



Chinquapin Rd

Cherokee Rd

**RESOLUTION #23-25:**

**A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CO-OPERATIVE LIAISON OF MUTUAL BENEVOLENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA, USA AND DORNOCH, SCOTLAND.**

**THAT WHEREAS**, on November 23, 1872, Donald James Ross was born in the Town of Dornoch, Scotland; and in 1893 was named the Head Professional, Club Maker, and Keeper of the Green by the Royal Dornoch Golf Club; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1899 Mr. Ross emigrated to the United States and in 1900 was hired by the Tufts family to become the Head Golf Professional and golf architect in Pinehurst, North Carolina where he would become a world-renowned golf course architect until his death in 1948; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pinehurst Village Council desires to create a formal co-operative relationship with the Town of Dornoch to honor the work and legacy of Donald Ross; and

**WHEREAS**, the relationship will benefit both communities by providing awareness and tourism opportunities surrounding the sport of golf, the history of golf course architecture, and the work of Donald Ross;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village Council of the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina, in regular meeting assembled this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Village will enter into a Co-Operative Liaison of Mutual Benevolence Agreement with the Town of Dornoch, Scotland, the theme of which will be “Donald Ross: Birthplace to Workplace.”

**SECTION 2.** There will be an annual exchange of letters on the respective founding dates. The founding date for Pinehurst will be July 9, 1895, the date that James Walker Tufts acquired 658 acres from Lewis A. Page. The founding date for Dornoch, Scotland will be July 14, 1628, the date on which Dornoch was granted a Royal Charter. The content of the letters will be related to golf activity in the respective towns, the life and work of Donald Ross and the promotion of amateur golf for all ages.

**SECTION 3.** Dornoch Heritage SCIO, owner of History Links Museum in Dornoch, and the Tufts Archives in Pinehurst will together explore how to advance the heritage of Dornoch and the Village of Pinehurst, and whether they can reciprocally trade exhibits and other materials centered on the life and work of Donald Ross and developments in the world of golf course architecture and equipment.

**SECTION 4.** Because environmental awareness and sustainable golf tourism, among other opportunities in the golf industry are areas of mutual interest, the Town of Dornoch and the

Village of Pinehurst will work with the USGA, The R&A, the Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the Pinehurst Country Club, the Donald Ross Society, and The Tin Whistles to further pursue these interests.

**THIS RESOLUTION** passed and adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.



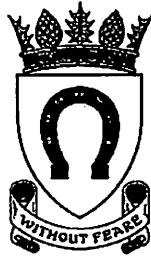
VILLAGE OF PINEHURST  
VILLAGE COUNCIL

By: *John C. Strickland*  
John C. Strickland, Mayor

Attest:

*Kelly Chance*  
Kelly Chance, Village Clerk

Approved as to Form: *[Signature]*  
Michael J. Newman, Village Attorney



**A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CO-OPERATIVE LIAISON OF MUTUAL BENEVOLENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA, USA [‘PINEHURST’] AND DORNOCH, SCOTLAND [‘DORNOCH’].**

1. **WHEREAS**, on November 23, 1872, Donald James Ross was born in the Town of Dornoch, Scotland; and in 1893 was named the Head Professional, Club Maker, and Keeper of the Green by the Royal Dornoch Golf Club; and
2. **WHEREAS**, in 1899 Mr. Ross emigrated to the United States and in 1900 was hired by the Tufts family to become the Head Golf Professional and golf architect in Pinehurst, North Carolina where he would become a world-renowned golf course architect until his death in 1948; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the Dornoch Area Community Council desires to create a formal co-operative relationship with Pinehurst to honour the work and legacy of Donald Ross; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the relationship will benefit both communities by providing awareness and tourism opportunities surrounding the sport of golf, the history of golf course architecture and the work of Donald Ross;
5. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Dornoch Area Community Council in regular meeting assembled on 21<sup>st</sup>.June 2023, as follows:
6. **SECTION 1.** Dornoch will enter into a Co-Operative Liaison of Mutual Benevolence Agreement with Pinehurst, the theme of which will be “Donald Ross: Birthplace to Workplace.”
7. **SECTION 2.** There will be an annual exchange of letters on the respective founding dates. The founding date for Pinehurst will be July 9, 1895—the date that James Walker Tufts acquired 658 acres from Lewis A. Page. The founding date for Dornoch will be July 14, 1628, the date on which Dornoch was granted a Royal Charter. The content of the letters will be related to golf activity in the respective towns, the life and work of Donald Ross and the promotion of amateur golf for all ages.
8. **SECTION 3.** Dornoch Heritage SCIO (which owns Historylinks Museum in Dornoch) and the Tufts Archives in Pinehurst will together explore how to advance the heritage of Dornoch and Pinehurst Village, and whether they can reciprocally trade exhibits and other materials centred on the life and work of Donald Ross and developments in the world of golf course architecture and equipment.
9. **SECTION 4.** Because environmental awareness and sustainable golf tourism, among other opportunities in the golf industry are areas of mutual interest, Dornoch and Pinehurst will work with the USGA, The R&A, the Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the Pinehurst Country Club, the Donald Ross Society, and The Tin Whistles further to pursue these interests.

**THIS RESOLUTION** was passed and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup>. day of June, 2023.

DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Murray', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Murray, Provost



HISTORY, CHARM, AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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September 20, 2023

**Comments for the Signing of the Co-operative Liaison of Mutual Benevolence Agreement between Pinehurst, North Carolina USA and Dornoch, Scotland.**

By John C. Strickland, Mayor, Pinehurst, North Carolina

To:

Mr. McGillivray

Mr. Murray

Mr. Hampton

Mr. Melville

Ms. Davies

And other Assembled Guests

I bring greetings to you from the residents, Council members and staff of the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina.

My wife Cynthia and I are privileged and honored to be here, in Dornoch Scotland, on this twentieth day of September, 2023.

On behalf of the Village of Pinehurst I have come to sign an “Agreement to create a Co-operative Liaison of Mutual Benevolence between Pinehurst and Dornoch”. The idea for this Agreement grew from a live streamed meeting on November 23, 2022 which celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> birth date of Mr. Donald J. Ross.

Realizing the significant connection between Dornoch and Pinehurst created by the life of Donald Ross, it was agreed that an arrangement of co-operation between our two towns should be pursued in order to honor Mr. Ross and promote the game of golf to which his life was dedicated.

The theme of our benevolent relationship will be: “Donald Ross—from birthplace to workplace”.

Our key objectives will be:

1. To promote the game of golf for all ages, the history of Golf course architecture, and the work of Donald Ross.
2. For the two Mayors to exchange letters annually reporting on significant golf activity in the towns during the prior year. The letters will be issued on the towns’ respective founding dates, both of which are in July.
3. For the Dornoch Heritage SCIO and the History Links Museum to explore with the Tufts Archives in Pinehurst how to promote the work of Donald Ross and developments in golf course architecture and equipment.
4. To mutually pursue environmental awareness and sustainable golf tourism.

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ADMINISTRATION

395 Magnolia Road • Pinehurst, NC 28374 • Telephone (910) 295-1900 • Fax (910) 295-4434 • [www.vopnc.org](http://www.vopnc.org)



HISTORY, CHARM, AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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Mr. Christopher Buie is a Ross scholar and biographer. He is the author of ‘The Life and Times of Donald Ross’, published in 2022. Mr. Buie lives near Pinehurst and I asked him to prepare a short commentary on Ross for this signing ceremony. I am pleased to be able to read his comments to you. Quoting Chris Buie:

*Thank you for the honor of allowing me to speak on this great occasion.*

*The importance of Dornoch to Pinehurst cannot be overstated. Pinehurst is essentially rooted in the principles and character that were instilled in your native son, Donald Ross.*

*The man’s unusual capability was a rare gift from nature. But the way in which the staggering talent found its expression was learned in this village.*

*From his family to his teachers, to his church and his mentor, John Sutherland, Dornoch shaped the character that elevated his adopted home. He remained true to the influence of Dornoch for the rest of his life. Integrity was at the forefront of his approach. Despite the incredible workload, Ross insisted superior quality be maintained. When you consider that he produced some 256 courses in the Twenties – all high quality, many brilliant – we get an idea of his commitment to excellence.*

*At the Free Presbyterian Church in particular, Ross learned a sense of right and wrong. Throughout his life, he was adamant that undertakings remain strictly on the proper side. As a young person, he found this disciplined approach a challenge. In adulthood, he was only grateful for the guidance of the village elders.*

*Due to the way the phenomenally gifted man was raised on these shores, Pinehurst became the American paragon of golf.*

*In hindsight, we can see that Donald Ross was the primary force in establishing the ancient sport as a fundamental part of American civic life.*

*He believed golf was more than a sport. He believed the game provided any number of ancillary benefits to the community as well as the individual.*

*Next year, 2024, marks a turning point for Pinehurst and American Golf. With the United States Open, the return of the Hall of Fame and the establishment of the USGA center, Pinehurst once again becomes the de facto Home of American Golf.*

*Not everyone watching all the play and the ceremonies will know what gave rise to this towering achievement. But you can be sure Pinehurst itself will know it remains forever in debt to this shining village of the Scottish Highlands.*

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HISTORY, CHARM, AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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Our signing ceremony today would not be complete without comments from Mr. Ross himself. Over the years I have learned that the best source of Ross' comments comes from the book 'Golf Has Never Failed Me' (1996), edited by Donald Ross's only child, Lillian Ross Pippitt.

#### Ross on America

"When I was a young man in Scotland, I read about America and the American businessman absorbed in making money. I knew the day would come when the American businessman would relax and want some game to play, and I knew that game would be golf. I read about the start of golf in the United States and knew there would be a great future in it, so I learned all I could about the game: teaching, playing, club making, green keeping and course construction. And then I came to American to grow up with a game in which I had complete confidence. Golf has never failed me".

#### Ross on Pinehurst

"Pinehurst was absolutely the pioneer in American golf. While the game had been played here in a few places before Pinehurst was established it was here on these sandhills that the first great national movement in golf was started.

Men came here, took lessons, bought a few clubs and went away determined to organize courses. They were men of influence in their communities. Their influence gave golf the sort of start it needed in many communities."

#### Ross on Dornoch

"Modesty forbids me saying more than it is the most beautifully situated links in the world, and that no American golfer should omit to go there, where he will find the best golf, a royal welcome and no rabble."

#### Presentation of the Pinehurst Banner to Paddy Murray, Provost of Dornoch.

A special banner for the Royal Burgh of Dornoch has been prepared by Pinehurst Village staff featuring the crest designed in 1995 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pinehurst's founding by the Tufts family. It is intended that the banner hang in the Dornoch Council chambers.

Signed:

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John Connell Strickland, Mayor Pinehurst

September 20, 2023

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HISTORY, CHARM, AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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Postscript: A Personal Note from John Strickland

I find myself in a unique position with respect not only to Donald Ross but his brother Alec Ross. Like Donald, Alec Ross was a club maker, keeper of the green, and a club professional. He was a U. S. Open champion. Alec Ross became the head golf professional at the Detroit Golf Club in Michigan where my grandparents, S.A. and Jean McMillan Strickland were members. I believe it must have been Alec Ross, encouraged by his brother Donald, who introduced many Michigan residents, including my grandparents, to Pinehurst in the 1920's.

My grandparents Strickland became avid golfers. They had four sons. Two of them, my father Russell and Uncle Richard became active golfers in Detroit and Pinehurst. My grandfather and his sons played many rounds with Donald Ross, especially on Course #2, and I remember them telling me that Ross was always tinkering with Course #2, changing it in subtle ways until his death in 1948. When my father died in 2006, he was probably the last Pinehurst resident to have played golf with Donald Ross.

Mr. Ross also handled some real estate transactions on behalf of the Pinehurst management. In 1941 he arranged for the home at 105 McKenzie Road West to be sold to my grandparents. It became a favorite gathering place for all the extended family. My first visit there was at age five, and I was fortunate to visit my grandparents in that house during my years at The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. In 1970 my parents retired to Pinehurst from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, extending our family experience in Pinehurst until their deaths in 2006 and 2008. My wife Cynthia and I retired to Pinehurst in 2005. We joined the Pinehurst Country Club and The Country Club of North Carolina. Our daughter and her family moved to Pinehurst in 2015. Along with our son and his family, they are members of The Country Club of North Carolina.

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HISTORY, CHARM, AND SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

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July 9, 2023

Patrick Murray, Provost  
The Dornoch Area Community Council  
The Carnegie Library  
High Street  
Dornoch, Scotland  
IV25 3SH

REF: A cooperative liaison of mutual benevolence Agreement between the Town of Dornoch Scotland and The Village of Pinehurst, United States of America.

Dear Paddy,

It has been very rewarding to work with the Dornoch Area Community Council, the Highland Council, and you since our joint celebration honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Donald Ross last November. Having signed our “Mutual Benevolence Agreement” in June 2023, I have prepared this letter in order to fulfill the requirement of Section 2 of the Agreement, namely, the annual exchange of letters on the respective founding dates of Dornoch and Pinehurst.

The Village of Pinehurst has grown to a population of over 17,000 persons according to the last U. S. Census in 2020. That is a fairly rapid growth rate from 10,000 about ten years ago. The reason for this rapid growth is largely connected to a major regional hospital system and related medical care facilities in Pinehurst which serves a large segment of North and South Carolina, but also due to the continued growth of golf in our community. The combination of the 1999, 2005 and 2014 United States Open golf championships here has resulted in a renewed interest in Pinehurst as “The Home of American Golf” and the golf architecture of the man who ties our towns together: Mr. Donald Ross.

Significant events will be occurring in the coming months that will amplify Pinehurst’s role in the world of golf. First, the completion of the USGA’s second headquarters, Golf House Pinehurst, is set for late this year. Golf House Pinehurst will contain the USGA’s testing facilities for golf equipment, its agronomy research division, and the memorabilia from the Golf Hall of Fame which was recently acquired by the USGA.

Second, Pinehurst Resort is nearing the completion of Course #10, located just a few miles from Pinehurst Village and the main clubhouse campus. Course #11 is expected to be constructed next to #10 in the near future. And third, the U. S. Open returns to Pinehurst Course #2 in June 2024.

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I know that the development of amateur golf for all ages is very important to our towns and our golf facilities, as noted in Section 2 of our Agreement. Pinehurst Resort is currently in the middle of its 123<sup>rd</sup> year conducting its famous North & South amateur championship matches. The U. S. Kids Golf championships, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, bring several thousand children and their families to Pinehurst area courses in July and August. Certainly, Dornoch and Pinehurst are thankful for this type of golf activity, but especially for the volunteers among our residents who commit their time to assist with the management of these events.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



John C. Strickland, Mayor  
Village of Pinehurst  
395 Magnolia Road  
Pinehurst, North Carolina  
28374 USA

Mr. Patrick Murray, Provost  
The Dornoch Area Community Council  
The Carnegie Library  
High Street  
Dornoch, Scotland, United Kingdom  
IV25 3SH

Mr. James McGillivray  
The Highland Council Headquarters  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness, Scotland, United Kingdom  
IV3 5NX

Mr. Graeme Ross, Secretary  
The Dornoch Area Community Council  
The Carnegie Library  
High Street  
Dornoch, Scotland, United Kingdom  
IV25 3SH

Mr. Patrick Murray  
Balloan House  
Balloan Poles Road  
Dornoch, Scotland, United Kingdom  
IV25 3HS

Neil Hampton  
Royal Dornoch Golf Club  
810279 Links House  
Golf Rd  
Dornoch, Scotland, United Kingdom  
IV25 3LW



## DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

John C. Strickland, Mayor  
Village of Pinehurst  
395 Magnolia Road  
Pinehurst  
North Carolina  
28374 USA

REF: A cooperative liaison of mutual benevolence Agreement between the Village of Pinehurst, United States of America and the Town of Dornoch, Scotland

Dear John

We are delighted to be exchanging the first of our annual letters in accordance with the Mutual Benevolence Agreement fittingly started in this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Donald Ross.

It was Sir Robert Gordon, Tutor and uncle of the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sutherland who first recorded a game of golf played on Dornoch links in the 1600s. Sir Robert played the game with his nephew, and commented that *'About this town there are the fairest linkes of any pairt of Scotland'*. Since that time, golf has become the beating heart of the town of Dornoch and a major economic driver benefiting the whole of the county of Sutherland.

Like Pinehurst, Dornoch is growing and our population will be just over 2,000 once the house building already in the pipeline is complete. Dornoch is becoming an increasingly popular location to live and while it seems to be primarily those in later life who are coming, our school rolls are also growing which will hopefully keep the town alive and young in the future.

Business investment in Dornoch remains strong. The Dornoch Station Hotel is having a multi-million pound refurbishment and will reopen for business as a 4 star luxury destination at the end of this month. The Courthouse is open again after closing last year due to lack of staff. The Royal Golf has been revamped under new management and is due for a major refurbishment this winter.

The Royal Dornoch Golf Club is looking to enhance its facilities with a new clubhouse, with tenders due to be returned by the end of August. Should the price be right, construction will start at the end of October. Part of that project will see the beginning of the remodelling of the Struie Course with the addition of a new 9<sup>th</sup> hole to replace the 1<sup>st</sup> hole which will be lost when construction of the clubhouse starts. The Club has more ideas in the pipeline to build a number of other holes for the Struie that they believe will improve the course as a whole and attract people to play it in its own right and see it come out of the shadow of the Championship Course.

It has been a busy time for the Club with a record number of members and visitors playing the courses this year already. The boom in golf post Covid has certainly not subsided, and the town as a whole is benefiting greatly from the footfall and spend that this brings.

The Club has hosted two major events this year. Firstly, the Vagliano Trophy was played at the end of June. This is the amateur women of Great Britain and Ireland taking on their counterparts from Europe with the junior version played at the same time. While the weather wasn't kind, the golf was still exceptional with many spectators marveling at the talents of the players. Europe retained the women's title while the juniors had a drawn match, the best result the GB&I team have ever had, having lost all previous encounters since the inception of the event in 2011.

At the beginning of August the Scottish Amateur Championship was held and this saw the best male golfers in Scotland converge on Dornoch to find out who is the best in the land this year. The stroke play qualifying was shared with Tain GC, and such was the level of play new course records were set over both courses – by the same player! He carried on to play well in the match play stages reaching the final and going on to win the title! We had local interest in the event with Chris Mailley making it to the semi-finals. This is the fourth time that Royal Dornoch has hosted this event with each previous winner going on to have very good careers in the professional game, so we are keen to see where a win takes this year's champion.

Most importantly with regard to the Agreement, is the return of 8 junior golfers from Chicago after taking part in the Morcott Challenge. Started in 2005 by Royal Dornoch member Woody Morcott, this event is designed to bring the junior golfers of Royal Dornoch and the United States in contact to better understand each other's lives and culture through the playing of golf. Each year a team of 8 visits to play and stay with the other team with a number of visits and experiences programmed along with several games of golf. Next year the Chicago juniors will be visiting Dornoch to sample what the Highlands of Scotland have to offer. When they came in 2022 this included a visit to the Dornoch Highland Games which have just taken place. Quite an experience for them all!

Finally let me mention you a little about Historylinks Museum, founded in 1997, which among other artifacts some of which go back to the bronze age, houses a replica golf workshop containing tools and clubs used by two great golf professionals Donald Ross, who links us with Pinehurst, and Donald McCulloch, twice awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry during the First World War.

Historylinks Museum is a volunteer led, independent museum with a strong focus on community engagement. It works with schools, community groups and its own youth group, The Young Curators, to fulfil its mission of 'Keeping the Dornoch Story Alive'. Historylinks has 20 volunteers and employs three staff with the aim of making the history and heritage of the town and surrounding area accessible to all. Over 250 members belong to the Charity branch of our organization: Dornoch Heritage Society. Everyone at Historylinks looks forward to exploring how they can work together with Tufts Museum in Pinehurst to further the historical knowledge of the origins and heritage of golf in Dornoch and Pinehurst and if anyone from Pinehurst is intending to visit our Museum or explore their family history please let us know in advance so we can be sure to provide the appropriate welcome and help.

We very much look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Murray', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Murray, Provost  
The Dornoch Area Community Council