

Vice-President  
Robert E. Scott  
Bonnie View Country Club  
Baltimore, Md.

President  
James E. Thomas  
Army-Navy Country Club  
Arlington, Virginia

Secretary-Treasurer  
Charles Schalestock  
Farmington Country Club  
Charlottesville, Va.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

### WASHINGTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB MEETING

April 9, 1953

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Spring is Spring and life has begun for many of our members who came out of hibernation to attend the April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held at the well-known Washington Golf and Country Club, Arlington, Virginia. There were 52 members and guests present, and our genial hosts for the day were Mr. Herb Swartwout, Green Committeeman; Francis Coupe, Superintendent of Washington Golf and Country Club; and Ike Rabbitt, consultant. Among the guests introduced were: Mr. Dick Essex, Green Committee Chairman, Columbia Country Club; Mr. Kegan, representative for Agrico; Mr. Sam Couger, representative for duPont Chemical Company; Mr. Wayne McGee, Green Committee Chairman at Bethesda Country Club; Mr. Ernest Burgdorf and Mr. Tom Manning, Past Chairmen at Bethesda; Mr. Harry Griesmer, Pro at Bethesda; Mr. Walter Dinsmore, Past Chairman at Belle Haven; Master Sgt. Bush, Quantico, Va.; and Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Committee Chairman, Army-Navy Country Club. Some of our distinguished "Old Timers" present were, Hugh McRae, O. B. Fitts, and Rudy Wills. We were glad to see you all in such good health, and hope to see you at our future meetings.

We were very happy to see so many Green Committee Chairmen present at this meeting, and we extend to you our heartiest welcome. We hope that we will see the day when each green chairman accompanies his Superintendent to each of our monthly meetings.

### BUSINESS MEETING

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order and Charlie Schalestock read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both the minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved as read. Our President then thanked the Washington Golf and Country Club on behalf of the Association for a wonderful day of golf and the fine "McRae dinner". Incidentally, the announcement of the "McRae dinner" brought loud cheers from at least one happy little Scotchman - guess who?

Charlie next read a letter received from the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents listing the National Committees and their respective Chairmen. Bill Glover has been appointed as Chairman of the Membership Committee. The National requested that our Association appoint two delegates to represent the Mid-Atlantic on the National Policy Committee. Delegates appointed, Jim Reid, Bob Shields.

Secretary-Treasurer  
Charles Schaleschok  
Washington Country Club  
Charlottesville, Va.

President  
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T U R N H E A D L E T T E R

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WASHINGTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB MEETING

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During its spring and fall has begun for many of our members who came out of hibernation to attend the April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held at the well-known Washington Golf and Country Club, Arlington, Virginia. There were 22 members and guests present, and our special hosts for the day were Mr. Herb Swartzent, Green Commission; Virginia Golf Association; Washington Golf and Country Club; and the meeting's committee. Among the guests introduced were: Mr. Dick Laska, Green Commission; Chairman, Johnnie Country Club; Mr. Nelson, representative for Virginia; Mr. Sam Cooper, representative for District of Columbia; Mr. Ernest Swartzent and Mr. Tom Manning, Past Chairman of Bonaventure; Mr. Harry Johnson, Pro at Bonaventure; Mr. Walter Dinsmore, Past Chairman at Falls River; Master Sgt. Bush, Quantico; Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Little, Green Commission Chairman, Army-Navy Country Club; and our distinguished "Old Times" present were, Hugh Larkin, O. B. Little, and Ray Little. We wish to see you all in such good health, and hope to see you at our future meetings.

We were very happy to see so many Green Commission Chairmen present at this meeting, and we extend to you our heartfelt welcome. We hope that we will see you at our next meeting. The Green Commission representatives are superintendents to each of our monthly meetings.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order and Charles Schaleschok read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both the minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved as read. Our President then thanked the Washington Golf and Country Club on behalf of the Association for a most enjoyable day of golf and the fine "banquet dinner". Incidentally, the announcement of the "banquet dinner" brought loud cheers from at least one happy little "Banquet - Great Day".

Charles next read a letter received from the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents listing the National Commission and their respective Chairman. Bill Glover has been appointed as Chairman of the Membership Committee. The National requested that our Association appoint two delegates to represent the Mid-Atlantic on the National Policy Committee. Delegates appointed, Jim and Bob Shields.

Jim Thomas gave the report of the Education and Policy Committee, stating that for the good of the Association this Committee feels this Association should go on record as wanting to pay for our dinners when visiting other clubs. Jim reported also that his Committee was given a "sneak" preview of the new by-laws by Admiral Phillips, and that Admiral Phillips and Mr. Connolly expect to have them completed in the near future.

Jim Reid, Chairman of the Membership Committee, presented the names of Mr. Kegan, representative for Agrico; Mr. M. E. Williams, representative for Cary Hall Machine Co., Salem, Va; for associate membership; and Bob Elder, USGA Green Section; for honorary membership. All the candidates were accepted and they in turn expressed their pleasure in being associated with the Mid-Atlantic group. John Lovell, Chairman of the Golf Committee, gave the results of the golf tournament, in which 24 members and guests competed. The winner, and most outstanding player for the day, was Harry Grismer whose 18 pars gave him a gross score of 70. Also tied for first with a net score of 70 were George Bigham and Ernie Stanley. George Campbell had a net score of 71, while Ike Rabbitt tied John Connolly for third with a net score of 72.

Bob Shields presented a proposal to make all charter members honorary members, and also to make all the members who have been with this organization 25 years honorary members. This proposal was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Essex, Admiral Phillips, Mr. Dinsmore, and Ike Rabbitt all praised this Association for its fine work, and reminded us that the reason we have attained national recognition in the field of turf, lies in our ability and willingness to assist our fellow superintendent.

Jim Thomas next introduced our guest for the evening, Mr. Jim Simmons. When asked to say a few words, Jim began by explaining just how he became interested in turf work. While a senior at University of Rhode Island, Jim earned a United States Golf Association scholarship, and under the direction of Dr. Dr. DeFrance he began studying for his masters degree. After he received his degree, Jim continued to work with Dr. DeFrance for several more years. Most of his experience has been in weed control and soil sterilization. At present Jim is employed by O. M. Scott and Sons. Jim is interested in setting up a weed control research program in this area. Following this outline of his experience in turf research work, there was an open discussion on different chemical weed controls. In closing, Jim expressed his pleasure of having this opportunity to speak to us, and hopes to see more of us in the future.

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

##### Greens

Here we go again. Is Poa annua our friend or foe? For the sake of our hosts for this meeting we all hope it is their friend, since most of their greens are 90% Poa annua. Francis stated that he was able to hold his Poa annua greens through last year and intends to do the same this year. If, for some unpredictable reason the annual blue should decide to take a fade-out, we would recommend incorporating the improved strains of bents (C-1, C-19, C-27) into the greens, and set up a maintenance program to favor these bents.

The poa greens are at present in fine condition.

The Thomas gave the report of the report of the Association and Policy Committee, stating that for the good of the Association this Committee feels this Association should go on record as wanting to pay for our drivers when visiting other clubs. reported also that his Committee was given a "check" review of the new by-laws.

Tees

Because of the restricted area of the tees, and the heavy play, it is easy to understand the maintenance problem involved. We do believe Francis is taking a step in the right direction by establishing U-3 bermuda in the sunny tees. He intends to sod several of his most troublesome tees with U-3 bermuda. We feel that this is an excellent plan, since small tee areas are subject to heavy traffic and therefore heavy wear. By sodding, good turf cover is insured, whereas if sprigs or plugs are used it is more difficult to get complete coverage when under heavy play.

Fairways

The high percentage of clover in the fairways is due to the fact that clover was included in the seed mixture a number of years ago. Coop is gradually eliminating the clover by increasing the rate of fertilization of the fairways each spring and fall. Perhaps this operation could be speeded up even more by increasing the rate of fertilization to 500 pounds of 10-6-4 to the acre each spring and fall.

Beware! Wet Springs Means Shallow Roots.

Now is the time to aerate to eliminate excess water, and promote deeper root systems. Poor drainage checks the activities of beneficial soil organisms, and causes shallow root systems. Grass with a shallow root system is apt to wilt on hot windy days, and is more susceptible to disease organisms.

Act now while you still have a chance. Remember the 1952 Season?

COMING EVENTS

- May 5: James River Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va.  
Host Superintendent, Tom Dawson
- May 11-12: Turf Conference, Southern Turf Association.  
J. E. Hamner, Superintendent, Memphis Country Club,  
Memphis, Tennessee
- June 2: Five Farms, Baltimore Country Club, Baltimore, Md.  
Host Superintendent, Robert Scott, Sr.
- June 3: Hercules Country Club, Wilmington, Delaware.  
Host Superintendent, Frank Tull.  
This is a joint meeting of the Philadelphia and  
New Jersey Associations. The guest speaker for the  
occasion will be Mr. O. J. Noer.
- July 7: Fountainhead Country Club, Hagerstown, Md.  
Host Superintendent, C. W. Lindsay.

GOOD READING

The Golf Course Reporter, Vol. 21 special. This special issue contains the full transcript of the 1953 Atlantic City Turf Conference. Extra copies of this issue are available at \$2.50 per copy.

The Golf Course Reporter  
Box 106  
St. Charles, Ill  
c/o Editor

SCUTTLEBUT

Now hear this! Now hear this! Tiny Tom Dawson took the final plunge and got married April 11. We didn't think the "Farmington Blakts" shook you up that bad, Tom!

Bob Shields' wife had a baby boy. Everybody's fine; even Bob.

Rumor has it that the Baltimore Boys are taking up a collection to equip Jack Witcher's car with radar and homing pigeons. It seems Jack gets lost while bringing the boys to the meetings. The last time he came by way of Richmond.

KEEPING POSTED

Bill Glover has recently been appointed as a member of the National Green Section Committee of the United States Golf Association. Our Association is greatly honored to have both Admiral Jack Phillips and Bill on this National Committee.

Dr. Fred Grau, who was the Director of the U.S.G.A. Green Section, is now in partnership with Frank Murray the well known local golf course building contractor. Grau and Murray offer their professional services to all Turf installations. This includes home lawns, estates, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, athletic fields, and farm land. We wish them the best of luck in their new business.

KNOW YOUR HOST

Tom Dawson, the superintendent of The Country Club of Virginia will be our host for the May meeting. Tom worked and studied for six years under his father, who is the Superintendent at the Fenway Golf Club, White Plains, N. Y. He has been associated with the Out of Bounds Golf Club, Suffern, N. Y., and was Superintendent at the Fairview Country Club, in Elmford, N. Y. Tom also attended the New York State Agricultural College. He is now the Superintendent of the Country Club of Virginia, where he has been located for a little over a year.

NEXT MEETING

- Place:** James River Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
- Date:** May 5
- Time:** Golf, 12:00 noon at the James River Course.  
 Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at the Westhampton Main Club House  
 If anyone wants a caddy you should pick them up at the West Hampton Course. Locker rooms are also available at the Westhampton Course.
- Transportation:** For directions and transportation facilities, consult your Transportation Committee representative. Members of this Committee are Mr. Witcher, Mr. Wilson Disney, George Cornell, and the Holmead Boys.

Directions

Route 1 on to the Boulevard. Follow the Boulevard to Grove Ave. Turn right off the Boulevard on to Grove Ave. This will take you to the Country Club of Virginia Golf Course. The James River Course is located four and one-half miles off River Road from the Westhampton course.