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T U R F N E W S L E T T E R

(Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents)

September 18 and October 2, 1951

THE FORT DUPONT MEETING

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents long will be remembered by the 45 members who were present. Agar Brown, Secretary-Treasurer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America was guest of honor and guest speaker. The setting for this auspicious occasion was the Fort Dupont Public Course, one of the finest and most rugged in this area.

Hosts for the day were Ruben Hines, General Superintendent of all Loeffler operated ~~many~~ courses, Jack Allen, Superintendent, and Fred Williamson, General Manager of the Fort Dupont course, and Mr. Severn Loeffler, President of Loeffler Inc. Also in attendance were Mr. Al Thomas, Loeffler, Inc., and Mr. Sheffield of National Capitol Parks.

The association is further indebted to Mr. Loeffler for a delicious buffet dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Golf

Seventeen of the 45 members played and results of the handicap tournament, as announced by Golf Committee Chairman Ernie Stanley, were as follows:

Charlie Wilson	Winner
Joe Harbin	
Jack Allen	2nd
Admiral Jack Phillips	
Charlie Schalstock	3rd
Al Radko	

Educational Feature - Your National Association

Bill Glover, Golf Course Superintendent of Fairfax Country Club, and member of the Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, introduced the guest speaker for the day, Agar M. Brown, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association and editor of the Golf Course Reporter.

In his introduction Bill stressed the fact that this was the first year that money was available for travel for executives of the National, thanks to increased dues.

Mr. Brown's talk was both inspiring and educational. The National Association has come a long way since it's initial meeting at the Inverness Country Club, Toledo, Ohio, in 1926. Although membership has increased many-fold over the original 42 charter members, the aims of the organization in effect remain the same. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America exists for the common interest of all in the profession; to thresh out problems of interest to all superintendents; to promote better turf for better golf; and to bring before the public the responsibilities of the golf course superintendents. At present an accelerated program is in effect publicizing the responsibilities of the superintendent through articles published in the Golf Course Reporter, and secondly, through the Annual Turf Conference and Show which features an educational program on subjects of mutual interest to most people.

Over and above these aims, personal contacts that each superintendent makes while attending national meetings are of utmost importance. Much is accomplished at meetings of this sort through rubbing elbows and having informal discussions with other members of the profession. Most superintendents feel that the contacts gained in attending the National make the trip worthwhile. More and more the golf clubs are coming to realize this point and they are footing the bill so that their superintendents can attend.

Even though the National today has the largest membership in its history, it still lacks 100% support by the local organizations. The National can grow only as the locals grow - and support the National. The National is especially interested in enlisting the younger men in the profession. They would like to see all qualified assistants join and participate in the meetings. In order to qualify for membership as an assistant superintendent in the GCSAA two members of the National Association must attest to the fact that the applicant has had three years of supervisory experience as an assistant superintendent.

Interest in the above talk was evidenced by the fact that Agar Brown was kept on his feet for two solid hours answering questions pertaining to the GCSAA. The Mid-Atlantic Association is indebted to Agar for making this trip and substituting so ably for Tom Mascaro (the rascal) who got mixed up in his dates and was all set to speak before our group the next night. Our apologies to Agar (your editors fault) for the lack of advance publicity. The attendance would have been greater had our members known definitely that Agar would be present.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Bob Shields called attention to our winter conference on January 8 and 9, 1952, by requesting Harry Allanson, Charlie Schalstock, Bill Glover, Bob Shields, Lum Lumsden, Bob Scott, Walter Lindsay, Bob Williams, Ernie Stanley, Redge Giddings and Ruben Hines to bring samples of the soil, sand and organic matter used in their topdressing mixtures. These men and all others who will attend this meeting should also bring samples (cup cutters at 8" depth) from their best and poorest greens to the November 6 meeting. These samples should be accompanied by a brief history of the green, ie; date planted, drainage (air

and subsurface), grass, management practices, etc. The samples will be turned over to the Green Section to hold in the greenhouse until the conference date.

At the conference one full day will be devoted to tearing these samples apart to see what makes them tick; discussing various soil mixtures and physical soil conditions; drainage requirements; and other factors which may mean the difference between a good and a bad putting green. Al Radko then will turn the samples over to Dr. Gauch for tissue analysis. Don't forget! The Green Section wants these samples at the November 6 meeting at Glenbrook Golf Course.

New Members

We are happy to welcome three new associate members into our organization. We appreciate their interest and welcome their participation.

Mr. Vance Maize, Agronomist, 2nd Army Headquarters

Mr. Don Thornton, Armour & Co.

Mr. Red Hancock, Assistant Superintendent, Sligo Golf Course

George Campbell now at Belle Haven

George Campbell, formerly with Ruben Hines, has taken over the course supervision at the Belle Haven Country Club following "Junie" Marshall's return to Kentucky. We wish George the best of luck in his new venture. Certainly, in Tom Ryan, Pro., and Walter Densmore, Green Chairman, at Belle Haven, George will be working with two of our most active turf enthusiasts in this area.

Tournament News

The association voted to exclude other than active members from sharing in the prizes at the annual tournament. Harry Dunn, of C. F. Armiger, Inc. promised to have the Armiger Cup ready at our next meeting, the association voted \$50. for annual tournament prizes, and \$25. was voted to purchase a plaque for the 3 best (out of at least 5 scores) turned in by a regular member during the season.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Severn Loeffler deserves the appreciation of the better district munny golfers for constructing a public course which is a true test of golf. Certainly, from the financial standpoint, a more open course would speed up play and increase revenues. It is apparent however that Fort Dupont with its steep slopes and wooded terrain was constructed with the good golfer in mind, rather than as a lucrative source of remuneration.

Also deserving of congratulations are Alton E. Pabbitt, former consultant for the district public courses; William Gordon, golf course architect who laid out the course; Ruben Hines, who has been responsible for keeping it in excellent shape and Jack Allen, Superintendent at Fort Dupont who has done a masterful job

with the help of 2 to 5 men.

Everyone present at the meeting was favorable impressed with the appearance of this 9-hole golf course which has been in play for 3 years. Constructive suggestions were limited because of the late hour; the fact that few suggestions were needed; and that those suggestions made are contemplated in this fall's renovation program. However, for the record, the following suggestions are made with apologies to Ruben Hines and the association for the haphazard manner in which the Constructive Suggestion feature was carried out at this meeting.

GREENS

With the exception of #2 green, putting conditions and appearance were ideal. The mixture of Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19), and Collins (C-27) stolonized 3 years ago leaves little to be desired. Putting surfaces were true; fertility levels were adequate; thatch or mat build-up is under control; and sufficient cupping area is present on most of the greens.

Number 2 green (a short 3 par hole) is badly pocketed which results in insufficient air drainage. The slope is severe which makes washouts a problem. Seepage into the green from the abrupt slope behind #2 has caused a loss of turf, and the soil mixture on #2 leaves much to be desired. This green is scheduled to be rebuilt this fall.

FAIRWAYS

Because of the severe slopes and abrupt contours on the first five holes, initial turf establishment must have been a problem. Today however, with the exception of a few localized areas, a fair turf cover exists. Additional aerification followed by additional fall fertilization would be helpful in strengthening the bluegrass, fescue and bent turf. The best patches in the fairways were bermuda grass.

Special problems would include the raw appearance of the ditch crossing #1 fairway, and the short length from tee to the far end of the fairway on the #4 dog-leg. Also, the "hog-back" on #7 fairway slopes in such a direction that properly played shots often drift into the trap on the right side of the fairway, and on several holes blind second shots could be corrected in short order by slight re-grading with a bulldozer.

Considerable discussion came up with regard to the fairway bunkers on #3. Some of the fellows thought these traps penalized the average golfer rather than the better golfer. Others present thought these bunkers to be properly placed, because otherwise a shot landing on the side of the hill might roll back to the flat. It was generally agreed that #3 was one of the most awe-inspiring holes on the course, and the traps are at least partially responsible for this fact.

ROUGHS

Very little grass rough is noticed at Fort Dupont. Considering the severe hazard presented by the rolling wooded terrain, grass rough is not needed.

An excellent job is being done to keep the wooded areas adjacent to the fairways clean of low rowing vines and other debris. This fact expedites ball finding and helps to speed play.

TEES

Teeing areas virtually are devoid of a good grass cover. In many instances inadequate size and low budget maintenance are contributing factors. Keeping turf on tees which receive tremendous play is one of our foremost problems. U-3 bermuda for open sunny tees and a vigorous creeping bentgrass such as Dahlgren (C-113) has been suggested in the past. Some clubs are experimenting with dual or split tees: one to be planted to U-3 bermuda for summer play; the other with a good cool-season mixture for spring, fall and winter play. Whatever the decision, it is known that intensified maintenance practices should accompany the selection of the proper grass if turf is to be held in a proper playing condition.

This Association further concurs with Ruben Hines in the belief that the present risers (steps) which lead to and away from many of the tees are much too steep.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT - FAIRFAX COUNTRY CLUB

On October 2, the Mid-Atlantic Association was out in full force to shatter par as the guests of John Connolly and Bill Glover, owner and superintendent, respectively, at Fairfax Country Club. Good golf and a good time was enjoyed by all and through the courtesy of a vast number of supporters, few of those in attendance failed to make off with a prize for their divot-taking efforts. The association indeed is indebted to their many friends, who by donating a raft of prizes made this tournament one of the most enjoyable and successful on record.

Tournament Results

Standing

1st Bob Scott, Sr.
2nd Bill Glover
3rd John Leavell
4th Tom Ryan
5th John Connolly
6th Jim Reynolds

7th Ernie Stanley
8th Bob Shields
9th Harry Allanson
10th E. Franklin
11th Ruben Hines
12th Jimmy Thomas
13th Dave Edgar
14th Charlie Schalestock
15th Ed Myerly
16th Bob Scott, Jr.

Prize

Hamilton watch from George Cornell
Carving set from National Capital Toro
\$25. War Bond from F. W. Belgiano Co.
" " " " "
\$25. War Bond from C. F. Armiger Co.
\$25. War Bond from American Agricultural
Chemical Co.
\$16. from Mid-Atlantic Association
\$13. " " "
\$11. " " "
\$10. " " "
Club Bag from Major Hanrahan
Golf Sweater from Irvin Schloss
Golf Shirt from Baltimore Toro Co.
6 Golf Balls from The Flamingo Club Gang
Head Covers from Major Hanrahan
Head Covers from Johnny Roach

17th Howard McCarty
18th Hugh McRae
19th Bill Schrieber

Golf Shirt from Johny Bass
3 Golf Balls from Johny Bass
3 Golf Balls from Bill Glover

Blind Bogey Tournament

1st Roy Shields
2nd Sgt. Pat Gardner
3rd Bill Deck
4th Ray Shields
5th Major Hanrahan
Al. Radko

Armiger Trophy

Replicas were awarded to George Cornell for 1948; J. B. Brodus for 1949; and Charlie Schalestock for 1950.

BUSINESS MEETING - FAIRFAX COUNTRY CLUB

Prexy Bob Shields started the ball rolling by again emphasizing the importance of 100% cooperation at our Winter Turf Conference on January 8 and 9. Every member of this association is encouraged to bring samples of their soil, sand and organic matter separately and also in the combination mix which they feel is best under their conditions. Each member also is requested to bring cup-cutter samples (8" depth) from their best and poorest greens to the November 6 meeting at Glenbrook. The Green Section will hold these samples in the greenhouse until conference time.

Publicity

Bus Ham, Sports Editor, Washington Post, was responsible for the excellent article and picture of our group which appeared in the Washington Post on Wednesday, October 3. Many thanks Bus. We hope that you continue to attend our meetings and publicize the Mid-Atlantic's efforts in promoting better turf for every purpose.

Retirement

We announce with great regret that John Anderson has retired from the Country Club of Virginia. John deserves the rest after half a century of devoted attention to turf improvement in this area. We want John to know that his services will be missed by his fellow superintendents, and that our thoughts are with him wherever he may be.

Fortunately, John's able assistant Jimmy Roach, has taken over the superintendents job at the Country Club of Virginia. Jimmy has everything in his favor having served a lengthy apprenticeship with one of the great turf men of this century, John Anderson.

New Addition at the Wilsons

Charlie Wilson reports a bouncing baby boy born October 1, 1951. Both Charlie and his wife deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness of the Mid-Atlantic Association in voting the young Kenneth Brett Wilson a \$25. War Bond.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

The Constructive Suggestion feature purposely was omitted at the Fairfax meeting because of the time consuming awards made in connection with the annual tournament. However, the general consensus of opinion favored Fairfax so highly that it is only fair we make mention of some of the outstanding features of this excellent course.

Greens

The putting greens (as always) were in excellent shape from the standpoint of playability, appearance and ease of maintenance. Bill Glover places full credit for these facts on proper basic construction. Bill believes and this association fully concurs that the Golf Course Superintendent must be present and work closely with the Architect and building contractor if proper construction is to be assured. The superintendents views must receive fair consideration because after all the superintendent will live with a new green for many many years after the Architect and Contractor have left the scene.

As a result of building a public course of national renown, Bill's ideas on proper construction are worthy of note and should be examined critically by anyone in this area contemplating new green construction. For the record they are as follows:

1. The superintendent should work closely with the Architect, professional and contractor.
2. Tile lines back-filled with pea gravel to level the sub-surface drainage. Tile helps immeasurably in aiding aeration as well as drainage.
3. The surface grade should allow for surface drainage in at least two directions.
4. The best available grasses should be used in planting. Fairfax has tried them all (Toronto, Old Orchard, Arlington, Congressional and Collins). Bill Glover and John Connolly favor the Arlington, Congressional and Collins mixture until something better is developed.
5. The prepared soil should be mixed off of the green site and added to surface grade level. Mixtures will vary depending on available soil. However, sharp concrete grade sand is a must and may constitute 40 to 50% of the final mix.

Fairways

One of the most outstanding jobs on fairway crabgrass control has been accomplished at Fairfax by the simple method of mounting flexicombs on the mowing units. Mowing in alternate directions throughout the season confines the crabgrass crown to a small area and prevents seed production. Coupled

with aeration and fall fertilization this method has resulted in marked fairway improvement. Unwatered fairways recovered from this year's extensive summer drouth in fine shape, and today it is estimated that some of the fairways contain as much as 80 % bentgrass. The fairways originally were seeded to a mixture consisting of only 5% colonial bent. Bill believes that the fairways of the future in this area will contain zoysia, and is working toward this goal by increasing his zoysia nursery and cooperating with the Green Section in making fairway plantings of this superior turf grass.

Tees

Bill will be the first to admit that the teeing areas leave much to be desired. Improper construction, inadequate size and insufficient attention are responsible for the lack of a good turf cover on most of the tees. U-3 bermuda might be the answer for summer tees if fertilized adequately and mowed closely. However, Bill's experiments have proven to his satisfaction that even this improved grass will not stand neglect. Mdrion bluegrass also shows promise as a tee grass, but here again if adequate cover is to be maintained on a public course proper construction and higher maintenance standards are required.

John Connolly and Bill Glover would like to correct the erroneous conception that Fairfax is a high budget golf course. True, Fairfax has never lacked in mechanical equipment but both John and Bill believe that in this day of high labor costs mechanization is the most sensible and economical answer to rising maintenance costs. Further, as a result of good basic construction and constant attention to prevent excessive mat build-up the putting greens require less fertilizer and less fungicidal applications than the average golf course. Fairfax applies 6-pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet per season while many clubs in this area may use double this amount to derive the same benefit because of inadequate root systems. Also fungicidal applications are as much curative as preventive in nature because a healthy vigorous turf requires less treatment. It will also be noted that at Fairfax fairway mowing units can be utilized around most of the greens, and bunkers in the main are well placed and not excessive in number. Both of these factors cut down on costly hand maintenance.

To summarize in Bill Glover's own words: "If Fairfax is considered to be acceptable under todays high standards of playing qualifications the responsibility rests with John Connolly who is a turf expert in his own right and my working crew which puts into effect the ideas that John and I suggest".

NEXT MEETING - GLENBROOK GOLF COURSE

President Bob Shields and Roger Peacock, superintendent and professional, respectively, for the Montgomery County Muny Golf Courses will be our hosts for the November 6 meeting at Glenbrook golf course. A large attendance is requested because this meeting is the annual election of officers for the coming year. Here is your chance to throw the "bums" out in the grand old American manner or to endorse your favorite for another year in office.

Golf at:

Glenbrook Golf Course
Bethesda, Maryland
November 6, 1951 - 12:30 P.M.

Dinner and Meeting at:

Glenbrook Golf Course
Bethesda, Maryland
November 6, 1951 - 6:00 P.M.

Directions and Transportation

Glenbrook (Old Woodmont) is located at 8600 Wisconsin Ave. across from the U. S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. Transportation will be furnished by Wilson Disney in Washington and Jack Witcher in Baltimore.

Know Your Fellow Members

Prexy Bob Shields hardly needs an introduction to this association, long having been regarded as one of the brighter lights to enter our midst. For a young fellow Bob has come a long way since the war when he helped his brothers Roy and Ray reactivate Annapolis Roads Club Golf Course. In those early days following the war Bob says he was more a woodsman than a superintendent, and the natives in the Annapolis area will attest to the cries of "timber" as Bob and his brothers felled the saplings from the middle of their putting greens. It wasn't long before his merit became apparent in the Washington area and Bob was hired by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to supervise the work at Sligo Park Golf Course. In addition to Sligo Bob also is responsible for Glenbrook which was taken over by the Park Commission when Woodmont moved to Rockville, Maryland.

Since the war Bob has been active with this association in serving on various committees; holding down most ably the job of secretary-treasurer; and this past year serving as president in such a way as to gain national recognition for himself and the Mid-Atlantic group. His report on "My Visit to the National" is considered a classic. In addition to this he has been instrumental in obtaining closer support with the Green Section; in persuading Charlie Wilson and Al Radko to edit the Newsletter; and in obtaining considerable work from his active committee members.

Our hats are off to Bob. We welcome this opportunity to meet with him on his own golf course.

COMING EVENTS

Mid-Atlantic Winter Turf Conference
Lord Baltimore Hotel

January 8-9, 1952

GCSAA Annual Turf Conference and Show
Neil House, Columbus, Ohio

February 4-8, 1952

NATIONAL TURF FIELD DAYS

A complete write-up on the field days will appear in the next issue of the USGA Journal. As you receive this publication, anything in the Newsletter would be repetitious other than saying that this year's National Turf Field Days were the finest on record due to the excellent cooperation on the part of this association, The Department of Agriculture and of course the Green Section who made the entire affair possible.

Dr. Grau wishes to personally thank Prexy Bob Shields, Red Hancock, Bill Glover, Jimmy Thomas, George Cornell, Charlie Treacy, Carl Senseman, Ruben Hines and Carl Heinbuck for helping with registration, participating in the program and furnishing materials to help make the program a success. Also, he wishes to thank the Mid-Atlantic members for their fine attendance (40 registered), and their willingness to provide transportation for the tours to East Potomac and Fairfax.

Clif Easley deserves special tribute for providing the facilities of Prince Georges Country Club and a wonderful chicken dinner at below cost to everyone in attendance. Those at the dinner believed it would be impossible to duplicate the quality of the meal anywhere, and that in a comparable setting the cost would have been \$5.00 or better. Clif's price was \$2.25.

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE