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Baltimore, Md.		Norbeck, Md.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

### The Kenwood Meeting

October 6, 1953

The October meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Kenwood Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland. The arrangements for this meeting were rather unique in that the entire Association was the guest of the Holmead Boys (the National Capital Toro Distributors), Silver Spring, Maryland. Bob and Neil picked up the "tab" for George Cornell and friends. Our Kenwood hosts for the day were Mr. Donald Miller, and Jack the Green Chairman and Superintendent respectively. While the weather was the poorest (or the best - depending on how you looked at it) there was a record attendance of 70 persons. Despite rain on and off most of the day, 29 played golf. We are indeed indebted to Bob and Neil for a wonderful time and also to Messrs. Miller and Athey for their part in making arrangements for a great day.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Jimmy Thomas opened the meeting at 7 o'clock sharp with the introduction of the following Green Chairmen: Admiral Phillips, Army Navy Country Club; Mr. Essex, Columbia Country Club; Mr. Fuchs, Manor Country Club; Mr. Shapiro, Norbeck Country Club; Mr. Connolly, Green Chairman and owner of the Fairfax Country Club; Mr. Densmore, Ex-Chairman, Belle Haven Country Club. We are indeed pleased to see the trend in the attendance of Green Chairmen at our monthly meetings and certainly hope that it continues. We urge each superintendent to make a special effort to have his Green Chairman attend our meetings each month. Other guests introduced were Dr. Ernest Cory of the Division of Entomology University of Maryland (our good friend who arranges things for our Annual Turf Conferences), Mr. Murray, local golf course construction; Mr. Hewett, Administrative Assistant of the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission; Mr. Burkholder, the new Superintendent at the Fairfax Country Club; Maj. Hanrahan of the Fairfax staff; Mr. Loving, of the Farmington Country Club; Mr. Pleasants, the new Superintendent at Farmington; Mr. Gonella, Sports Reporter for the Post; Mr. Whittelsby, Reporter for the Star; Mr. Rabbitt, of the Navy Department, Mr. Sydnor, the Toro Representative from Richmond, Va.; Mr. Carson, factory representative for Worthington; Mr. Hines, Jr., Superintendent of the Courthouse Country Club at Fairfax; Sgt. Pat Gardener of Fort Belvoir; and Mr. Boesell who is a college graduate interested in the work of superintendents. He is planning to attend the Short Course at Massachusetts to learn more about greenkeeping.

Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Schalestock read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report, both of which were approved as read. A letter from Colin Smith with regard to the agronomist for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America was read, with a request for our opinion on this particular

subject..... The Association feels that the expenditure would be too great to employ a qualified agronomist on a permanent basis..... A letter from the Virginia Heart Association thanking us for our contribution in honor of Mrs. Thomas, our President's ailing mother was read also..... Neil Holmead, of National Capital Toro, announced that his company is now represented by Mr. O. B. Fitts, charter member of this organization and retired superintendent of the Columbia Country Club.

Bob Shields then gave the Education and Policy Committee Report..... Bob reminded everyone that the Education and Policy Committee meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend. Bob announced also that the By-laws were talked about at length at the last Education and Policy Meeting and that they will be ready for submission at the November meeting.

#### Membership Committee

The following men were proposed thru chairman Jim Reid for membership:  
(1) Peter Gett, Superintendent, All View Golf Course, Ellicott City, Md., for Regular Membership; (2) Mr. Milton A. Hancock (otherwise known to us as "Reg"), Superintendent, Sligo and Glenbrook Courses, from Associate to Regular Member; (3) Mr. William A. Reid, owner of a sod nursery in Baltimore, Md., for Associate Membership ..... All were approved as recommended.

Jim Reid also put in a plug for membership in the National. It was suggested that if we have a good membership in the National it may be possible again to have the National meeting in or around Washington, D. C..... Charlie Schalestock reminded us again that what you get for your membership in the National can be measured in terms of what you bring back to your golf course. If you bring back only one thought or suggestion which may mean a saving, economy-wise or turf-wise, to your course, it is certainly worthwhile for you to belong to the National..... Austin Sydnor, of Richmond Toro, suggested that it would probably be of great help if superintendents informed their Green Chairmen that they were welcome to attend these monthly meetings. It is therefore again suggested that each superintendent make an effort to have the name and address of his Green Chairman submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association so that he will be on the mailing list to receive our Turf News Letter. Each Green Chairman who received this letter has stated time and again that he looks forward to reading each month and one that helps him considerably to understand problems on the golf course..... Admiral Phillips stated that the Superintendent is invaluable to a golf course. If it were not for the golf course there would be no country club. If it were not for the Superintendent, there would be no golf course. He is the man who makes the golf course "tick". However, he must sell himself to his Green Chairman and to his Golf Committee. If he does not do so then the Green Committee will show little interest in what he or his organization has to do.

Dr. Cory stated that he appreciated very much the hospitality of the Holmead Boys and the Kenwood officials. He announced that preparations are under way for the Annual Meeting of this Association, which will take place as usual, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, February 8 and 9, 1954. He stated also that he would like to have suggestions on topics to be discussed at the coming meeting sent to him soon so that arrangements for speakers can be made.

Golf Tournament Report

We are indeed indebted to Bob Holmead, Chairman of the Prize Committee, for this Annual Tournament, and to Carl Senseman, John Leavell, and Ernie Stanley, of the Golf Committee, for making possible such a wonderful day of tournament golf for the 29 members who played. The tournament was divided into two phases - one for Regular Members only, and the other for Associate and Regular Members.

REGULAR MEMBERS' TOURNAMENT

	<u>Net Score</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Contributed by</u>
1. Tom Ryan	72	Hamilton watch	George Cornell & Company
2. Bob Scott, Sr.	72	\$25 War Bond. Bob was not eligible for the Hamilton watch as he had won it a previous year.	F. W. Bolgiano & Company
3. John Connolly	73	\$25 War Bond	F. W. Bolgiano & Company
4. John Leavell	73	\$25 War Bond	Agrico
5. Charlie Schalestock	77 gross	Silver pitcher	National Capital Toro
6. Jim Reynolds	78 gross	\$25 War Bond	Baltimore Toro

ASSOCIATE AND REGULAR MEMBERS' TOURNAMENT

	<u>Net Score</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Contributed by</u>
1. Admiral Phillips)	71	Golf Shoes	C. F. Armiger
2. Louie Fuchs )	Tie	Putter	S. G. Loeffler Co.
3. Al Radko )	for	\$25 War Bond	Richmond Toro
	First		
4. Reg Hancock	72	Practice bag	Carl Senseman
5. George Campbell	73	Umbrella	Maj. Hanrahan
6. Walter Densmore	73	\$5 in War Bond Stamps	C. B. Dolge & Co.
7. Pat Gardner	74	\$5 " " " "	C. B. Dolge & Company
8. Ike Rabbitt	74	\$5 " " " "	C. B. Dolge & Company
9. Bob Scott, Jr.	78	\$5 " " " "	Walter Densmore
10. John Milan	75	\$5 " " " "	Walter Densmore
11. Frank Murray	75	\$5 " " " "	Tournament
12. Reuben Hines	76	\$5 " " " "	"

	<u>Net Score</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Contributed by</u>
13. Joe Cockerell	76	\$5 in War Bond Stamps	Tournament
14. Bob Elder	76	\$5 in War Bond Stamps	"
15. Dick Essex	76	Rain jacket	S. G. Loeffler & Co.
16. Leon Brown	76	Rain jacket	S. G. Loeffler & Co.
17. Ernie Stanley	77	Golf cap	Maj. Hanrahan
18. Bob Shields	77	Golf cap	Maj. Hanrahan
19. Frank Haske	77	Folding chair	S. G. Loeffler & Co.
20. Harry Allanson	77	\$2 in War Bond Stamps	Tournament
21. George Cornell	-	Won a prize but withdrew	
22. Neil Holmead	-	" " " " "	
23. Maj. Hanrahan	-	" " " " "	

We are pleased to announce that the Armiger Trophy now has a permanent resting place on the mantle at the home of Bob Scott, Sr. Bob took the measure of Reuben Hines in an 18-hole match and is now in proud permanent possession of the Armiger Cup.

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

A spirited discussion of constructive suggestions, with Al Radko acting as moderator, was had on conditions found at the Kenwood Country Club. Jack Athey provided a list of things which he wished the superintendents to study as they played around the golf course. In general, the golf course appeared to be in excellent condition, the putting green surfaces putted well and true and the over-all grooming and manicuring of the golf course were among the points on which Jack Athey was complimented.

#### Putting Greens

The putting greens were in excellent condition at the time of play. It appeared that very little damage from disease or watering practices or other causes was in evidence as a carry-over from the summer months. This, in a large measure, we believe was due to the very good surface drainage on these greens. All the greens drained naturally in at least two directions. Air drainage over the greens was also excellent.

There was very little thatch build-up on these greens, and very little grain. It appears that Jack with a good spring and fall aeration program has things pretty well under control. Jack also combs vigorously with a Del Monte rake in spring and fall in order to remove any excess top growth.

Many of the greens had some C-1 and C-19 bent plugs set into them and they appeared to be making a very nice network of grass throughout the greens. These plugs were inserted several years ago and are making steady headway. Eventually, it appears, they will take over the entire greens. By inserting plugs, Jack has done a wonderful job of converting these greens to the better strains of bent painlessly . . . . There has been no interruption to play using this technique.

With regard to the bermudagrass encroachment around the greens, we are reminded again of the wonderful job of edging that Tom Dawson, of the James River Course of the Country Club of Virginia, is doing with the power edger. Tom runs this edger around the greens once every week and cuts off all the bermuda runners which are encroaching into the greens and takes them away from the site. This technique has worked out very well for Tom as the edger keeps the new growth cut back constantly and cuts a channel to a depth of about 4 inches into the soil. After having used this process on the greens at James River, no encroachment of bermudagrass is visible. Also, growing healthy vigorous bentgrass on the putting green surfaces, a good fertilization program, and other management practices, will keep the competition so stiff that bermudagrass will have a much tougher time doing any encroaching into the greens. As an added thought, on those aprons that have bermudagrass in them, it may be well to place some zoysia between the bent and the bermudagrass to act as a buffer so that the bermudagrass encroachment will be slowed up even more. As is known, zoysia grows much slower than bermuda and also it grows on the surface rather than underground. It appears, therefore that zoysia, as a buffer, would be a good gamble.

### Tees

The teeing areas at Kenwood were generally small and they had an abrupt slope from the front of them. As a rule, we like to see long, gently sloping tees which the tractor fairway unit can sweep over to maintain. In these days of labor shortage and labor difficulties, it appears that only those courses which can be maintained to the maximum with mechanized units are in best condition to be best groomed. It appears that the winter-hardy strains of bermudagrass are the best ones to propagate for the teeing areas. Those tees, such as the combination Nos. 9 and 18, which have some bermudagrass in them appear to be in much better condition and have withstood the severe wear and tear of summer play much better than tees where bermudagrass was not present. We recommend that native winter-hardy strains of bermuda, such as U-3 bermudagrass, be propagated to the maximum so that time will not be lost from transplanting strains of bermuda that are not winter-hardy. It has been evident that the open winters in this area have increased bermuda population considerably and we hope that this trend will continue. However, to make certain propagate only winter-hardy strains. It is suggested that a nursery of U-3 be established at Kenwood and that the plugs or strips of this sod be place on the poorer teeing surfaces during the summer months next year. Generally strips of sod work more satisfactorily than plugs. Bermudagrass does well only on sunny areas.

With regard to the question of silver crabgrass or goosegrass on tees, we suggest that a combination of 2,4-D and PMAS be used as a mixture at half normal rates. The recommended rate for this pest on fairway turf is 1 pint of 2,4-D and 3½ pints of PMAS in 25 to 50 gallons of water to the acre. These chemicals in mixture are risky to use on bentgrasses. Sodium arsenite at light rates can be used also at regular intervals. The soil moisture and climatic conditions must

be watched carefully when using these chemicals because, if dry, permanent grasses could be injured severely.

### Fairways

The fairways at Kenwood were populated very heavily with crabgrass. This, in contrast to the picture which we saw at various courses played where bermudagrass was the predominant species, certainly made a contrasting picture. The same recommendations with regard to winter-hardy bermudagrasses are made for fairway areas as for the tees. While vegetative propagation is a long-drawn process and requires several years in a long-range program, it appears that it would be well worth the time and effort to do sprigging or plugging with these grasses as time and labor allow. We feel that the vegetative propagation of winter-hardy strains is the safest and surest method of establishing bermudagrass. In the meantime it appears that a good seeding program of permanent grasses accompanied by a heavy fertilization program would help considerably to provide a turf that will work against the crabgrass population until the bermudagrass takes over.

There was some question on the choice of trees growing along No. 4 fairway. They are poplars and, as you know, they lose their many leaves very rapidly. Therefore, it was suggested that thought be given to replacing these trees in the long range program with oak trees or perhaps evergreen trees to lessen this problem somewhat.

### Roughs

The garlic question in the roughs can be helped by repeated sprays of 2,4-D. If 2,4-D is applied at the time that the garlic or onion first appears chances for control are good. The time of application is important.

### Nursery News

Now is the time to plant that sod nursery you have always wanted. With a nursery you will have patching material for trouble spots that might develop on your greens next year as well as a place to experiment with chemicals without fear of damage to a regular green.

A simple way to start your nursery is to save the plugs after aerating greens and plant them in a prepared area. In this way you will use the very best soil and sod on the course and convert a by product that usually goes to the compost pile into a very valuable asset.

Bob Shields did this at Woodmont last November and this summer he had patching sod to put back into the greens where needed. Bob prepared the ground in October the same as he would in building a new green paying particular attention to getting the soil mixture the same as that under his regular greens. After thorough mixing of soil, sand, humus and fertilizer the nursery area was leveled and the surface prepared for planting.

The preparation of the soil was done well in advance of aerating so that it was ready to plant as soon as the plugs came from the greens. It was never necessary to hold the plugs overnight although they would not be hurt if they were held over for two days.

Two aerating machines were used at Woodmont as a sort of an experiment. The GL Aerifier equipped with thatch spoons and barrel type flexipress springs and the Motoraire with its regular hollow tines. Both machines did an excellent job of taking out clean cut cores of soil and sod that were easily swept up with a mechanical sweeper and taken to the prepared area where they were scattered over the surface with shovels. They were leveled with the back of a rake, rolled and then top dressed and watered. Next morning they were rolled to press them down into the damp soil and then watered. After that the area was kept moist until growth started and thereafter treated in the same manner as a green.

From his nursery Bob took cup cutter plugs or large squares this summer for repairing trouble spots on his greens and says he is always ready with extra sod in the event the Greens Committee wants to change the shape or enlarge a green.

With regard to location Bob makes the following suggestions. Choose an area that has good surface drainage, one that is in the open sun and near a water outlet. It also should be near the maintenance shop so it can be tended by the workmen between jobs. It should be so situated that the man who mows greens will have to pass it while going from shop to green. In this way it will be mowed regularly which is most important in greens maintenance.

A bushel of plugs will plant about 50 square feet but plugs that are Verti-Cut on the green before sweeping will plant a larger area, according to Bob

#### COMING EVENTS

- November 16-20: American Society of Agronomy Meetings, Dallas, Texas. L. G. Monthey.
- January 3-8: 25th National Turf Conference and Show of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, McAlister Hotel, Miami, Florida. A. M. Brown, Secretary.
- February 8-9: Annual Conference of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. E. N. Cory, Director.

#### NEXT MEETING

Date: November 10, 1953

Place: Manor Country Club, Norbeck, Maryland

Tee off: 11:30 A.M.

Dinner 6:00 P.M.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert M. Hagan, who will talk on practices in watering turf grasses. Dr. Hagan is doing some outstanding work on irrigation at the University of California, Davis, and his excellent article, "Know How to Water", appears in the February issue of the USGA Journal.

Bob is closely associated with our friend Charlie Wilson at Davis, California, so you can rest assured that you will be in for a very interesting evening. Come to hear what an outstanding authority has to say about irrigation and watering practices - a subject about which we still have much to learn.

Directions:

Manor Club is located on state route 97 near the junction of route 28 at Norbeck.

From Baltimore go out U. S. route 29 and continue on straight at Ashton where 29 turns left. Follow this road to Olney then turn left and follow route 97 through Norbeck to Club entrance sign on right.

From Washington follow Georgia Avenue through Silver Spring and Wheaton and look for entrance sign on left.

Annual Election Day

The November meeting is dedicated annually to the election of officers for this Association. It is extremely important that each and every member take advantage of his voting privilege to insure that we have the very best officers available to head up the organization. The Nominating Committee is as follows:

Chairman, Mr. Richard Watson  
Chevy Chase Country Club  
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Dave Edgar  
Elkridge Hunt Club  
Baltimore, Maryland

Mr. George Campbell  
Belle Haven Country Club  
Alexandria, Virginia

Mr. J. Wm. Leverton  
Glenwood Golf Course  
Richmond, Virginia

Come prepared to vote. Submit your names to the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

Know Your Host

Ernest Parsley will be host Superintendent at the Manor Club meeting on November 10. Before starting at Manor 24 years ago Ernie was in the wood and lumber business and says he has never been very far from the woods while at the Club which has more trees than any golf course in this area. He asks your patience and indulgence if you should encounter leaves on the fairway. There are just so many he can't possibly keep them all out of the way at this time.

He owns his own home at Brookville and although he doesn't look it, has four grown children. He is 59.

For consideration for the Constructive Suggestion report he suggests you look into the silver crab problem and leaves on fairways.

Good Reading

The 1953 Yearbook of Agriculture is hot off the press. To obtain a copy gratis simply write your Congressman, or if you have \$2.50 to spare, order one from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.