



**In Harmony with Biodiversity**

## **Integrated Biodiversity Management Plan**

**TREE FUNCTIONALITY**

# GRIMSBY GOLF COURSE TREE HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

## REFERENCE TO TREES IN HANDBOOKS

**1922**

Littlecoates Farm( 123 acres ) ie. Farmland -acquired on lease/Laid out by Harry Colt (1869-1951)

### Harry colt Quotes:

**1920:**“Trees are a fluky and obnoxious form of hazard, but they afford rather good protection, and if a clump of these exists at such a spot, it might well be considered justifiable to leave it standing,”

2. ‘It is more or less accepted fact that trees are not the best of hazards, for the obvious reason that they unfortunately afford but slight opportunity for the display of golfing skill in extricating the ball from their clutches...but they are undoubtedly charming features in a landscape view.’

3. “Where very few trees exist, every effort should be made to retain them, and in every case the architect will note the quality of the timber with a view of retaining the finest specimens.”

**\*\* SEE QUOTES ADDENDUM**

**1923**

1<sup>st</sup> nine holes opened for play –June 4th

**1924**

2<sup>nd</sup> 9 holes opened in 1924

**1925**

Official Opening

Sheep allowed to graze on 2<sup>nd</sup> nine

**1930**

**Purchased the land- no longer leased**

## WW2

18 acres claimed for cultivation joining WWII years

8<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> ploughed for wheat but not the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> greens

## 1946

Removal of 4 beeches on a mound between clubhouse and 18<sup>th</sup> green created conflict amongst members

Taken to a vote: 59 for 48

Brief battle with 'Timber Control' authorities before removal

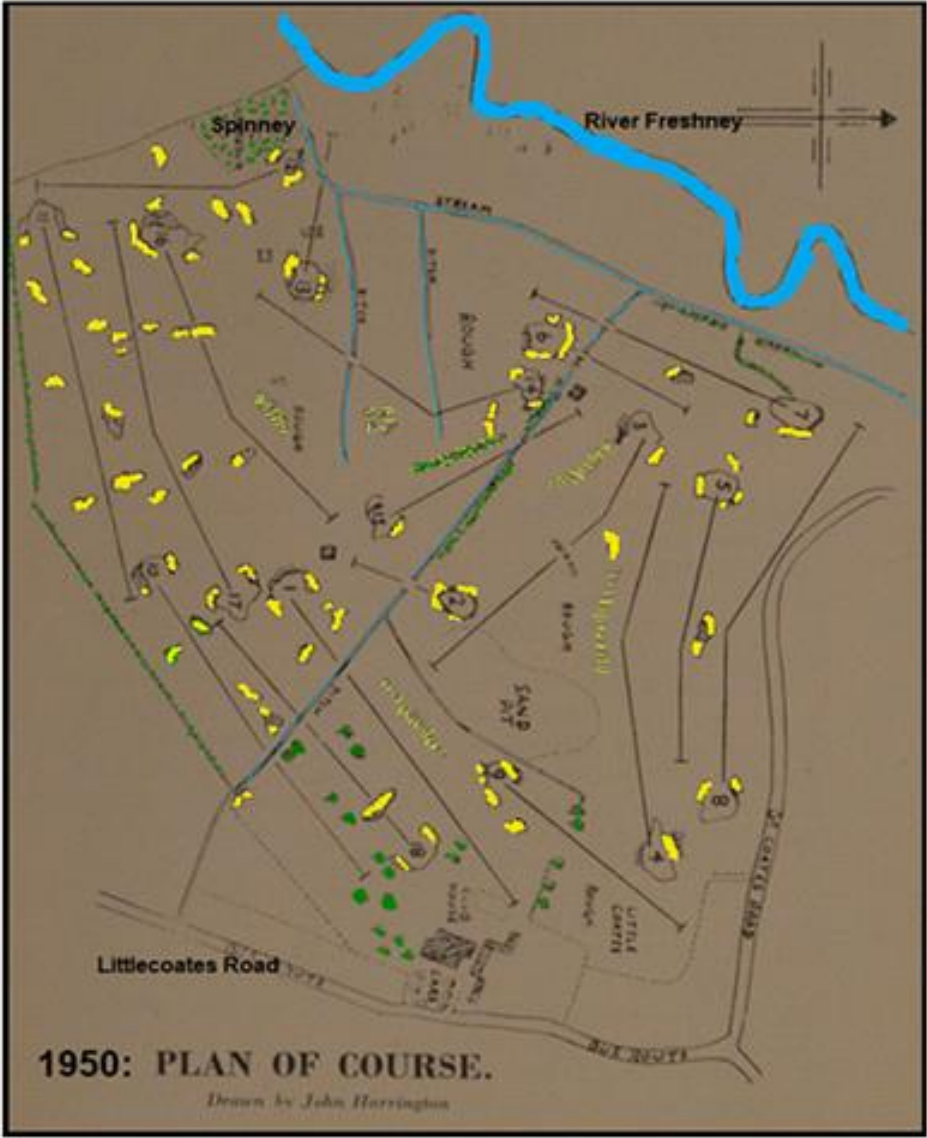
**Prior to 1981 the last trees removed were 4 beech on a mound between clubhouse and 18<sup>th</sup> green**

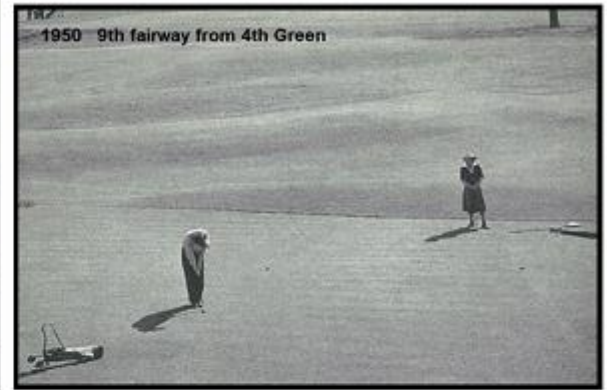
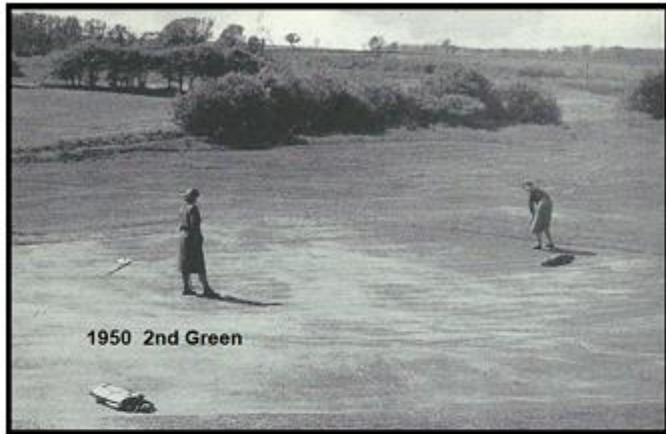
## 1949

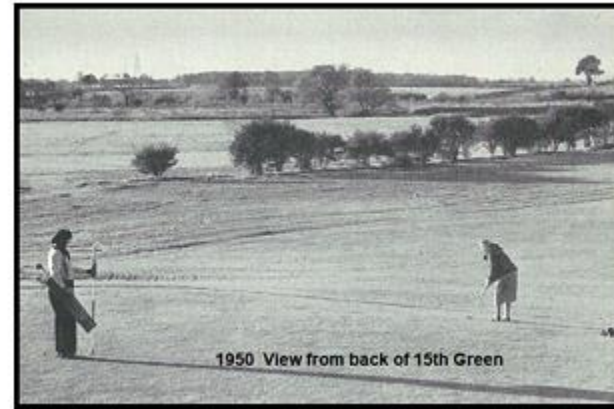
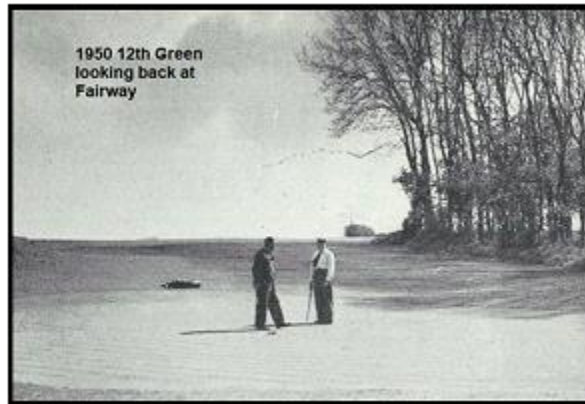
Reconstructed - Only reference to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> regards trees on the course

## 1950









## 1952

Spinney left of 12<sup>th</sup> hole bought for £100- regarded as a plantation of oak trees but mainly ash trees

Trees in spinney young - not tall

Players were able to recover from pulled drives by playing over the trees

South and west of clubhouse- copper beeches/elms/ lime

1960



**1976**

Winds destroyed 3yr walnut /others removed for putting green creation

**1977**

Old willows along 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> fairways pollarded

**1981 onwards**

Policy of planting mainly conifers in the 80s and earlier was changed

Large areas of deciduous trees put alongside 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> fairways and between 5<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

**Latter part of 1990s to 2001**

100's of trees planted in the rough alongside: 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> fairways

In addition groups planted on 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> where willows were lost later pollarding  
900 hornbeam/mountain ash/lime/a few scots pine and Corsican pine were planted behind 13<sup>th</sup> tee with a few evergreens eg.laurel  
**2018**





# TREE CHOICE FOR SPECIFIC ROLES

(features to be considered dependent on its chosen role(s)/function(s))

- The desirability of the tree based on its species (ideally native species of local provenance)
- The general health of the tree & potential vulnerability to pests and other biotic problems eg.aphids, armillaria root rot, bark beetles, fire blight, pitch canker,
- Compatibility with the landscape – canopy form, size/density & shape
- Rate of growth
- Height reached
- Root spread distance
- Life expectancy
- Compatibility with soil moisture content/drainage/ph
- The impact on playability
- The impact on the agronomics of growing/maintenance of turfgrass
- The impact on traffic flow
- The impact on aesthetics and surrounding trees
- Consideration of maintenance demands eg.. pruning, thinning, moving, fertilization ie. the evergreen/deciduous nature of the species
- Biodiversity/Conservation value

## Properties of trees conducive to planting in turfgrass:

- Small in stature
- Non-suckering
- Deciduous or evergreen depending on situation
- Fallen leaves of deciduous species that decompose quickly
- No prickles, thorns or spines

**\*\*Alister MacKenzie preferred evergreens:**

***“All evergreens are suitable for a golf course, while on the other hand, deciduous trees make a mess and look out of place”.***

Attenuate noise from traffic and adjacent houses/gardens

Seclude/screen the course from the outside world ie. helpful in screening unwanted views

Provide wind breaks and shaded locations

Protect homes, buildings, and traffic from errant golf shots.

**ROLE:BOUNDARY SCREENING**

Allowance must be made for future growth and crucially, be done in groupings that appear natural.  
As for tree selection, deciduous trees in autumn/winter allow light through crucial if located near to a tee/ green! & provide contrasting colours during autumn  
However Alister MacKenzie preferred evergreens.  
“All evergreens are suitable for a golf course, while on the other hand, deciduous trees make a mess and look out of place” ie. high maintenance due to leaf/branch litter  
A planting screen should not rely on a single, relatively short lived, species.  
An effective screen may comprise of Silver Birch/ Scots Pine/ Beech  
Silver Birch is quick growing / acts as a nurse species protecting and promoting quicker growth of the other two varieties.  
The Scots Pine is long lived/provides the screen in winter  
All are entirely natural looking species in the English countryside.  
Ideally evergreen trees should predominate.  
Again, avoid a straight row of plants if at all possible.  
The actual plant materials selected for a border planting will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the distraction, the possible need for a fast-developing screen, space limitations, and environmental factors such as sun, shade, moisture, wind, soils, etc.  
On golf courses blessed with beautiful surroundings, plantings which block views should be avoided



Reduce chance of errant shots crossing into adjacent fairways ie. protect golfers

Enhancing golf challenge/ provide reference points for both the length of shots and wayward shots

Provide wind breaks and shaded locations

Provide definition and delineation of the course including defining/framing course fairways from one another ie. indicating the field/line of play

Offer golfers privacy and seclusion from adjoining tees, fairways, and greens

**ROLE:PARTITION SCREENING**

Straight lines or rows of trees should be avoided  
 Provide some depth to the tree planting along the side.  
 Do not create a solid mass of trunks, branches and leaves unless it is also being used as a screen.  
 Wherever possible interesting views and scenes will be left open, adding depth to the natural beauty of the course.  
 One way to achieve this effect is to plant groupings of trees along the line of play.  
 Groups planted near the end of a shot can serve as a direction guide and as a measure for the distance of play.  
 They also provide shady spots which may be restful along the way.  
 Groupings will contain uneven numbers of plants, spread at unequal distances apart.  
 Each group will be individualistic, though each will have a centre of interest, just as any other composition.  
 When using the same tree species, two to three plants will be massed close together near the centre to make that part seem larger and denser.  
 Others will be scattered more widely and irregularly.  
 (As a practical matter, minimum spacing will still allow maintenance equipment to pass between.)  
 Another approach is to make the dominant plant or plants in the grouping a different type than the others, either larger growing or different in shape, colour and texture.  
 Tree groupings, wherever possible will be worked into fairway contour mowing patterns, providing relief from the "football field" approach to fairway maintenance.  
 Contribute to the aesthetic appeal and privacy of the golf course

A means of blocking or creating wind effects

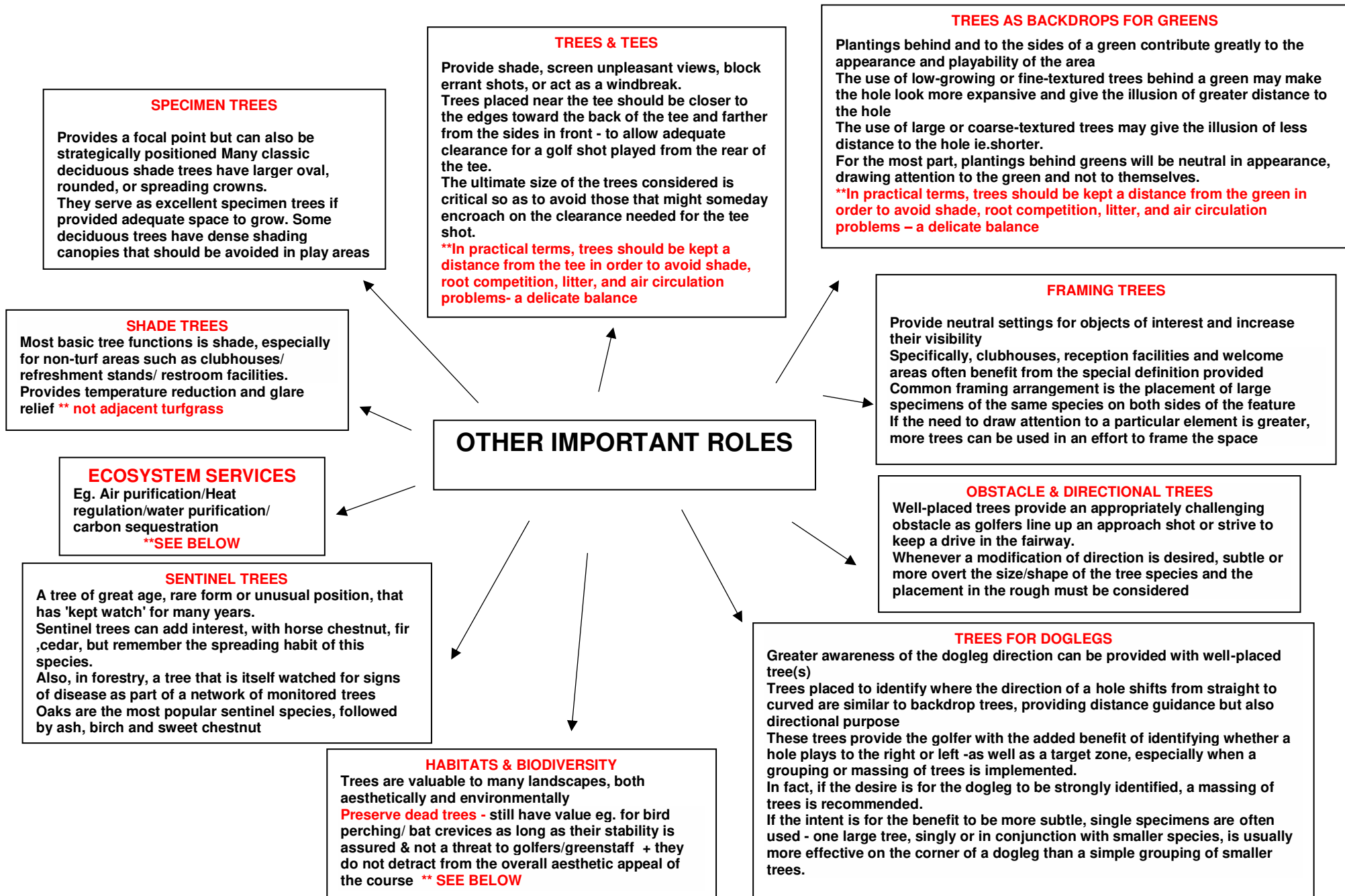
Contribute to the aesthetic appeal and privacy of the golf course





**VISTAS**  
Try to avoid screening out scenic vistas - once a scenic vista has been lost, it is usually forgotten and consequently may be lost forever





# GOLF AND TREES QUOTES

**\*\*Regard for trees was generally negative in the early years of course design\*\***

## **Willy Park Jr (1864-1925)**

**1896**

“Trees are never a fair hazard if at all near the line of play, as a well hit shot may be completely spoiled by catching the branches“.

## **Garden G Smith**

**1898,**

“Now the tree is not, and never has been, in the written history of golf at any rate, a golfing hazard.

Bunkers and their like have always been on the ground, and not suspended in mid air.

Therefore, if you have trees on the ground, it will be wise to layout your course so that they never occur in a straight line of fire.

If they do they should be cut down.

It may spoil the landscape, but it will improve the golf – and the language”.

Most believe trees can strategically and aesthetically enhance a course and provide significant on-course habitat

## **George Thomas (1873-1932 )**

Trees and shrubbery beautify the course, and natural growth should never be cut down if it is possible to save it; but he who insists in preserving a tree where it spoils a shot should have nothing to say about golf course construction

## **C B Macdonald 1855-1939**

**1906**

“Trees in the course are a serious defect, and even when in close proximity prove a detriment

**1928**

“I should like to make this distinction – no course can be ideal which is laid out through trees.”

**\*\*However golfers and course designers slowly changed their points of view**

**Old ideas have been discarded, and the prevailing belief is that trees, most emphatically, have a fixed place on a golf course**

**Most believe trees can strategically and aesthetically enhance a course and provide significant on-course habitat**

## **William Flynn (1890-1944)**

**1927**

“Sometimes a slight change in the alignment of the hole permits the architect to keep a specimen tree or trees which may also act as a key or turning point in the hole”. “(this) generally improves the layout”.

**“This is true for many reasons:**

First, because there are few, if any, sites available that are devoid of trees and it is very costly to cut them down and remove them.

Second, trees add beauty to a golf course forming picturesque backgrounds and delightful vistas.

Third, their shade is most refreshing on a hot summer day.

Fourth, they are of great practical value in segregating the various holes

## **A.W. Tillinghast (1876-1942)**

1933

"Trees of the better sort, well- shaped and really fine specimens, are admired and loved by the vast majority of people in all walks of life everywhere.

"Fairways should be rather irregular in shape and not like bowling alleys extending through the woods,"

### **Alister MacKenzie (1870-1934)**

1934. "Trees should not usually be placed in a direct line with the hole, as they block the view too much.

"Groups of trees are the most effective way of preventing players reaching the green with their second shots after playing drives in the wrong direction".

"Many green committees ruin one's handiwork by planting trees like rows of soldiers along the borders of the fairways. Alternative groupings of trees, planted irregularly, create most fascinating golf and give players the opportunity of showing their skill and judgment in slicing, pulling round, or attempting to loft over them

**"The chief object of every golf architect or greenkeeper worth his salt is to imitate the beauties of nature so closely as to make his work indistinguishable from nature itself."**

"On an inland course, the only way, except at enormous expense of providing hazards as high as sand dunes, is by the use of trees in groups,

**"Firs, pines, cypress, silver birch and California oak make beautiful backgrounds for greens."**

**Trees make an excellent corner for a dog-leg".**

**"Playing down fairways bordered by straight lines of trees is not only inartistic but makes tedious and uninteresting golf."**

**But "Most of the best inland courses owe their popularity to the grouping of trees**

One of the reasons why I, 'a medical man' decided to give up medicine was a firm conviction of the extraordinary influence on health of pleasurable excitement, especially when combined with fresh air and exercise.

How frequently have I, with great difficulty, persuaded patients who were never off my doorsteps to take up golf, and how rarely, if ever, I have seen them in my consulting room again

### **Donald Ross (1872-1948)**

We must not allow our sentiments to crowd out the real intent of a golf course, that of providing fair playing conditions.

If it in any way interferes with a properly played stroke, I think the tree is an unfair hazard and should not be allowed to stand." On the other hand there is no need to ruthlessly cut down everything before us."

**Trees should serve perhaps as the scenery, but never as part of the stage."**

**Trees: "As beautiful as trees are, and as fond as you and I are of them, we must still not lose sight of the fact that there is a limited place for them in golf..."**

### **C.H. Alison (1883-1952) –Colts partner**

"If you have any planting to do, do it at the start - "Trees take a long time to grow."

### **Jack Niclaus**

'If I had one golf course, from a design standpoint, one that I really love, it would probably be Pinehurst.

Here's a totally tree-lined golf course where trees are not a part of the strategy