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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 ANNAPOLIS MEETING

September 1, 1953

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course, Annapolis, Maryland. With the desert-like heat pushing the mercury toward the 100 degree mark for the fourth consecutive day, the 38 members present were hoping for some cool breezes from across the Bay. Our hosts for the day - Prof. Daly, Green Chairman; and Bob Williams, Pro-Superintendent, gave us all a hearty welcome and provided us with a wonderful day of golf on a beautifully-groomed carpet of native bermudagrass. We are grateful also to Bob Williams for furnishing the refreshments gratis.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jim Thomas opened the meeting by introducing the following guests: Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Chairman, Army Navy Country Club; Mr. Walter Densmore, Past Green Chairman, Belle Haven Country Club; Mr. McVickers and Mr. Carberry, representing Bethlehem Steel's new golf course, located at Sparrows Point; Messrs. Bill Zimmerman and Ed. Bender, representatives for the American Cyanamid Company; Al Radko and Bob Elder, of the U.S.G.A. Green Section.

Secretary-Treasurer Charlie Schalestock then read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both were approved as read. Charlie then read the correspondence. A letter was received from Mrs Willis Glover, thanking the Association for the sympathy and considerations extended to her on the passing of her husband. Letters were also received from the U.S.G.A. Green Section and the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents, expressing their regrets on Bill Glovers's death. Further correspondence from the National included a request for news and activities of our Association for publication in The Golf Course Reporter. Another letter related to the confirmation of the acceptance of Jim Thomas to fill Bill Glover's position on the National Board of Directors for the unexpired term of office. A letter from Tom Mascaro announced that the Conference proceedings for our 1953 Baltimore meeting would soon be ready for publication.

Bob Shields, Chairman of the Education and Policy Committee, reemphasized the desire that this Committee would like to see each host superintendent get up a list of things that he wanted the members of this Association to pay particular attention to while touring the golf course during meetings. This would in all probability be of even greater assistance in making the Constructive Suggestion Report.

Jim Reid and Jim Thomas were appointed members of the Committee to promote membership in the National. It was brought out at this time that there were only five members of this Association who belonged to the National four years ago; now we have 31 members. Hugh McRae suggested that as a tribute to Bill Glover, that we strive for 100% membership in the National.

As for the Local, Jim Reid, Membership Committee Chairman, presented the following names for membership: Mr. Marcus Pleasents, Farmington Country Club, Associate Membership; Mr. Ed. Bender, American Cyanamid Company representative, Associate Membership; Mr. Mike Burkholder, Superintendent Fairfax Country Club, Regular Membership. All were approved and accepted for membership.

John Lovell of the Golf Committee announced that the annual tournament would be held at the Kenwood Club Meeting, which is scheduled for October 6, 1953. Anyone wishing to play in the tournament should turn in at least three scorecards to the Golf Committee to enable them to establish a handicap. Bob Holmeade was appointed Chairman of the Tournament Prize Committee, with John Leavell, Carl Senseman, and Ernie Stanley as Co-workers.

The meeting closed with Jim Thomas expressing our appreciation to Bob Williams, Superintendent; Captain Eddy, Director of Athletics at the Naval Academy; and Prof. Daly, Green Committee Chairman; for their most gracious hospitality.

Special Announcement

Charlie Schalestock is now the Superintendent of the new Norbeck Golf Course, and Ruben Hines, Jr., is Superintendent of the Fairfax Court House Golf Course. Congratulations! Best of luck in your new jobs.

Requires Action

We have no meeting place for November. If you desire to have this meeting at your course on November 3 please contact President Jim Thomas or Secretary Charles Schalestock.

C-1 and C-19 Creeping Bent Grass Makes a Hit with the Pros

The pros who played in the recent National Celebrities Tournament, big name pros such as Lew Worsham, Cary Middlecoff, Ed. ("Porky") Oliver, and Chandler Harper, all pay tribute to the wonderful putting surfaces at Woodmont which, as you know, are C-1 (Arlington) and C-19 (Congressional) bentgrass. These pros and many others spoke highly of the putting quality that these strains make. At our August meeting at Woodmont we saw some of the finest putting surfaces in this area.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

A lively discussion of constructive suggestions, with Al Radko acting as the moderator, was had on conditions found on the Annapolis Course. The overall management and maintenance of the Naval Academy Golf Course was excellent. The greens, fairways and tees were very well manicured and well grassed, which added up to a pleasing picture.

Fairways

The outstanding feature of the Annapolis Course is its beautiful bermudagrass fairways. Four years ago when this Association held its last meeting at Annapolis the fairways had a high percentage of crabgrass and silver crab. Today the picture has changed to where the fairways are 65% bermudagrass and about 35% silver crab, WITH THE SILVER CRAB FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. The bermudagrass is making daily progress, and in a few years silver crab will no longer be a nuisance at Annapolis. The bermudagrass fairways turf afforded beautiful lies, and without question summer rules could be played most of the season. The picture presented on these unwatered fairways in this Mid-Atlantic area, where we have suffered greatly because of the drought, high humidity and high temperature this summer as we have not suffered in the past, was a striking contrast to many other golf courses in this area which are predominantly, or have been predominantly, cool-season grasses.

It is becoming increasingly evident with the superintendents in this area that the warm-season perennial grasses should be given serious consideration as fairway turf. During the summer months, when the bulk of golf is being played, these grasses look their best. There are several courses in the area which now have predominantly bermudagrass fairways and undoubtedly will be solid bermudagrass within a few years. At Annapolis, Bob Williams has been plugging a native bermudagrass for the past three years to troublesome fairway areas. There are many fine-textured natural bermudagrass selections which have proved winter-hardy at Annapolis and which are the ones that Bob is primarily working with. There were two strains in particular which looked very good around Nos. 9 and 18 greens which were fine-bladed, close growing and pleasing to look at, somewhat like the Green Section's winter-hardy U-3 selection. The surprising thing was that the bermudagrass encroachment into the bentgrass putting green turf was very slight and Bob states that he had done nothing about the bermudagrass encroachment for the past 15 years and that it has never been a serious problem with him. It appeared that this phenomenon was due to the healthy, vigorous growth of the bentgrass which just didn't allow the bermudagrass to seriously compete with it. All in all, these bermudagrass fairways without question afforded some of the finest fairway turf that we have played on this year. To be able to say this after having had a record drought and the extreme July and August heat, plus the unseasonal September heat, is certainly a testimonial to the value of the warm-season perennial grasses in this area.

It was interesting to note that on fairway Nos. 5, 6, 12 and 13, which were seeded to bermudagrass several years ago, results were not too good as most of the bermudagrass winter-killed. It has been only through vegetative propagation that Bob was able to successfully grow the beautiful turf cover that we saw and had the pleasure of playing on. It was suggested that thorough aeration, followed by dragging, may be an easier way of propagating bermudagrass in the few remaining sparse areas. The Army Navy Country Club has used this technique to date with good results - Admiral Phillips and Jim Thomas swear by this system.

Aprons

The construction of the Annapolis course was such that it allowed for the fairway gang units to sweep in around greens and over the aprons with a minimum of need for hand labor. There was sufficient room between the traps and putting green surface so as to allow large equipment to be used, and therefore in this

day of difficult labor problems, much time and labor were being saved on these wide aprons.

Tees

The tees at Annapolis were generally small but those located in the sunny areas were well turfed with bermudagrass therefore most of these tees had good turf cover. The tees in shady locations offered more of a problem for it is difficult to keep a good turf cover on shaded tees. It is suggested that the shaded tees be thoroughly aerated and seeded to a mixture of one pound of Illahee creeping red fescue, one pound of Poa trivialis, and one pound of Kentucky 31 fescue to each 1000 sq. ft. of tee surface. If play is heavy at this time, it is suggested that this mixture be sown in a nursery area and the sod transplanted in early spring to the shaded tees.

Greens

The putting green surfaces were true and pleasing in appearance. There was a thick cover of turf which showed very little effect of troubles during the past season. The only problem that appeared was around the edges of the putting greens where some silver crab encroachment, though not serious now, seemed to be making headway. Some of the superintendents in this area have been using 1/4-ounce of 2,4-D mixed with 1 ounce of PMAS to 1,000 square feet with good success in eradicating silver crab from bentgrass turf. While there is some discoloration the recovery of the grass soon comes about. It is suggested that this treatment be tested on a small scale before applying it over an entire green as some bentgrasses are less tolerant to 2,4-D application than others.

It appeared that the putting greens were building up a thatch which may prove troublesome in future years; therefore it is suggested that a more thorough aeration program be initiated in spring and fall, with a vigorous combing of the greens in the spring to help control the thatch.

It is also suggested that a nursery of C-1 and C-19 creeping bentgrasses be established and maintained as putting green turf for replacement sod in the present putting greens if the occasion should arise that it is needed.

General

The new construction work that is going on at Annapolis appeared to be progressing nicely. The new fairways which have just been cut out of the woods should not offer too much trouble in getting them ready for next season. The building of these new holes is going to allow for the elimination of some holes which presently are objectionable because of the power lines and telegraph poles running through them. This will indeed be a big improvement in this layout from the aesthetic viewpoint.

COMING EVENTS

October 21-23: 4th Annual Central Plains Turf Foundation Turf Conference, Manhattan, Kans. William F. Pickett.

November 16-20: American Society of Agronomy Meetings, Dallas, Texas. L. G. Monthey.

NEXT MEETING

Date: October 6, 1953
Place: Kenwood Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland
Tee off: 12:00 noon
Dinner: 6:30 P.M.

Directions

Kenwood is located on River Road at Dorset Avenue in Bethesda. From Washington and Virginia, follow U. S. route 240 north out Wisconsin Avenue to River Road at 4500 Wisconsin. Turn left to Kenwood.

From Baltimore, out Frederick Road to U.S. 29, to Maryland 28, to U. S. 240 at Rockville. Turn south on 240 (Wisconsin Avenue) to Dorset Avenue then turn right (west) to Kenwood Club. Dorset Avenue runs off Wisconsin Avenue just south of the back side of Chevy Chase Club.

Anyone wishing a ride to Kenwood get in touch with the transportation committee - G. L. Cornell, The Holmeads, W. Disney, or Jack Witcher.

Annual Baltimore Conference

Your Education Committee is now working on the program for our Annual Turf Conference in Baltimore next February and has asked Dr. Ernest Cory to attend this meeting so he can get some idea of what subjects you would like to have discussed and whom you would like to have as speakers. Keep this in mind and bring your ideas so as to help the committee give you what you want.

Know Your Host

This feature of this NEWSLETTER should be headed "Meet Your Host" for most of us will be meeting him for the first time. His name is Jack Athey. Jack has been a member of this Association for many years and although he has not attended many meetings he has always been a loyal booster.

Jack has been a golf course Superintendent for many years having started his career at Indian Spring under the watchful eye of charter member Dick Watson. He is a good example of what can be done in the line of advancing in this profession. Jack truly came up the hard way having practically stepped off a tractor to assume the duties of Superintendent at Kenwood 16 years ago. In addition to the golf course he is also responsible for Club House repairs, Club House grounds, parking lots, tennis courts and swimming pool. Is there any wonder he hasn't taken time off to attend the monthly meetings of his professional association? He has kept close to his job and has a well kept golf course to show for his efforts.

Introduce yourself to Jack Athey and start talking about grass. You will discover you have found a fine fellow and a new friend.

Announcement

Our two good friends from National Capital Toro, the "Holmead Boys" as we call the, have asked that they be permitted to sponcer this meeting and your committee agrees that it might be a good thing. Bob and Neal want to pick up the check for dinner and refreshments. So come on out Mac* see a fine golf course, meet some nice people, win a prize in the annual tournament, have a good dinner and go home happy.

*(Editor's note - "Mac" is an old Navy term and refers to anyone and not to Hugh McRae as some might think)

Food for Thought

The November meeting is dedicated to the election of officers, which is our customary procedure. The new By-Laws will also be presented at this meeting for the approval of the membership. Names for election should be submitted to the Nominating Committee, who are:

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

Mr. George Campbell
Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, Virginia

Mr. Dave Edgar
Elkridge Hunt Club
Baltimore, Maryland

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