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TURF NEWS LETTER

(Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Prepared in Cooperation with the USGA Green Section)

August 7, 1951

THE HILLENDALE MEETING

Forty-five members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents took advantage of the nicest August meeting day we have had in years, and the wonderful hospitality of Hillendale Country Club on Tuesday August 7. Bob Smith was our host Superintendent. His Green Chairman Bill Callahan welcomed the group and picked up the "tab" for a delicious Imperial crab dinner. The golf course is in wonderful shape and is a true test of the Royal and Ancient game - possibly the best test our association has had this year.

Our guests for the evening were Bob Miller, Dupont representative, and Merle Neely of Swift and Company. Bob showed the Dupont film "Enemies of Fine Grasses", and Merle furnished the projector and sound equipment.

Golf

Charlie Wilson, Green Section, didn't do to well on the first nine because chill winds hampered his play. However, after changing from shorts to long trousers at the suggestion of the Assistant Pro, he shot a "respectable" score on the back nine. Golf Committee Chairman Ernie Stanley found the "top dogs" were as follows:

Bob Scott, Jr.	1st
Charlie Treacy)	2nd
Admiral Phillips)	
George Cornell)	3rd
Joe Harbin)	
Charlie Wilson)	
Bill Glover)	4th
Tom Cooney)	

Educational Feature - Enemies of Fine Grasses

Our association indeed was fortunate in obtaining the services of Bob Miller on short notice to show and discuss the movie "Enemies of Fine Grasses"

by E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company. Merle Neely, Swift and Company donated his time and sound projector to assure the success of this show.

Highlights of the movie and Bob Miller's introductory talk were as follows:

1. Disease control not only is the use of the proper fungicide but good management practices as well.
2. Many variables, such as pH, fertility, air, drainage, and thatch, influence considerably the results obtained with the best of fungicides.
3. Brownpatch and dollarspot, the most serious diseases on bentgrass putting greens in this area can be controlled adequately by a competent Golf Course Superintendent using the proper fungicides.
4. Tersan is compatible with most chemical controls. An exception would be the Cadmium Compounds.
5. The movie covered the following causes of poor turf, and this write-up is indebted to the book "Turf Management" by H. Burton Musser for additional authoritative information. Every Superintendent and Green Chairman should have this JSGA publication available through McGraw - Hill Book Company at a cost of \$6.00 per copy.

A. Brownpatch (Pellicularia filamentosa) is caused by a fungus that grows best during hot humid weather when temperatures are between 80 and 90°F. These conditions cause the dormant sclerotia in the soil or on the grass stems to become active and form circular patches that vary from a few inches to more than 2-feet in diameter unless protective measures are taken. At the outer edge of these patches a characteristic smoke ring is noticed where the grass leaves have a bluish water-soaked appearance. Soft and succulent grass owing to excessive amounts of nitrogen is most susceptible to this disease.

B. Dollarspot (Sclerotinia homeocarpa) is most prevalent during the spring and fall when humidity is high and the temperatures are moderate. Dollarspots do not increase in size but multiply in numbers when shoes, equipment, etc. spread the infection unless protective measures are taken. Conversely to the control of brownpatch, turf that shows nitrogen starvation is highly susceptible to injury from dollarspot.

C. Pythium (Pythium spp.) is a disease that is active under conditions of high temperatures and high humidity. It is somewhat similar in appearance to dollarspot except that the spots usually occur in irregular streaks which follow the water course. Also, the injured area has a rusty brown color in contrast with the grayish color of dollarspot. Often, a change in temperature will clear up an infection.

D. The movie also covered the diseases Snow Mold and Zonate eyespot which are relatively unimportant in the Mid-Atlantic area.

E. Algae or green scum is a dense growth of single-celled plants that develops on thin or bare areas in hot humid weather when soils are saturated with moisture. When the soil dries out the algae dies and turns black, forming a tough crust that seals the soil and excludes air and moisture.

F. Scald occurs as irregular areas of discolored turf on poorly drained soils during periods of excessive rainfall or when the grass is watered heavily in hot weather. Injury usually is most severe in depressions on a green or where surface water concentrates in restricted runoff channels.

Discussion following the movie brought to light the importance of good management practices and how these "Enemies of Fine Grasses" are controlled in the Mid-Atlantic area.

1. Brownpatch - Tersan generally used because it is less severe on the bentgrass than mercury which also is an excellent control. Avoid over-feeding and over-watering during hot weather.

2. Dollarspot - Cadmium and mercury compounds favored for control. Keep the grass growing vigorously and eliminate thatch.

3. Pythium - No entirely satisfactory measures for control have been developed. Ernie Stanley reports success with a mixture of Tersan and ground limestone applied dry and watered in lightly. Avoid over-watering.

4. Algae - When it first appears it can be controlled with a light dusting of hydrated lime at 2-pounds to 1,000 square feet. After the black crust forms thorough scarification should be used. A dense turf checks development. Good surface and sub-surface drainage important along with cautious use of water.

5. Scald - Can be controlled with adequate surface and sub-surface drainage; eliminating poor air drainage; and avoiding over-watering.

This association further realizes that improved grasses more resistant to disease and better able to recover from injury of any kind are available.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Bob Shields read a letter of appreciation from Frank Day, Green Committee Chairman, Bethesda Country Club, for our Constructive Suggestion Report. Mr. Day stated that he would like our group to be guests of Bethesda again next year.

Our president also called attention to the latest issue of "Golfdom" wherein we receive valuable publicity for our "Turf News Letter" and "Constructive Suggestion Reports". Speaking of publicity, we neglected to mention in our last letter that Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Committee Chairman, Army Navy, was on Jimmy Gibbons TV show about a month ago.

Admiral Phillips put in a terrific plug for Golf Course Superintendents and the value of the work they are doing to promote better turf for better golf.

Credit to Belle Haven Country Club

Junie Marshall, Superintendent, Tom Ryan, Pro, Walt Densmore, Green Chairman, and Ed Bussard, Assistant Green Chairman made the trip to Hillendale. It is believed that this is the first time in the history of our association that the four most important members of a golf club have thought it worthwhile to attend our meetings. Frankly, we hope this record falls by the wayside. We would like to see the day when the Pro, Superintendent, and Green Chairman from every golf club make it a point to attend our meetings.

Education Committee Request

Chairman Jimmy Thomas requests all clubs desiring a visit next year from the Mid-Atlantic Association to let him know as soon as possible. The Education Committee is in the process of setting a precedent by making up next year's schedule in advance and would like to have it ready for the November meeting. Also any ideas you fellows may have concerning topics and speakers for our Educational Features would be appreciated.

New Members

Mr. E. R. Robinson, Department of Education, Baltimore, Maryland, was welcomed into our group as an associate member. It is gratifying to note the interest in turf and this association from people not connected with golf courses. We appreciate this interest and welcome their participation at our meetings.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

It would appear that most of the time consumed during our business meeting is now taken up with the Constructive Suggestion Report. As this is the case we have decided to incorporate this feature in the Turf News Letter. Confidentially, it also conserves paper and expedites assembly.

Hillendale Country Club is to be congratulated on an excellent layout from the playing standpoint and the choice of a most competent Superintendent in Bob Smith.

The members of this association appreciate the invitation to Hillendale for our August meeting and trust that this report may be partial reciprocation for the hospitality. There were many favorable comments concerning the appearance of this golf course and its well-groomed condition.

Greens

Contrary to anything one would expect on greens which have a heavy thatch (1 to 2-inches), and are super-saturated, the turf was beautiful. As yet no trouble has occurred from the standpoint of disease control, and even in the absence of aeration response from fertilizer is striking. The greens putt well, hold a shot, and on August 7, were beautiful to behold. From these statements it would appear that everything is satisfactory and a rosy future is assured. However, this association cannot help but concur with Bob Smith in the belief that too much water is being used, and that the thatch will present a problem in the near future unless corrective measures are taken. We have many reasons for this belief that have been proven by critical research and practical observations.

Thatch

This mat, thatch or build-up of an organic layer above the soil surface is relatively new at Hillendale. The build-up now is rapidly reaching the point where it may exclude the entrance of air, water and nutrients, and if diseases ever become active in the lower regions of this mat they will be extremely difficult to control. These facts may be hard for the members to understand because the turf is so beautiful today. However, we have seen this problem before, and can cite several examples of clubs faced with a similar condition - namely, beautiful today but gone tomorrow.

Corrective measures should be started this fall, and Bob Smith is fully aware of their value and how to go about the job. He will need full support from the members however, because corrective measures may seem drastic and tend to throw the grass temporarily off color.

Aerification is recommended strongly to penetrate this thatch and encourage deeper root systems. Aeration tools that do the job rapidly and neatly are available commercially. In conjunction with aeration it is advised that ground limestone be used. A combination of lime and air should do wonders in decomposing this organic mat. Raking with a delmonte type rake, and brushing or combing in conjunction with mowing operations also will prove of value.

Water

The Five Farms bent present in the greens at Hillendale appears to be highly tolerant to excessive amounts of water. It is holding its own against Poa annua which is known to love water. However, the poa present in the greens may always compete with the bent unless watering practices are changed. Poa is a difficult grass to maintain as can be observed on many of the approaches where it has melted out from hot weather, disease and a lack of moisture. Also, as the name implies it is an annual grass and therefore should not be encouraged to persist.

Fairways

Last spring the fairways were fertilized for the first time in a great many years. The result was so striking that plans are being made to fertilize again this fall. This practice is encouraged because it will tend to eliminate clover, strengthen the good turf, and make it more resistant to drought. Lime may be needed in addition to fertilizer. A pH test will indicate the need if any for lime.

Hillendale might well investigate the possibility of seeding Merion (B-27) and F-74 creeping red fescue into the approaches. These areas are unsightly because the poa has disappeared. Aerification before seeding would be an ideal method to establish the seedbed.

Combs are available for fairway mowing units. These have proven successful in combating crabgrass because they tend to lift up the prostrate runners and prevent the plant from going to seed. It is suggested that Hillendale investigate their use.

Teeing areas and roughs are in good condition. Many of the boys felt that most of the tees were the best we had played on this year. Good management and adequate size certainly has paid dividends in keeping the turf on these areas.

NEXT MEETING - FORT DUPONT

Through the good graces of Ruben Hines, Fred Williamson and Severn Leoffler we indeed are fortunate in obtaining the facilities at Fort Dupont for our September 18 meeting. Please note this date "SEPTEMBER 18" carefully as it is a change of one week from the previous program. The annual tournament will be held the following month on October 2, at Fairfax Country Club.

Host Superintendents

Ruben Hines, General Superintendent for Severn Leoffler's District Muny. Golf Courses and his able Superintendent at Fort Dupont, Jack Allen, extend a cordial welcome to all Mid-Atlantic members and their respective Green Committee Chairman. We are assured of a good test of golf and a new course which is receiving a tremendous amount of play.

Golf at:

Fort Dupont Golf Course
Washington, D. C.
September 18, 1951 - 12:30 P.M.

Dinner and Meeting at:

Fort Dupont Golf Course
Washington, D. C.
September 18, 1951 - 6:00 P.M.

Directions and Transportation

Fort Dupont is located on Minnesota Avenue, S. E. at Randall Circle. It is approximately half way between Bennings Road and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Educational Feature

"Fall Seeding into Existing Turf" has been scheduled for this meeting. Tom Mascaro, West Point Lawn Products, will be on hand to discuss this important and timely subject. Methods, materials, and machinery will be covered in detail. It is hard to visualize how any progressive Superintendent could afford to miss this September 18 meeting.

Know Your Fellow Members

Ruben Hines is on intimate terms with every blade of grass in the Mid-Atlantic area. And well he might be, having been in the construction and maintenance game for over 26 years. Ruben got his start in the profession at Manor Country Club in 1925. Since that time he has served with distinction to himself and his profession at Congressional Country Club, Georgetown Prep, and the District Myny courses in Washington, D. C. He is one of our most loyal members in attendance at the monthly meetings, and his capacity for hard work toward the betterment of our association is witnessed in the fact that he has held every office in this association on two or more occasions, as well as active participation on various committees. He has been a member of the Mid-Atlantic since 1927. Ruben is further recognized as the discoverer of Congressional (C-19) bent, and the training of three Superintendents who now hold positions with golf clubs in this area.

IMPORTANT

East ern Invitational Open Golf Tournament

Seven days of golf by America's greatest experts will be held at Mt. Pleasant Golf Course, Baltimore, Maryland, September 10th to 16th. Your MEMBERSHIP CARD in the Mid-Atlantic will be all that is needed for admission. The total cost of daily admission for this event to the general public will be \$11.50. The reason - appreciation of the valuable work our members are doing to promote better turf for better golf.

National Turf Field Days

As co-sponsors of this affair on October 7, 8 and 9 with the United States Golf Association Green Section and the United States Department of Agriculture we will be expected to furnish car pools for transportation to the local golf courses. This is our biggest chance of the year to sell ourselves to fellow Superintendents from all over the nation. We will have

an educational exhibit at the turf plots on October 8, and be responsible for arranging the tour to East Potomac Golf Course that afternoon. We also will be responsible for arranging a follow-up tour to Woodmont and Fairfax on October 9. Therefore, one hundred percent attendance is virtually a must on these days.

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE