

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Director
ROBERT MARTINO
Editors
JAMES E. THOMAS
LEE C. DIETER

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JACK OULLA

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held June 2, 1964, at Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, Maryland. Lunch can be obtained from 11:30 on. You may play golf any time but our host will try to have the first tee open to superintendents only from 12:30 to 2:00 P. M. Try to arrive as early as possible. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P. M. with a cocktail hour preceding. The guest speaker for the evening will be Frank McFarland of the Miller Chemical Co., Baltimore, Md. A Board of Directors meeting will be held at 10 o'clock the morning of the meeting.

OUR HOST

Our host for this meeting will be Jack Oulla. Jack had a two year business administration course at the University of South Carolina before he became interested in golf course maintenance in 1957. The following fall he enrolled in the two year winter program at Penn State University. Upon completing the program in 1959 he spent a year in Israel supervising the replanting of greens, tees and fairways to bermudagrass. The replanting completed, Jack returned to the United States and with the help of Dr. Duich of Penn State was hired as superintendent at Lakewood.

Jack tells about his first experiences at Lakewood. "When I took the job at Lakewood, I had had no practical experience in managing bentgrass. As a result, many mistakes were made the first two years. I heard one prominent superintendent make the remark, 'I keep my greens as dry as possible to discourage disease.' Good water management is the key to success in this business, especially in the Baltimore-Washington area. I realized this around mid-season of the second year when, 'keeping my greens as dry as possible to discourage disease', I came very close to losing 6 greens from pure lack of water. The first three seasons we watered only by hand. The fourth season I decided to try watering strictly with sprinklers and at night. This appears to be the way to irrigate, at least in my case. We have a hose problem. The outlets are in front of the greens and to obtain proper coverage a 150 foot hose is necessary on most all greens and one or two require 200 feet."

THE CLUB

"The club house is brand spanking new, the official opening was April 3 of this year. Through the efforts of our past board, its president, William E. Hepburn; and the club's attorney, Mr. Henry Murdock; the club pulled through a seemingly impossible situation of extreme indebtedness and a general discontentment among the members. Two years ago the club was reorganized with the expert assistance of Vinton E. Lee, court-appointed conservator. During Mr. Lee's conservatorship all bad debts were squared away. Just prior to reconstruction of the clubhouse, the club was completely solvent. The new club has been founded on a sound financial basis and the future is certainly bright for the members at Lakewood."

"Mr. Harry Ostrosky, newly elected president; Mr. Dick Davis, greens committee chairman; Mr. Don Brenner, manager and Dick Wilson, head golf professional, will be on hand to welcome all of you."

THE COURSE

The greens at Lakewood are a mixture of C-1, C-19 and C-7; the Cohansey predominates. *Poa annua* is present in varying degrees in all greens. The nitrogen program calls for 10 pounds of N per 1000 sq. ft. per season. The past two seasons powder blue Nitroform has been used in conjunction with muriate of potash. Jack tries to get 6 pounds of actual K₂O per 1000 sq. ft. each season. Tests show potash levels as low to medium. Phosphorus

levels are high to very high and the ph is between 6.5 and 7.0. No lime will be applied this season. Extreme wet conditions, however, may necessitate dusting with hydrated lime.

The fairways and tees were seeded to bluegrasses and fescues and are mowed as close as the members demand. As a result, the fairways have deteriorated. The tees were plugged with U-3 bermuda last summer. So far, no bermuda has shown this year. Our No. 4 tee was broadcast to 328 bermuda and apparently there was some winter kill, probably in late March. The fairways receive 2 applications of 500 pounds per chemical acre, spring and fall. The fertilizer used is 10-6-4 chemical. This same fertilizer is applied to the tees at the same time the fairways are receiving their application. Additional applications are made so that in the end the tees receive around 6 pounds of N per 1000 sq. ft. in a season.

The roughs are predominantly Kentucky 31. They are mowed at 1 3/4 inches and are fertilized once every 2 years.

A bermuda program was launched in 1963. Six areas of approximately 3600 sq. ft. were planted in six different fairways. The stolons were broadcast over the seedbeds and a West-point fairway aerifier with all of the spoons removed was used as a straight disc to firmly imbed the stolons. Fairway rollers were used to smooth the area and to help seal the stolons in place. The majority of the plots were successful. Some others progressed very slowly.

Dick Davis, greens chairman, who confesses he would now be in golf course architecture had World War II not interfered, has made some interesting changes on the golf course. Several strategically placed traps have been constructed. Lakewood now has a 4 tee system. Besides the red, white and blue markers, we have a set of yellow markers designating the ladies tees. On some holes, ladies tees have been built and plans are to build some more in the near future. The red markers are now the men's front tees. The 4 tee system helps to speed up play and makes the course an interesting and fair test of golf for all types of golfers. Mr. Davis also designed the first tee and putting green.

DIRECTIONS

Down turnpike to Fredrick from Bethesda, Md., to Rockville interchange. Turn right on Route 28. Out 2 miles, turn left on Glenn Mill Rd. Club is on left about 1/4 mile.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas A. Doerer, Jr.

Active membership participation in an organization promotes a steady and continuous growth. When just a few take an active part in the operational affairs of any collective group, there is always the possibility that stagnation and a loss of interest may occur. The more democratic an association remains, the greater are its chances for success.

All organizational bodies have a few loyal workhorses who are always willing to shoulder responsibility and carry more than their share of the load. This is a healthy condition, as these individual workers serve a useful purpose. Their efforts are not motivated by selfish interests other than to serve those they are working for. The experience they have gained through untiring labors over the years is of untold value to any organization.

Yet, to keep the activity and interest of a membership at a high level and pitch, senior members should constantly strive and endeavor to bring new blood into the management picture. Active committees headed by experienced chairmen can do much to bring this to pass. Our MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS has such a table of organization. We should keep its wheels of operation constantly turning, and never allow it to slow down or stand idle.

It has been said many times, "A chain is no stronger than its weakest link." Each and every one of us are one of the links in the MID-ATLANTIC chain. While all of us cannot hold office or serve on committees, we can offer to those who do our thoughts, ideas and suggestions. They will welcome and appreciate hearing from us.

None of us should be inactive, and sit back and let someone else do all of the work. We all have ideas pertaining to the operation of our association, and for the advancement and recognition of the GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT. The expression of these thoughts is a duty we owe to ourselves, our fellow members, and to our chosen profession.

A REPORT ON TUF COTE BERMUDA

by Dr. Fred V. Grau

In spite of severe losses of several bermuda grasses (U-3, 328, common) in spring, 1963, many superintendents said, "We haven't given up -- we're going to stick with the warm season grasses." This is sound thinking.

It was in 1945 that I was able to start encouraging the widespread use of U-3 bermuda. Small tentative plantings really did not begin to expand until around 1950. In 1953, I planted half of No. 6 fairway at Woodmont Country Club. Soon there were many more installations. It was ten years later before there was a serious loss from a bad winter and a worse spring. During that 10-year period, those who had U-3 enjoyed nearly trouble-free turf.

During this time a new strain of bermuda had been developing quietly behind the scenes. It was released as Tufcote in 1962 cooperatively by Maryland, USDA and S. C. S. (It was first called Tuffy). Test plantings were made at several locations in 1961.

Recently, with Bob Thornton, S. C. S., one of Tufcote's developers, I inspected the test plantings on Byrd Field, University of Maryland. The three test sites were under the home bench, under the visitor's bench and on the 50-yard line in center of the field. Play has been brutal and continuous on these areas. This means that the turf was being abused while it was dormant. In addition, 1963 was very dry, as everyone knows. Tufcote showed stress after 50 waterless days but it stayed green and bounced back after one good rain.

At no time has there been any loss of grass, even in spring 1962 when so much bermuda died. On April 15, 1964, the soil was covered with a solid turf that has most of the leaves ground off by foot traffic. Adjacent common bermuda was virtually non-existent. Tufcote was showing bright green stems that were starting to sprout buds.

The point of this evaluation is that Tufcote seems to have the ability to tolerate and survive winter play on dormant grass. Also, there were no visible signs of cleat divots which means tremendous wear resistance and ability to recover. Problem tees in open sun may cease to be problems with Tufcote. It may not be necessary to have split tees, half bermuda, half cool-season grass.

All we are trying to say is "Try Tufcote and see if it performs similarly on your course." In case anyone has lost the address it is:

Certified Grass Growers Cooperative
Secretary, Maryland

Also see Mimeo No. 70, June, 1963, University of Maryland Agronomy Department.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

Our executive director, Dr. Gene Nutter, was in Washington recently to inspect the facilities of the new Washington Hilton Hotel as a possible site for the 1967 National Turfgrass Conference and Show.

It was the desire of many superintendents to hold the 1966 or 1967 Conference in New Orleans so another association golf tournament could be scheduled at the same time, but the only hotel large enough to accommodate us cannot make satisfactory contract commitments because of expected labor troubles.

Kansas City will be reviewed as a possibility for 1966 but there, because of our continued growth, the municipal auditorium would have to be used for our exhibits and the Mulhback Hotel for all other functions.

If the big meeting is held in Washington in 1967 the Hilton could supply almost twice as much exhibit space as we had in Philadelphia and all functions would be under one roof.

While here, Dr. Nutter conferred with Mr. William Amlong, executive director of the National Club Association. NCA is engaged in a project to reduce the 20% "wartime" excise taxes from 20% to 10%. (This has already been accomplished in the cosmetics, camera, cabaret, firearm, luggage and theatre industries; only private club dues, horse

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and dog track admissions remain at 20%.) NCA has asked GCSAA to send a representative to appear at a public hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee about the middle of June.

If the 20% tax on country club membership dues could be reduced by 10% the clubs could reduce dues by that amount or have more money for budgets.

USGA OPEN

Superintendents have been included in an important event - the USGA Open to be held at Congressional Country Club on June 18, 19, and 20. The Mid-Atlantic has been asked to supply volunteers to act as security guards during the week of the tournament. Eighteen or more men are needed to protect the 18 greens from any possible vandalism for a period of two hours from 7 to 9 P. M. each night the week of the tournament.

A list will be made at the next meeting and as many as possibly can are asked to have their name included.

CHESTNUT RIDGE - CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION

It was George Cleaver's wish that the members of our association discuss his course informally at our meeting there. The following are a few of the remarks and suggestions made during this constructive suggestion period.

The sand traps were mentioned. Charles Schalestock thought that additional sand should be added. The quality of the sand to be used was discussed and several members thought that it would be worth the additional money to use a better grade of white sand. Bradley Strouth said he saw quite a few of the traps in the process of shooting his 121 and agreed that they could be improved upon.

In discussing the need for additional trees, Bob Martino suggested that quite a few were needed, particularly on the parallel holes. Consideration of the width of the rough units in spacing the trees was mentioned. George Gumm said he considered a master plan essential in such matters as tree planting. He felt the superintendent should work with a landscape architect in laying out the plan. It was mentioned that native trees are often the best to use as they blend into the surrounding landscape, are hardy, and require less maintenance.

It was suggested that the roughs could be cut a little shorter on the blind holes to facilitate finding stray shots and to speed up play.

Frank Dunlap felt that the fairways should be a little narrower and most of the membership agreed. James Thomas suggested more contours when and if they are narrowed. It was felt by the membership that the leafspot in the fairways was due to the weather and several mentioned that they were having the same problems. George mentioned that the fairways had a low ph but that he had been unable to spread because of fear of tracking. Frank Dunlap suggested that George buy it bagged and spread it himself.

It was felt that more frequent verticutting would help eliminate the graininess that is starting to develop in the greens. Mr. Miller, George's past greens chairman, brought up the matter of the greens ability to hold a well played shot. It was the consensus of opinion that this was a built in problem, probably due to a faulty soil mix. Attention was drawn to the fact that keeping the greens soaked to hold the shots would be a serious mistake as poa would infest them quickly in that condition.

In spite of the above criticism it was generally agreed that George has his course in fine shape for this time of the year.

NOW IS THE TIME

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO WATER MANAGEMENT --- as the proper use of water can prevent many of our summer turf problems. A few admonitions from prominent turf workers are worth heeding and practicing:

"Excessive moisture can cause more damage to turfgrass than extreme dryness."

"Ponded water is the cause of much trouble during periods of hot weather."

"Soil moisture should never exceed its field capacity."

"Soils need a proper balance of air at all times - over saturation prevents this."

"High moisture content along with high humidity encourages diseases."

"Water greens to keep the grass growing and in a healthy condition, but not to hold poorly played golf shots."

Remember, "Golf players are justified in expecting putting greens to hold properly played pitch shots." Moist soils are desirable, yet, there is a difference between sufficient moisture and heavy saturation. The latter often spells disaster if practiced to excess in hot weather.

"Proper soil texture, plus adequate fertilization will help to maintain resilient greens."

Water management and drainage complement each other. "If drainage is good, roots are deep, and the grass plant has a pleasing appearance as to density and texture."

"Too much fertilizer encourages large brown patch -- too little can be a factor in the development of dollar spot."

"The best policy is not to go to extremes in either direction, keep to the middle of the road."

None of the above advice is new to us, we have heard it many times. Yet, at this period of our operation it means much to us, the key to success or failure in the summer maintenance of our golf courses.

OUR SYMPATHY

The entire Mid-Atlantic membership extends to our President, Mr. Thomas A. Doerer, Jr., and his family deepest sympathy in their bereavement. Mr. Doerer's mother passed away at 3:30 P.M., Friday afternoon, May 15th, at the St. Joseph Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

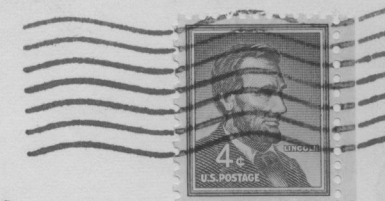
NEW DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of our association has appointed Frank Haske a director to fill the remaining unexpired term of Barclay Whetsell. The problems of getting his new course in condition and his other responsibilities in connection with the development of the real estate on the surrounding land leave him little time for outside activities this year.

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

5007 - 34th St., North
Arlington 7, Va.

Mr. George Cleaver
Box 121 A
Lutherville, Md.



August
Francis Cleaver
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Elle Clark
Francis