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Army-Navy Country Club	Woodmont Country Club	Farmington Country Club
Arlington, Va.	Rockville, Md.	Charlottesville, Va.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

### THE ROLLING ROAD MEETING

September 16, 1952

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Rolling Road Golf Club, Catonsville, Maryland. The members were in excellent attendance as this was the day of this Association's Annual Golf Tournament. Dick Scott, Superintendent of Rolling Road, and our host for the day's big event, gave us all hearty welcome. We all missed Hugh McRae, who is recovering from a heart attack. We all hope he has a speedy comeback, and will be with us again soon.

#### Business Meeting

After a very fine dinner planned and arranged by Mrs. Morton of Rolling Road Golf Club, President Bob Shields called the meeting to order. Following the reading of minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report by Charles Schalestock, the following guests for the day were introduced: Mr. Jim Small, Pro-Superintendent of Courthouse Country Club, Fairfax, Virginia; Mr. O. E. Stevens from Lockwood Apartments, Baltimore, Maryland; Carl Doering from Maryland Park and Planning Commission; Mr. Crissy, Chairman Green Committee, Opequen Country Club, Martinsburg, West Virginia; and Mr. Horace Lehman of Washington, D. C. Mr. Schalestock then proceeded by reading the latest correspondence. The National Association of Golf Course Superintendents requested that our nominations for the Board of Directors be sent to the National Nominating Committee. Since Mr. Schalestock is a member of the National Nominating Committee he gave a short report on future plans.

The National Education Committee requested new ideas for improvement of equipment, methods, and further advancement of the status of the Superintendents.

A report was read from the National Committee stating that Group Insurance of \$1,000 per year had been approved by the membership and that the dues per member would be increased \$15.00 per year.

A letter was received from Marvin Ferguson, thanking this Association for the privilege of being an honorary member, and for sending him the Newsletter. Dr. Ferguson is now located at Texas A. & M. College as a Professor of Agronomy. We all know of the fine work he has done for Better Turf, and expect to hear more from him now that he has returned to his home in Texas.

The Education Committee report was sent in by Jim Thomas. Their last meeting had been held at Woodmont Country Club, and their chief topic of discussion was making plans for the Annual Baltimore Conference in January. The Upjohn Company has consented to send Dr. John R. Vaughn or Dr. William Klomprens to the Conference to speak on Turf Disease Control. The next meeting of this Committee will be held at Beltsville, Maryland, Dr. Cory presiding. Let's have some more topics that you would like to have discussed at the Conference, so arrangements can be made for speakers. Bob Shields reminded us that the Education Committee's meetings are open and everyone is welcome to attend.

The subject drawing the most attention at this meeting was the letter from Columbia Country Club read by Bob Shields. In this letter they requested the assistance of this Association and the USGA Green Section to make suggestions on a long range program for improvement and renovating procedures for their course. It was suggested that in making up the Constructive Suggestion Report every member of the Association should voice his opinion as to how the course could best be improved. This is a fine opportunity for the Mid-Atlantic Association to prove that it is one of the most progressive and outstanding Associations in the country by giving service to one of our members.

#### Report on Rolling Road Country Club

Everyone was well pleased with the condition of the course, and congratulated Dick Scott for his fine work, and for the excellent condition of the greens. It was interesting to note that this is a very old course, built on very small acreage without the use of new types of construction equipment. This all adds to making Mr. Scott's maintenance problems more difficult today. Mr. Scott has been successful in eliminating some of his goosegrass by spot-treating it with arsenite, 2 ounces to 1 gallon of water, and following right up with a complete renovation.

#### Subjects Proposed by Association Members for Discussion at the Balto. Conference

1. Why did so many greens go out this year?
2. Cost of operations.
3. Methods of eliminating silver crab and bermuda.
4. Greens design, construction, soils and strains of grasses.
5. Golf Course Architect to speak on design and construction.
6. Proper time and methods of aerification.
7. Mixing of chemicals.
8. Sizes and types of watering systems.
9. Advantages and maintenance methods for annual bluegrass.
10. Flowers and shrubs - maintenance propagation, etc.
11. Advantages and possibilities of Meyer (Z-52) zoysia and Merion (B-27) bluegrass combination turf - tees, fairways, and greens.
12. More suggestions from you!

#### New Members

Mr. James Small, Pro-Superintendent  
Courthouse Country Club, Fairfax, Va.  
Mr. O. E. Stevens, Associate member  
Lockwood Apartments, Baltimore, Md.

The next meeting is at Columbia Country Club on October 14. Let's all attend and make this a 100% turnout. This is our opportunity to do a good job for Columbia and O. B. Fitts, who have been hosts for this Association many times in past years. This is an important meeting. We have received a letter from the chairman of the Green Committee requesting that the October meeting be held at Columbia.

Directions - Corner of East-West Highway and Connecticut Avenue,  
Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Golf - 12 noon

Dinner - 6:30 P.M.

Now is the time;

1. To renovate turf as needed.
2. To start nursery of improved cool-season perennial grasses.
3. To rake with Del Monte to eliminate graininess in putting green turf.
4. Lay foundation for next years turf.
5. To fertilize greens, tees, fairway and rough.
6. To line up winter jobs for the regular crew.
7. To aerate all turf.

#### Coming Events

Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference, Baltimore, Md., January, 1953.  
Feb. 8-13, 1953 - National Meeting of Golf Course Superintendents,  
Atlantic City, New Jersey.  
Remember there will be no National Turf Field Day sponsored by the  
USGA Green Section this year.

#### Good Reading

1952 Yearbook of Agriculture "Insects" - can be obtained gratis thru  
your Congressman.  
"Tile Drainage" New York State Bulletin 36 - Third issue of 1952 - write  
Box 27, Ithaca, New York.

Apologies - The September Turf News Letter failed to mention that Lawrence J.  
Wisner, Pro-Superintendent of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Golf Course was  
also present at the meeting. Sorry Jim, it was an oversight - we hope you  
will be able to attend all the meetings.

#### News

Bob Scott, Jr. has taken a new assignment. Bob is now with Bonnie View  
Country Club, Baltimore; he has just recently left Baltimore Country Clubs,  
Roland Park Course, where he did a bang-up job of superintending. Good luck  
Bob with your new course.

Results of Annual Golf Tournament.

REGULAR MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Net Score</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donated By</u>
1. Charles Schalestock	69	Waffle Iron	Nat. Capt. Toro Co.
2. J. R. Williams	72	Hamilton Watch	G. L. Cornell Company
3. Robert Scott, Sr.	72	\$25 War Bond	F. W. Bolgiano Company
4. Howard J. McCarty	73	\$25 War Bond	F. W. Bolgiano Company
5. James Reynolds	73	Shoes & Balls	S. G. Leoffler Company
6. James E. Thomas	73	Shoes & Balls	S. G. Leoffler Company
7. John Connolly	74	Shag Bag	Maj. Hanrahan
8. Ernest Stanley	74	Golf Umbrella	Irvin Schloss
9. W. H. Glover	76	Shirt	Johnny Bass
10. L. R. Shields, Jr.	76	Shirt	Johnny Bass
11. Richard Scott	76 )		
12. John Leavell	79 )	Prizes donated by the Mid-Atlantic	
13. Reuben Hines	79 )	Association.	
14. Harry Allanson	94 )		

Charlie Schalestock won the tournament, but was ineligible for first prize as he won top honors twice within five years (Association rule); therefore the Hamilton watch went to second man, Bob Williams.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & GUESTS

1. Admiral Phillips	69
2. J. Milan	70
3. George Cornell	71
4. Frank Haske	78
5. Walter Densmore	79
6. Neil Holmead	85

George Cornell again won low gross honors with a sizzling 75 ... nice going George.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

As there was no educational feature scheduled, we herewith publish the report of the Mid-Atlantic advisory committee which visited the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Golf Course at the request of the Aberdeen Proving Ground officials.

"We, the members of the Mid-Atlantic Inspection Committee, wish to thank you for the many courtesies extended us during our visit to the APG Golf Course. Upon our arrival we were met by Major M. Leavitt, Captain K. G. Yeager, W. O. Wm. Twiddy, Sgt. T. Costello, Mr. J. Wisner, Mr. M. Bamford, and Mr. W. E. Ambrose and in true military fashion we immediately proceeded to the trouble areas.

This season has been a tough one on turf; without question it is one of the worst that we have experienced. Yet, it is just such a season that brings to light the many factors in golf course turf maintenance and management which during favorable seasons go unnoticed.

The factors which have contributed to the loss of turf on several greens, especially the 3rd green, are as follows:

1. Compact soils which are layered
2. Weak grasses
3. Shallow weak root systems
4. Too much water
5. Thatched or matted layers of turf
6. Poor air and water movement through the soils
7. Insufficient feeding.

Let us elaborate on these points in order.

1. Compact soils which are layered. The golf course was built by the military personnel who moved piles of soil in place and then planted creeping bentgrass stolons to make the putting greens. Subsequent topdressing with sand in some instances and heavy clay soil in others, have resulted in a layered condition through which grass roots cannot penetrate.

To alter this condition a minimum of three aerifications is recommended each spring and fall each year, followed by a topdressing of 70% coarse sand and 30% good loam soil.

2. Weak grasses. - The present greens were planted to the Five Farms strain of creeping bentgrass which is one of the more difficult ones to manage. We recommend that a nursery of C-1 Arlington and C-19 Congressional bentgrass be established early this fall on a good soil, sand, and peatmoss mixture and this nursery be maintained as a putting green. Cup-cutter plugs can then be removed from this nursery area and placed in the present greens as time and labor allow. This way you will be able to convert these greens to the better strains of bentgrass. Mr. Wisner knows of a source of supply of each of these bents.
3. Shallow, weak root systems aggravated by a very wet spring can be improved with aerification and topdressing recommended under point (1).
4. Too much water. - For purposes of record we wish to state that more turf has been ruined from too much water than from not enough water. Many of your scalded areas are the result of overwatering. We recommend early morning watering by hand with a Rose nozzle. Sprinklers will not do the job. Uniform hand watering for not more than 30 minutes to each green should suffice. During the hot, humid days, should the grasses appear blue and begin to wilt, a light syringing by hand would be necessary during the day. Water aprons also at this time.
5. Thatched or matted layers of turf. - The peoples of the Far East construct their homes with thatched roofs to keep the rain out. A thatch or matted condition on turf acts the same way; it keeps water and air out of the root zone. Aerification as recommended in point (1) will help alter this condition.

6. Poor air and water movement through the soils. A good soil is roughly composed of 50% solids (sand, soil, and organic matter) 25% air, and 25% water. Air and water movement through the soils is a must for healthy turf. If either becomes static, there's trouble ahead. A good program of aerification will help water and air movement through soils.
7. Insufficient feeding. - A good bentgrass putting green turf requires a minimum of one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per month of growing season. In the hot months of June, July, and August, this should be in the form of organic nitrogen. Sixteen pounds of Milorganite or Agrinite will supply the equivalent of one pound of nitrogen in organic form.

In the cool months of spring and fall, a mixture of 10 pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer plus 8 pounds of Milorganite or Agrinite should be applied for each 1,000 square feet of putting green area. This will better enable the putting green turf to survive disease attacks, drought and will help keep the turf in a healthy condition.

As for the scalded areas in most of the putting greens, should some of them not revive by early fall, we recommend that you thoroughly aerify and drag these areas, going over them five or six times in different directions. Then use the spike roller to further perforate this mat of dead organic matter. Follow this with a seeding of Polycross creeping bentgrass seed at the rate of 2 pounds to each 1,000 square feet.

The seed should be thoroughly mixed with moistened top-soil to insure uniform distribution. Polycross creeping bentgrass seed can be purchased from Golf and Lawn Supply Corp., Manaroneck Ave. at Rosedale, White Plains, New York, which is our closest known source, other sources may be found in golf publications such as Golfdom, Golf Course Reporter, and others.

On the 3rd green a complete renovation job is necessary. We recommend that the present mat of organic matter be stripped from the putting surface. A tile drainage system should be installed and the hyper condition of the soil should be broken by thoroughly working this soil over. A good mixture of approximately 30% sterile soil, 60% coarse sand, and 10% peat moss should be thoroughly mixed off the site and brought in to a depth of 8 inches. The surface should be so sloped as to drain naturally in at least two directions. Then stolonize with 5 bushels each of the C-1 and C-19 strains of creeping bentgrass for each 1,000 square feet of putting green area (apron included) or seed Polycross creeping bentgrass at the rate of 2 pounds to each 1,000 square feet. It may also be necessary to thin out some of the trees "pocketing" this green.

Soil samples from each green should be removed periodically and sent to the University of Maryland for pH test. Recommendations should be followed to bring the pH to 6.5.

To get this program under way and to insure its continuity two things are necessary, - labor and money. Today, the cost of operation per golf hole per year averages approximately \$1,500.00. Thus the cost of operating a good nine-hole course is about \$13,500.00 per year. We understand that the revenue realized from the golf course at present is about \$6,500. per year. Perhaps a revision in green fees could be made to provide the necessary budget.

With an increased budget, it would then be possible to employ two full-time civilian workers. One should be a working superintendent who should be given living quarters on the Post, the other his helper. If this were possible these two men could handle the maintenance and management problems with an occasional detail of men. At present, we understand that the labor is done by details of men, who attend classes, keep dental appointments, etc. It is difficult to operate properly and efficiently with details alone. When we deal with nature and plants which require expert attention - such as bentgrass - timing is an important factor. When an attack of disease strikes, the time to act is now, we cannot wait until tomorrow; it may be too late. The same may be said for insect control, application of water when grasses are wilting, and so forth. Permanent men are needed who can recognize the danger signals and act to avert loss of turf. In this way Mr. Wisner could then direct his full attention to his Pro duties, which at a Post as large as Aberdeen, is a full-time job. With lessons, golf clinics, and shop duties it is extremely difficult for a Pro-superintendent to give the golf course the constant attention that it requires.

We further recommend that any or all members of the golf fund council make a concerted effort to attend the monthly meetings of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The Mid-Atlantic Association is one of the most progressive organizations in the country. Anyone interested in better turf cannot help but come away from these meetings with some new thoughts and ideas. We publish a "Turf News Letter" after each meeting in which we attempt to record the main points of the Educational Features. We also take advantage of the collective experience of the members in their capacity as superintendents to offer any constructive suggestions to the host superintendent for the betterment of his course. Not only does the host superintendent benefit from the constructive suggestion report, but most others present benefit also. Most clubs absorb the superintendents costs in attending these meetings as they feel that they, in the end, benefit immeasurably.

We attach a copy of one of our "Turf News Letters" for your further information. Mr. Wisner and Mr. Ambrose are Associate members of the organization and they receive copies of our "Turf News Letter" monthly.

Again, we wish to thank you for the very fine luncheon and the many courtesies extended us during our visit. We trust that we may have the pleasure of again visiting your course under more favorable conditions.

Sincerely,

A. M. Radko, Research Agronomist, USGA Green Section  
James Reid, Golf Course Superintendent, The Suburban Club  
Bob Scott, Golf Course Superintendent, Bonnie View Country Club"

