

NOTABLE GUEST SPEAKS. Dr. R.E. Blaser, professor of Agronomy from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Virginia was present at the meeting. Dr. Blaser stated that the grasses used on the greens at Meadowbrook was 328 Bermuda and results looked very good. He said that the lighter rate of overseeding rye last fall would help get the Bermuda started sooner this spring. At his school best overseeding results were obtained when the greens' surfaces were disturbed by raking, verti-cutting or Aero-thatching.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT. This discussion was led by the chairman of the committee, Bob Shields, who explained how this feature of our meetings is carried out in an effort to be of service to the host club. The report at Meadowbrook was confined mostly to #1 green, which is located on the eastern slope of a hill and is surrounded by large trees on three sides. The top soil is rather thin - about 6", and is on top of gravel. The question of how to change conditions so that 328 Bermuda would grow on this green brought out the following comments from superintendents present.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA PRESIDENT, FRED SAPPENFIELD COMMENTED: " For what it's worth, here is my opinion on how to improve #1 green. No one can definitely say just where the trouble lies. If it were only one trouble, then any number of golf course superintendents could pinpoint that one trouble and perhaps be 100% right on recommendations for correcting that fault. As I see it, these are the faults in order of their importance. 1. - Shade and tree roots play a great part in the failure of growing grasses, especially Bermuda, even under the best of recognized practices. 2.- Soil texture is such that it could not be recommended for producing plant life as golf course superintendents know it. 3.- Poor turf along hillside slopes is normally expected due to the seepage of water into the turf areas. 4.- Undoubtedly, T-328 Bermuda was planted as late as August on the original planting of this green. 5.- Soil tests should determine the need of what to incorporate into the soil.

It is possible that his green has enough Bermuda on it to become a good putting surface by correcting the tree problem. All tree roots should be severed to at least a three foot depth. Perhaps a ditch digger would do the job. It would be good insurance to tile drain this area at the same time, using the same ditch. Prune severely all tree tops and limbs that cast a shadow on the green - even winter shadows are bad. If tree removal is not feasible, then remove the green, retain the par four, keep the green in open sunlight. By reducing the yardage, play will speed up and members will have the opportunity of starting the game with a birdie. " - Fred Sappenfield.

MID-ATLANTIC'S PRESIDENT ENTERS DISCUSSION. Frank Dunlap had this to say on improving the soil on an existing green: " I'll try to take this soil improvement process step by step. This is a tried and proven method that I have seen work several times in various places. 1.- Mow the green as close as possible without scalping. 2.- Aerify at least four times with one inch spoons as deeply as possible. Weight the machine to get at least 5" in depth. 3.- Topdress the green with 3 yards of top soil and sand (1 part top soil and two parts sand), verticut several times until topdressing and cores are completely mixed. 4- Mat and brush until the aerifier holes are completely filled. Repeat this process spring and fall for three years and you will find that you have a good soil mixture of 6 to 7 inches in depth. The green will remain playable at all times and the disturbance completely unnoticeable in a couple of weeks' time. Naturally the work should be scheduled for a time when the grass is making its best growth to speed recovery. " - Frank Dunlap.