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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)

The Fountainhead Country Club Meeting

July 7, 1953

The July meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Fountainhead Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland. An excellent turnout of 56 members and guests ventured into the north country for the cool and delightful day and were greeted by our hosts for the occasion, Mr. Lloyd Stouffer, Green Chairman; Mr. Arnold Hamecke, Pro; and Mr. Clarence Lindsay, Superintendent. Guests present were: The Honorable Winslow Burhams, Mayor of Hagerstown, Md.; Mr. Dick Essex, Chairman, Columbia Country Club; Mr. Lewis Fuchs, Green Chairman, Manor Country Club; Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Chairman, Army Navy Country Club; Mr. Walter Dinsmore, Past Green Chairman, Belle Haven Country Club; Dr. Fred Grau, of the Grau-Murray Grass Service; Mr. M. de Bruin, Green Chairman of Prince Georges Country Club; Mr. Alex McKay, Superintendent of the new Goose Creek Country Club, and his assistant Bob; and Mr. Tee Baker, Goose Creek Pro.

The members of the Mid-Atlantic were pleased to have so large a turnout of Green Chairmen - four present and one ex, in addition to the host chairman. We sincerely hope that this trend continues as we feel it can only lead to better mutual understanding between club officials and superintendents with regard to the many problems encountered in golf course operations. We were honored with the presence of Mayor Burhams - we extend an open invitation for him to attend all of our monthly meetings.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Guest speaker for this occasion was Mr. Tom Mascaro of the West Point Products Corporation. Tom presented an interesting kodalide talk on the history and development of tools to combat the thatch, mat, graininess, layering, and poor soil structure. Tom opened his talk with a short dissertation on the function of the root system and the general physiological processes of plant life. Tom stressed the importance of a good root system and the importance of providing the root system with the proper environment so that it can function effectively and efficiently. Air, water, and available nutrients are major criteria in the proper functioning of a root system. Often-times a plant is deprived the necessities for life because of poor physical condition of the soil. Tom showed some interesting slides on the development of the idea of aeration, showing several machines and gadgets made by superintendents in past years, up to the present aeration machines which we know today. Present aeration devices are designed to provide rapid, effective sub-surface cultivation with a minimum of disturbance to the surface.

Soils are dynamic - there are millions of microorganisms working diligently beneath the soils; also air, water, and nutrients movement takes place constantly. The practice of regular aeration aids these processes tremendously with ultimate if not immediate benefit to plant life.

The main objectives of aeration are to help beneficial microorganisms function; to break down a thatched or matted condition; open up slaked-over, compacted soils; to assist in rebuilding the soil by adding physical conditioning materials; and to get nutrients down into the root zone where they will be beneficial to the plant.

Some characteristics which indicate trouble ahead are compact soil, layering, matted or thatched condition of the turf. Thatch can be attacked from below through aerating devices, and from above by various implements, the latest of which is the Verti-cut machine. The Verti-cut machine works somewhat on the principle of the Toro Turf Renovator, an implement which will be remembered by many of the older superintendents.

In closing Tom emphasized the importance of management, maintenance, cultural practices, and the use of improved turf grasses for the development of better, finer turf.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Al Radko, Acting Eastern Director of the USGA Green Section, directed the discussion for constructive suggestions of the Fountainhead Course. Al complimented Clarence Lindsay on the fine condition of the golf course and brought out the point that Clarence is one of our most faithful members - he attends and supports all of our local meetings regularly. In addition, he attends many national and state turf conferences throughout the year. As a result, Fountainhead Country Club derives the benefits of the things he has learned at these conferences and meetings, and the condition of the course showed it.

Greens

Al complimented Clarence on the condition of his putting greens and emphasized that from all outward appearances the watering technique was very good. The greens putted very well, were well manicured, and were in very good condition despite the heat, humidity and lack of rainfall. Clarence then gave a short history of the establishment of his greens and the maintenance and management practices that he follows. The greens have no tile sub-surface drainage, and therefore are completely dependent on surface drainage which was excellent. The physical condition of the greens have been improved by incorporating a top-soil mixture of sand and soil into the root zone through an intensive aeration program. All of the greens are seeded, using one-third Astoria, one-third Highland, and one-third Seaside bents.

It is recommended that a nursery of the improved strains of C-1 Arlington and C-19 Congressional be established and maintained as putting green replacement sod if the need for replacement sod arises at some future date. The bent-grass selection which Clarence is managing as putting green turf on the 15th fairway appears to be worthy of expansion and trial in some putting green areas.

Perhaps the practice putting green would be a good testing area for this selection.

Greens number 15 and 16 are the most troublesome on the course due to their pocketed and low locations. It is felt that in the long-range program some thought should be given to elevating these greens, with sub surface drainage provided, for better air circulation. If for one reason or another, the thinning-out of trees or brush is not possible, root pruning of trees is advisable as the tree roots around #16 are unquestionably competing with the grasses for nutrients.

The collars on greens were especially good - they were well grassed, and showed the effects of good mowing and watering technique.

Tees

The turf on most tees was good despite the smallness of the tees. On many of the short par 3 sunny tees it appears as though some thought should be given to the introduction of U-3 bermudagrass or the improved strains of Zoysia. These grasses will bear traffic better and will stand up under heavy play better than the present tee grasses.

Only a small amount of planting stock is necessary to start a nursery which in the long-range program could be built up to sizeable areas. A good turf nursery is good insurance - it is there to use as needed.

Roughs

A spray program using 2,4-D is recommended for the roughs to eliminate the broad leaf weeds such as Buckhorn and plantain. It is also recommended that the roughs be mowed more often to prevent some of the weeds from heading. Rotary mowers are coming more and more into the picture as they do an excellent job of rough mowing.

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 were approved as read.

Clarence Lindsay introduced the Honorable Winslow Burhams, Mayor of Hagerstown. The Mayor congratulated the Association for their fine progressive work, and on behalf of the citizens of Hagerstown extended to us a hearty welcome. Mr. Lindsay next introduced Mr. Lloyd Stouffer, Green Chairman. Mr. Stouffer complimented us on our progressive development, and expressed the Fountainhead Country Club members' appreciation for our constructive suggestion for their course.

Bob Shields reported that the Education and Policy Committee had discussed the new USGA Green Section plan at their last meeting. He stated that it was the feeling of this Committee that the Mid-Atlantic should not condemn or criticize the Direct Service Plan until a thorough study of the many ramifications involved was made. The Green Section is offering an intensive program of research and extension to USGA member clubs. Bob suggested that the Mid-Atlantic await further developments and to study carefully the benefits it offers superintendents and club officials.

Al Radko then outlined the Direct Service Plan and stressed the research program that the Green Section was planning. Al announced the appointment of Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson as National Coordinator of Research and Southwestern Regional Director for the USGA Green Section and added that under Marvin's direction Green Section research can proceed only in one direction - forward - with ultimate greater benefit to the golf course superintendent.

Jim Reed, Chairman of the Membership Committee presented the following names for nomination as members. All were approved as follows: Alex B. McKay, Superintendent, Goose Creek Country Club, regular member; Mr. Pat Gardiner, Superintendent, Fort Belvoir Golf Course, regular member; Mr. M. Whittlesey, Sports Writer for the Evening Star, complimentary membership; Mr Louis Fuchs, Green Chairman, Manor Country Club, complimentary membership.

John Lovell of the Golf Committee reported that 22 members took advantage of the wonderful day for golf. Results of the tournament were as follows - Low gross scores were: George Bigham one under par 70, John Connolly 71, Joe Reposky 71. Net scores were as follows: George Cornell 69, Ernie Stanley 70, Pat Gardiner 70.

One Down Two to Go!

The jointly sponsored 1953 Zoysia seeding project is one-third completed. On June 17 one acre of fairway turf was seeded to Common Zoysia Japonica, on the 12th fairway at Columbia Country Club. The area was thoroughly aerated, dragged and then seeded to Zoysia. The seed was furnished by the USGA Green Section. This is a jointly sponsored project between the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Green Section. It is designed to test Zoysia seeding into established turf under practical playing conditions. We are pioneering in testing Zoysia seed under these conditions in hopes that we will have some of the answers when larger amounts of Zoysia seed are available.

The Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore and Glenwood Golf Club, Richmond, Va. were chosen as the sites for two additional seeding tests. They will be handled in similar fashion before the end of July.

COMING EVENTS

- August 4 Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Md.
Host Superintendent, Bob Shields.
- August 11 Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.
Ralph E. Engel.
- August 19-20 Twenty-second Annual Greenkeepers Turf Field Days,
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I.
J. A. DeFrance
- September 8 This date is still open - any takers?
Contact Jim Thomas soon, the date is drawing near.

NEXT MEETING

Place: Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland

Date: August ~~3~~⁴, 1953

Golf: 12:00 noon

Dinner : 6:30 p.m.

Directions to the Club: The entrance to Woodmont is located about one mile south of Rockville, Md., on Route 240.

Features: Bob shields is going to display his equipment for those who are interested. Bob also has an old horse drawn mower which he is going to hook-up and operate. Bob is also going to get up a list of things that he wishes to draw the attention of the members - specific problems that he would like to have discussed during the constructive suggestion session. Bob will have the list mimeographed and plans to pass out copies to the members as they tee-off. We feel that this is an excellent idea and would like to suggest that all host superintendents follow uit hereafter when meetings are held at their club. This is a swell idea Bob!

Rudy Wills retires

Rudy Wills has just announced his retirement. He is now in process of packing and is moving to Florida where he intends to settle permanently. Rudy is one of the charter members of this organization; he has been one of our best supporters and has done more than his share in the advancement of this profession and this association proper. We are indeed sorry to see him leave the Mid-Atlantic area.

The Education and Policy Committe wishes to recommend that Rudy Wills be given a life membership in the Mid-Atlantic Association. This recommendation will be proposed for action at the Woodmont meeting.

An Invitation To Woodmont

You and your guests are invited to attend the August meeting at Woodmont Country Club with Bob Shields, as host. Leo Freudberg, Greens Chairman at Woodmont suggests you make a special effort to have your chairman attend so he can learn what the superintendents are doing for golf in this area.

Bob has asked for a special Constructive Suggestion Report and for fear some of you may over look his troubles he lists some of them for you below and asks that you help him solve them.

1. Clover in fairways
2. Silver crab around greens
3. Cause of trouble on #6 green every year.
4. Cause of ever present dollar spot
5. Hard tees.

MEETING

Place: Woodmont Country - 6 - Rockville, Maryland

Do you think he should have additional tees, more sand traps, more drinking fountains? What?

If you should come late Bob says you can play the Iron Duke in one hour or less - all par threes but still a good test of golf and the greens are good.

Bring your clubs. Directions to the Club: The entrance to the Club is located about one mile south of Rockville, Md., on

Bring your GREEN CHAIRMAN. Route 240.

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2. Silver sand around greens
3. Cause of trouble on 45 green every year.
4. Cause of ever present dollar spot
5. Hard tees.