



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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The July meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Virginia. The date was Tuesday, July 7, 1959. Winchester, about 75 miles northwest of Washington, D.C., is one of the principal cities of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and is the hub of Virginia's apple growing country.

Prior to our evening meeting, about 45 members and guests enjoyed a very delicious buffet dinner in the dining room of the Winchester Country Club. The Club Manager, Mr. Gunter Skole, saw to it that we were served in a royal fashion. We thank him for his efforts in our behalf. The following Winchester club officials were present and in attendance at our meeting: Mr. James Sargent, President; Dr. E.C. Stuart, Greens Chairman; Dr. Leon Salvin, Golf Committee Chairman; Mr. Billy Phillips, Golf Professional; and last but not least - Mr. Lewis Lamp. We thank our hosts for a most enjoyable day and we are looking forward to a return visit at some future date.

We do not know if apples had any thing to do with the organizing of the Winchester Country Club, if they did, a perfect setting and site for a golf course was chosen. The club is one of the oldest in the valley, and existed as a nine hole layout until about three years ago when the need for increased golf facilities brought about the acquisition of additional property for the construction of a second nine hole golf course.

The first nine holes, which is the original layout, is a valley course and is divided in two by a clear swift running mountain stream. This water course adds much to the beauty of the property, and to the design and attractiveness of the inside nine holes. A new modernistic clubhouse sits on a hillside above these nine holes; and when one steps out of the locker rooms and pro shop, the view inspires him to put his best foot forward golf-wise.

The outside nine is new and can be classified as a hill course, as most of its design follows the contours of the ridges. Like most new courses that have just been opened to play, one finds the fairways in need of further work and development. This the club plans to do in the near future as they are able to secure large quantities of poultry manure from a nearby source. During the coming fall and winter months the plan is to top-dress the new fairway areas with this organic material. If it is well rotted and comminuted it should prove very beneficial to the new grasses, but we believe that additional applications of commercial fertilizers will also be needed.

All of the eighteen greens on the course, both old and new, are a golfer's dream of perfection in their appearance and playability. Their quality compares with any we have seen so far this season. The putting surfaces on the new outside nine were seeded to Penncross bent, and their present condition speaks well for the use of that bent grass seed.

Lewis Lamp, golf course superintendent for the Winchester Country Club, told us about the construction of the new nine. He started clearing the land for the course in 1956. In the spring and summer of 1957 the bases for the greens were roughed in and that fall the top-soil

was placed on the sub-grades to a depth of eighteen inches. To the soil on each green was added forty to sixty tons of sand and also ten to fifteen tons of well rotted sawdust. This was thoroughly mixed and incorporated into the surface soil fill to become part of the finished seed bed.

During the spring and summer of 1958 the new putting green areas were continuously cultivated and sterilized with calcium cyanamid for weed control, lime addition and fertility. In the early fall, soon after Labor Day, Penncross bent seed was sowed at the rate of three-quarters of a pound per thousand square feet. A month from the day the greens were seeded, they received their first mowing at a height of one inch. Three to four baskets of clippings were removed from each green at that time. Mowing was continued at this height of cut until December. It was again resumed in February with the mowers set for a cut of one-half inch. In April the cut was dropped to one-quarter of an inch which is the present setting of the putting green mowers.

The tees were built in the summer of 1958. They were sodded to a turf of bluegrass, and then overseeded with bermuda. The fairways were seeded to bluegrass in the fall at the rate of thirty to forty pounds per acre.

Editors' Note: This is Lewis Lamp's actual case history of the construction of the new nine holes at Winchester Country Club. As previously mentioned, the sod on the new putting greens at the present time is all that could be desired. However, as we have stated, the fairways are in need of further work. More seeding and fertilization would not be amiss. We think that Mr. Lamp should be commended for the fine job he did in building this new nine and for the fine condition of the greens.

Mr. John Gallagher, Weed Control Specialist, Amcham Chemical Company, was our guest speaker for the Meeting. Amcham was the originator of the chemical 2,4D. John gave us a very interesting talk on modern day weed control and illustrated what he had to say with slides. He has promised to write an article on weed control for our NEWSLETTER in the near future. We appreciated John Gallagher being with us and hope he will soon come our way again.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the USDA Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md. on Tuesday August 4, 1959

Dr. Felix Juska, our turf research agronomist friend at the station has invited the Association to combine its regular meeting with his Turfgrass Field Day. The following letter from Dr. Juska covers most of the details:

Dear Friend ,

You are cordially invited to attend the U.S. Department of Agriculture Turfgrass Field Day to be held Tuesday, August 4, 1959 at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. The Plant Industry Station is located on U.S. Route 1 between Beltsville and College Park, Md. You are asked to assemble on the turf plots located West of the Plant Industry Station buildings to register between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for registration. Luncheon may be purchased at the Station Cafeteria and at restaurants located nearby.

A short after-luncheon program has been planned in the Auditorium. A tentative Field Day Program is listed :