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, 1/4 # 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.

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Westwood’s Haske, Brown Win Superintendent-Pro

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 Skacan 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.