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Farmington Country Club
Charlottesville, Va.

TURF NEWS LETTER

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

THE FARMINGTON MEETING

March 10, 1953

The glorious spring day was made to order for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to open the season at the beautiful Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Virginia. The 32 members and guests who attended were greeted by our hosts for the occasion, Mr. R. F. Loving, General Manager; and Charles Schalestock, Superintendent. Among the guests present were: Mr. Pat Gardner, who is directing operations at the Fort Belvoir Course and his assistant, Mr. George Bigham; Mr. Walter Dinsmore, Past Green Committeeman at Belle Haven; Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Chairman, Army-Navy Country Club; Dr. Jack Harper, Turf Agronomist for the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Fred Findlay, the Golf Course Architect who built Farmington Country Club, Virginia Country Club and several others; and Bob Elder of the USGA Green Section.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

The Use of Dynamite on Putting Greens

"I plan to dynamite the green at 10:45 A.M.," that was Charlie's announcement and that is just what he did. To many of us this sounded as if Charlie was going to be minus one green at 10:46 A.M.

To fill in the details for those who didn't make the meeting, Charlie Schalestock, our host superintendent, conducted a very interesting demonstration on the uses of dynamite to break hardpans, open drainage channels, and aerate putting greens. When we arrived at Farmington we were ushered over to No. 9, where the fatal event was to take place. For the first demonstration a 4-inch plug was removed from the green, and a 3½-foot hole was dug, using a digging auger. Into this hole was placed a half stick of 60% dynamite, and soil was tamped in around the charge, filling the hole almost to the surface. The fuse was lit and everyone moved back - everyone but "Tiny Tom Dawson", that is. He went way back. This charge had no surface effect and it shattered a subsurface area of about 17 feet in radius. This area varies depending upon the type and arrangement of the substrata. Two more charges were set off, a ¾ stick of 60% dynamite set at 3½-feet, and a full stick of 60% dynamite at 4½-feet. No surface effect was evident following either of these blasts. For greens having pocketed areas, Charlie uses a ¾ charge in this pocketed area, then following the blast he opens a 10-inch hole and fills the cavity with pea gravel. The hole is then refilled. When there is a flash shower this dry well takes care of the

excess water, thus preventing a scoured turf. Charlie stated that this method of aeration has paid off for him, particularly on the greens which are surrounded closely by trees and there is constant competition for the available water. The water table is built up under the greens by using a sub-irrigator after opening the cavity.

It is also very important to know the construction of your green, and caution is stressed so you will not damage your green. If you have a subsurface tile drainage system, this method is not recommended. This concluded the demonstration, and everyone retired to the clubhouse for lunch. "Tiny Tom", who was now suffering from shell shock and battle fatigue, was carried from the battle line to the rest area by his colleagues.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Most everyone who attended the meeting either played a round of golf or walked around for a quick inspection. They all agreed that the course was in very fine condition for this time of year. The par 70 course provides many interesting golf shots and displays many fine construction features, not two holes being alike and the absents of parallel holes was quite noticeable.

Greens

We were all pleased to see that a long-range program of incorporating the improved strains of C-1, C-19, and C-27 bentgrasses into the putting greens has been started. It was also interesting to note that an aerification program is carried on throughout the growing season, reducing the thatch and providing a vigorous playing turf.

Tees

It was good to see that U-3 bermuda was being established in the sunny tees. Fertilizing at the rate of one pound of N to the thousand square feet once a month throughout the growing season will help to give quicker cover. For the shady tees, Dahlgren (C-115) bent, *poa trivialis*, creeping red fescue, and (K-31) Kentucky fescue should be given a thorough trial.

Fairways

Judging from the amount of clover in the fairways, it appears that a slight increase in fertilizer each spring and fall would be beneficial. A spray program to control chickweed and other broadleaf weeds using 2,4-D at the rate of 1 pound of Amine salts to the acre plus 3 ounces per gallon of sodium arsinite - two applications. It is also recommended that before using this combination of chemicals you try them on an experimental area first to observe their effects on the permanent turf grasses. There are several traps on No. 6 fairway which could be eliminated as they serve no purpose, and several traps on No. 9 fairway could be replaced with trees, thus reducing maintenance. It is also recommended that warm-season grasses such as U-3 bermuda, Z-73 zoysia seedlings, or Meyer zoysia be introduced into the fairways as the basis for a permanent combination turf.

Historical Sketch

In 1927 the idea was conceived to develop the estate of Farmington, which had its origin in 1744, into a country club and country residential community. The large and gracious old plantation house designed in 1803 by Thomas Jefferson has been restored to its original design, and now provides luxurious living for another age. The 1000 acre plantation surrounding the stately clubhouse has all the outdoor features of a modern up-to-date country club.

BUSINESS MEETING

Bob Shields, presiding in the absence of President Jim Thomas, and vice-president Bob Scott, Jr., called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Following the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report by Charlie Schalestock, Bob thanked Mr. Loving, Mr. Schalestock and the members of the Farmington Country Club on behalf of the Association for the wonderful time which they all had on this gala occasion.

The correspondence then was read by Charlie Schalestock. This included: (1) a letter from the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents, thanking this association for its \$50.00 contribution for the space in the program of the Atlantic City meeting. The Mid-Atlantic wishes to take this opportunity to thank National Capital Toro for the above mentioned \$50.00 contribution, and also to thank the G. L. Cornell Company for the tribute given our association at Atlantic City. (2) a note from Al Rasko, expressing the pleasure of the United States Golf Association Green Section in having the Mid-Atlantic Association as its guest at the annual Beltsville meeting; and (3) a letter from Admiral Jack Phillips, thanking the Mid-Atlantic for his honorary membership card. At this point the announcement was made that president of the United States Golf Association, had appointed Admiral Phillips as a member of the Green Section Committee. Admiral Phillips, requesting permission to say a few words, stated that he was pleased and honored to be identified with golf nationally, and even more to have the friends he had made in the Mid-Atlantic. The Admiral remarked also that he sincerely hoped that some day he will be able to say that he has done something for the Superintendent as well as for the Golfer.

John Lovell, of the Golf Committee, gave the results of the first golf competition, using the Callaway System of handicapping. Mr. George Bigham, Mr. Pat Gardener, and Mr. Loving all finished in first place with one over par. Mr. Reynolds was second with a 72, and Mr. Ryan held the show position with a 73.

The report of the Membership Committee was given by Mr. Lindsey. The Committee presented the names of four candidates which they had approved for membership. They are: Mr. Russell W. Kearns, Greenhill Yacht and Country Club, Salisbury, Md., Mr. Earnest Morgal, Superintendent, Columbia Country Club, Chevy Chase, Md., Mr. Joe Corkriell, Richmond, Virginia, and Mr. George Bingham, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, associate membership. Mr. Jim Reid and his committee deserve a great deal of credit for their fine work.

Bob Shields gave the report of the Education and Policy Committee, listing the following topics discussed at their last meeting:

Requests for more discussion on the use of eaddy carts.

A list of delinquent members so that they can be contacted and brought into circulation again.

Lists of clubs from the different areas interested in taking part in the zoysia planting projects.

The committee also concluded that for the good of the Association we should pay for our dinners when visiting other clubs.

COMING EVENTS

- April 9: Washington Golf & Country Club, Arlington, Va.
Host Superintendent; Francis Coupe
- April 22-23: Seventh Annual Southeastern Turf Management Conference,
Tifton, Georgia, B. P. Robinson
- May 5: James River Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
Host Superintendent; Tom Dawson
- June 2: Five Farms, Baltimore Country Club, Baltimore, Md.
Host Superintendent, Robert Scott, Sr.

Good Reading

1. "Cyanamid for Turf". Reprinted from: American Cyanograms, Summer - 1952. American Cyanamid Co., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.
2. For further information regarding the methods and uses of dynamite, it is recommended you write E. I. duPont deNemours & Company, Wilmington, Delaware for their bulletins.
3. "Know How to Water" by Robert M. Hogen. February issue of the U.S.G.A. Journal.

Know Your Host

Francis Coupe, the superintendent of Washington Golf and Country Club will be our host for the April meeting. Francis first became interested in turf work while serving as greenhouse foreman at Dumbarton Oaks, and shortly after the war as a Senior Foreman for the National Park Service. He later assisted Mrs. Fannie Fern Davis in establishing, and maintaining the Kensington bent grass nursery. After obtaining this valuable experience Francis served as the superintendent at East Potomac Golf Course, and Rock Creek Golf Course, under the guiding hand of Rubin Hines. Francis is now serving as Superintendent at the Washington Golf and Country Club, with whom he has been associated with for over three years.

NEXT MEETING

PLACE: Washington Golf and Country Club
Arlington, Va.

DATE: DATE WAS APRIL 7. THIS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO APRIL 9.

TIME: Golf, 12:00 noon - Dinner: 6:30 p.m.