



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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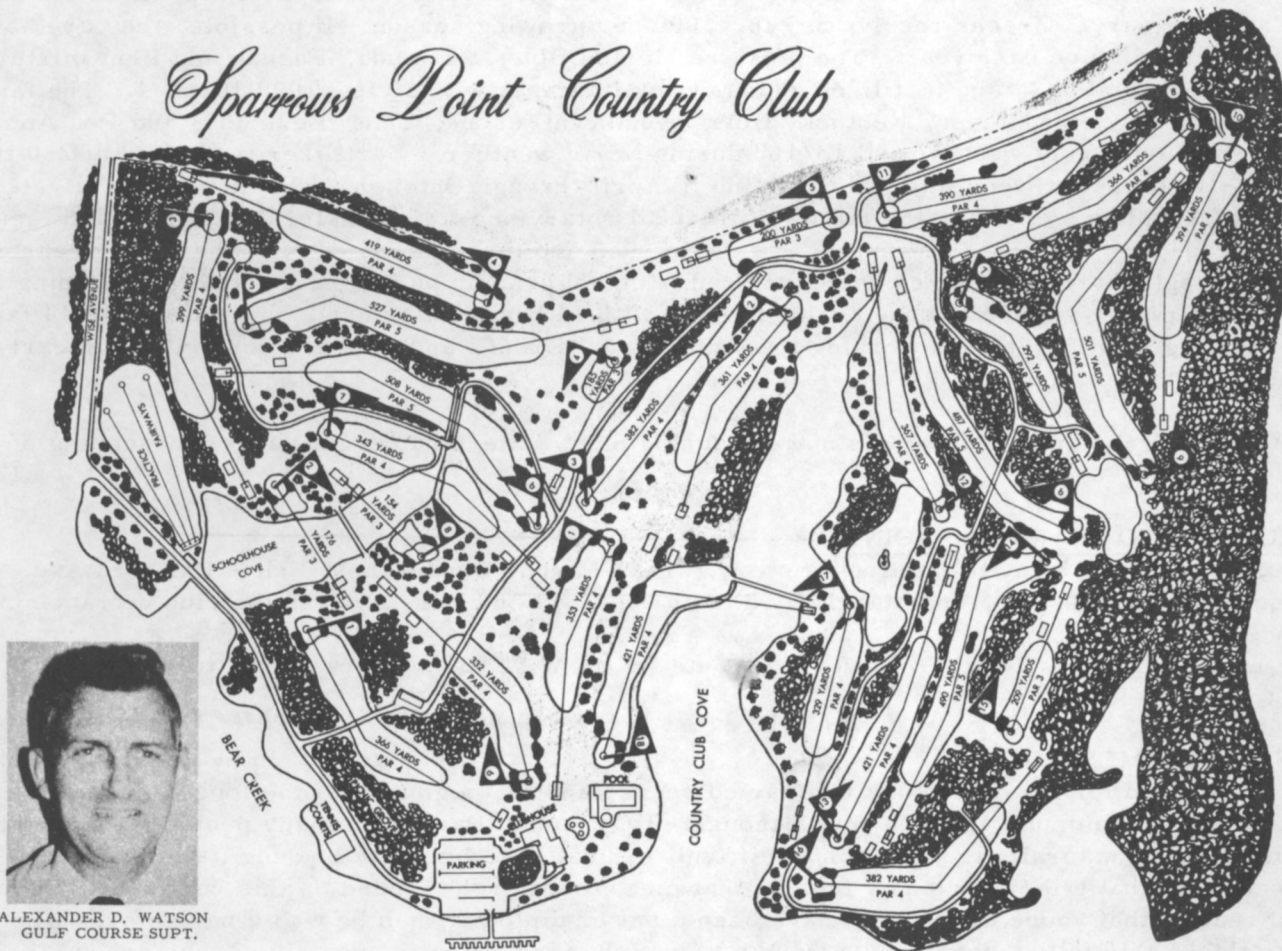
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Sparrows Point Country Club



ALEXANDER D. WATSON
GOLF COURSE SUPT.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held November 14, 1967, at Sparrows Point Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland. Golf may be played starting at 12 Noon. Lunch may be purchased at the Grill. The social hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p. m. followed by dinner and business meeting.

OUR HOST

A. D. (Al) Watson is the Superintendent at Sparrows Point C. C. Al was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and came to the United States at the tender age of one year and ten months. Al was raised in Warwick, Virginia. He attended and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Class of '49, with a degree in wildlife conservation and forestry. After serving in the U. S. Navy during World War II in the southwest Pacific, he was employed by the U. S. Corp of Engineers at Ft. Belvoir as a surveying engineer. Following this he was self-employed for several years. He was later employed by the City of Warwick as park superintendent and landscape engineer for five years. In this work he supervised and administered all phases of park and ground maintenance. Al has been a golf course superintendent for nine years. While at Sparrows Point he has supervised construction of the new 9 hole course in 1960-61. Al's assistant is Bob Orazi, a graduate of Rhode Island University, who formerly worked for Colonial Gardens Company, Ohio, in golf course construction and ground maintenance programs.

THE COURSE

Sparrows Point courses were designed and built by William and Dave Gordon. The course is rolling and well trapped, has numerous water hazards and wooded area, and is regarded as a pleasure and challenge to play. The regular 18 is a par 72, 6609 layout, and the 9 hole course is 3146 yards, par 36.

MAINTENANCE

The greens are C-1-19 with one exception, number 17 which is C-7. Greens are mowed four times a week at 3/16" (during hot weather raised to 1/4") are now being cut 7/32". Fertilization program is Nitroform (powder blue) and sulfate or potash at regular intervals, applied with proportioner. When lime is needed, hydrated lime is applied also with proportioner. Superphosphate is also applied as necessary. Greens receive 8-9 lb./1000 per growing season. If possible, they are aerified and top dressed twice each year. The tees are Merion Blue, Bermuda, Fescue and Bent mixtures. They are mowed at 1/2" and fertilized at four week intervals with 10 lb./1000 10-10-4. The fairways are a mixture of Merion, Kentucky Blue, Pennlawn Fescue, Bent, Bermuda, and Poa Annuua cut at 5/8" during cool weather and 13/16" during warm weather. Fertilizer is applied at 250 lb. acre (10-10-4) at four week intervals starting in April through October. The course is irrigated with quick coupling system on the fairways, manual rotary pop-up sprinklers on greens and tees. Rotary heads were installed around the greens in 1965 and tees in 1966-67. In the winter season water is supplied from two lakes each serviced with 500 g. p. m. pump and a deep well pumping 280 g. p. m. Fairway watering is done during the day with 14 heads being used, one on each of 14 fairways starting at the green and working toward the tee. Greens and tees are done either in early morning or late evening.

A nursery of trees and shrubbery is now producing plant material for continuous landscaping of the course grounds.

DIRECTIONS TO SPARROWS POINT

From the West - Beltway to Carling Brewery. Take Harbor Tunnel to #1 Exit - Halabird Ave. - straight thru Dundalk Ave. and Merrit Blvd. intersections and Wise Ave. to the club entrance on right.

Other motorists follow North Point Road - Route 151 to Wise Ave. intersection, turn right on Wise Ave. to club on left.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

October is noted for many pleasant and varied scenes and the beginning of the long holiday season. In preparing to communicate with you, I thought of Columbus Day which many people celebrate on October 12th. I naturally thought of how difficult it must have been for a young Italian sailor to communicate with that tribe of friendly Indians that met him after he landed on this continent. I guess we fail to realize that young Chris must have been a better diplomat than he was a navigator. When we stop to think, this fellow convinced a woman to hock her jewels to finance his voyage around the world with three sailing vessels, I can imagine this ingenious fellow greeting the Indians with a giant pizza in one hand and a jug of Chianti in the other. I also thought of the Indian's primitive method of communication - smoke signals. The problem with his method was the fellow sending the message had difficulty with smoke getting in his eyes. I hope my messages have not been too clouded for you to decipher.

At our regular board meeting, following the October membership meeting, the Board of Directors voted to increase the membership dues in our association to \$15.00 in 1968. Ed Dembnicki and Bob Milligan were appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee at our National Conference. Frank Haske, George Gumm, and Robert Shields were selected to again serve on the Nominating Committee. The Board also voted to place a full page ad in the conference issue of The Golf Course Superintendent as we have done in previous years.

The Baltimore Conference Committee has prepared a tentative program for our Educational Conference at the Holiday Inn Downtown in January. Mr. Haske reported on the Christmas party we are planning in December. You will receive further information on this event in the mail and also in this NEWSLETTER. I hope everyone can be present for this affair. It was planned to give our ladies a night of pleasure they so well deserve. Get your reservations in early. This will be a great help to the committee to adequately prepare for this event.

Let's keep up the good record of attendance at our membership meetings. We will be looking for you at Sparrows Point in November. Don't forget to mail your reservation cards for this meeting to our host, Mr. Al Watson.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee - George Gumm, Bob Shields and Frank Haske have selected for your consideration the following slate of Officers and Directors for the election coming up at the December meeting:

President: George Cleaver

Vice-President: Frank Haske
Lee Dieter

Secretary-Treasurer: Russel Kerns
Ed Dembnicki

Directors: B George Thompson
A Allen MacCurrach
B Dave Fairbank
B Paul Barefoot 8-64
A Lou White
B Jack McClenahan

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

by Bert Yingling

It was a beautiful day at the Woodmont Country Club for our annual tournament. Bob Shields had the golf course in beautiful shape but someone played tricks with that little golf ball and took it sightseeing.

But when the sun went down and the cards were turned in we found that Robert Martino had made off with the "GLOVER Trophy" again. Cliff Ollinger won second low gross while low net prize went to Ralph Strouth. George Cornell was low in the "Commercial Division" with Charles Lynch the runner up.

Colonel Johnson won the "Guest Division" while H. Somers was a real close second. There were numerous other prizes given out to the golfers to wind up an eventful day.

We will be playing golf in California in February and I would like to know who is going to make the trip a week early.

NECROLOGY

It is with deep regret that we record the death of:

L. Edgar Myerly - Baltimore City Superintendent of Parks and one time acting Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks. His efforts helped make the city's public golf courses among the best in the nation.

O. B. Fitts - Charter Member and First President of the Mid-Atlantic.

Wilson Disney - Sales Manager and Secretary of F. W. Bolgiano and Company and long time member of the Mid-Atlantic - of a stroke on October 16, 1967.

TRIBUTE TO O. B. FITTS

by Bob Shields

The man who served as the first President of the Mid-Atlantic died October 10, 1967. His name was Oscar B. Fitts. This name is strange to most Mid-Atlantic members today for O. B., as he was affectionately called, has not been active for many years, but to those of us who knew him, he was a great man.

He was great because in his time, the problems of keeping greens in good condition were many times more difficult than they are today. But O. B. did it through hard work, concentration, determination, and a willingness to try new methods and procedures. Imagine trying to control weeds in fairways without 2, 4-D or any of the other modern chemicals, growing Bent greens with only lime to

use against brown patch and dollar spot; fighting angle worms and sod web worms with arsenate of lead and mowing greens with a push mower. Mr. Fitts did all these things and produced good greens.

I first saw his golf course, Columbia, in 1946 while on a visit there with Ray and Roy and the late Mr. Pope, who was a member. The greens were the best I had ever seen. Having been in turf grass maintenance work for only a short time, I was much impressed. Mr. Pope asked what I would do if I had greens like that and I remember saying, "I'd stay up all night worrying about them."

From that day on I admired O. B., even though I didn't get to meet him until April, 1947, when I joined the association. He was always ready to help new men get started and was patient and considerate while sharing his knowledge with others.

The very first meeting of the association was held at Columbia in November, 1928. In attendance were Bob Scott of Baltimore Country Club, Bob's brother, Dick Scott from Rolling Road Club in Baltimore, Reg Giddings of Gibson Island Club, and Mr. Fitts. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of forming a Greenkeepers Association. As a result of this get together, a meeting was set for the first Monday in December, 1928, at the New Howard Hotel in Baltimore— "at which time the association was duly organized by the large number of greenkeepers attending."

Mr. Fitts was elected President and once told he accepted the job only because he had the full support of Bob Scott, who was (and still is) the recognized turfgrass authority in the Baltimore area.

O. B. retired in 1953 after several trying summers at Columbia where he experienced severe attacks of dollar spot on the greens. At the Baltimore Conference in 1953, the Mid-Atlantic observed its Silver Anniversary and paid tribute to Mr. Fitts for his work in organizing this association.

For many years O. B. had not attended many meetings. My biggest regret is that so many of today's Mid-Atlantic members had not met this man who had so much to do with our history. Knowing of his love for our association and for Columbia Country Club, I called him the day before the Columbia meeting in June and offered to pick him up at his house, drive him to the Club for the meeting, and then drive him back home afterwards. He thanked me for calling and with great emotion explained that he just didn't think he could stand the physical strain of making the trip. Yes, O. B. was a great man and I wish more of you could have known him.

Join me in extending our deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

THE SUPERINTENDENT*

by Dr. Joseph Duich

At the Wilmington meeting, Dr. Duich made these comments on "The Superintendent" as he is seen through the eyes of others:

The superintendent used to be hard to know--this has changed for the better.

He is overly dedicated to his job--spends too many hours at work--many have sacrificed family and their own well-being.

Most have long years of tenure--if they change jobs, it is for a better position--very few moves are "lateral". (In colleges, you are expected, as a teacher, to make a few moves so that you will have a broader outlook.)

Some low budget clubs have to keep men that are poor because good men move up the ladder very soon. However, tenure is needed if club is going to get the benefit from long range programs. The superintendent must establish short range motivation goals to keep a progressive improvement program "moving" at your club.

The superintendent remembers successes and forgets failures. Members forget both.

You are serving a changing clientele, hence little things must be done to improve your image at club. Attractive tees and accessories; changes in flags, colors, poles; use of flowers and landscaping, etc., can be methods to accomplish this.

The superintendent does a relatively poor job of communicating with others--he says too much and does not write enough.

Meetings should be attended for an exchange of ideas and for motivation. The people you work for think you go to be entertained.

The superintendent in this area is doing an excellent job of being honest with his employer. Some sections of the country are not able to make this claim. Generally speaking, your compensation is inadequate, particularly concerning fringe benefits. Both clubs and superintendents are the losers in this sort of arrangement.

Much study should be made toward wages paid employees--otherwise golf courses will be drawing from the "bottom of the barrel".

Make contact with those handling high school drop-outs--the ones who handle semi-skilled help. You can actually set up programs for these boys and get benefit from funds being used to train them.

On foremen and assistants--why does a man leave after a short period of training? This is certainly of little benefit to the man or his club. The superintendent should have some say in hiring of assistants.

How do you prepare the young wife of a superintendent for the long and sometimes irregular hours he must put in to get the job done? There appears to be no easy solution--perhaps some education of the wife might be helpful.

*From the notes of Harry J. McSloy.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA GOLF CLUBS

by Dennis McCammon

Twin Lakes - Charles Croley, Superintendent

Twin Lakes is now officially open. They opened on September the 9th. They have had an average of 90 rounds per day during the week and nearly 150 on the weekends. The clubhouse is not entirely finished, but it soon will be.

Westwood Country Club - Jack McClenahan, Superintendent

Jack is plagued by the "no help" bug, like everyone else in the area. And to top it off, plans for rebuilding the 7th hole are in the works.

Country Club of Fairfax - Sam Kessel, Superintendent

Work is still going on in the new green. Quite a problem when you are short of help, right? All soil is being mixed off the site.

Pepco Recreation Center - Bob Martino, Superintendent

Bob doesn't have enough help either and to add to that, he has had a lot of trouble with the intake on the water pump plugging up.

Sterling Park Recreation Center - Bill Swick, Superintendent

Bill needs help too, and came close to needing a new shop. Seems the hoses on an oxy-acetylene torch burned in two and the gas caught on fire coming out of the tank. The tanks were finally removed from the shop after a few scary minutes and thanks to Bill's nerve, the shop was saved.

Ft. Belvoir Golf Club - Tom Doerer, Superintendent

Tom is short of help and as a result had to do some watering. Seems he caught cold and hasn't been feeling up to par. Hope he gets back in the swing soon.

Washington Golf & C. C. - Lee Dieter, Superintendent

Lee is putting in a continuous cart path around the entire course. It will be asphalt and crushed run gravel. The gravel will be put down in the areas where balls might come in contact with the path. Width is 6 feet to facilitate use by maintenance vehicles.

Springfield Golf and C. C. - Denny McCammon, Superintendent

A new irrigation system has been approved for the golf course. It will be fully automatic and installation will begin this fall. Installer will be chosen from sealed bids the end of this month. Russell Roberts designed the system and will oversee the installation.

NEW MEMBERS

Frank Hacker - Class A - Dover A. F. B. Golf Club
Dover, Delaware

Robert Orazi - Class D - Sparrow Point Country Club
Baltimore, Maryland

COMING EVENTS

December 5, 1967 - Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting at Tantallon Country Club

December 11, 1967 - Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club. Holiday Party - Reservations in by December 9th.

January 8 & 9, 1968 - Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference - Holiday Inn, Howard and Lombard Streets, Baltimore, Maryland

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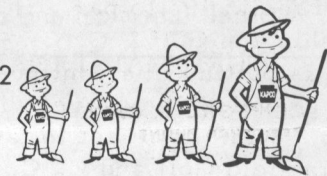
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