

MACKENZIE ROSS
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT.

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CABLES & TELEGRAMS:
ROSS, 62499, EDINBURGH.

20 MORRATFIELD AVENUE,
EDINBURGH.

5th July 1946.

Dear Sir,

Fyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

I visited the course on the 21st June and was met by the Captain, the Hon. Secretary and members of the Committee.

It was made clear to me that a new lay out was required for the nine holes which had been requisitioned during the war, part of this playing area being now covered with huts, cement platforms and other structures, while some holes had been put out of play by the construction of a metal road through the centre of the course. It was the desire of the Committee to keep play away from this road as much as possible, and to take in new ground to the west and nearer to the sea. I was asked to advise on the new ground to be acquired.

On the 22nd and 23rd, accompanied by members of the Committee, I surveyed all the ground adjacent to the course which might be practical for golf, and was able to establish, to my complete satisfaction, a new routing for six holes, leaving the 10th, 17th and 18th as they now are except for some alterations to the placing of the tees.

If the new ground is obtainable and the new holes constructed as planned, they will provide magnificent and spectacular golf, while at the same time being not too difficult for the average golfer. Care has been taken to use only ground where there is a fair depth of topsoil, and where there is every indication that grass will grow well when the existing herbage has been cut back and renovating seeds sown where necessary.

The present course has been very well planned on good golf ground but it is similar in appearance to many other good golf courses laid out inland on "Common" land. If the sand hill country can be incorporated there would be an immediate change for the better and in fact your Golf Course would alter its category and become a veritable seaside GOLF LINKS.

Here you have a golfing PARADISE. If I were to set forth all that I thought of this new ground I might be accused of gross exaggeration. I will be content therefore to state that I have played on and studied nearly all the famous courses and links in Britain and the Continent, as well as many in America and Canada, and I have seen no finer golfing country.

It may be thought by some that I am planning holes which will be of interest only to the scratch man or the Tiger, however, this is not the case, I would soon go out of business if it were. I endeavour to plan holes which give a fair test of golf and which will please and interest the great majority of middle class golfers. At many holes I advocate the making of three tees, a Ladies tee, a Mens tee and a Tiger tee. The back tee box should be painted with black and yellow stripes and this will ensure that the ordinary Club member will refuse to go near it.

With the new tees as suggested at holes Nos 17 and 18, the last nine holes will measure 3230 yards, and with the first nine measuring 3170 yards, you will have a course of 6400 yards, which I regard as quite long enough for almost any event, and too long for normal play, however, with three tees at some of the holes the distances can be regulated as desired.

It is understood that you will undertake the work of construction yourselves and I congratulate the Club on having such a fine greenkeeper as Mr C.E.Thomas, I feel sure that he will carry out the work admirably. Only one green is likely to give trouble and that is the new No 11, but it is simply a question of levels and sand is not a costly material to shift, especially from higher to lower ground. The fairway at this hole will also demand a certain amount of work, however, I believe the others to be fairly straight forward and all the green sites are very good requiring the minimum amount of construction work.

There are various hills just off the fairways where sand should be exposed to view, and some big bunkers now almost hidden from the fairways can be brought into play by cutting peep holes and small extensions. The main idea being to make the holes look difficult while in reality they will be easy to play.

Good quality turf can be found for the greens on one of the old fairways. An area should be selected now and work should be started mowing, rolling and weeding so that the turf should be ready for lifting when the time comes to turf the greens. On the new green sites it will be necessary to have at least two inches of good soil on top of the sand before turfing, and more topsoil if this is available. Fairway cutting should be proceeded with as soon as possible to give a chance to what grass there is, at present it is being stifled by the bracken and other growths.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to make these new holes and I predict a big success for the Club if you do. Each hole has distinction and charm and above all there is great variety,

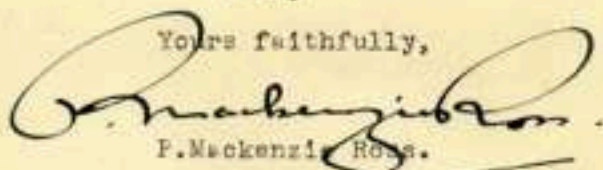
whilst the ever changing views of the the great expanse of sandhills, of the sea and the Kenfig pool is a great feature. In additon there is the feeling of playing in almost unlimited space, the golfer is very much affected by environment, although he does not know it. The many varieties of wild flowers will give enjoyment to a great number and add to the pleasure of the game, while the quality of the golf provided will be absolutely first class.

In conclusion I will say how much I enjoyed my visit to your golf course and would thank you for your very kind hospitality. I would thank also Mr Chris Morgan for his untiring assistance which was of the greatest help to me.

I shall be glad to reply to any questions which you may care to put.

I am,

Yours faithfully,



P. Mackenzie Ross.

The Chairman,
The Committee,
Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club,
Glamorganshire.

Estimate of Cost.

Because you intend doing the work of construction yourselves and because your greenkeeper Mr C.E.Thomas has such a good grasp of the situation I did not measure up all the areas for turfing, seeding etc; this therefore is an approximate estimate of cost.

The area of each of the new greens should be 650 to 700 square yards.

Green No. 11.	Formation of green		£130
	Topsoiling		30
	Turfing		<u>30</u>
			190
Green No 12.	Formation and preparing seeds bed	£90	
	Turfing	<u>30</u>	120
Green No 13.	Formation and seed bed	60	
	Turfing	<u>30</u>	90
Green No 14	Formation and seed bed	60	
	Turfing	<u>30</u>	90
Green No 15	Formation and bunkers	100	
	topsoiling	30	
	turfing	<u>30</u>	160
Green No 16	Formation	80	
	Topsoil	15	
	Turfing	<u>30</u>	125
Preparation of fairways other than No 11 say			100
Preparation No 11 fairway say			100
Renovating seeds say 6cwt			90
Fairway fertiliser			60
Fairway hillwork and bunkers.			50
			<hr/>
	Total		<u>£1175</u>

No figure has been put in for formation of tees because in most cases the sites are not yet fixed. Some tees will cost £15 and some three times that amount, it is difficult to make tees on high sand hills.