



## 日本のゴルフ変遷史

### 日本のコース設計に近代化をもたらせた チャールズ・ヒュー・アリソン

東京GC駒澤コースの移転に伴い会員たちの間に「本格的なコースを造ろう。そのためには欧米の設計家を招聘しよう」という機運が高まり、英国のコース設計家ハリー・コルトに依頼することが決まった。だが、コルトは当時68歳と高齢だったことから「東洋までの船旅は大変」となり弟子で米国在住のチャールズ・ヒュー・アリソンが1930年11月25日、カナダのバンクーバーから米国人シェーパーのジョージ・ペングレースを伴い横浜に到着。

東京での宿泊は帝国ホテルだった。建設予定地の埼玉県北足立郡膝折村に赴き、等高線の入った縮尺1200分の1の地図を手にし、地形を確認しながら検分を済ますと帝国ホテルに10日間こもりコース設計図を完成させた。図面ができると、現地に向かい樹木の伐採をして各ホールを中心線を確認。この作業のため現地には3回ほど行ったようだ。さらにティ、バンカー、グリーンなどの位置を決め詳細な図面を作成。この作業には2週間強の時間を要したという。

描きあがった図面は簡素であったことから、希望したコルトではなく弟子のアリソンが来たことと、予定地がほぼ平坦だったこともあり依頼した大谷光明たちはどのようなコースが出来上がるのかかなり不安だったようだ。

シェーパーのペングレースが、平面図から土を盛り、土を削る作業を行うにつれて平坦な地が立体的に変貌していくのを見ていた赤星四郎たちははたく感服したという。起伏のために土砂6万立方メートル、芝のための砂1.5万立方メートルを使い、完成までに延べ6万人の作業員が働いた。

アリソンは「英国にある海岸コースの気分を出してくれ。そのように設計してある」とペングレースに耳打ちをしている。

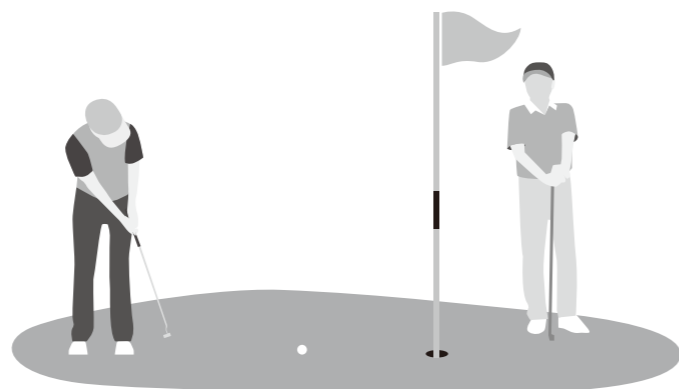
完成したコースにはバンカー112カ所、そのうちの50カ所がグリーン周辺だった。予定地の土壌、植生、水道(みずみち)、気候、灌漑なども考慮して設計されていた。しかも日本で初めて洋芝が採用され、ティグラウンドとグリーンはココスベント、フェアウェイはケンタッキーブルー

グラスなど3種を使用した。これにより3万人規模の町を潤す散水設備も造られた。当時のコース概念からすると、想像をはるかに超える内容だった。

アリソンの提案により霞ヶ関CCの改造が行われたが、その時に助手として働いたのが井上誠一だった。井上はその後に霞ヶ関CC西コースも手掛けている。関東での仕事が一段落した後、アリソンは関西に赴き廣野GCの設計をしているが、工事監督伊藤長蔵の助手を務めたのは、京都大で林業や造園を学んだ上田治だった。後に、井上と上田はコース設計家となり多くの作品を残した。

1930年11月25日に来日し、31年4月9日に神戸から英国に向かったアリソンは日本に4カ月と13日間滞在し、日本のゴルフ界に与えた影響は多大なものがあった。

日本ゴルフコース設計者協会  
名誉協力会員 吉川丈雄



## History of golf course design transition in Japan



### The man who brought modernization to Japanese golf course design Charles Hugh Alison

Along with the relocation plan of Tokyo Golf Club Komazawa course, momentum among the members increased for “Let’s make an authentic golf course. Let’s invite famous Western golf course architect as to achieve it.” They discussed and agreed to invite famous British golf course architect, Harry Colt.

Unfortunately, Colt was 68 years old at that time, and long voyage to the East was unbearable. Thus, instead, his disciple Charles Hugh Alison who resided in US came to Yokohama on November 25, 1930 together with American golf course shaper George Pengrace.

Alison stayed in Imperial Hotel Tokyo. He went future golf course site at Hizaori Village, Kita-Adachi District, Saitama Prefecture. Using a 1/1200 scale map with contour, he checked and confirmed the actual topography of the area. He went back to the hotel and locked himself in the room for 10 days to complete the blueprint of the golf course.

As finishing up the drawings, he headed back to the site, and cut down trees as to confirm the center line of each hole. It seems that he went to the site around 3 times for this confirmation work. He also made drawings detailing the location of teeing area, bunkers, and putting greens. It took him over two weeks to do this work.

Architect was not Colt who was originally desired, instead disciple Alison took his place. Course design blueprint Alison made appeared to be fairly simple. Geographical features of construction site were mostly level. Due to these factors, Komyo Otani and other colleagues were very concerned about what kind of golf courses would come to appear.

However, the work of shaper Pengrace piling up and scraping down the soil transformed flat ground to three dimensionally golf course just as per Alison’s drawings. Observing this progress, Shiro Akahoshi and other members were deeply impressed and relieved.

60 thousand cubic meters of soil for shaping undulation, 15 thousand cubic meters of sand for grass turfing were launched and a total of 60 thousand of workers were involved to complete the golf course.

Alison whispered to Pengrace that “Make it feel like a taste of British coastal course, as I designed that way.”

Completed golf course had 112 bunkers, 50 of which were located around the putting green. Course was carefully designed with consideration of soil condition, vegetation, water drainage, seasons climate, irrigation, etc.

Moreover, Western turfs were adopted for the first time in Japan. Cocos’s bent was applied for teeing area and putting green. And three types of western turf including Kentucky bluegrass were applied for the fairway.

As to cope these new turfs, sprinkler facility with capacity able to accommodate water supply for a town as big as 30 thousand population was introduced. These innovative approaches were far beyond imagination from the viewpoint of golf course design at that time,

Along with the proposal from Alison, the Kasumigaseki Country Club started remodeling the East course, and Seiichi Inoue participated as an on-site assistant. Later days, Inoue also worked on West course.

After settling down with works in Kanto region, Alison headed to Kansai to design the course for Hirono Golf Club. Chozo Ito was a construction manager in this project, and Osamu Ueda who studied forestry and landscaping at Kyoto University served as his assistant.

Later both Inoue and Ueda became remarkable golf course architect and constructed many notable courses.

Alison, who came to Japan on November 25, 1930, and left Kobe to England on April 9, 1930. Though his stay was as short as only for 4 months and 13 days, his influence were enormous on Japanese golf course development.

Japanese Society of Golf Course Architects  
Honorary Cooperation Member  
: Takeo Yoshikawa