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TURF NEWS LETTER

CHARLIE WILSON ISSUE

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

June 3, 1952

Quantico Meeting

This edition is dedicated to our friend Charlie Wilson in appreciation of his sound advise on all matters turfwise. Our sincere wish for his success go with Charlie wherever he goes. Best of luck from the Superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area.

On June 3rd, fifty-one members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents met at the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia. Here they were greeted by Major P. N. Pierce, Green Chairman; Major F. Fenton, member of the Green Committee, Al Jamison, Professional; and Ernie Stanley, Superintendent of the Quantico Golf Course. The reputation of the "Leather-neck" as a fightgroup of men has long been established; but as far as the Mid-Atlantic boys are concerned, the Marines are a most accommodating group in addition to their many other attributes. A swell time was had by all.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Bob Shields opened the meeting with the introduction of several persons who attended for the first time, and others who attend every meeting ... they were Maj. P. N. Pierce, Green Chairman, Quantico Golf Course...Tom Dawson, new Superintendent of the Richmond Country Club...Frank Durant, Supt. of Bonnie View...Jim Reynolds' father - Mr. J. D. Reynolds...Layne and Severn Leoffler, Jr., Bill Peterson, and Louis Burghman of the District Muny Courses... Bill Goodrich, Toro representative from Minneaplis...and Al Radko of the United States Golf Association Green Section...Charlie Schalestock read the minutes of the last local meeting at Lakeside Country Club and the Treasurer's report which was "light" because of the failure of many members to pay their 1952 dues to date...Bob Scott, Jr. missed his first meeting in many a day... Bob took the day to greet his dad, Bob Sr. who returned from his trip to Scotland...Bob, Sr. wisited his father who is now in his early 90's... quite a hardy family...the committee appointed to collect soil profiles (Brown, Kidwell, Neil and Bob Holmead, and Bob Smith) were reminded that the Baltimore Conference will roll around before we realize it...bring them in, boys...the Mid-Atlantic Association has offered to assist the National Association in setting-up the National Meeting at Atlantic City in '53...the Mid-Atlantic also agreed to a page in the National Bulletin or Program in process of being prepared for the '53 National Meeting...Bob Holmead of National Capitol Toro

offered to absorb the \$50.00 cost for this page...the offer was gratefully accepted...a special fund of not less than \$50.00 was appropriated to obtain a gift for Charlie Wilson who has left to open the new Regional Office for the United States Golf Association Green Section at Davis, California - in appreciation for the work he had done for the Mid-Atlantic Assn...Hugh McRae and Jimmy Thomas were appointed to select a gift for Charlie...contributions from the membership are being accepted by the committee...Charlie Schalestock then read several letters which were of interest to all..."Red" Hancock was congratulated on his promotion to the Superintendents job at Glenbrook and Sligo Park Golf Courses, now that Bob Shields has moved to Woodmont...Allen Fred of Agrico showed several kodaslides of the Fairfax Zoysia planting project ... Allan took several pictures on that eventful day and they all turned out fine...that was one day that you couldn't tell the participants without a program...everybody worked, everybody joked, everybody poked (seedlings into the fairway), until their backs were nearly "broked"...Bill Glover gave a progress report on this project...he reports that the Zoysia is coming along fine...Al Radko requested that each member notify the Green Section about how the C-115 Dahlgren creeping bentgrass is doing at his course...how much material did you plant, when, how much did it spread, did you treat with fungicides, how high do you cut it, are you using it on tees-fairways-greens, how often do you water it and any other information that you could give from your observation of its performance at your course...Our sincere thanks for the very excellent dinner served with the compliments of the Quantico Marine Officer's Club.

In Memorial

It has come to the attention of the Association that Bill Johnson's daughter recently passed away. The Association extends sincere regrets and deepest sympathy to the Johnson family.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

The use of Warm-Season Perennial Grasses which was the topic for panel discussion was worked into the Constructive Suggestion Report due to lack of time and the failure of two panel members to appear.

NEW MEMBERS

Major P. N. Pierce, Green Chairman of Quantico was voted into the organization as an honorary member.

Tom Dawson, new superintendent of the Country Club of Virginia became an active member and Austin Sydnor, Toro representative from Richmond; Bill Peterson of Ft. DuPont Public Golf Courses; and Louis Burghman of East Potomac Public Golf Courses; were all voted in as Associate members. Welcome to the fold men! We would like to see you at every meeting and encourage each of you to feel free to participate in the discussions at each meeting.

GOLF

Twenty-eight members took to the fairways on this beautiful day for golf. The outcome of the tourney, based on the Calloway handicapping system was as follows:

George Cornell won, but withdrew

Maj. "Ike" Fenton - first

S. Leoffler - second

Ernie Stanley)

Maj. P. N. Pierce) third

J. J. Cokerill)

Adm. Phillips)

John Connolly) fourth

Jim Reynolds)

Host Pro, Al Jamison donated a dozen golf balls which were divided among the winners. Thanks Al.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Without question, the Quantico Course is one of the most improved in the Mid-Atlantic Area. Ernie Stanley, Superintendent, deserves great credit for producing one of the finest service courses in the East for Quantico golfers. The improvement in this course within the last two years left Association members "pop-eyed" with amazement. The value of a sound program certainly is proven here.

GREENS

The putting greens were in excellent condition - they played well, they putted true, they looked healthy, they were well groomed, and they didn't have a trace of Poa annua in them. The No. 3 green which formerly was a source of trouble was very nicely re-built by Ernie. This green is now raised slightly, and has good sub-surface and surface drainage, and should now remain as trouble free as the other greens.

Green No. 12 has a "dead-spot" in the center measuring approximately one square feet which may be due to a localized dry-spot or the type of bentgrass (Metropolitan) in this green or a combination of both. Perhaps additional aeration on this green will help alleviate this condition. On green No. 13 there is considerable bermudagrass moving-in from the apron. It is recommended that Dow-fume MC-2 be considered to rid this green of this pest this summer. The green is large enough to accomplish this job without much interference to play. If this condition is allowed to persist, a complete renovation of the entire green will be necessary within a few years, at which time the entire green will be forced out of play. The plugs of the C-7 strain of creeping bentgrass which were introduced on several of the new greens are doing so well that springs of C-7 might well be considered as the strain to introduce into this area.

There is evidence of a slight grain developing in many of the greens which should be checked with vigorous brushing and combing regularly. The aerification program now being followed might well be modified to include one additional spring and fall aerification.

FAIRWAYS

In general the fairways appeared to be on the hungry side. Crabgrass was beginning to sprout in the thin areas, and entirely too much clover is present. It is strongly recommended that a step-up in fertilization be considered along with a weed control program to improve the fairway turf. 1000 pounds of a 10-6-4 per acre per year, or the nitrogen equivalent of some other fertilizer, is recommended in split applications - 500 pounds in spring (early March) and 500 pounds in early fall (early September) would do much toward realization of improvement of this turf. 2,4-D can be mixed with the fertilizer at the rate of 1 to 1½ pounds of active ingredient per acre to eliminate the broad-leaved weeds. The commercial fertilizer houses should be able to prepare the 2,4-D fertilizer mixture ready for use.

There is considerable bermudagrass on many of the fairways which provide excellent playing turf. Bermudagrass is a warm-season perennial grass which provides an excellent foundation for a combination cool-season and warm-season turf. By proper fertilization cool-season grasses can be encouraged to volunteer in bermudagrass turf to provide combination turf. Some seeding of cool-season grasses may be necessary and can be done easily by aerating prior to overseeding. A combination turf can be mowed more closely than most cool-season grasses alone are able to withstand. The warm-season member provides a dense cover upon which the mowers ride; therefore, if your mower is set at 1/2-inch/cut while actually the height of cut is a bit higher. The Zoysia Planting Project at Fairfax was designed with the same principle in mind, to provide a superior year-round fairway turf. In effect, your fairway improvement project should produce somewhat similar results.

Soil samples should be taken and sent to your Agricultural Experiment Station at Blacksburg, Va., and recommendations to bring the pH to approximately 6.5 should be followed.

The fairways on the back-nine are much wider than those of the first nine holes. It appears that several of the second nine fairways could be narrowed to reduce mowing frequency which means economy.

TEES

Many of the tee areas are beginning to show signs of wear due to traffic. A program of introducing U-3 bermudagrass on the open sunny tees; and the Merion (B-27) bluegrass-Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia combination turf on the shady tees might well be initiated soon. Nurseries of these improved grasses could be established this summer for plugging operations next year. This is another valuable place for warm-season perennial grasses.

Additional aerification and fertilization of present tee areas also appears necessary.

In order to eliminate the blind-shot from No. 6 tee (if the membership finds this present location objectionable) this tee can be relocated to the higher area to the right of the present tee. The new location will open the entire 6th hole so that the blind shot will be eliminated.

ROUGHES

One of the most remarkable improvements brought about at this course is the improvement of the rough areas. On holes 2,4, and 14, the rough areas in past years were considered impossible and many a ball was lost there. Today all these areas have been cleaned up and seeded to grasses which not only improve playing conditions but also add to the esthetic value of the course as well.

The areas adjoining the road leading to the Quantico Base have also been improved in this manner which do wonders for the ever-important "first impression". Ernie Stanley deserves a round of applause for a rough job well done.

GENERAL

It appears that another bridge over the stream to the right of No. 10 fairway is necessary - not only because Jack Wichter fell into the creek while attempting a broad-jump but also because of the loss in time in doubling-back after crossing the stream.

NEXT MEETING - SUBURBAN COUNTRY CLUB

The next meeting will be held on July 8th, at the Suburban Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland. Jim Reid, the affable host-superintendent for this occasion, promises an interesting day. Jim has been working "like a beaver" since he came to Suburban from the "Quaker State" . . . some of his recent work has included plantings of U-3 bermudagrass and zoysia seedlings, a program which should pay handsome dividends in future years.

Golf

12:00 Noon

Business Meeting

6:00 P.M.

Lets all turn out for this one so that we too can observe the progress made on this course in future years. That's part of the fun of this game.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

Mr. Charles K. Hallowell of the Pennsylvania State College, Division of Agricultural Extension and one of the leading turf extension men in the country, will present a talk on Aeration. Mr. Hallowell is one of the most widely traveled, most progressive turf extension men in the Nation. We feel that Mr. Hallowell is well qualified to present a most interesting talk on this topic. This talk should be one of the outstanding features of the year. Let's all make it a point to be present at this meeting, we feel certain that many of your aerification questions will be answered at this time.

TRANSPORTATION

George Cornell, the Holmead Boys, Wilson Disney in the D. C. area, and Jack Witcher in the Baltimore area will arrange for transportation to Suburban. Make plans now to contact these men soon, so that they can arrange the necessary car pools for this meeting.

Directions to Suburban - Take Reisterstown road to pikesville which borders on Northwest Baltimore. Suburban is located $\frac{1}{2}$ in Pikesville and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Baltimore.

SEASONAL HINTS

1. Begin crabgrass control work.

PMA on putting green turf.

Sodium arsenite and Potassium cyanate for fairways and tees.

2. Plug-in warm season perennials such as U-3 Bermudagrass (feed well) into tee areas.

3. Now is the time to get down a Zoysia or U-3 Bermudagrass nursery if you haven't already done so.

(Both Zoysia and U-3 Bermudagrass are very tolerant of herbicide sprays; therefore, these nurseries can be kept clean easily through the summer months.)

4. Be on the look-out for disease and wilt on putting green areas.

5. It is still not too late to aerify.

Our requests to obtain home address of your respective Green Chairmen has not been successful to say the least. Charlie Schalestock will see each of you personally at Suburban (before dinner) to obtain this information to complete his mailing list.

Business Meeting

Golf

6:00 P.M.

12:00 Noon

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Mr. Charles K. Hallowell of the Pennsylvania State College, Division of Agricultural Extension and one of the leading turf extension men in the country, will present a talk on "Turf". Mr. Hallowell is one of the most widely traveled, most progressive turf extension men in the nation. We feel that Mr. Hallowell is well qualified to present a most interesting talk on this topic. This talk should be one of the outstanding features of the year. Let's all make it a point to be present at this meeting, we feel certain that many of your questions will be answered at this time.