



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by

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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BROOKE MANOR MEETING

On Tuesday, August 7, 1956, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held their regular monthly meeting at Brooke Manor Country Club, Norbeck, Maryland. There were seventy-seven members and guests in attendance.

Our host for the day was Mr. Frank Murray. Besides operating the Brooke Manor Golf Course, Frank designs and constructs golf layouts. Some of his work has been the building of Woodmont Country Club, Norbeck Country Club, Cedar Point Golf Club, Country Club of Newark, Delaware, the second nine holes at Andrews Air Force Base, Westbriar Country Club and others. After seeing and playing Frank's home layout, Brooke Manor, we can appreciate why he likes to design golf courses.

Frank gave us a few of the details and facts concerning his club. The course is leased for twenty years from Mr. Brooke John, the owner of the property. A second eighteen holes is being built adjacent to the site of the present layout. The membership plan is unique from the standpoint of club organizations. It is strictly a closed membership, and all applicants are screened and interviewed before being accepted. Daily fee play is not permitted at any time.

The dues are fifty dollars a year, plus a tax of ten dollars. In addition to the yearly fees, there is an activity charge for the playing of golf; on weekdays the fee is one dollar, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays two dollars. The course operates on a very limited budget and the regular maintenance crew consists of four men.

After we had partaken of a delicious repast of fried chicken, President Bob Scott, Jr. called the meeting to order. The following guests were introduced: Mr. Lentz, Chairman of the Green Committee, Sparrows Point Golf Club. Other Green Committee Chairmen present were: Colonel Crum of Fort Belvoir, Louis Fuchs of Manor Country Club and Dick Essex of Columbia Country Club. We are always glad to have these gentlemen with us, and we hope that they will make their visits a regular habit.

Mr. Murray introduced his key assistants: Martin Yeatman, Brooke Manor golf course superintendent; and Russel Roberts, Frank's partner, who supervises construction work.

Frank Dunlap, Chairman of the National Policy Committee, gave us a brief outline of a few of the problems confronting the National body. He explained that it is the function of his committee to obtain and screen or review any and all matters pertaining to the National Association coming from the individual members or district associations for presentation to the Executive Committee with or without recommendations for action. He said it is the duty of his committee to be in a position to concisely present such views before the Annual membership Meeting for consideration. If you know of any matter pertaining to our work, our association or profession that should be brought to the attention of the National Association, Mr. Dunlap asks that you come forth at once and talk it over with him.

President Scott also announced the appointment of Jim Reid and Tom Dawson as the Mid-Atlantic members of the National Policy Committee.

While on the subject of the National Association, Jim Reid gave us a very fine talk on the importance of being a member of the GCSA. He said we must not lose sight of the fact that the 1958 Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held in Washington, D.C. Our own Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be host for this event. At the present time about one-fourth of our members belong to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This is not a large enough representation for a group of our size. Our goal should be for 100% affiliation by 1958. Are you a National member? If not, see Jim Reid or Jimmy Thomas for further details.

7 Donald Strand has resigned from the National Executive Committee, due to poor health; His successor is Bob Williams, who is the current president of the Mid-West Association. We are sorry to hear of Don's illness, he was a worker for the cause of the GCSA and the golf course superintendent. Bob Williams has been on the board before and is well qualified to take over the duties of the office. He has played an active part in several of the National Conference programs. He also is a fighter for the welfare, development and improvement of " The Keeper of the Greens ".

Our neighbors to the south, The Tidewater Association, are planning to hold a joint meeting with us when we journey to Jim Reynolds, Monacon Hills Country Club, for our November meeting in Richmond. What the Tidewater lacks in size, they make up for in activity and progressiveness. According to their Secretary, Harry McSloy, they intend to seek one hundred per cent affiliation with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Harry's plan is to ask by circular letter all of the golf clubs in the Tidewater area to underwrite the National membership of their golf course superintendent. It will be interesting to see the results he gets from his letter as it may be a way of securing more members for the GCSA.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

The moderator for this discussion was Bob Shields, and it was one of the best reports we have had in some time. All remarks were direct and to the point; time was not wasted or consumed by useless talk and unnecessary comments.

At Brooke Manor we found an eighteen hole golf course constructed on property that had been an old dairy farm; the land had been in a pasture that had been properly maintained for many years. The present fairways are still the original native sod of bluegrass and fescue. Mr. Murray simply aerified, then fertilized and started mowing at fairway height. The layout has a gentle roll and appears to drain very well. The course is in its third season of play and has greatly benefited from the abundant rainfall of July.

Most of course is out in the open and enjoys perfect air drainage and full sunshine during the day. However, there is a small corner of the layout that passes through a grove of trees and is situated in low ground. There we found the usual headaches common to greens located in closed-in pockets. Namely: algae, diseases and weed infestation, mostly due to poor air circulation. This again points out the established fact that turf growing out in the open is easier to maintain in a healthy condition.

The greens were the only portion of the course that came up for discussion. These were firm, and in most instances putted true, pitch shots properly played to them held well.

The topics brought out which would improve their condition and appearance were: the correction of algae, the control of both smooth and silver crabgrass and the prevention of disease.

The remedy recommended for the correction of algae was the application of hydrated lime at the rate of three to five pounds per one thousand square feet applied to the greens when the grass was dry. This to be followed by brushing or polling to get material off grass leaves into the soil. It was pointed out that one of the vertical mowers now on the market can be made to operate as an effective spiker and that if this machine could be used more, faster and efficient results could be obtained from the lime.

PMS and di-sodium methyl arsenate were chemicals suggested for the elimination of both crabgrasses, care being taken that directions for their application be closely followed in order to secure desired results. Some manual weeding of the plants is also necessary in some areas. We must realize that while chemicals are becoming a very valuable aid to us in the control of certain weeds, they are not yet the final answer. They should not be considered a panacea or cure-all, a certain amount of hand weeding must still accompany their use if we wish effective results.

The garden page of the Sunday issue of the Washington Star of August 12, 1956 has the following recommendation for the killing of silver crabgrass; it says, only TCA and Dalapon applied to the crown of the plant will kill

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without destroying the good grasses. (Nothing was said about its use on bent grasses- experiment with it before using.)

There was evidence that the greens had been attacked by a disease which had the earmarks of dollar spot, however the infection was dormant and the grass was on the mebd. Cadminate and acti-done were recommended for dollar spot prevention and cure. Also, a weak feeding program was given as one of the possible causes of the disease; another was the possibility of the insufficient use of lime. Some thought that the disease might be pythium. We doubt this, as temperatures have not been high enough for outbreaks of pythium.

Frank Dunlap and Jim Reid mentioned they had recently experienced what appeared to be an attack of dollar spot; yet recommended practices for its control did not check the disease. It was suggested to them that it might be curvularia so they switched to a treatment using Actidione and the condition cleared up. Evidently there is a marked similarity between the two diseases; perhaps a fungicide is needed, one that blends two compatible materials into a mixture that will control both dollar spot and curvularia.

During the discussions of the evening. Frank Murray told us that he used no tile drainage in his greens. His internal drainage is secured by contouring the grades of his subsoils into troughs and valleys and by leading them far enough out into the surrounding areas to eliminate any concentrated wet spots. He says that he has had complete success with this method, though it is contrary to most recommended practices.

The soil mixture of the greens is high in the content of coarse sand, the percentage being 75%, with a minimum amount of organic matter added. Some of the material used was thoroughly rotted sawdust.

One of the most important points brought out during the meeting was the preparation of soils for topdressing purposes. It was stressed that straight application of any materials were to be avoided. One should use his own natural soils and add to them sufficient coarse sand and organic matter to provide the necessary soil tilth and composition he is seeking.

All organic materials such as vegetable matters, sawdust, manures, and the like should be thoroughly rotted and decomposed before being added to any mixture.

We further suggest to Mr. Murray that basic maintenance procedures be followed in every operation on the golf course. The basic operations are regular fertilization, regular mowing at the proper height of cut, watering, top dressing, etc. Details of the procedures to follow are outlined at length at meetings of this association and we urge that your superintendent Mr. Yeatman be allowed to attend these meetings and those sponsored by the National Association. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of July and September when, because of holiday conflicts, they are held on the second Tuesday. The National meeting is usually held during the first week of February. The 1957 meeting will be held in Louisville and in 1958, here in Washington.

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GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

Thirty-seven members and guests entered the Brooke Manor superintendents Tournament in which Bob Hopkins established a new course record with a sparkling 67 including a two-stroke penalty and waltzed off with the low gross honors by 7 strokes over Jim Reynolds who had 74. Sev Leoffler was third with a 75.

Russ Kerns won the net event with an 89-28-61 (the handicap committee will act) the remaining field was very closely grouped as the handicaps are beginning to pay off. Twenty of the thirty-two members who played were within a 6 point spread, 6 of them tying at 71's.

In the guest division, Dick Essex, after years of toil in trying to win an event, managed to hustle Martin Mc Carthy off to Baltimore for the Seniors qualifying events. Without Martin to defeat, Dick took advantage of the golden opportunity to come home winner with an 82-9-73. McCarthy will in all probability see that it never happens again. The following are the total results:

Low Gross:

1. Bob Hopkins - 67
2. Jim Reynolds - 74
3. Sev. Leoffler, Sr. 75

Guest:

1. Dick Essex 82-9-73
2. Al Sepulveda 84-9-76
3. Al Gotch 93-15-78

Low Net:

1. Russ Kerns 89-28-61
2. E. H. Franklin 79-10-69
3. G. Campbell 86-17-69
- L. Bargmann 83-14-69
3. Pat Sheridan 81-11-70
- Col. Jedenoff 81-11-70
- Tom Dawson 87-17-70

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Shenandoah Retreat Country Club, Berryville, Va., on September 11, 1956. This is a new club and will be the first visit for most members, so follow travel directions carefully.

Next Meeting -- September 11, 1956
Place -- Shenandoah Retreat Country Club
Berryville, Virginia
Time -- Golf - 12 noon
Get-to-gether - 5 p.m.
Dinner -- 6:30 p.m.
Meeting -- Following dinner
Host Superintendent - John Leavell

Dr. E.M. Freeman, President of Shenandoah Retreat sends the following message.:

Dear Mr. Shields:

Enclosed are the directions to Shenandoah Retreat as per your request. If you will, you may include in your bulletin that there will be facilities available for cottage rentals to members of the Mid-Atlantic who wish to stay at the club overnight. These rental cottages are located near the club house and consist of new modern motel units. The rates are as follows:

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Rooms with kitchen \$9.00
Rooms without kitchen \$7.00
Whole cottage (2 rooms & kitchen.. \$15.00

You may contact Mr. John Leavell or Mr. Claude Pearson at Berryville, Va. phone 764J, or this office, 3004 Lee Highway, Arlington Virginia, phone Ja. 58353, for reservations.

All other facilities of the club in addition to the golf course will be made available to those wishing to stay over and bring their families.

DIRECTIONS:

From Washington: Route 7 thru Leesburg, Va., The club is eight miles past Purcellville, watch for sign on right

From Baltimore: - Take U.S. Route 40 to Frederick, left on Rt. 340 to Charlestown, left on state route 9 to Berryville, then left about 7 miles on Rt. 7 over the Shenandoah river bridge to club sign on left.
(Editor's note:-sounds like we are leading you in a big circle to the left, but we aren't. See your road map.)

TRANSPORTATION

For transportation to Shenandoah Retreat call George Cornell at G.L. Cornell Co. in Bethesda or Jack Witcher at Baltimore Toro Co. in Baltimore.

FIRST PRESIDENT INJURED

Mr. O.B. Fitts, the man who was the first President of our Association is in Arlington Hospital with a broken hip caused by a fall.

His hospital room number is 1617. He would appreciate seeing you or hearing from you. Visiting hours are 2:300 to 3:30 and 7 to 8.

We wish you a speedy recovery, O.B. and hope you are able to meet with us soon.

Also in Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore is Frank Dunlop of Baltimore Country Club. Frank is suffering from a kidney disorder. Sorry he won't be with us at the meeting.