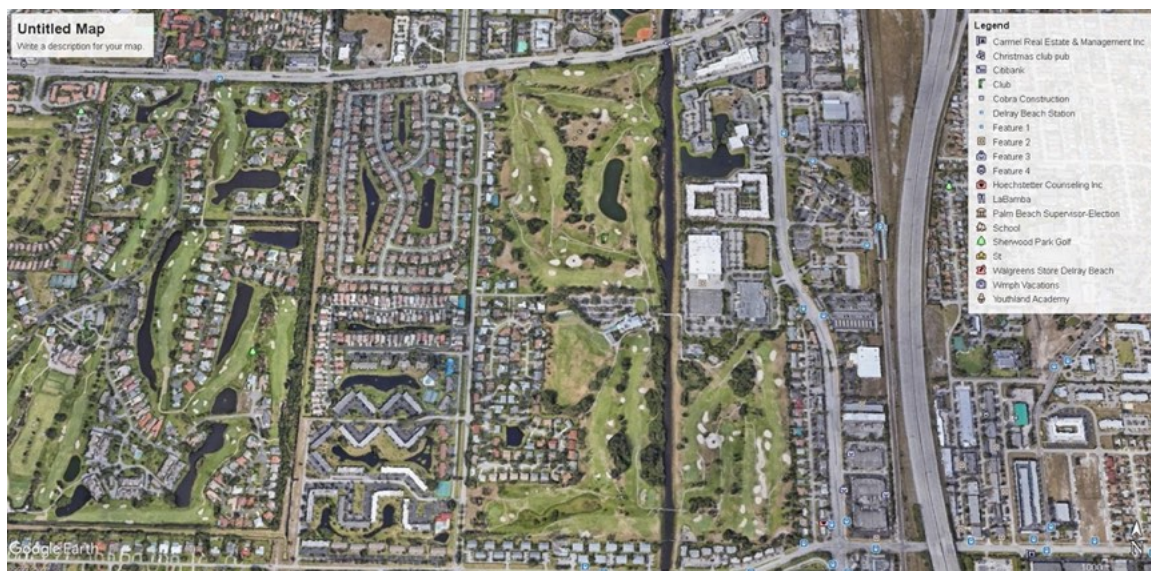




## Delray Beach Golf Club – the Ross Nine Delray Beach, Florida

### Overview

Delray Beach GC is a popular, modestly priced municipal daily-fee facility operated by JCD Sports Group on behalf of the City of Delray Beach, FL, Department of Parks and Recreation. In its heyday of the 1960s and 1970s it registered as much as 80,000 rounds a year; more recently it still manages a robust 60-65,000 rounds annually, almost all of it on motorized carts.



### Golf Course Timeline

- 1923 - City of Delray Beach purchases the land.
- 1926 - Nine Donald Ross holes open (south 9 holes).
- 1942-45 - Course closes due to World War II.
- 1950 - An additional nine holes (current front 9) opens, designed by Dick Wilson
- 1959 - Bunkers renovated.
- 1962 - A third nine, designed by Red Lawrence, creates a 27- hole complex. Existing 18-holes remodeled by Robert Bruce Harris feature large oval bunkers, revised strategy and re-routed golf holes.
- 1981 - The Lawrence nine holes closes; golf course reverts to 18-holes. Third nine land (northeast quadrant) develops into a commercial property.
- 1992 - 18-hole renovation completed with architect Karl Litten. Greens rebuilt, bunkers rebuilt, course re-grassed and new cart paths.
- 2000 - Trees removed on front 9



2003 - Turf was removed from well areas, lake adjacent to hole 1 was expanded and lined, greens rebuilt to USGA specifications, and minor renovation to the golf course by Ward Northrup.

2005 - The golf course suffered significant damage from multiple hurricanes. Large trees were removed, and bunkers were rebuilt.

#### Par-72

Gold tees: 6,907 yards, 72.9 Rating / 123 Slope (m)

Blue tees: 6,360 yards, 70.3 Rating / 121 Slope (m)

Green tees: 5,788 yards, 67.5 Rating / 119 Slope (m); 73.4 Rating / 124 Slope (w)

White tees: 5,189 yards (63.7 Rating / 111 Slope (m); 68.9 Rating / 116 Slope (w)

Red tees: 4,377 yards (60.7 Rating / 104 Slope (m); 64.6 Rating / 107 Slope (w)

#### Delray Beach Design History

The course has a glorious design and cultural history, one that started with a nine-hole course designed by World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Donald Ross in 1925. A second nine, comprising today's back nine, was added in 1950, designed by the legendary Florida-based architect Dick Wilson, who also happened to be the course's superintendent. A renovation by architect Robert Bruce Harris saw major changes to the original bunkering across 18-hole design in 1962. In remodeling the 18-holes, Harris shifted several holes on the Ross Nine, revising the strategic design and introducing the use of larger oval sand bunkers throughout the course, many of which still exist today. At the same time, a third nine, on the northeast quadrant of the property, was added by Robert "Red" Lawrence, though it eventually gave way to commercial development in 1981 and has been eliminated entirely. The "original" Ross/Wilson 18-hole course has been subjected to extensive renovation since, by the likes of a series of architects – Roy Case, Karl Litten, Ward Northrup - who made no effort at restoration and were simply trying to address maintenance issues.

In the 1950's touring professionals, such as Tommy Amour, and celebrities, such as Jackie Gleason, would stop over in Delray to play the excellent Ross/Wilson-designed layout. As Betty Jameson, LPGA Hall of Fame member and long-time Delray resident, recalls, "It was accurate in measurement, had excellent fairways and exceptional drainage." In fact, it was listed as one of the top ten courses in the country at the time! As word spread, more and more players and club professionals began "hanging out" at Delray Beach Golf Club. Until the extensive development of private club and resort golf in the area in the mid-1960s, it was a place to be seen in golf in the area.

It is clear that Delray Beach Golf Club was originally design by two of the great golf course architects from two different eras. Donald Ross is arguably the most famous and prolific designer from the 'Golden Age' era and Dick Wilson is considered one of the top golf course architects from the post WWII era. We are not aware any other 18-hole golf course in the country that can boast of these two prolific architects



having each designed 9-holes. We recommend the City utilize this unique design history to guide the restoration of both 9-holes in the style and character of the original architects. This approach to the project and successful course restoration will garnish much attention in the golf world and can be used to market the facility once the restoration is complete.

While the bulk of the original (Ross/Wilson) 18-hole routing remains, there is little in place today of their distinctive, trademark design touches evident in the bunkering, greens or strategy. In particular, the combination of shrunken greens and overly large, oval bunkering on the Ross Nine is completely out of sorts with what Ross would have designed back in the mid-1920s.

Luckily, there exists the technical capacity to bring back much if not all of that character, not so much in an act of pure “restoration” as in the process of an imaginative reconstruction that adapts the chief traits of Ross’ historic design elements with modern considerations of playing strategy, aesthetics, agronomics and drainage. Such an undertaking, when coupled with a parallel process on the Dick Wilson front nine, would have a powerful branding impact on the Delray Beach Golf Club and stamp it as unique among all of America’s public courses. We know of no other golf course – private, public, resort or municipal – whose design heritage is characterized by two nines by these two luminaries of their respective eras of design: Ross the classicist of the Golden Age of Golf Course Architecture and Wilson pre-eminent proponent of a modernist, aerial approach to the game. There are, by the way, as far as we know, no other golf courses in the country with such intimate experience at the hands of three of the original 14 founding members (Ross, Harris, Lawrence) of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

A restoration-inspired renovation of the property will bring newfound attention to Delray Beach GC and restore it to a leading position in the history of American municipal golf.



## Architectural Heritage

Donald Ross, 1872-1948

Donald Ross was the most influential and prolific of golf course designers in the first half of the 20-th Century. A native of Dornoch, Scotland, he learned his golf at the famed links of Dornoch Golf Club (it only became “Royal” in 1906, long after Ross left the country). There he started learning to become a golf professional, club maker and greenkeeper, a trio of trades he would hone while apprenticing under Old Tom Morris at St. Andrews before taking over at Dornoch in 1894.

Five years later he came to the U.S., where he headed up the golf operation at Oakley Country Club outside Boston and rebuilt the golf course. It was his first real design project. Soon he started spending his winters at a start-up resort in the North Carolina Sand Hills called Pinehurst, where he would go on to build and rebuild four of the getaway’s golf courses, including his culminating work, Pinehurst No. 2.

In the period from 1900 until his death in 1948, Ross designed, redesigned, expanded and tweaked 410 golf courses. He spent his winters based in Pinehurst, the warm season in the area of Boston-Worcester-Rhode Island, and in between he traveled the rails transforming the American golf landscape. During the 1920s he was working on 15-20 courses a year. Over a 13-year period of the Golden Age of Golf Corse Architecture his courses held eight U.S. Opens (Brae Burn, 1919; Inverness, 1920 & 1931, Skokie, 1922; Oakland Hills, 1924, Worcester, 1925; Scioto, 1926; Interlachen, 1930). This was also the era when he produced some of his most memorable courses: Plainfield, 1921; Oak Hill, 1923; Salem, 1925; Holston Hills and Aronimink, 1928; Seminole, 1929). In the middle of that incredible run he also laid out the 18-holes for Delray Beach GC, nine of which were built and opened in 1925.

His ability to produce sound routings was unparalleled among his peers; no designer of the era had a better understanding of how to make use of a tight parcel or complicated land and produce a sequence of holes that were lined together with intimate green-to-tee walks. It was a skillset that evolved gradually but that was based on his ability to read the land and, after World War One, to work off of topographic maps.

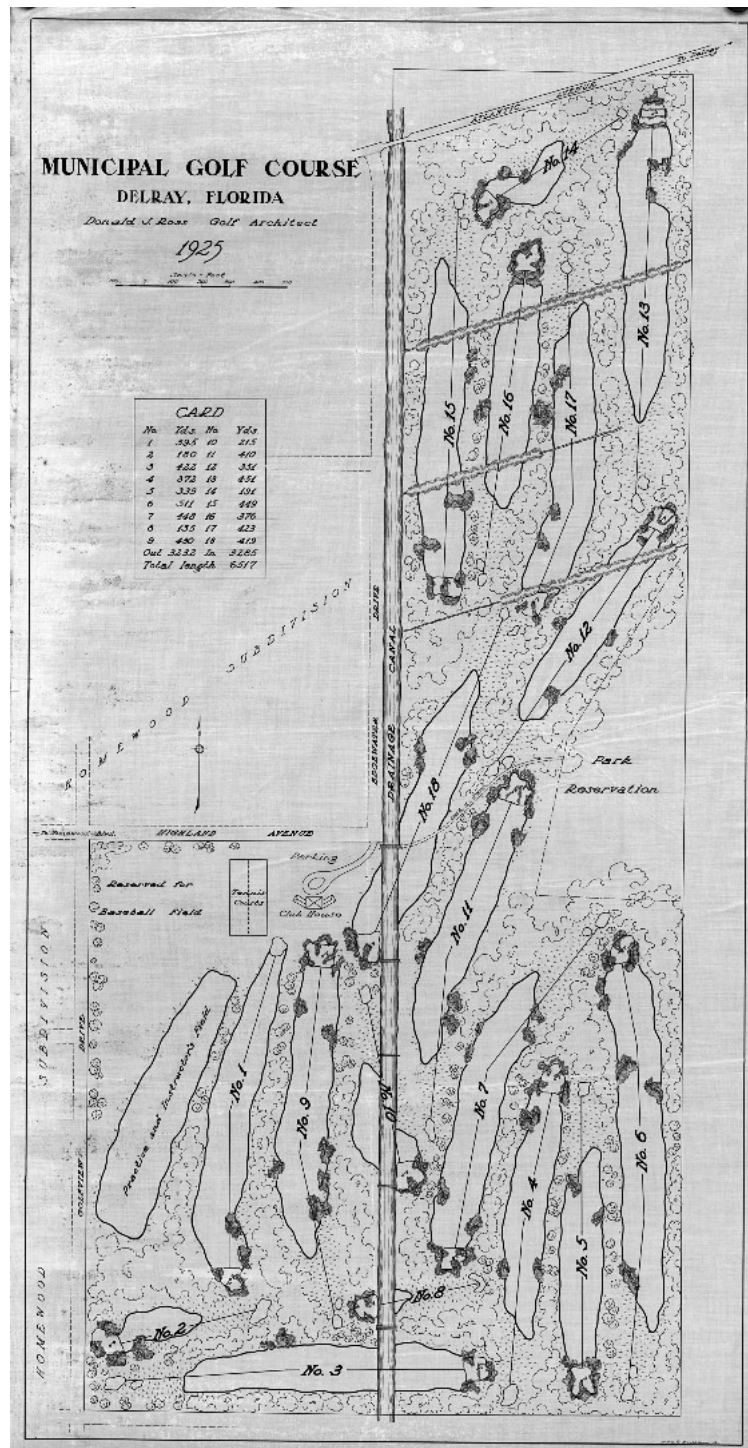
It helped that he developed a solid, efficient core of associates who rose to the occasion that his workload demanded. Two fulltime associates, Walter Hatch from Massachusetts and J.B. McGovern from Pennsylvania, were virtually at his side – or out on their own in his behalf – for a 20-year period. Ross’ design work achieved a whole new level of topographic sophistication in Oct. 1920 with the hiring of in-house civil engineer Walter Irving Johnson, whose unenviable task it was to convert Ross’ often scratchy field notes into graphically attractive design plans on blueprint. Personal correspondence was handled by Eric Nelson, who job it was to follow Ross





around the country with a stream of telegrams, letters, plans and budgets so he would be prepared at each stop along the way.

It was probably in the winter of 1923, after Ross stopped off at St. Augustine, Fl. on Jan. 8, that he headed down for a design trip along Florida's East Coast that would have included both Gulf Stream and Delray Beach GC.

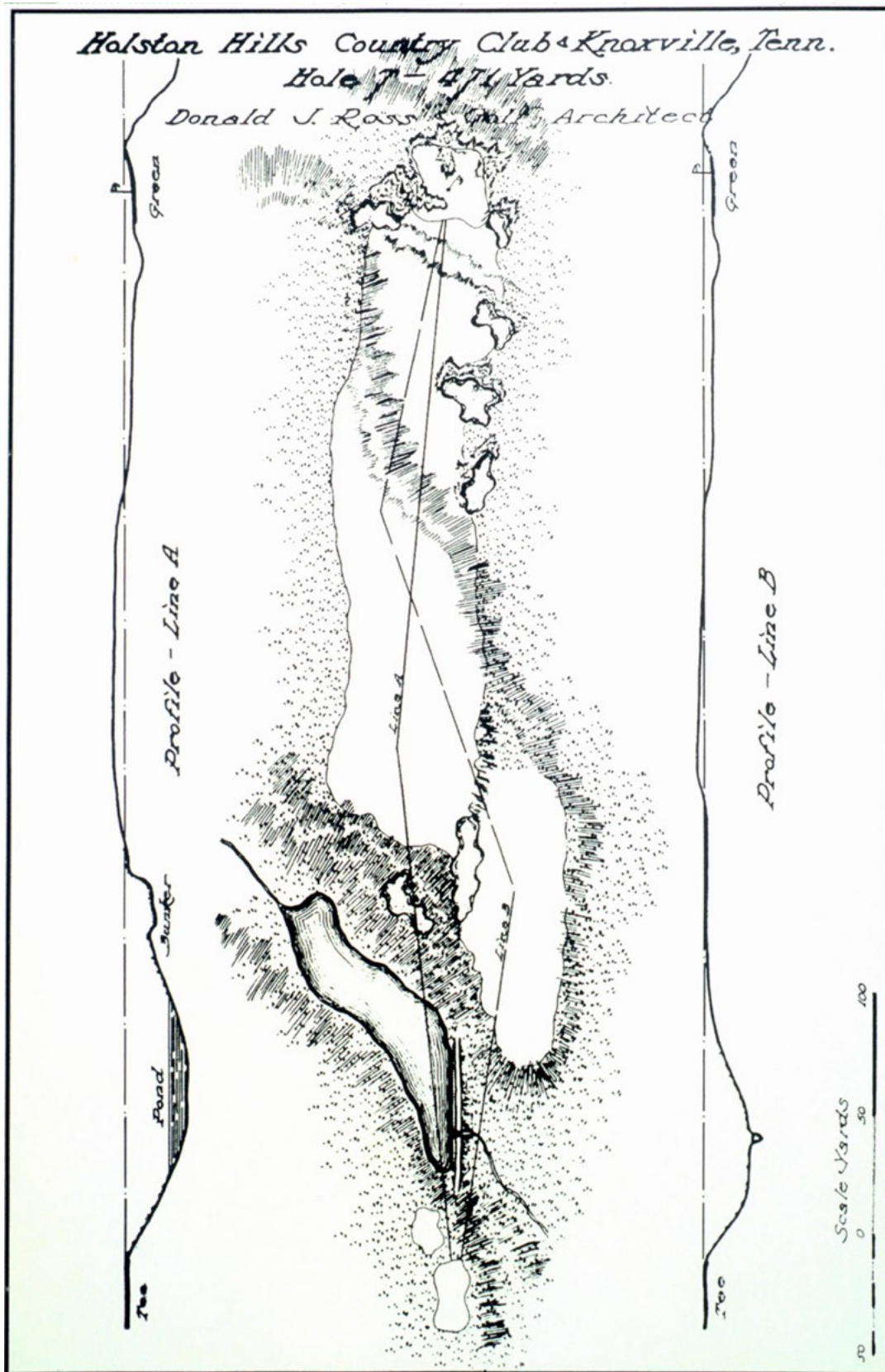




Ross design work was then in a state of evolution – as in fact it was throughout his half century of work. As described in the definitive biography “Discovering Donald Ross” (Bradley S. Klein, 2001, 2011),











Ross 1925 plan overlaid on current site (above).



1968 aerial routing overlaid on current site (above)



Ross was not just a prolific designer. His insight into golf strategy was enormously helped by his skill as a golfer. His playing record includes a T-8 in the 1910 British Open at St. Andrews, play in seven U.S. Opens, three wins in the Pinehurst North-South and two wins in the Massachusetts Open.

He was also a skilled agronomist, constantly improving new turf types of Bermudagrass, overseeded rye and German bentgrass on various plots he cultivated. And his understanding of club making – including his own branded line of equipment in the 1920s and 1930s enabled him to understand the importance of the evolution of playing equipment, whether the advent of the rubber core Haskell ball, the shift from wooden to steel shafts or the significance of the sand wedge.

Ross' understanding of golf history is reflected in his design evolution. Efforts to codify Ross "rules of design" by formalizing his five decades of work into a single set of guidelines miss the point of the various phases and stages by which his work matured. It's possible, for example, to identify three general eras in his long design history.

The first one, starting around 1900 and lasting to about 1920, is marked by a playful use of native features, no earth-moving other than shaping greens, and the use of randomly scattered natural elements to form mounds, cross bunkers, central hazards and vast variety (including inverted, convex bunkering) in a non-linear scattering. The best examples of this are Essex County Club in the Boston area (1910-1916), and the original version of Scioto in Columbus, Ohio (1916).

Delray Beach GC belongs to a second, more sophisticated look, one that coincides with the establishment of his longtime design associates team (Hatch, McGovern, Johnson, Nelson) and lasts through the 1920s. Here, Ross relied upon a more strategic use of bunkering in diagonal echelon, to mark high points, to create interesting angles and diagonal options. He also had larger crews for manipulating greens sites, digging out bunkers and building tees. And he could clear land with more ambition owing to larger budgets and enhanced earth-moving equipment. Among the standout courses of this era are Oak Hill (1923) and Salem (1925), though our preference for inspiration are actually more modest projects in out of the way places that have remained untouched to this day and that still convey that feel from his creative work. Chief among these are Teugega in Rome, N.Y. (1921) and nine-hole Whitinsville in Ma. (1925), the latter ranked among the finest nine-hole courses in the world.





Whitinsville, 1925. Short par-32<sup>nd</sup> hole in lower left corner.

A third phase is identifiable that developed during the 1930s, one that saw Ross pare back his styling to accommodate an era of efficiency and streamlining, with spartan deployment of bunkers and more reliance upon earth moving to smooth out crumple edges. Among the works here are two designs from the late 1940s – Hartford GC in Ct. and Raleigh CC in N.C.

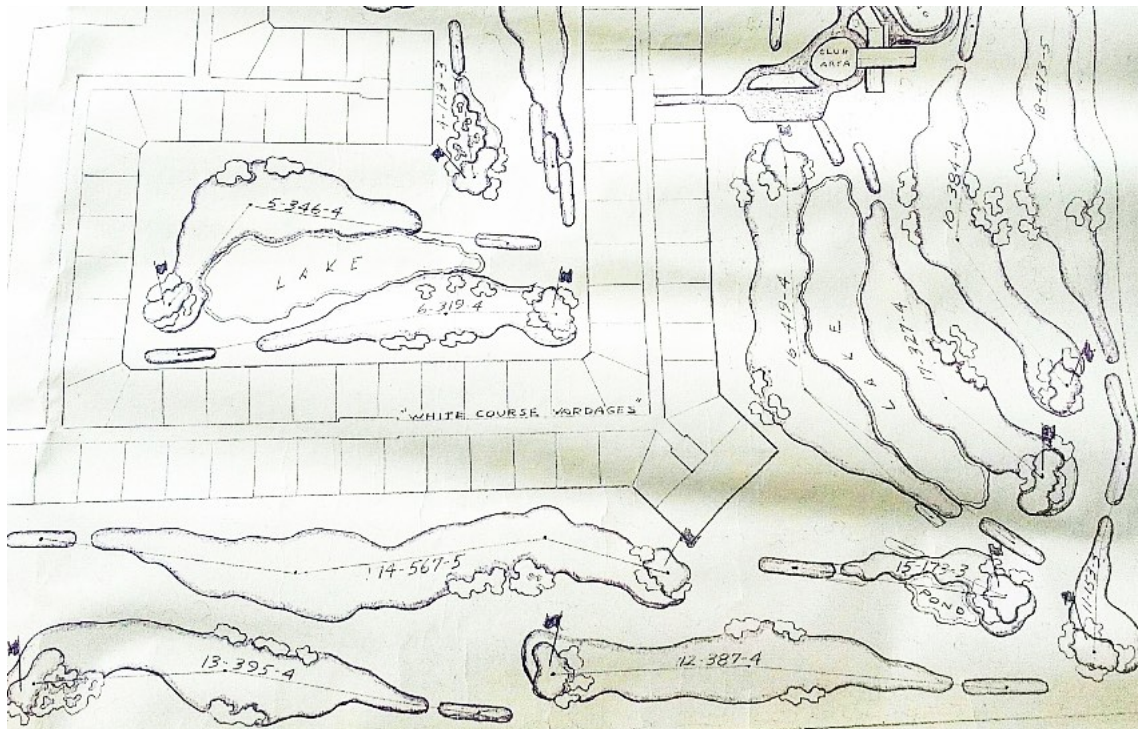
Delray Beach GC was not a one-off municipal project. Ross was a pioneer among his colleagues as an early and consistent advocate of affordable public golf. He implemented this commitment in a wide range of quality municipal projects: a 54-hole facility in Savannah, GA, two in metro-Detroit; free-standing courses in Charlotte, Philadelphia and Cleveland; in Asheville and Wilmington, N.C., Sarasota, Jacksonville and New Smyrna Beach, Fl., Providence, R.I., Erie, Pa., Galveston, Tx., Gainesville and Augusta, Ga. He did three in Boston, including the monumental George Wright Municipal GC (1935).





## Dick Wilson, 1904-1965

Philadelphia native Dick Wilson worked as a young laborer on the construction of the Merion Golf Club in Philadelphia. He later attended the University of Vermont on a football scholarship. After university he returned to Merion before joining the design/build team of Howard C. Toomey and Bill Flynn of Philadelphia. In 1931 he supervised construction when Toomey and Flynn undertook a total rebuild of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. He also worked with Toomey & Flynn he also worked on the Cleveland Country Club, two golf courses at the Boca Raton Resort, the Country Club (Brookline) in Massachusetts and Indian Creek Club in Miami Beach. After Toomey's death in 1933 and the decline of business due to the Great Depression, Wilson took the dual jobs of golf pro and greenkeeper Delray Beach Golf Club – then a 9-hole facility. He remained there until World War II, teaching frequent notable visitors, including the parents of Pete Dye.



Wilson's Original Plan for Pine Tree Golf Club, Boynton Beach, Florida - 1962

He spent the war years constructing and camouflaging airfields. In 1945 Wilson formed his own golf course design company in association with a Miami earth-moving firm, the Troup Brothers. His early post-World War Two works, especially West Palm Beach CC and NCR CC in Dayton, Ohio, established Wilson as one of the most sought-after architects of the 1950s and 1960s – indeed, as a rival comparable to Robert Trent Jones Sr., who was then at the zenith of his career. Due to health issues and a predilection for staying near his home in Boynton Beach, Wilson designed relatively few courses in his later years so he could give personal attention to each work bearing his name. He maintained a staff of loyal and talented assistants



who handled much of the actual design and construction on some projects, mostly relying upon Joe Lee and Robert von Hagge, and to a secondary degree on Bob Simmons and Ward Northrup.



Wilson's JDM Country Club (now BallenIsles), Palm Beach Gardens, Florida was the site of the 1971 PGA Championship won by Jack Nicklaus.

Mr. Wilson is credited with the design of many notable courses in Florida, including Doral (Blue), Pinetree, Bay Hill, JDM (East) and remodeled Seminole Golf Club. His Florida courses tended to include large raised tees, greens and bunkers. As a fine athlete and golfer, he incorporated elements of strategic design including carry bunkers, split fairways, well bunkered and angled green complexes that put a premium on tee shot placement. He had a penchant for angling the green at about 30-degrees, then bunkering the inside of the approach – thereby creating angle, options and varied hole locations that could change how the holes played depending upon pin placement and wind. One of the consequences of his limited travels is that the design detail he invested on paper was occasionally 'lost in translation: when it went to construction. This is especially evident in the plans for Doral-Blue Monster, a property that Wilson avoided entirely during construction due to disagreements with the owners. His plan on paper shows brilliant complexity of angles, especially on the tee shots. But the "as-built" version was simpler and less sophisticated in its production.





Wilson, himself a very fine golfer, was among the architects ushering in a new, modern aerial approach to power golf. Partly this was undertaken out of professional opportunity – a chance after years of no work to update and modernize a whole classical era of golf courses while building new ones to meet the growing demand of suburban recreation. The inclination would have been enhanced by the availability of large earth moving equipment that enabled architects to move dirt on a scale unimaginable in the Golden Age of Architecture. A perfect example of this in Wilson's case was his complete remodeling of Scioto CC in Columbus Ohio in 1961-62. His plan turned its back on the original Ross design with its centerline bunkering and ground game approaches; Wilson's plan called for lateral bunkering that paralleled the fairways, all of it raised 3-4 feet above grade to facilitate drainage, with all new putting surfaces and greenside bunkering at grade 5-8 feet higher than the existing topography. In regrading all of the salient features, he converted a classical ground game course into a vertical one calling for aerial attack golf



Pine Tree Golf Club, Florida - 1962

In his original design work Wilson was keen to make the features evident to golfers. One of his outstanding achievements in this regard is his beloved Pine Tree GC in Boynton Beach, where he lived out the last years of his life and polished off what many regards as his most characteristic work. There on a site that offered all of 5-foot elevation change across the entire tract, he created well-bunkered, slight raised putting surfaces that made most everything visible to the approaching golfer. The bunkering varies from side to side but the greenside bunkering is repeated, with low-depth sand on either side of the approach plus more sand behind – all of it visible. It was a theme that could be found in his original design of the nine at Delray Beach municipal, though there he relied upon a very limited approach to fairway bunkering – only the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> holes had it. But every green was bunkered in the same tell-tale way as at Pine Tree, even if the shaping was simpler from the outset. Bringing back its look and feel would not be terribly difficult and would contrast ideally with the deeper, more ominous appearing shaping of bunkers on the Ross 9.





1953 aerial with Wilson's additional 9-holes north of the original Ross 9-holes at Delray Beach GC.

### Red Lawrence

Robert "Red" Lawrence began his career in 1919, as layout engineer of Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York, becoming part of what is known as the second generation of major American golf course designers. He is also known as a member of the "Philadelphia School" of golf course design and was involved in the re-design of the original and premier example of this school the Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

In his early career, Lawrence was largely under the tutelage of William S. Flynn between 1921 and 1932, serving as the course architect's design assistant. He then became the manager of several important golf and country clubs during which time he remodeled Boca Raton Resort. After World War II he became a full-time golf course architect designing or redesigning over a dozen in South Florida.



Based on his experience with golf course architects like Toomey and Wilson, Red was hired by then owner Warren Grimes to layout a third nine holes at Delray Beach Golf Club. Mr. Lawrence was not onsite during construction and only visited the site to prepare the routing plan and the golf course opening.

Mr. Lawrence was a founding member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1946 along with Donald Ross. (Wikipedia)



1968 aerial showing Mr. Harris' changes to the Wilson and Ross holes and the Lawrence 9-holes in the northeast portion of the site. From the early 1960s to the early 1980s the club operated as a 27-hole facility.



### Robert Bruce Harris

Following service in the US Navy during World War I Mr. Harris attended the University of Illinois, earning a degree in Landscape Architecture. An avid golfer, he laid out his first course, Old Channel Trail GC in Michigan, in 1926. He continued to specialize in Landscape Architecture during the Depression but never stopped believing in the future of golf.

During World War II he renovated several abandoned courses and operated them as daily fee facilities. This experience lead emphasis on economical maintenance requirements in his designs. According to his detractors, he emphasized maintenance almost to a fault, resulting in large oval bunkering placed too far away from the putting surfaces.

By the 1950's he was fully dedicated to designing courses throughout the Midwest and South. It is estimated that he planned and remodeled over 150 courses during his career. In the 1960's Mr. Harris and his family purchased the Delray Beach Golf Club and made changes that created the golf course we know today. His significant renovation reflected his pragmatic view of golf course design; large easy to maintain bunkers spaced far enough apart large fairway mowers could operate in between, all grass maintained at the same height, simple flat greens. Several holes were also rerouted, including Ross #2, 3 & 4 and Wilson #2 & 4.

Harris was the first to conceive a professional society for golf course architects, patterned after the ASLA. Together with Stanley Thompson, Harris organized the ASGCA. He was a charter member and the societies first president (position shared with Donald Ross). Harris also coauthored, with Robert Trent Jones, an influential chapter course design that appeared in the first edition of H. Butons Musser's Turf Management (1950). He spent his final year at CC of Florida, his personal favorite design.







### Bringing Ross and Wilson back to Delray Beach

The existing Ross Nine – holes 10-18, are very different than as designed by Ross or as they opened for play in 1925. Some time between 1961 and 1968 the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> holes were lengthened at the tees, the 13<sup>th</sup> hole shortened at the green. On a relatively flat site these changes are not in themselves significant since the native landforms do not change dramatically on a site such as this one with unidirectional tilt of only 10 feet vertical from the low point (start of 11<sup>th</sup> fairway) to the high point (15<sup>th</sup> green). More consequential are the changes over time in the greens, which would have shrunk an indeterminate extent, though 20-30 percent would not be out of the ordinary due to years of topdressing, surface wear, mowing patterns and years of topdressing and play. The course was designed when Ross' greens averaged 5,000-6,000 square feet in size. Compare this to their current size, approx.. X,XXX on the Ross nine.

It's in the area of bunkering that the biggest, most consequential changes have occurred on the Ross Nine. The change was gradual, with the original Ross bunkers having been shrunk down by 1961, then expanded dramatically by 1968 in large, circular but low profile dishes. There is no need to go into a detailed timeline hole-by-hole of how this has happened. It suffices to point out that the large, ovoid bunkers now in place bear no relationship to anything Ross ever created. Moreover, their shape – as thin clamshells, with gradual out slopes rather than abrupt elevation changes denoting their depth, undercuts completely their function as hazards that define the difference between the approach area and the penalty area. They undercut the structure of the green fill pad and eliminate any ability to discern target lines that would differentiate between an ideal shot and a missed shot. Moreover their enormous size proves unduly punishing to high-handicappers, who now find themselves left with long greenside recovery shots, often with more sand to traverse than grassed area to cover between their ball and the hole. This destroys any notion of equity in play and bears no relationship to classic Ross design.

It should be pointed out that between 1961 and 1968, the changes to the bunkering on the Ross Nine paralleled those made to the Wilson Nine – as if the effort were made to create a uniform golf course. The original Wilson bunkering was sparse, with only the par-4 seventh hole sporting fairway bunkering. The rest of the sand hazards were placed diagonally on the green fill pads at 4 and 7 O'clock. By 1968 there is far more large-scale bunkering on the Wilson Nine – bunkering that now matches the scale and scope of the Ross Nine. Whatever distinctive differences in strategy between the two nines was now gone.

The evisceration of Ross character is evident at the short par-17<sup>th</sup>, a kind of hole that Ross deployed frequently in his design. The 1925 drawing shows a green framed around by bunkers – and in this case with a canal in front rather than the kind of deep frontal bunker Ross also relied upon in designing comparable short par-3s at Whitinsville (2<sup>nd</sup>), Wannamoisett (3<sup>rd</sup>), Vesper (4<sup>th</sup>) Northland (5<sup>th</sup>),



Teugega (7<sup>th</sup>), Scioto (9<sup>th</sup>), Worcester (10<sup>th</sup>), Oakland Hills-South (13<sup>th</sup>), Oak Hill-East (15<sup>th</sup>) and Longmeadow (16<sup>th</sup>).



Scioto 9<sup>th</sup>

We can never recall a Ross course with a par-3 featuring two large bunkers, one short, the other directly behind it long – the visual and strategic effects are simply to destroy any notion of land, target, shot or aesthetics. It would be easy here at the 17<sup>th</sup> to invoke one of these characteristic Ross holes for a short par-3 and recapture the spirit of the original design. Indeed, Vesper CC's 4<sup>th</sup> hole, 147 yards long, calls for a perpendicular carry across the Merrimack River to a green protected by sand front and on the sides but largely visible behind.



Teugega 7<sup>th</sup>



Elsewhere, we would recommend creating echelon bunkering and the occasional intrusion of a hazard across the line of play – as is evident in Ross’ original design for Delray Beach GC at what are now holes 11, 13-16 and 18. Such an orientation produces strategic options, giving the scratch golfer the opportunity to play risk/reward golf while allowing the tactful mid/high-handicapper the ability to play away from a hazard while still advancing the ball.

We would propose to “re-Rossify” this nine simply by creating slightly elevated teeing grounds – 2- feet or so above grade; relying upon a steep-faced but not deep bunkering, and rebuilding the putting surfaces into modestly raised fill pads 2-3-4 foot above grade, with front entrances at or near grade to allow for run-up options. The slight fill would be seen around the perimeter of the greens, which would fall off into modest but pronounced bunkers or, occasionally, where drainage and turf cultivation conditions allow for it, onto short grass that we would urge be maintained as a semi-hazard of tightly cropped turfgrass.

### **Hole-by-Hole**

No. 1, par-4: 295-333-354-374-401

- Move green back 40 yards, reclaim initial character as mid-range par-4
- restore delayed fairway bunkering on left side, pulled back from green
- flat leading edge to green, with plateaued area back left
- one greenside bunker front right

No. 2, par-4: 206-246-301-345-373

- restore to (very) long par-3 along edge of falloff on left, 250 yards from back
- restore bunker pattern providing room for run-up

No. 3, par-5: 367-407-460-500-561

- restore fairway bunker on left (to protect new 9<sup>th</sup> tee tee)
- green with straight front edge, one bunker right, mounding left and behind and plateau back right

No. 4, par-3: 97-137-163-188-225

- lengthen hole by 90 yards by moving tee 40 yards and green 50
- restore fairway bunkering as originally mapped out
- green with flat leading edge and two bulging plateaus mid-right/left

No. 5, par-4: 258-305-315-331-347

- realign tee more towards east
- restore early offset fairway bunkering
- tightly bunkered, well-guarded green with catcher’s mitts back left/right

No. 6, par-5: 362-412-467-490-508

- early offset bunker on left





- two diagonal bunkers across line of play on 2<sup>nd</sup> shot
- green center +10 yards back right, with back right raised tier

No. 7, par-4: 242-307-344-389-433

- restore early left fairway bunkering
- run-up bunkering pulled back to give room for ground game
- slacken greenside bunkering as appears it was originally designed as a 5-par

No. 8, par-3: 52- 82-111-141-165

- slide tee alignment to north to recreate more diagonal approach rather than perpendicular hazard crossing
- eliminate front bunker (water hazard already there (!))
- move green front center 10 yards shorter/closer to tee
- rely upon wing-bunkering and behind for standard Ross drop-shot look (Whitinsville, Scioto)

No. 9, par-4: 307-344-363-388-417

- move tee back 20 yards
- recreate echelon fairway bunkering on right and left
- offset second pair of fairway bunkers
- green accessible on ground to straight front edge

### Moving Forward

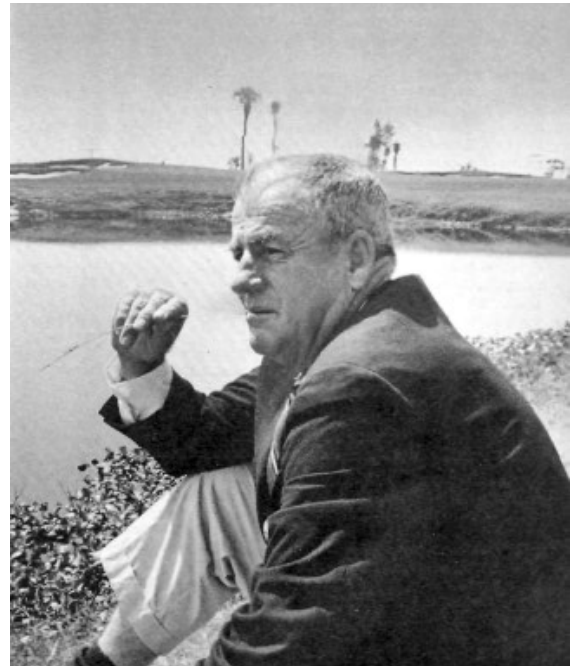
There is good reason to be optimistic about the future of quality municipal golf. The spur of play during the pandemic has shown the appeal of golf as an affordable, healthy outdoor recreation. There is every reason to believe that the newfound publicity enjoyed by the game will continue long after the pandemic has abated. The success of recent Ross restoration in the municipal golf arena – Fort Myers CC the pre-eminent one, having been restored in 2014 and since then booking 70,000 rounds a year. The trend is affirmed by the experience at other recently restored Ross-designed municipal tracts in Savannah, Providence, Boston, Wilmington, N.C. and Erie, Pa. This suggests that the public will flock to a quality, classically restored golf course because of the perceived value and because of the quality in the product. The positive attention focused on municipal golf is periodically strengthened by the USGA having committed to bringing the U.S. Open to such facilities: Bethpage-Black in 2002 and 2009; Torrey Pines in 2007 and 2021; Chambers Bay in 2015

In this sense Delray Beach GC has a wonderful branding story to convey once the fully restored nines are available. No other golf course we know of, not in the private sphere nor in the public, can boast of having nines by Donald Ross and Dick Wilson. Careful attention to a restorative approach and the successful reclamation of the Ross influence on the back nine bode well for the future of public golf at this unique municipal golf course.

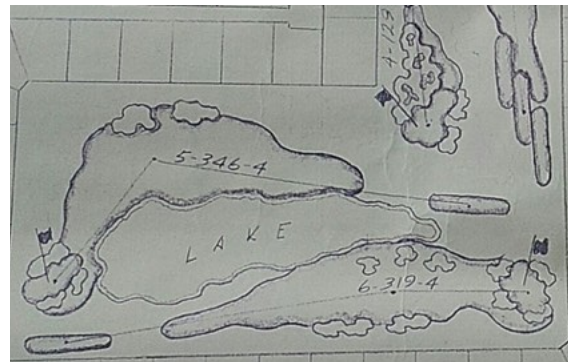
## Louis Sibbett “Dick” Wilson

### Biographical Timeline

- 1904 **Born in Philadelphia, PA.**
- 1922-24 Attended the University of Vermont on a football scholarship (quarterback)
- 1925 **Joined the Toomey & Flynn architectural firm**
- 1925-30 Worked on projects such as Merion (PA), Cleveland Country Club (OH), Boca Raton Resort (FL), the Country Club (MA) and supervised the complete overall at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (NY)
- 1931-41 Following the construction of Indian Creek Country Club, Miami, FL Howard Toomey died, and the Great Depression set in. Dick found work at Delray Beach Golf Club as the Pro / Greenkeeper
- 1942-45 During World War II built airfield camouflage
- 1945 **Started his owned golf architecture firm**
- 1947 First designs were Kinderton Country Club (VA), Seminole Golf Club-renovation (FL), and West Palm Beach Country Club (FL)
- 1948-52 Designed 4 courses in Virginia, Westmorland CC in Pennsylvania, and Delray Beach GC and Westview CC in Florida
- 1952 **Joe Lee joins the firm**
- 1953-57 Design 3 courses in Florida, Blytheville CC in Arkansas, Deepdale CC, Scarsdale GC and Meadowbrook in New York, Randor Valley CC in Pennsylvania, NCR Country Club in Ohio and the Villa Real GC in Cuba
- 1957 **Robert Von Hagge joins the firm**
- 1958-65 The most prolific years occurred during the late 1950s and early 60s. Notable courses included Cog Hill in Chicago, IL, LaCosta CC in Carlsbad, CA, Royal Montreal in Quebec, Canada, Bay Hill CC, Doral CC-Blue, JDM CC, Palm Beach Par 3, and Pine Tree GC in Florida, and Bidderman GC and Wilmington CC in Delaware
- 1965 Cavalry Club in Manlius, NY is Dick’s last design, opening 1 month prior to his death on July 5th.



Sports Illustrated – July 1962



Wilson’s plan for Pine Tree GC



West Palm Beach CC Opening Day 1947



Royal Montreal GC - 1959





Pine Tree Golf Club, Florida - 1962



Palm Beach Par 3, Florida - 1961



JDM Country Club (now BallenIsles), Palm Beach Gardens, Florida was the site of the 1971 PGA Championship won by Jack Nicklaus.

Dick Wilson, Architect

Joe Lee, Associate

O. J. Noer, Agronomist

Shelley Mayfield, Public Relations

Bob Simmons, Construction

**DICK WILSON, INC.**

**Golf Architects**

1100 S. Federal Highway

Boynton Beach, Florida

1950's advertisement

**THE BEST LAID PLANS.** Looking over the plans for new quarter of a million dollar golf course to be constructed at Cape Coral are, left to right: Connie Mack Jr., Cape Coral executive; Joe Lee of Delray Beach; Tom Weber, resident engineer of Cape Coral, and Dick Wilson of Delray Beach. Weber and Lee are golf course engineers and designers.

**Quarter Million Dollar Golf Course Planned at Cape Coral**

1960 article on Wilson's Cape Coral CC

**Former Quarterback At Vermont**

WILSON ATTENDED the University of Vermont on a football scholarship, as a quarterback, then joined a Philadelphia architectural firm, where he started learning the golf course designing business.

He has come up "the hard way," and had it plenty rough during the Depression, when he had to take a job as a country club manager because no golf courses were being built. But he went into golf course architecture full-time in 1945 and now has an Associate, Joe Lee, plus Fla., scheduled to open in December.

(The PGA's rating of Wilson had to be high, or those men who make their living playing and teaching golf would never have given him the assignment of laying out their new courses).

Wilson and some of his admirers believe, however, that the Pine Tree Golf Club course near Delray Beach, Fla., is his very best accomplishment to date. It is such a fine course that Arnold Palmer and Dow Finsterwald, both professionally connected with clubs nearby

**Links Wins International Fame**

MEMBERS OF the Country Club of Jackson and other golf enthusiasts of Mississippi will be interested to learn that the man who designed the club's new golf course, now under construction at the site north of the city, is ranked as one of the two best golf course architects in the world...

And many golfers and club officials contend that Louis Sibbett (Dick) Wilson is THE best, barring absolutely none.

The July 2 issue of Sports Illustrated contains an article by Gwilym S. Brown headed "Golf's Battling Architects."

the dress doesn't fit, neither the woman nor the dress is going to look any good at all. It's the same with building a golf course. You got to cut the course to fit the property."

Incidentally, building a golf course is complex and expensive business. It can require a

1961 articles on a new Wilson course in Jackson, Mississippi