

**Mid-Atlantic Association of
Golf Course Superintendents
NEWSLETTER**

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

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From the Golf World

A local Baltimore sportscaster may not have known who it is that keeps Hillendale in such great shape, but the boys who broadcast golf for CBS most certainly knew who was responsible for the remarkable turnaround in Butler National in Illinois where the Western Open was played July 5-8. They gave full credit to the superintendent, and the professional golfers also praised the condition of the course, saying it was in the best shape of any they had played on this year. What's remarkable about this, of course, is that Butler National had the hated bluegrass fairways, plus several years ago its old German Bent greens were attacked by a disease that literally wiped them out shortly before the Open. At any rate, Ken Venturi, Tom Weiskopf, and Pat Summerall, doing the announcing for CBS, couldn't say enough good things about Butler National's superintendent.



This is the new logo of the National Golf Foundation, replacing the old tricolor flag, circle of stars, and name-bearing ribbon. It will appear on all NGF publications, manuals, and official communications. You'll be seeing a lot of it in years to come, since the Foundation is the basic source of information

A Letter to Chris Thomas . . . and all Sports Reporters

July 10, 1984

Mr. Chris Thomas
WBAL-TV

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Dumbfounded, flabbergasted, "I cannot believe he said that," are just a few of the words to describe my feelings following your broadcast of July 1 after the completion of the Greater Baltimore Open at Hillendale Country Club.

Your report stated that on Saturday night this area received 4½" of rain and despite this the course was in outstanding condition (shape). However, you gave Bill Clarke sole credit as the person responsible for the condition of the golf course. This letter is not an attempt to discredit or embarrass Bill Clarke. I will be the first to acknowledge that Mr. Clarke is an asset to Hillendale and the golf community within Maryland and is a model professional. However, the conditioning of the golf course is the responsibility of the Golf Course Superintendent — in Hillendale's instance, John Hoover.

This error on your part further illustrates how unaware some sports reporters are of the qualifications and the role of the Golf Course Superintendent. Name one other sport where the playing surface is as important to the game itself, other than golf.

One of the primary reasons for selecting a particular course to host a tournament of this caliber is the excellent playing conditions, which are achieved through the dedicated efforts of a well-trained greens staff, under the leadership of the Superintendent. Today's Golf Course Superintendent is a college-educated professional possessing many technical and managerial skills. It is time the media and sports reporters realize that the Golf Course Superintendent is the true unsung hero of golf. Hopefully, with your cooperation, the Golf Course Superintendent will not remain, the "BEST KEPT SECRET AT THE COUNTRY CLUB."

Your response to this letter is welcome, and I extend to you an open invitation to attend one of our Association's monthly meetings. Please contact me at your convenience.

Yours truly,
Michael J. Larsen
President, Mid-Atlantic Association
of Golf Course Superintendents

about new courses and trends in golf in general.

NGF makes a number of outstanding service awards each year, and the latest will go to two widely known golf course architects, Geoffrey Cornish of Amherst, Mass., and Bob Baldock of Costa Mesa, Calif. The award recognizes the more than 600 golf courses that these two men in their 70's have designed (working separately, of course, at opposite ends of the country) and the many additional services they have provided to the game. Cornish's definitive book, *The Golf Course*, is now in its third printing and will continue to expand as more information becomes available and is added.

The famed golf complex at Pinehurst, after spending several years in the hands of the banks who took it over in receivership, has been sold to the Club Corporation of America, a Dallas-based company that already operates Firestone Country Club, Inverrary Country Club, and many more country and golf clubs around the country, including Hunt Valley in this area.

One of the last barriers to the build-

ing the TPC course on the Avenel Farm tract near Congressional was passed on June 26 when the Montgomery County Council approved the building of the course, which will be a buffer to the planned Rock Run water and sewage treatment facility that the WSSC plans to build in the future. Developers will then build luxury homes around the perimeter of the course, which will be managed by the PGA Tour and which will be the site of the Kemper Open, probably in 1987 for the first time.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Don't forget the Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day on Thursday, August 2, at the Hopkins Plant Research Farm on Cherry Hill Road, between Rts. 29 and 212 near Beltsville. A tour of the research plots begins at 9 a.m. and covers a variety of research into fertility, week and disease control, plant growth regulators, nontarget effects of fungicides, tall fescue seeding rates.