



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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NORBECK MEETING

Tuesday, November first, found the Mid-Atlantic clan gathering at the Norbeck Country Club for a second visit. A year ago we made our initial journey there. At that time an old dairy barn was serving as a club house and the golf course was struggling for existence. It had come into being under very trying weather conditions namely a long protracted period of drought.

We were not quite prepared for the scene which greeted our eyes this year. A new modern clubhouse with up-to-date appointments in every respect. The building with its arrangements showed that much thought and planning had gone into the design and construction. As to the golf course, it was an unexpected revelation; a complete transformation in comparison to what we encountered in the fall of 1954. What has been accomplished and achieved in one brief growing season is a tribute and monument to the ability and know-how of Norbeck's superintendent, Charles Schalestock.

"Charlie" has always been one of our most active members; a former Vice-President, and also Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. At present he is an Executive Committee member and is also a prominent worker in the affairs of the National GCSA. As you know, a severe illness has confined him to the Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital for the last two months.

However, we are pleased to learn that Charlie's conditions has undergone a very marked improvement. He can now receive visitors. A card or visit would be most welcome to him. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he can resume his place among us in the near future.

The official count of those present showed that there were fifty-seven members and guests in attendance. Our guests were: Dick Essex and Martin McCarthy, greens committee and golf committee Chairmen respectively of Columbia Country Club. Mr. Schoonhoven of the Roseman Mower Company, Purdy Carson, Representative of the Worthington Mower Company, Mr. Eddie Ault, Indian Springs greens Chairman and James Hunter, assistant superintendent at Bethesda Country Club.

The following Norbeck Club Officials were introduced by Ray Hilton, assistant superintendents: Mr. Gilbert Shapiro, green committee Chairman; Henry Geradi, golf professional; Ralph Kriker, assistant golf professional. Each one of them had a few words of greeting for us and they proved themselves perfect hosts. We will be looking forward to another meeting at Norbeck sometime in the months ahead.

Just a few bouquets for the club's officials. We all know that most of the credit for the condition of a golf course properly belongs and goes to the superintendent in charge. Yet, if he does not have cooperation, assistance and

the confidence of his employers, his task can often be cheerless and burdensome. Norbeck's progress and condition show that there has been perfect teamwork and harmony all along the line. We are sure that Mr. Shapiro, the greens chairman, also deserves honorable mention.

After an excellent dinner and the introduction of guests, President Bob Shields called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the Secretary and Treasurer's report were read and approved. After reports from the different committees, the main business of the evening was disposed of - the election of officers for the coming year of 1956. New officers of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents are: President- R. E. Scott, Jr., (Bonnie View Country Club, Baltimore) Vice-President Thomas C. Dawson, Jr., (Country Club of Virginia, Richmond) and Secretary-Treasurer, John S. Connolly (Fairfax Country Club, Fairfax, Virginia.) This group makes for a good, hard-working team of officials - one we can be proud of. Let's get behind them with our full support.

Bob Shields, our retiring President, who has served us so faithfully and loyally, gave us a few pertinent parting suggestions that are worthy of our consideration. Bob suggested that we-

1. Raise our annual dues from six to ten dollars a year to help provide funds for the handling of the 1958 National Turfgrass Conference and Show which will be held in Washington with this association as host.
2. Have a Vice-President from each of the localities of our area- Baltimore, Washington and Richmond. A move of this kind would provide us with trained leaders to carry on association work in the future.
3. Elect an assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer.
4. Do away with the annual fall tournament so as to eliminate the confusion and embarrassment to the association and donors over the distribution of prizes.
5. Establish a savings account with some of our Treasury funds so that our money will be working for us by drawing interest.

Note: Some of these suggestions would require changes in the by-laws.

Bob expressed his thanks to the members for the privilege of serving again as President of the association and stated that he would help the new President in any way he could if help is ever needed. His last official act was to thank the committee heads and committee members and then release them from duty.

Upon taking office, the new President, Bob Scott, Jr. asked all committees to continue to function until he has had time to appoint new ones.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Mid-Atlantic scored another first by having a Greens Chairman conduct this phase of the meeting. None other than the little Admiral from Army-Navy Country Club across the Potomac in Virginia - Admiral J.S. Phillips.

Nothing could be more appropriate at this writing than to quote the first and third paragraphs of the report on Norbeck at our September meeting last year- quote "Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of spellbinders put together"-Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels.

" How will we bring about the desired result? We have often heard our good friend, Mr. Turf, (Dr. O.J. Noer) say" Feed judiciously until the desired turf or density is secured then maintain it with the proper rates of plant food". -unquote.

Every indication points to the full appreciation by Charlie and his committee of the real meaning of the above quotes.

The fairways, for their age, we found to be in excellent condition. Their grass herbage seems to consist of fescue, colonial bent and blue grass. After the first four holes it was hard to find much to criticise about their condition. Some broad leaf weeds exist. However, they can be removed and controlled with the herbicide 2,4-D applied at the manufacturers' recommended rate. They have been fertilized with a 10-6-4 formula, half of which was organic, at the rate of 750 pounds to the acre. This program we would continue next year as the results have been very good.

A suggestion for the improvement of the first four fairways would be to frequently fertilize them until a satisfactory stand of grass is obtained. Then maintain them with regular rates and periods of fertilization. During the coming winter months some mulching of slope areas with rotten manure or straw would be beneficial. It would tend to hold erosion in check. The more deeply eroded sections of the fairways and collars of the greens should be trued-up with strips of sod and top-dressed. Pegging of sod on slopes is advisable.

Comments from the floor:--

A very marked improvement over proceeding year was noted. Greens putted well and approach shots held. Some seepage apparent on both fifteenth and sixteenth greens, tiling and interception lines needed in connection with both. Fifth and eleventh greens poorly located for good playability. The greens in general are well-contoured.

DSeason's work on greens was very outstanding.

Both surface and sub-drainage are very important. They can be provided by tiling, interception lines and surface swales. Sufficient moisture can always be easily applied; excess, unwanted water is difficult to remove. It is a hazard to the welfare of a putting green.

Course needs landscaping, particularly on holes around 350 yards in length. Course would be more interesting if more trees were planted. Recommend starting a tree nursery now of the desired types of evergreens and shade trees.

NEW LIFE MEMBER

It was brought to the attention of the Association by Hugh McRae upon his recent return from a visit to Europe that former member, Tom Fisher is well and active over in Scotland. It was recommended that he be made a Life Member of the association. The motion was made and passed that Tom Fisher be made a Life Member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

It's nice to hear from you again, Tom. Why not write us telling more about what you are doing and how you are getting along?

Tom's address, in case some of the members would like to write to him is:

Links Cottage
Gullane, East Lothian,
Scotland

IN THE MAIL

A letter was received recently from Frank Murray, the man who built Norbeck Country Club, expressing his regret at having missed the meeting at Norbeck. He explained that he was tied up on two other golf course construction jobs- Andrews Field AFB and Newark Country Club, Newark, Delaware and was at Newark at the time of the meeting.

He went on to explain some of the things that should be considered during the construction period and wrote- " it has long been taken for granted that a green base should be contoured exactly the same as the desired finished surface. In the last year or so we have been accentuating the drainage areas of the base of new greens so that when they are finished the prepared top dressing in these swales might be as much as 24" deep and extending well off the edges. This we have found insures faster run-off of surface and sub-surface water.

At least one contour of a new tee should blend into the existing terrain. Soil for tees should be prepared with the same care as soil for greens and should be mixed off the site."

Editors' Note: - Mr. Murray has been building golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic area since 1949. He built Woodmont, Norbeck, Westbriar, Brook Manor Farms, Cedar Point, Swan Creek, Newark Country Club and 9 holes at Andrews Field AFB. He is a member of this association and a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the G.L.Cornell Company, 4715 Miller Ave., in Bethesda, Maryland.

Those who have attended one of " Genial George's" meetings in the past know that he goes all-out to help you have an enjoyable evening. He assures us that this year will be no exception and that even now the " banquet hall" is undergoing a complete facelifting. Cleaners and painters are busy and before you walk in the door they will have brought about many changes. You are sure to say that the place doesn't look the same as when you last saw it.

The grill and tables are being made ready for the heavy eaters and there is a long high box-like affair over on one side which "Brownie" says is for those who would rather lean than eat.

Mac, the head man at the grill, is getting ready to black his face. Says he might as well- he gets all smoked up anyway. Earl Foster, Orlando, Clyde, John and Duke are washing aprons and practicing balancing trays. You never met a better or more friendly waiters than these anywhere - unles you were there a year ago.

What is Frank Haske doing to get ready? The same as he does all the time and will be doing at the meeting - looking for more ways to be of service to you. He will be one of the official greeters - make certain he greets you.

Each member received a return postcard which should have been filled in and returned long before now. If you haven't returned your card, do so at once so Mr. Cornell will know how many to prepare for.

Bring your greens chairman, a club manager and golf professional.

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SPECIAL APPEAL

Enclosed in this "NEWSLETTER" is a letter from a special committee seeking funds for a special occasion. Give this some thought and then see Jimmy Thomas or any one of the committee members at the Cornell Meeting.

This is a most worthy cause and considering that this association never asks you for any contributions, let this one be a generous one.

Note: This appeal is made to Regular, Associate and Life members only.

IT'S BUDGET TIME

This is the time of the year when superintendents are thinking about next year's expenditures. When making up a budget, don't forget to include something for clean-up after hurricanes as Charlie Hallowell suggested at Suburban. The long range weather forecast is for more and more windstorms. Perhaps it would even be wise to include a chain saw if you don't already have one so as to be ready to clean up those fallen trees in a hurry.

Another item to be included is your expenses to attend the National Turfgrass Conference and the Baltimore Turfgrass Conference.

COMING EVENTS

Baltimore Turfgrass Conference
Lord Baltimore Hotel
January 17-18, 1956
Dr. E.N. Cory, Director

National Turfgrass Conference and Show
Long Beach, California
February 5-10, 1956

WIT PARADE

" Blessed are they that go around in circles -
they shall be known as wheels. "

" Engage brain before starting mouth. "

NATIOANL ASSOCIATION PROXIES

Proxy vote forms are now in the hands of all members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. To make certain your vote is counted in the National election, sign the form and bring it with you to the Cornell meeting.