



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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Editor

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Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

OCTOBER 1957

On Tuesday, September 3rd, we gathered at the new Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland for our regular monthly meeting. Chestnut Ridge is owned and managed by Mr. Francis S. Carnes and is strictly operated on a closed membership basis.

Mr. Carnes has provided his members with quite an attractive and well arranged layout for their comfort and recreational pleasures. There is a main clubhouse which contains a lounge, ball room, dining room, kitchen, cocktail bar and offices.

The golfers are housed in a separate unit of their own. This building contains the pro shop, locker rooms for both men and women and a small bar. Adjacent to the locker room structure are the first and tenth tees which were constructed so as to form a double tee and provide a starting point for both nine holes. There is also a large modern swimming pool that has a separate pavillion for the accomodation of swimmers.

The golf course is a rugged eighteen hole layout, a he-man's golf course, extending over hill and dale. It has all of the variety that a golfer could ask for. The course plays 6,398 yards from the red markers; by using the white markers, the course is extended for championship play to a length of 6,830 yards, par 73.

The attendance for our meeting was rather small and below normal, perhaps due to being so close to Labor day holiday, and also the Penn State Field days. This was regretable because those of us who were present found Mr. Carnes to be a most perfect and genial host. At dinner he served us a delicious repast of roast beef, along with appetizing trimmings and we were allowed to pass our plates back for seconds. The entire Chestnut Ridge staff was solicitous of all our needs and wants.

Before passing on to our business meeting, it is fitting to say a few words about the club's golf staff. Mr. William Gordon is the head golf professional and was more than gracious to those of us who played golf. Bill is one of the game's old timers and he hails from the Middle West. He was at the Tam-O-Shanter Country Club in the Chicago District for many years. Tam-O-Shanter is the home of Gearge May's fabulous tournaments.

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The golf course superintendent is Eddie McElligott. Eddie is also one of golf's veterans and likewise is a former Mid-Westerner. He has seen many active years of service on golf courses in the states of Iowa and Minnesota.

We are glad to welcome both Eddie and Bill to the Mid-Atlantic area. We hope their sojourn here will be a long, pleasant and profitable one for them.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

JAMES E. THOMAS, MODERATOR

Much of the Constructive Suggestion Report centered on contemplated changes around the fourth green and fifth hole. The fourth hole is a long par five measuring 578 yards from the back tee markers. The tee is an elevated one and is situated on a ridge, the line of play is down a valley bordered by woods on each side of the fairway to the green located on a shelf at the base of a long slope.

Seepage and surface drainage from the hill above has been a problem around the green, even though the conditions have been corrected with an interception tile line between the green and the slope of the hill; and the surface run off of water has been diverted to one side by the means of a grassy swale. These expediciencies have been helpful to some extent.

However, the green is so situated as to be surrounded by trees and underbrush at its rear and right hand side. Air circulation is poor and at times shade is excessive. Both conditions are conducive to disease attacks, and during periods of excessive precipitation, they keep the soil from drying out fast enough.

The solution and correction recommended for this situation was for shortening the length of the hole and the relocation of the green to a site more to the left of its present position. At this new green placement the hole would become a slight dogleg, and a bit more clearing would be required to open the area up for play.

This change would provide better air circulation and drainage, and in the construction of the new green, seepage and surface wash from outside of the green can be avoided and eliminated. Also the new shift would shorten the climb up to the fifth tee which at present is quite an uphill walk.

Number five is a par three hole of 195 yards. One of the principal objections to playing this hole is the sharp and abrupt walk up to the tee from the previous green. The hole plays across a small body of water with the tee on one hilltop and with the green laying on the crest of the opposite ridge. This putting green is very small in size and not much of its surface is visible from the tee.

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The suggested alteration for this hole is to lower the level of both the tee and green. The putting surface to be dropped down the hillside so that all of the green will be visible from the new tee. The new tee location should be placed so that the journey up the hill from the fourth green would be less severe.

Other constructive suggestions were:

Rearrange the tee markers to conform with other local clubs. Blue for Blue-ribbon Championship on the back tees, white for Regular and red for Ladies' tees.

That several of the service roads crossing the golf course could be re-routed to good advantage. Many of these roadways are too close or adjacent to active playing areas.

Start a nursery of small trees now for further landscaping.

Establish nurseries of improved strains of tee and greens grasses.

On a few fairways bermuda grass has been planted, up to the present time it has not made much of a showing. A reason for this could be that the bermuda sprigs were set out late in the fall and that the plants may not have survived the cold winter weather. It was pointed out that when bermuda was planted late in the growing season, that if plugs or strips of sod were used they would have a better chance against winter kill. The ideal time to introduce bermuda grass is in the late spring when all possible danger of a killing frost has passed - or better yet, early summer. Then the plantings would normally have ideal weather conditions for their growth and survival.

As an aftermath of the long extended drought we have experienced in the Mid-Atlantic area this season, the value of fairway watering was discussed and referred to quite often during the evening. One of the main objections raised against the sprinkling of fairways was that it is so often abused and overdone on many golf courses. When fairway irrigation is carried to the extreme in this area conditions become ideal for heavy infestation of crab grass, disease attacks etc. Then the good grasses disappear and are replaced by weeds and bare ground.

It was thought by some that where a fair stand of grasses already existed, adequate fertilization at the proper season of the year would do much towards establishing a satisfactory turf. A final summation was that where a fairway irrigation system was already in existence, it should be used only to keep the grass alive during periods of extreme dry weather conditions.

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TO ALL MEMBERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

We have been asked to help locate a golf course superintendent for the Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio. This well known eighteen (18) hole watered fairway course has recently completed some alterations and new construction. Applications should be addressed to :

Mr. Robert Dorian, Mgr.
Scioto Country Club
2196 Riverside Dr.
Columbus, Ohio

It is suggested that those interested in the above employment opportunity make themselves familiar with the pay scale of the area and uphold this scale.

We would appreciate hearing of your response to this inquiry. Please mention this employment opportunity was referred to you by this office.

Very truly yours,
Agar M. Brown, secretary
Golf Course Supt. Assoc. of America

St. Charles Illinois
September 5, 1957

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

At the Congressional meeting the association golf tournament will be played to decide who is the best superintendent-golfer. The man to beat is Bill Schrieber who won the title last year.

The prize committee headed by Leon Brown points out that only Regular and Life Members in good standing are eligible to share in prizes. The committee also suggests that you tee off on time so score cards can be considered before dinner.

If there are any questions concerning the tournament it is suggested that you get in touch with Golf Committee Chairman, Jim Reynolds, Monacan Hill Country Club, Richmond, Va.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1958 OFFICERS

The association By-Laws state that " the nominating committee shall be responsible for submitting a slate of officers at the meeting prior to the annual meeting at which election of officers is an order of business."

Officers are elected in November so a report from the nominating committee should be submitted at the Congressional meeting. Sorry we don't have the slate for publication at this time. Somebody goofed.

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REGARDING 100% NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

On May 20 of this year, a Special meeting of Regular members was held at Army-Navy Country Club to vote on the issue of 100% National Membership. About 17 of the 70 Regular members saw fit to attend that meeting and vote on this important issue. A majority of those present voted in favor of the legislation which was to go into effect January 1, 1958.

At the June meeting those who did not attend the Special meeting came forth to voice their objections to the action taken, claiming that the place where the Special meeting was held wasn't made clear and that the results would hurt the superintendent who is on a \$2000 a year salary at the small club in Virginia.

The opposition was able to create doubt in the legality of the Special meeting and introduced legislation to bring about a new vote on the issue.

Official ballots were mailed to all eligible members on September 17, 1957 with instructions to mail the ballot to the secretary in the addressed envelop. These envelopes will remain sealed and will not be opened until a committee and time has been designated by the President to do so.

If you have not already done so, please forward your ballot envelop to the secretary at once. If you did not receive a ballot and feel you are eligible to vote, then write the secretary or attend the meeting and receive a ballot in person. The main thing is to VOTE. (Editors' note: Ineligible to vote are those who are not Regular or Life Members and Regular members who have not paid their dues.)

REGARDING DUES

According to the By-Laws, dues must be paid by May 1st of each year or the delinquent member will be automatically dropped from the rolls and be so notified by the secretary.

Our secretary, Francis Coupe, hesitated to drop names " Automatically" last May, but was told to do so by the members present at the August meeting. Twenty-seven members, including eight regulars, were dropped from the rolls and so notified and will not receive this " NEWSLETTER".

Dues statements for 1958 will be mailed to you with the November "NEWSLETTER".

NATIONAL NOTES

Agar Brown writes that there is a little more time left in which to submit pictures of your course for use in the Washington program publication. With the rains have come better fairways, so get a picture of your favorite fairway and green. This must be done before the leaves fall from the trees. Send pictures to Agar Brown, P.O. Box 106, St. Charles, Ill.

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NEXT MEETING

The next association meeting will be held at Congressional Country Club, River Road extended, Bethesda, Maryland on October 1, with Wayne Jerome as host superintendent.

Meeting- Tuesday October 1, 1957
Place - Congressional Country Club,
River Road, Bethesda, Maryland
Time - Golf - 12 noon
Social Hour, 5:00.p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
Inspection of course - All afternoon
Business meeting - following dinner

DIRECTIONS

To Congressional Country Club from Washington, go out Wisconsin Ave. to River Road, (look for Sears-Roebuck store), then turn left to Club on left - about 5 miles out.

From Baltimore - get into Bethesda via East-West Highway, cross U.S. 240 and follow Old Georgetown Road about two blocks, then turn left on Wilson Lane to River Road. Turn right on River Road to club on left about 2-1/2 miles out.

The more venturesome Baltimoreans may like to try this route to save time, torn up highways and traffic. Out Frederick Ave., Rt. 40, to U.S. 29, left on 29 to Ashton and go straight through Ashton (29 turns left.) and follow Md. 108 to Olney, then left on Md. 97 to Norbeck. At Norbeck, turn right on Md. 28 through downtown Rockville, then left on Md. 189 to Potomac. Turn left on River Road, Md. 190 to club on right.

Transportation - Call Jack Witcher at Baltimore Toro, George Cornell at G.L. Cornell Co. or Bob Adams at National Capital Toro.

MEETING PLACES FOR 1958

If you would like for the Association to visit your club during 1958, fill in the form below and mail it to the secretary. From the invitations received, the Executive Committee will compile a list of clubs where meetings will be held and will publish the list in the "NEWSLETTER"

The committee considers all invitations received, then works up the schedule that it feels will be most beneficial to the association members.