June 11 Meeting Is At Montgomery C.C.

Our June 11 meeting, which features the second round of the Match Play Championship, will be held at Montgomery Country Club in Rockville, Md., where superintendent Jeff Miskin will be the host. Since coming east to take over at Montgomery in June of 1980, Jeff has been carrying out an extensive renovation of the course, which was designed and built by Robert Elder in 1961-62 and which opened for play in 1963.

A key element in his program is designed to change the characteristics of the clay-based greens through a sand topdressing procedure. Jeff uses some 140 tons of sand per year in this effort, sand which he screens twice to improve its quality, and he has done this and been able to maintain his course on an austere budget of less than $125,000 per year.

Montgomery Country Club is a fairly open course without a lot of trees. Its yardage is 6,302 from the whites, 6,600 from the blues, yet it is demanding enough to have been used as a USGA qualifying site in the past. The greens, a mix of poa, Seaside, and PennCross are mowed at 5/32" six times a week, with the perimeters being cut every other day. Greens receive 1 # N in the Spring, 1/2# in the Fall, plus two or three quarter-pound liquid applications in between. Collars and approaches are cut to 5/8" three times a week and get 4# of N per year, while fairways are also cut to 5/8" three times a week; they are a poa/bluegrass mix that has been overseeded with perennial rye for the past 5 years and they get 2# of N per year.

Jeff earned a BS degree in plant pathology from Colorado State University and worked as an assistant and superintendent in northern Arizona. He then went with Greenscape, the Robert Trent Jones golf course construction firm and helped build three courses in Colorado, Texas, and Arizona; he was employed as a superintendent in Wyoming before coming to Maryland.

The June 11 program is as follows: Lunch is available in the grill, cash or sign; golf, anytime after 11 a.m.; cocktails at 6 (cash bar); dinner at 7 (cost $18), coat and tie required; meeting at 8. Call 964-0700 to register for golf and dinner.

Directions to Montgomery are, from Washington area, take 495 to 270S, getting off at Shady Grove Road exit (east), turn right on Shady Grove, go until it deadends at Muncaster Mill Rd.; turn right, go to next traffic light, where you turn left on Muncaster Road, which deadends at Rte. 108; turn left, club is about 1 mile on right. From Baltimore, take 70W to Olney exit, follow Rte. 97 to Rte. 108 in Olney, turn right, club is 5.3 miles on the right.

Westwood’s Haske, Brown Win Superintendent-Pro

With modest victory grins, Westwood Country Club golf professional, Glenn Brown, center left, and superintendent Tom Haske, center right, hold the Clare Emery Memorial Trophy, as Lee Dieter, left, who worked at Washington Golf and Country Club in a close superintendent-pro relationship with Clare for many years, and Mid-Atlantic PGA pro Woody Fitzhugh, one of the late WG&CC pro’s assistants, look on, holding the individual trophies that went to the winners.

Tom Haske took his handicap strokes where they counted and his Westwood pro partner, Glenn Brown, racked up five birdies on Woodmont Country Club’s rugged North Course to compile a net 60 that easily won the annual MAAGCS Superintendent-Pro Tournament staged in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic PGA on May 14. Three strokes behind and matching out two other teams were superintendent John Tutich and pro Jack Walker of Herndon Municipal Golf Course. Also with a 63 and in third place were Gene Dyke and pro Joe Guillebeau of Piney Branch Golf Club. The third 63, good for fourth place, was by Bob Jenkins and pro Al Cassidy of Carper’s Valley Golf Club. Alone at 64 were Earl Mason and pro Don Skakan of the Gibson Island Club, winning the fifth spot. Then came four 65’s, which carded out in this order: sixth, Barry Gilbert and pro Fred Ryder, Jr. of Bowie Golf & C.C.; seventh, Grant Pensinger and pro Curtis Mabry, Green Spring Valley Hunt Club; eighth, Ken Braun and pro Don Salerna, Bonnie View; ninth, Ed Porterfield and pro Mike Wynn of Evergreen C.C. In the tenth slot were Harry Allen and pro Art Scott of Prince Georges C.C. with 66. Low in the guest category was the 65 carded by Jeff and Bert Yingling. Jeff Yingling hit the long drive of the day, Joe Guillebeau was closest to the pin, and Buddy Williams, assistant at International, scored a hole-in-one on No. 13.