President's Message

For those of you who participated in the Superintendent/Pro Tournament, THANK YOU. We had a great turn out, 44 Pros, 49 Superintendents and 13 guests. I think that is a new record and it goes to show that our relationship with the Pros is getting better. As we know, to best serve our members we must work together.

I want to ask your help! The Institute of Applied Agriculture is in trouble and you can help. The budget cut at the University is making it almost impossible for the Institute to survive. You can help by writing your state legislator, the governor of Maryland or Dr. John S. Toll, President of the University of Maryland. The Institute is the only two year technical program left in Maryland and it is the only place a student can gain both classroom and on the job experience. If the Institute is phased out it will weaken our industry and other phases of agriculture in Maryland.

I'm looking forward to our June meeting at Columbia Country Club. Our host is George Thompson. Let's hope we don't get rained out this year.

Mike McKenzie

June 9 Meeting
Columbia C.C.

by George B. Thompson

Columbia Country Club is one of the original Washington area golf clubs. It was founded in 1898. Columbia was designed for the most part by Walter Travis, a notable English architect and one of the better amateur golfers of that time. Columbia hosted the 1921 U.S. Open Championship which was won by Jim Barnes, who was an Englishman and one of the longer strikers of the ball in that era. Columbia also hosted a Celebrity tournament on two occasions in the 40's and 50's. More recently we have had a Four Ball Tournament every October called the Fred McCloud Eastern Four Ball. It attracts many fine amateur players from the United States and Canada. Fred McCloud was the Golf Professional at Columbia for over 64 years before his death five years ago. He was the oldest living U.S. Champion for many years.

Since Columbia's golf course is 70 years old we have many old trees which make shot placement very important. Our putting surfaces are rather small, 3500-5000 sq. ft. on the old greens, number 5 and 18 greens were redesigned by Ed Ault in 1966 and are of more modern size and design. The greens are about 70% old mixed bents and 30% Poa annua.

The fairways were probably fescue originally and were seeded with everything imaginable since then. When I came to Columbia in 1963 a fairway program had been started with native Bermuda, but the winter of 1962-63 had killed a good amount of it. We replanted during the summers of 63, 64, 65 and 66. In 1966 we had about 85% Bermuda which was about all we could expect because of shade and north slopes. We were mowing the fairways down to 3/4" and they were beautiful in July, August, September and even October some years. However, we were starting to get spring dead spot and many members were unhappy with the brown turf in March, April and May. In many years it still looked poorly in June. To most people "Brown is Bad and Green is Good." The fairways were playing pretty well in the spring, especially when we were paraquating in March. They didn't look green like home lawns and even though you could almost putt on them in August, it didn't matter.
I started overseeding with Turf types Ryes in October of 1969, mostly for cosmetic reasons but also to get something to live on shady north slopes and in Spring Dead Spot areas.

The Ryes have done a good job for us. Their playing characteristics are not as good as Bermuda and we have Rhizoctonia and Pythium problems, but we get our members started in good spirits in the spring. They like to see that green grass in March and April. We may still see 30% to 40% native Bermuda by midsummer but we are trying to manage for Rye, with fall feeding and maybe a little potash in May or June. If the Bermudas come through, all the better, these are areas we won’t have to irrigate.

Russell Roberts installed a Moody Automatic Irrigation System in 1973. We found it efficient and simple to work on. Sometime in the future, I would like to install a triangular or rectangular system for our fairways to give more control over elevation differences. Columbia is very hilly and in some instances one side of the fairway may be 15' higher than the other. How do you irrigate this with a center row system?

We have many management problems not associated with more modern constructed courses. Many steep slopes require a lot of hand maintenance. One of our greatest problems is thatch. We have many spongy areas on tees and collars. Because of the excess thatch, we are seeing unusual insects and fungi, such as many species of Rhizoctonia and another one called Southern Blight (Sclerotium rolfsii). We have had it on our #1 championship tee for three years and to date have not been able to effectively control it. I have seen winter brown patch since 1967 and I have had Ataenius for two years before Ohio State even started to mention it. Last fall we found in addition to Ataenius, larva from the Northern Masked Chafer, Asiatic Garden Beetle and the Japanese Beetle; 1980 could well be the year of the insect at Columbia.

We have a considerable amount of construction going on now. Parts of four holes have been torn up since January with a 60” W.S.S.C. water line. This 60” line crosses #1 fairway, goes through 15 and 16 greens, across 17 fairway and through 18 tee drive. We will be playing only 15 holes until May or June of 1981. Algie Pulley has been contracted to rebuild 15 and 16 greens, five tees and some additional improvements. The 60” water line has been installed, however the contractor is still on the job building two lakes, two concrete dams and enclosing two streams. He is also restoring stream banks with Rip-rap and Gabions.

George B. Thompson is a native of Massachusetts. Started caddying at Pittsfield C.C. in Pittsfield, Mass. at the age of 10. Later worked on courses in Massachusetts, Florida and Chicago. After a hitch in the U.S. Navy, he enrolled in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in 1961. Graduated in 1963, and hired as Assistant Superintendent at Columbia in June of 1963 under Dick Watson. Promoted to Superintendent in October 1964. George and his wife Jacqueline have four children, Julie, Tom, Regina and Sara. The Thompsons live in Gaithersburg.
**Match Play Tournament Continues**

The 1981 Mid-Atlantic Match Play Tournament continues this month at Columbia. All scores and matches must be played to completion. **ALL PLAYERS MUST REPORT TO GOLF CHAIRMAN, PAUL O'LEARY, AT LEAST ½ HOUR BEFORE YOUR TEE TIME.**

Consolation matches will start this month for losers from the first round. Tee times are as follows:

11:00  
Al Watson (28) VS Earl Mason (19)  
Mike McKenzie (32) VS Loser  
(Bill Neus vs George Thompson)

11:08  
Starters time

11:16  
Lou White (31) VS Gene Dyke (29)  
Ben Stagg (29) VS Lee Dieter (40)

11:24  
Starters time

11:32  
Starters time

11:40  
Stanley Lawson (22) VS Bob Miller (16)  
Tom Turner (15) VS Harold Parr (13)

11:48  
Bob Orazi (16) VS Grant Pensinger (18)  
Bill Emerson (14) VS Loser  
(Ron Hall vs Jack Montecalvo)

11:56  
Starters time

12:04  
Sam Kessel (22) VS Harry Allen (9)  
Ken Braun (18) VS Bill Shirk (11)

12:12  
Dave Kroll (10) VS Winner  
(Ron Hall vs Jack Montecalvo)  
Walter Montross (20) VS Tom List (26)

12:20  
Wayne Evans (39) VS Jerry Gerard (40)  
Mike Larsen (36) VS David Fairbank (28)

12:28  
Starters time

12:36  
Steven Nash (24) VS Winner  
(Bill Neus vs George Thompson)  
OPEN

12:44  
Paul O'Leary (8) VS Virgil Robinson (12)  
Mr. O'Leary & Mr. Quinn

1:32  
Starters time

1:40  
OPEN

1:48  
OPEN

1:56  
OPEN

2:04  
Starters time

2:12  
OPEN

2:20  
OPEN

2:28  
OPEN

2:36  
Starters time

Golfers not in the Match Play Tournament please call the starter, Tootie Burch, at 652-9581 to reserve a tee time. **ALL MATCHES WILL START ON TIME, SO DON'T BE LATE.**

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**Results of Superintendent/Pro Tournament**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro Sweeps</th>
<th>Brian Stavley Naval Academy - 70</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Horney Wakefield Valley - 72</td>
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<td>Barry Fuhrman Woodholme - 72</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Melvin Rowe C.C. of Fairfax - 72</td>
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<td>Quin Sullivan Springfield - 74</td>
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<tr>
<th>Supt. Pro Team Net</th>
<th>Rudinsky/Shuey, Eisenhower - 57</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Midkiff/Metzger, Annapolis - 58</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Montross/Sullivan, Springfield - 62</td>
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<td>Emerson/Burgess, Chevy Chase - 65</td>
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<th>Supt. Low Gross</th>
<th>Dave Kroll - 80</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul O'Leary - 80</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Emerson - 82</td>
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<td>Bill Shirk - 82</td>
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<tr>
<th>Supt. Low Net</th>
<th>Ray Midkiff - 94.34-60</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lou Rudinski - 100-40-60</td>
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<td>Wayne Evans - 106-40-66</td>
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<th>Guest Low Gross</th>
<th>Frank Sanzaro - 82</th>
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<tr>
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<td>E.E. Christiansen - 85</td>
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| Low Net              | Carl Schoening - 71              |

| Long Drive           | Cary Ferrell, Falls Road         |

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<tr>
<th>Closest to the Pin</th>
<th>#4- Melvin Rowe</th>
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<tr>
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<td>#7- Bill Horney</td>
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<td>#17- Barry Fuhrman</td>
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