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## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

July 8, 1952

### THE SUBURBAN MEETING

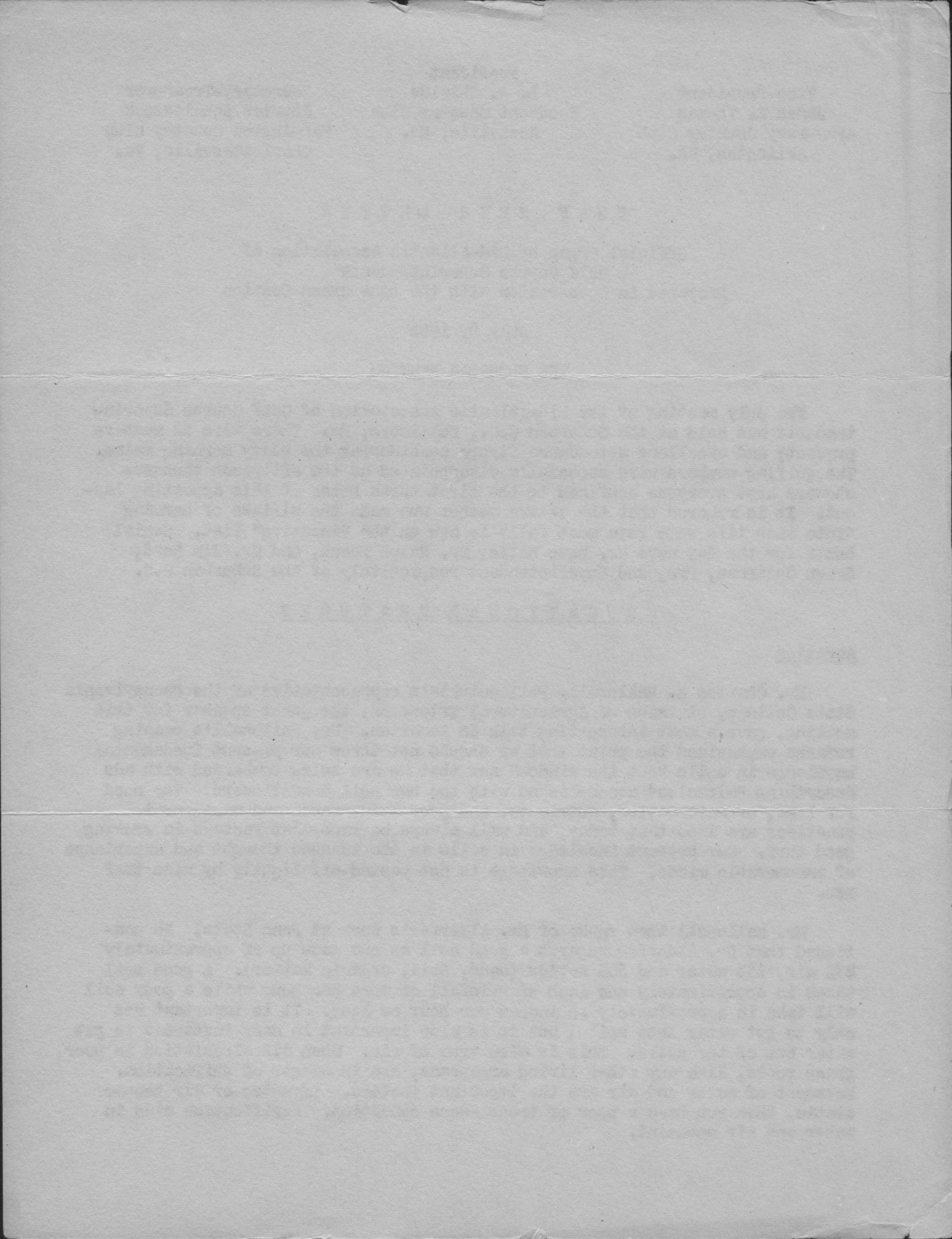
The July meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Suburban C.C., Baltimore, Md. There were 52 members present; and excellent attendance figure considering the heavy morning rains. The golfing members were especially disappointed as the afternoon thunder-showers kept everyone confined to the first three holes of this appealing layout. It is rumored that the active member who made the mistake of humming "Into each life some rain must fall" is now on the "inactive" list. Genial hosts for the day were Mr. Dave Halle, Mr. Ralph Beach, and Mr. Jim Reid, Green Chairman, Pro, and Superintendent respectively of the Suburban C.C.

### E D U C A T I O N A L F E A T U R E S

#### Aeration

Mr. Charles K. Hallowell, Philadelphia's representative of the Pennsylvania State College, Division of Agricultural Extension, the guest speaker for this meeting, gave a most interesting talk on Aeration. Mr. Hallowell's opening remarks emphasized the point that we should not throw our present fundamental knowledge in soils "out the window" now that we are being bombarded with ads describing "miracles" accomplished with the new soil conditioners. The need for lime, organic matter, nutrients, and good maintenance and management practises are important today, and will always be important factors in growing good turf. Our present knowledge in soils is the amassed thought and experience of innumerable minds. This knowledge is not passed-off lightly by wise turf men.

Mr. Hallowell then spoke of Dr. Alderfer's work at Penn State. He mentioned that Dr. Alderfer regards a good soil as one made up of approximately 25% air, 25% water and 50% solids (sand, soil, organic matter). A good soil takes in approximately one inch of rainfall or more per hour while a poor soil will take in approximately .5 inches per hour or less. It is important not only to get water into soils, but it is also important in many instances to get water out of the soils. This is also true of air. When air circulation is poor, grass roots, like any other living organrama, are in danger of suffocation. Movement of water and air are the important factors. If water or air become static, then you have a poor or troublesome condition. Aerification aids in water and air movement.



Another slide showed a tile system being installed in a very wet area where golfers complained they lost many balls ... Tile is needed despite our other management practises.

Charles then showed slides of compacted areas on aprons and fairways where machinery tracks were plainly visible ... these worn-out areas were in need of more aerification.

Another slide compared the healing ability of different strains of bent-grass after aerification. If the grass is a type which doesn't heal rapidly, timing of aerification is very important from the playability and esthetic viewpoints.

Charles then showed slides of the first aerating work done at Joe Valentine's course at Ardmore, Pa. Mr. Valentine aerifies his famous Merion course a few times each year as insurance - to keep things right just in case tough weather comes.

Other slides emphasized the point that aeration fits into the home lawn picture too. Aeration equipment which cultivates beneath the surface is especially valuable for seedbed preparation in established turf. Several aerifications followed by dragging results in innumerable cavities with loose friable soil, and this is an ideal seedbed. Aeration is now also being practised on home-lawns. Some manufacturers make small models to fit the home owner's pocket-book. In some cities also, landscape men are doing custom aerifying for home-owners.

Mr. Hallowell then presented slides showing some of the results of work done at Penn State by Prof. Musser, Jim Watson and Jack Harper. Penn State statistics show less water run-off and 56.9% more phosphorous penetration in aerified areas as compared with non-aerified plots. Also, with regard to root penetration, the weight of roots in the 4 inch layer of 5000 sq. ft. of turf increased 7.7% in aerated plots over non-aerated plots.

In closing Mr. Hallowell stressed the benefits of aerification as follows; movement of water and air are extremely important results of aerification ... without air movement there is little or no water movement ... efficient placement of moisture and nutrients ... deeper root systems ... more resilient turf ... reduction in the amount of water necessary ... excellent for seedbed preparation in fallow or established turf areas.

We are indeed grateful to Mr. Hallowell for his very excellent presentation and we trust that we may have the pleasure of having him with us again.

#### Constructive Suggestion Report

As there was no opportunity to play many holes of golf on this stormy day, it was felt that a fair report of present conditions was impossible. However, as the Suburban club is now in process of a complete renovation and rebuilding program it is felt that the following report may be of some guidance to the Green Committee and the Superintendent.

### Greens

We recommend sub-surface and surface drainage for every putting green area. Use improved strains of bentgrass such as the C-1 and C-19 strains if stolonizing; the Polycross creeping bentgrass if seeding. If greens must be built-up, slope them gently so that fairway power equipment can be used to the maximum. For the approach aprons, the Dahlgren C-115 strain of creeping bentgrass might well be given serious consideration.

### Tees

In the reconstruction of tees, a good point to keep in mind is that large tees maintained with fairway mowing units are much preferable to small, abrupt sloping tees requiring hand maintenance. For the open, sunny tees U-3 Bermudagrass is recommended, while for the shady tees a combination turf of Merion (B-27) Bluegrass and Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia would be preferable. Dahlgren bent should be given a thorough trial on shady tees.

### Fairways

In renovating fairways, it is advisable to spray with herbicides prior to overseeding. The one pound rate of sodium arsenite can be used to good advantage if applied at weekly intervals two to three weeks prior to reseeding. Thorough aerification and dragging prior to seeding would insure uniformity of stand. Give serious consideration to the improved strains of turf grasses in this renovating program. Our seed mixture recommendation is as follows; 35% Merion (B-27) Bluegrass, 30% of a good Creeping Red Fescue such as Illahee, Trinity, or Oregon Creeper, 30% Chewing's Penn State Blend, and 5% Highland Bentgrass. Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia plugs or plugs of any of the other Zoysias should then be inserted into all fairways as time and the labor situation allow.

### Turf Nursery

A good turf nursery is one of the most valuable assets on any golf course. The time and expense involved in setting-up a sizeable nursery area is negligible when compared with the benefits derived in good turf. Large plots of combination Merion (B-27) Bluegrass and Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia, U-3 Bermudagrass, Dahlgren (C-115) Creeping Bentgrass, Arlington C-1 and Congressional C-19 creeping bentgrass, and Meyer OR any of the other Zoysias would pay handsome turf insurance dividends. The initial plantings need not be large, but steady increase of each of these selections could be made on a long range program basis. These grasses need be planted only once, and they increase greatly with time.

## B U S I N E S S M E E T I N G

"Prexy" Bob Shields opened the meeting with the introduction of the following persons ... Mr. Dave Halle, Ralph Beach, and Jim Read, hosts for this occasion ... Dr. Fred V. Grau, Al Radko, and Bob Elder of the USGA Green Section ... Mr. Charles K. Hallowell, guest speaker ... T. L. Gustin of Philadelphia Toro ... Severn and Layne Leoffler of the District Myny Courses ... Sgt. Fred Slack of Fort Meade ... Bob Bardin from Richmond ... and Lt. Cratcher of Quantico. Conspicuous by their absence were Admiral Jack Phillips and Jim Thomas of the

Army-Navy C. C. ... The Admiral was hospitalized as a result of heat prostration, and Jim's mother is ailing ... Members of the Association voted to "Say it with Flowers" to wish them speedy recovery.

Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Schalestock then read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the treasurer's report ... Bob Scott, jr. reported no new developments in the Education and Policy Committee meetings, but stated that the committee has been giving more thought to the task of revising the Association's By-Laws.

Bob Shields requested that the members submit the subjects that they would like to have included in the Annual Baltimore Conference Program. Let's give this some serious thought and submit the topics for consideration soon in order to give Dr. Cory plenty of time to arrange for speakers.

Chairman of the Charlie Wilson Gift Fund, Hugh McRae reported excellent progress in the fund raising campaign ... "the pot" is still open boys.

Harry Dunn of C. F. Armiger & Co. presented The Armiger Trophy to Ruben Hines, Association Champion for the years 1941 and 1942.

Bob Scott, Sr. looking hale and hearty after his trip to Scotland reported that an article on Zoysia appeared in a Scottish newspaper entitled "Tough on the Rabbits".

Bill Glover reported that the Zoysia (Z-73) Japonica seedlings and the Zoysia plugs on his 3rd fairway are doing fine. It will be two more years, at least, before golfers will be able to pass judgement on this fairway.

The reports on the performance of Dahlgren (C-115) Creeping Bentgrass were very encouraging and coincide with our observations at Beltsville and at other places. Any who have not reported on their experiences with C-115 please do so soon ... address report to USGA Green Section.

The Association members were pleased to hear through Bill Glover, that Charlie Treacy is now superintendent at Phoenix C.C., Arizona.

#### New Members

Sgt. Fred Slack, Superintendent of the Ft. Meade Golf Course was voted into the organization as an active member, while Layne and Severn Leoffler, Jr. of the District Muny Courses were voted in as associate members.

#### Golf

No tournament was played due to the rainstorm.

NEXT MEETING - PRINCE GEORGES C.C. - August 5, 1952

The August meeting will be held on the 5th at the very popular Prince Georges C.C. Cliff Eisley, Superintendent promises an interesting day ... The Education feature for this occasion will be a panel discussion on Fall Renovation ... the panel is made up of Bill Glover, Ike Rabbitt, Bill Schreiber, and Bob Scott, Jr. ... it promises to be a honey and we urge all to attend.

Golf

Tee off at 12:00 noon

Business Meeting

6:00 P. M.

Contact George Cornell, Bob or Neil Holmead, or Jack Witcher for transportation soon so that car pools can be formed in good time.

Now is the time to:

1. Be on our toes and watch for signs of turf weakness such as wilt, scald, dry-spots, and diseases. These are good indicators of trouble ahead. We must be vigilant in view of the very bad Spring for grasses. It was the type of Spring that produced weak turf.
2. Aerate - don't be afraid to aerate, and when you do, follow-up with an insecticide application as aeration cavities are ideal homes for insects and grubs. Chlordane can be mixed with fungicides and sprayed as a mixture
3. Control crabgrass - with PMA formulations on putting green areas and use mechanical devices (combs) on fairways. Stay away from sodium arsenite in this hot, dry weather.
4. Plant warm season perennial grasses such as Zoysia and U-3 Bermuda grass. It's getting late, but not too late, to get some planted.