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TURF NEWS LETTER

(Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents)
(Prepared in Cooperation with USGA Green Section)

November 6, 1951

THE GLENBROOK MEETING

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its November meeting at Glenbrook Public Golf Course, one of the many courses operated by the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. There were 50 members and guests in attendance, and a royal time was had by all. Hosts for the occasion were Mr. C. A. Eby, Assistant to the Chairman of the Montgomery County Park Commission; Roger Peacock, Pro-Mgr. of all the Public Courses operated by the Park and Planning Commission; Bob Shields, Superintendent of Glenbrook and Sligo; and Carl Senseman, Assistant Pro of the Glenbrook Course. Mr. O. W. Anderson of the Montgomery County, Maryland who was recently chosen One of the Two outstanding County Agents of the Nation, was also present. The attendance of Mr. Anderson marked another highlight in the regime of Prexy Bob Shields et al, as this was one of the few times that a Maryland County Agent attended a Mid-Atlantic meeting.

Other notables present were Mr. Walter Densmore, Chairman of the Belle Haven Country Club, and Admiral Jack Phillips, Chairman of the Army-Navy Country Club, both of whom faithfully attend and participate in most of the Association meetings. (Aside to Walter - please note the order of introduction; this the second time you've been presented before the Admiral - and in print to boot.)

International flavor was added by the presence of Mr. Fred Lyons of Liverpool, England, who though not a superintendent, is much interested in Turf and Turf Culture. Mr. Lyons was the guest of Mr. Frank Maske.

Refreshments at the ever popular 19th hole were furnished courtesy of the National Capitol Toro Co., Silver Spring, Md. and the G. L. Cornell Co. of Bethesda, Md.

GOLF

"Oh, what a blamed uncertain thing
This pesky weather is;
It blew and sned and then it thew,
And now by jing, its friz."

Despite very trying weather conditions, appropriately described by Philander Johnson in his passage above - seventeen stout-hearted members of the Association kept our tournament record intact. Results were as follows;

Roy Shields)
Ray Shields) Tied for first

Tom Ryan)
Walter Densmore) Tied for second

Mac Knowland Third

An added feature was a hole - in - one contest, which was won by Ruben Hines, who placed the ball closest to the pin in a one-ball (no Mulligans) contest. We suspect that Ruben got his sharp-eye as a result of practice in the hole-in-one contest which was held at his Rock Creek Course earlier in the year - proceeds of which provided funds to send underprivileged children to Summer Camp.

Golf Committee Chairman, Ernie Stanley also announced the names of eligibles for the 1951 Armiger trophy, which is awarded annually by C. F. Armiger, Inc., Silver Spring, Md. to the member scoring the best three rounds during the year. Three members tied for the trophy this year with net scores of 69. They are George Cornell, Bill Glover and Adm. Jack Phillips, and they will play-off at a neutral course in the near future - may the best man win - in our opinion you are all champs.

Business Meeting

Bob Shields opened the meeting with a letter from Dr. Fred V. Grau, Director of the Green Section, U.S.G.A. who extended his thanks and appreciation for the part played by the Association in making the National Turf Field Days a success. A special vote of thanks was voted those members who gave so willingly their time, energy and transportation at this event; also to Bill Glover and Rueben Hines whose golf courses were toured as special features of the Field Days; and also to Cliff Eisele who did such a splendid job of accommodating the hungry-herdes at the Monday evening session.

Bob then read a letter from "Mayor" Gus Hook of the Baltimore Park Comm., in which "his honor" extended his appreciation for the wonderful cooperation the members of the Mid-Atlantic gave in helping to get the Baltimore Muny Course in tip-top shape for the Eastern Open last September. He also praised the Turf News Letter and Constructive Suggestion Report as a great step forward in our progress toward better golf, and better golf courses.

A third letter, from Mr. Walter W. Deal, of Argyle Golf Course, was read by Bob in which Mr. Deal praised highly the value of the Constructive Suggestion Report sent to his club and all other clubs visited by the Association. Mr. Deal stated that the report to his club will be kept before the officials who plan and guide development of his course.

The members were again reminded of the coming winter conference date at Baltimore January 8 and 9, 1952. Although several members brought in cup cutter plugs of their best and worst putting green turf, we still need many more samples to make the Baltimore conference a successful meeting. Please refer to page 2 of your copy of the Fort Dupont meeting for details. We cannot stress too strongly that the success of the winter program depends on

your cooperation. If you haven't turned in your sample cup-cutter plugs please do so without fail at the December meeting. Any members, other than those named in the Fort Dupont newsletter, are also invited to bring along samples to the December meeting if they so desire. Remember, we want only samples of cup-cutter plugs at the December meeting. Please bring your samples of sand, soil and organic matter direct to the Baltimore meeting on January 8th. Let's all turn out for this one. Dr. Ernest Cory, Head of the Entomology Dept., University of Maryland, each year gives much time and effort to present an excellent conference. Dr. Cory received confirmation that O. J. Noer, otherwise know as Mr. Turf in these United States, will be there--will you??

As is the case at the close of each fiscal year, two members were appointed to audit the Treasurer's books for the year 1951. George Campbell and Francis Coupe' were drafted to do the honors.

NEW MEMBERS

Sgt. Charles "Chuck" Harrison, formerly of Frankfort Golf Course, Frankfort, Germany, and presently the Manager, Asst. Pro., and Superintendent of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Golf Course was voted into the Association as an Active Member. Welcome "Chuck", we're happy to have you.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each year, the November meeting is set aside for the important task of electing officers for the following year. Bob Scott, Sr., Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stated that it was the unanimous decision of his committee that in view of the progress made under the present regime, a "Don't change horses in mid-stream" policy was suggested by the nominating Committee. The only change made for the coming year was the appointment of Charlie Schalestock, Sup't. of Farmington, Inc., Charlottesville, Va., as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. Charlie Treacy's present uncertainty as to where his next position will be was the main reason for electing a new officer in his place. Charlie's done a fine job of note and money taking in the past year for which he was voted a resounding note of thanks.

President Bob Shields and Vice President Jimmy Thomas were "hands-down" choice to retain their respective positions. The unanimous vote of confidence was a tribute to the fine, progressive job that these capable men have done in 1951 to help guide the Mid-Atlantic into National limelight.

December Meeting

Past President Hugh McRae once so fittingly described this annual December affair, that it would be sacrilige to try to present it any other way. This is the one where "Every one talks and Nobody listens".

Genial George Cornell of the G. L. Cornell Company, distributors of Worthington and Jacobsen mowers and equipment, once again invites the members of the Association to be his guests in December. Good food, good

fellowship and refreshments can only add up to a good time.

PLACE - G. L. Cornell Company
4715 Miller Avenue
Bethesda, Md.

DATE - December 4, 1951

TIME - 6:00 P. M.

George would appreciate your returning the enclosed post card by Nov. 26, so he may know how many to prepare for.

SUGGESTED READING

U.S.D.A. Circular 891 "The Use of Sawdust for Mulches and Soil Improvement" by F. E. Allison and M. S. Anderson can be obtained from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Information, Beltsville, Md. There is no charge for this publication.

Rhode Island Bulletin #308 "The Fungus Diseases of Turf Grasses" - can be obtained from the Rhode Island Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. There may be a small charge - request it C.O.D.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Bob Shields, present superintendent, and former superintendent Rudy Will, deserve nothing but the highest praise for the superb job they have done in providing a truly interesting test of golf at Glenbrook despite the steady encroachment of Builders. The United States Government is expanding the Naval Bethesda Hospital facilities to the point where it will one day be the locale of the greatest health and research institute in the world. Expansion to date has deeply cut into the original layout. Bob and Rudy have been called upon to shorten the par 5's and some par 4's and yet keep the course playable. It was the opinion of all that the job was well done. Everyone agreed that Glenbrook provides a variety of shots - every club in the bag is needed - even tho it is a par 64 layout.

The Park and Planning Commission is operating the Glenbrook course for a limited period. As soon as the contractor's are ready to go ahead with new construction, so much more of the course will be loped off. At present no one know how soon the contractors will be ready to take over - it may be within a year or two; and it is with this element of uncertainty that the following suggestions are offered:

GREENS

It is realized, in the light of present uncertainty that economy is the keynote to operation; however, as we well know, there can be no economy measures in management and maintenance of good putting greens. There are many factors which contribute toward making a good putting surface, and among them one of the very important considerations is an adequate fertilization program. It appeared that fertility levels were low on all greens, which were predominately C-15 (Toronto) bentgrass. C-15 is perhaps the most sus-

ceptible strain of Bentgrass to Dollarspot injury, coupled with an inadequate fertility level, Dollarspot became rather severe. However, at the time of the meeting, most greens were recovering nicely due to a recent step-up in fertilization. Nitrogen starvation usually increases severity of Dollarspot; too much available nitrogen usually makes turf more susceptible to Brownpatch contrary to the popular song "You got to mess around in between". It is not intended nor is it implied that a good fertilization program is the cure-all for Dollarspot infection. It is strongly felt, however, that under present conditions of uncertainty, a good fertilization program along with a fungicidal program your superintendent is following will provide good putting surfaces at Glenbrook most economically.

Greens #1s 6, 7 and 15 which were placed in pocketed areas due to the necessity, rather than choice and will continue to be the greens which will give the most trouble with respect to fungus disease.

The newly constructed #14 green appears to be a job well done. The soil consistency appears to be such to provide good interval drainage and allow deep root penetration. The surface drainage is good, as the green drains in two directions. The newly constructed trap to the left of this green was filled with water to a level of approx. 6" at the time of inspection, and it is felt that building-up and facing the trap will prevent future recurrence of standing water. As this trap is small, the change would not be a major undertaking from the standpoint of time and expenditure.

FAIRWAYS

The general quality of fairway turf can readily be improved with additional fertilization, liming if needed and aerification. There is considerable bluegrass and fescue in the fairways which seem to be crying out for fertilizer. Certainly, however, the cost of the project should be carefully weighed against the time element - the day when the golf course closes permanently. In any event there should be no let up in your spring and fall aerification program as an aerifier is part of your present equipment.

TEES

As is the case with most public golf courses receiving heavy play, the tee areas present a real problem. Most of the turf has been removed by traffic and "divot-diggers" and as a result the tee areas are almost barren. Tees at Glenbrook are small, but in the light of present uncertainty, they should be adequate as long as they are kept smooth and playable. At present, it would not be feasible to attempt vegetative plantings of improved tee grasses such as U-3 Bermuda grass or C-115 Dahlgren bentgrass, but occasional top-dressing, aerifying and fertilizing, and seeding with ryegrass should help keep tees in fair condition.

At the close of meeting, Mr. Eby stated that this had been one of the most pleasant and instructive sessions that he has had the pleasure of attending. He stated also that he wished to go on record (and would do so via letter in the near future) as saying that the value of and thought behind the Constructive Suggestion Report was priceless information not only to the club visited, but to all clubs who receive the information.

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE