



“The Wright Stuff”

Donald Ross Society

June 18 – 21, 2018

“The Wright Stuff” Ohio event featured some fine courses. On Monday the 18th Society members and guests faced a 100 degree heat index walking 18 holes with the benefit of caddies at Moraine Country Club. The club has a program to develop caddies and many prospective Chick Evans scholarship candidates. The course was recently renovated by Keith Foster in 2016 who returned it to Alec “Nipper” Campbell’s original inland links feel. The restoration was fantastic with open views on the course resulting from a tree removal during the restoration. Nipper Campbell was a Scot and rumored to be a distant cousin of Ross – which explains the design genetics.

On Tuesday, we were guests at Columbus Country Club an hour down the road from Moraine. Foster’s associate, Kevin Hargrave, did a wonderful work at Columbus CC. While the rain ended our round several shots shy of 18, a fine dinner and presentation by superintendent J R Lynn showed us before & after hole photos and highlighted the extent of the renovation that impacted two golf seasons. Improvements included drainage, tree removal and planting of fescue to provide a fine golf experience.

Our third day at Springfield Country Club saw a fun, challenging course with highly contoured and sloped greens, elevation changes and a firm lay out that allowed for a

fine round with no rain. Ron Forse has visited the course and softened the sloped greens in recent years. Members enjoyed dinner and a great presentation by Tyler Rae. Tyler has a fine pedigree with experience with Coore and Crenshaw and most recently learning his craft with Ron Prichard. Tyler's knowledge of Ross was impeccable as his presentation included a distinctive comparison of the Ross evolution and time frame laid out against his associates Hatch, Johnson and McGovern. Many who attended could have listened for another several hours.



Left to right - Mike Scerra, Chris Day, Murali Srinivasan at Springfield CC

It was unfortunate for us that Miami Valley was the recipient of rain for most of the day but there were several Society members who dared the elements to try the course. The clubhouse was a lovely piece of architecture with many pieces of Ross memorabilia throughout including a statue of the Master on the back nine. There hasn't been an extensive renovation or reshaping so it remained true to the Ross design and one can feel that through playing the course. I would love to play this course in dry, sunny conditions as it is unique with several par fives early on and the bunkering was largely done in large swathes on the front. The greens required a deft read with the subtle contours.

Special thanks are extended to Society members Tom Smith and Bill Case who helped create and organize the event.

Summary by Mark Rymuza
Event organizer
DRS Board of Directors