

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

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

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)

This edition is dedicated to the memory of Willis H. (Bill) Glover,
Superintendent of the Fairfax Country Club.

In Memoriam - "God's finger touched him, and he slept." (Tennyson)

Golf course superintendents throughout the nation lost one of their most prominent members when Bill Glover died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on Thursday, July 30, 1953. Bill was one of the most popular men in the profession; he was a born leader and one of the soundest golf course superintendents in the country. His ability was recognized nationally and he held many important positions connected with turf and golf course work. Some of these were Past-President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, other important offices in this Association, member of the Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, member of the Turf Advisory Council at Pennsylvania State College, member of the Green Section Committee of the United States Golf Association, and many other important offices.

We of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents took Bill's passing more as a great personal loss as we often relied upon him for his wise counsel both turf wise and as a friend.

Bill graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor of science degree in forestry. Before coming to Fairfax, he was associated with several prominent golf courses, including the Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N. Y., and Shawnee-on-Delaware in Pennsylvania.

In May of 1940 John Connolly purchased the site for the Fairfax Country Club, and shortly after John and Bill mapped out and began construction of the first nine-holes. In a little over two years John and Bill developed a golf course that is recognized as one of the finest public courses in the country. The fine condition of this course is credited to Bill's ability and willingness to test and help develop many of the new turf grasses and maintenance practices we advocate today. Bill was one of the first to test the C-1 Arlington and the C-19 Congressional strains of creeping bentgrass on a large scale basis under practical conditions and thus helped expedite the use of these improved strains to large scale usage.

Aside from his many duties in the world of turf, Bill was also an outstanding member of his community both in civic and religious affairs. With the passing of Bill Glover we all feel we have lost a good friend and the profession has lost one of its greatest men. But Bill will never be forgotten because the principles and methods he advocated for the development and maintenance of Better Turf will resound again and again from the tee to the green on every course in the country. Bill Glover gave his life time to the development of Better Turf.

(Copy)

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Mr. James Thomas, President, Mid-Atlantic Association
Army-Navy Country Club
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Jim:

Please convey to your association my feeling upon hearing of the death of Bill Glover. It was a terrible shock. It is still hard for me to realize it is true.

You have lost one of your finest members. We, the National Association, have lost a great man, one of the hardest workers for the benefit of all of our members of our association ever had and, believe me, one very hard to replace.

I am sorry I was unable to attend the funeral services but conditions here at the club necessitated my being present at that time.

Sincerely

(signed) Leonard

Leonard Strong, President

The members of the Mid-Atlantic Association wish to express our appreciation to the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents and to the Cleveland Association, for sending flowers in tribute to Bill Glover.

The Woodmont Country Club Meeting

August 3, 1953

The August meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland. Despite an overcast sky and the weatherman's predictions for rain, we had a record attendance of 63 members and guests. It was apparent from the number who attended that progress at Woodmont is being followed with keen interest because of the newness of the lay-out and the fact that it was established with permanent grasses only - no nurse grasses. Our hosts for this gala occasion were Mr. Leo Freudberg, Green Committee Chairman, and Bob Shields, Superintendent. Guests introduced were Mr. Ed. Wardman, Past Green Chairman at Woodmont; Mr. Merrill Whittelsey, Sports Writer for the Washington Star; John Gonella, Golf Writer for the Washington Post; Dr. Fred Grau and Frank Murray of the Grau-Murray Grass Service; Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Chairman, Army Navy Country Club; Mr. Dick Essex, Green Chairman, Columbia Country Club; Mr. Walter Dinsmore, Ex-Green Chairman at Belle Haven; Mr. Ed. Heard, Hagerstown, Maryland;

Mr. Ralph Petrone, representative of the Uphohn Company; Mr. Herb Swarthout, Ex-Green Chairman, Washington Golf & Country Club; Ray Shields, The "Travelin' Man" from Annapolis Roads, Md.; and Al Radko and Bob Elder of the USGA Green Section.

BUSINESS MEETING

Vice-President Bob Scott, Jr., pinch-hitting in absence of President Jim Thomas, opened the meeting by requesting that a prayer be said in tribute to our beloved friend, Bill Glover. Reuben Hines led the prayer recital. Vice-President Bob then appointed Reuben Hines, Bob Scott, Sr., Dick Watson, and O. B. Fitts to serve as a committee to select a memorial in honor of Bill Glover. Charlie Schalestock then read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both were approved as read.

Bob then introduced our host, known to most as the "Perennial Green Chairman of Woodmont Country Club", Mr. Leo Freudberg. Mr. Freudberg extended us a most hearty welcome on behalf of the Woodmont Country Club, and also thanked this Association for the past constructive suggestions which have considerably helped the Woodmont Club. He also complimented this Association for the job it is doing in this area and for setting an example for the rest of the nation. Mr. Freudberg continued by paying tribute to Rudy Will, who served Woodmont faithfully for 23 years, not only as a Superintendent, but as a true friend. Rudy also selected his successor in Bob Shields. Mr. Freudberg mentioned that to show their appreciation the Woodmont Country Club has provided a pension fund for Rudy, who has recently retired and moved to Florida. Mr. Freudberg to a large extent attributes the fine condition of the Woodmont Country Club to the harmony and close cooperation which exists between the club officials and their Superintendents, Rudy Will and Bob Shields. He stated also that one of the main jobs of the Green Chairman is to remind the members that the reason that they are coming out is because of the golf course and the enjoyment derived from it - this is especially true when budgets are discussed. In closing, Mr. Freudberg paid tribute to all Superintendents by stating that they are the unsung, faithful workers, whom on so few depends the pleasure of so many.

Admiral Jack Phillips, speaking in behalf of the District Golf Association, paid tribute to Bill Glover and expressed their appreciation for the advice and sound counsel he so willingly and unselfishly gave them during his lifetime.

Secretary Schalestock next read the correspondence. A letter was received from Fred Grau thanking the Association for the wonderful hospitality shown him at our last meeting. He also stated that he would always be most happy to be of assistance to the Association in any way at any time.

A letter was also received from Charlie Wilson, Director of the USGA Green Section Western Office, citing the popularity of the Direct Service Plan of the Green Section with golf course superintendents in that area. Charlie pointed out that the Direct Service Plan is similar in many respects to the program of constructive suggestions offered by our own Association. The Direct Service Plan is designed to assist and work with superintendents and club officials and with golf course Associations within the regions. He also stated that under the Direct Service Plan the USGA places emphasis on golf turf research. With a set percentage of funds earmarked for this purpose a continuous flow of

research data should result with direct benefit to golf course maintenance and management. Dr. Marvin Ferguson, recently appointed Southwestern Director, is also National Research Coordinator of the Green Section.

Bob Shields gave the report of the Education and Policy Committee. The Committee decided that any parties interested in displaying equipment or having commercial materials for demonstration shall make a request in writing to the President of this organization. The President will, upon approval of the request designate the date and location for such a demonstration. If the demonstration is to be given at a regular monthly meeting, the consent of the host Superintendent is mandatory. The Committee also recommend and approve the plan initiated by Bob Shields at this meeting - that is for the host Superintendent to provide his guests with a list of what he feels are his most pressing problems so as to direct attention to these particular problems while on their tour of inspection. This plan is recommended so as to help the host Superintendent with problems which may not be obvious at the time of visit, thereby resulting in even a more beneficial constructive suggestion report.

In order of new business, it was recommended that a resolution in honor of Bill Glover be written up and that a copy of the resolution should be sent to Mrs. Glover.

It was proposed that a letter be written to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America recommending that "Prexy" Jim Thomas be appointed to fill Bill Glover's position on the National Board of Directors for the remaining term of office.

Jim Thomas's absence was due to his Mother's serious illness. A silent prayer was offered in her behalf, and in lu of sending flowers the Association voted a \$15 contribution to the Heart Fund in her honor.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

The Constructive Suggestion Report for the Woodmont Club was led by Al Radko, Acting Eastern Director of the USGA Green Section, acting as moderator. At this meeting we put a new plan into effect regarding constructive suggestions. Bob Shields, Superintendent of Woodmont, passed out mimeographed lists to each superintendent, pointing out the troubles which he wanted us to inspect carefully. This plan worked out well because the attention of the playing superintendents was focused on his particular turf problems which which he is faced the entire year. At pervious meetings the superintendents inspected the course and offered constructive suggestions as they were able to see them. The new system focuses attention on particular problems we feel will be of considerable benefit to the host superintendent and we hope that this system will work at future meetings.

Greens

The putting green surfaces at Woodmont were in excellent condition at the time of the meeting. The putting greens were established to C-1 and C-19 creeping bentgrass when the course was built. The greens were in very good putting condition, they were very well manicured, and they looked beautiful. Not a weed was present on any green. There were just two greens on which there were problems and Bob pointed them out to us in his mimeographed listing. Both of

these greens, Nos. 6 and 14, appeared to be drainage problems. This trouble may have come about as a result of settling of the soil underneath the putting surface as there appears to be a definite funneling of water from the contours to these particular areas. The turf was browned out and appeared sickly. The consensus of opinion of the superintendents present resolved itself to the short-term program in view of the fact that the Celebrities Tournament will be played at Woodmont in September and the long-range program with regard to the permanent disposition of this problem. In the short-range program it was suggested that a "wick drain" be established at these trouble spots. It was suggested that Bob remove a large plug of sod, dig into the subsoil with a post hole digger, then back-fill it with pea gravel with a layer of about 10 to 12 inches of topsoil on top and then replace the sod. Several "wick drains" may be needed. It was also suggested that these two greens be watered by hand so that judicious watering would be exercised at all times. With regard to the long-range program it was suggested that the sod be stripped and the sub-surface regraded either by bringing soil in or removing some of the existing contour so that the surface drainage would be improved. It was suggested that this fall would be a good time to make the permanent changes in these greens.

Bob received many compliments from those present with regard to the greens. A few of them suggested, however, that it appeared as though a thatch was building up which may prove troublesome in future years. Bob stated that this thatch buildup was aggravated by the mechanical setting of his putting green mower which was faulty. Bob had thought that he was setting his mowers at 3/16-inch, however he found actual measurement was 5/16-inch. This, no doubt, caused or aggravated the thatch buildup. It was suggested that thorough spring and fall aeration, vigorous combing, brushing when necessary, close mowing, and judicious watering, be practiced on all greens in the next year to reduce the hazards that accompany thatched turf.

With regard to future work on these putting greens it was suggested if trouble should arise that every effort be made to incorporate tile drainage in the sub-surface of the troubled green. It was agreed that many years might go by without having need for tile drainage, however, during those years when the sub-surface drainage is important, it is a good thing to have the tile drainage there to remove that surplus water.

Collars and Aprons

Some of the collars and aprons around the putting greens were heavily infested with silver crabgrass. It was emphasized that in construction often times the architect does not allow sufficient space between traps and aprons so that mowers can be turned at varying distances in order to alleviate the compaction of soils underneath the aprons. Undoubtedly, turning on the aprons has aggravated the condition and produced compaction which resulted in the presence of the silver crab and other weeds. Where the C-1 and C-19 strains of bentgrass were growing aggressively in the aprons there was no silver crab present. It was suggested that these strains might perhaps be expanded into the apron and encouraged to their maximum to combat the goosegrass. In addition it was suggested that perhaps the C-115 strain of creeping bent might be a good grass to experiment with on the collars. Merion bluegrass is another possibility for aprons and collars.

Chemical treatment with sodium arsenite, PMAS, and 2,4-D, were also suggested, however, it was feared that with leaching or wash close to the greens, some of the putting green turf may be injured, therefore, it was suggested that the lower portions where the drainage or seepage is carried away from the putting green, it would be safe to control the goosegrass with heavy applications of sodium arsenite, followed by a seeding of Colonial bentgrasses or Merion bluegrass or sprigging with the vegetative bentgrasses mentioned.

It was also suggested that the vertical mowing type machinery might be used in order to scarify, cut up, and destroy, the plants. After removing the clippings then proceed with renovation from there.

Tees

Bob Shields is working toward the introduction of U-3 bermudagrass into all of the Woodmont tees. There is no doubt that the U-3 selection is an excellent one for tees in this area and, especially on short par 3 tees where many divot holes are taken. U-3 bermuda, when fed adequately and generously during the summer months, provide an excellent tee. It was felt that most of the teeing area had been mowed a bit high. With regard to the U-3 strain, it must be managed as U-3, cut short (1/2-inch) in order for it to be at its best. On the whole the teeing areas were on the small side and in some cases abruptly contoured. In general it is best to have long, large, gently sloped tees in order that fairway mowing equipment can sweep over them to maintain them. In these days of the very difficult labor situation, mechanization is all important.

With regard to the silver crabgrass problem on tees it is felt that once the U-3 strain becomes dominant, weeds will no longer be a problem. Bob Shields is doing a wonderful job of plugging U-3 into his tees at the present time. As these plugs spread and come into their own, goosegrass and crabgrass and other weeds will pass out of the picture. It is suggested also that thorough spring and fall aeration be practiced on teeing areas. Teeing areas must also be fertilized more liberally than fairway areas. Once the U-3 strain becomes thoroughly established on these tees water management will be a minor problem.

Fairways

When the Woodmont course was built only permanent grasses were used. A mixture of creeping fescue, tall fescue, meadow fescue and Colonial bentgrass was seeded. At the present time it appears that most of the creeping fescues have passed out of the picture. The fairways were predominantly bentgrass with tufts of tall fescue showing here and there, spottily. There was also considerable clover which appeared in the fairways. With regard to fertilization Bob said that only 400 pounds of a 10-6-4 was applied last fall. It appears that this fertilization program should be stepped up considerably. Adequate nitrogen fertilization in a long-range program will do much to reduce clover population and strengthen the existing turf. It was suggested that 10-6-4, a portion of which is organic nitrogen, should be applied in split applications this fall at the rate of 500 pounds per acre in September and October for a total of 1,000 pounds of 10-6-4 or the nitrogen equivalent in any other fertilizer, to the acre this fall. Next spring it was suggested that 500 pounds of 10-6-4 be applied to each acre in May. Unquestionably this fertilization program will do much toward enhancing the turf in the Woodmont fairways. Prior to fertilization it

would be wise to thoroughly aerate the fairways for economical usage and placement of the fertilizer. Soil samples should be taken and lime should be applied as required. Dolomitic lime, of which the magnesium oxide content ranges between 20 and 30 percent, is best. Our soils are deficient in magnesium, one of the elements necessary for good grass growth. After this fertilization program is put into effect we can then determine the need for herbicide sprays to further combat the weed problem. If clover continued to be a problem, 2,4,5-T at the rate of one quart to the acre is recommended in mid-fall.

It was also suggested that U-3 bermudagrass or the zoysias be established in a nursery and introduced into the fairways as time and labor permit in the long-range program.

Good Reading

"Lime and its Use" - Extension Bulletin 314 Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

"Chinch Bug" - ask for P S 27 - U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Office of Informantion, Washington, D. C.

NEXT MEETING

Date: September 1, 1953

Place: U. S. Naval Academy Golf Course, Annapolis, Maryland

Tee Off: 12:00 noon

Dinner: 6:30 P.M.