

Vice-President  
Charles Schalestock  
Norbeck Country Club  
Rockville, Md.

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

Secretary-Treasurer  
Robert E. Scott, Jr.  
Bonnie View Golf Course  
Baltimore, Md.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

### THE BELTSVILLE MEETING January 19, 1954

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents "teed-off" on the 1954 season at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville, Md., on January 19, 1954. The Beltsville staff of the Green Section was host for this occasion.

#### Business Meeting

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Secretary Bob Scott then read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both were approved as read.

The main purpose of this meeting was to hold a "Pep Rally" to increase attendance at the Annual Baltimore Conference, February 8-9. "Prexy" Jim made the following recommendations which met with approval:

1. That this organization write to all the golf course superintendents of the clubs in Maryland and Virginia that do not normally make our meetings. Names to be taken from the lists made up by Bob Shields and Jim Thomas in connection with their National State Committeemen Committee assigned recently.
2. That all members immediately furnish the name and mailing address of his Green Chairman for the coming Conference, and to bring the Association's mailing list up-to-date.
3. That members send in to the Secretary the names and mailing addresses of all garden clubs, civic groups, and all other organizations interested in turf.

These names will make up the master list which will comprise those solicited for our Annual Conference.

Admiral Phillips stated that at a recent Virginia Golf Association meeting, smaller clubs have asked if there was a representative group in the Virginia Golf Association to which they could look for guidance on matters pertaining to turf. Admiral Phillips informed the club representative that the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association can presently handle matters of this nature. We should, therefore, make ourselves and our aims known to these smaller clubs in the fringe areas. By persistence and increased publicity we can increase our membership and attendance at the Baltimore Conference.

In the order of new business it was recommended that we try to shorten the business end of our monthly meetings, and devote more time to the educational features.

It was suggested that business matters be largely handled in various Committee meetings and presented to the group in cut and dry fashion for action.

Motion was made and seconded that this Association present Mrs. Van Fossen with a gift to show our appreciation for the fine secretarial work that she has done for us. Mrs. Van Fossen has just asked to be relieved of the chore after many years of loyal and untiring service.

Jim Reid of the Membership Committee presented the following names for Associate Membership: J. B. Dalton, Davidson Chemical Company; Walter A. Post, Camp Davis, Pa.; and Ruben F. Hines, Jr., Fairfax Court House Country Club, Va.; for regular Membership. All were approved as recommended.

Bob Shields gave a report of the Miami Conference. There was an attendance of nearly 1,000, and of this figure 706 were members in the National. Since the Golf Course Reporter will have a full transcript of the Educational Conference Program, Bob briefly mentioned a few of the highlights. Jim Reid gave a summary report of the National Policy Committee meetings, and in closing stated he thought everyone who attended the Convention had a wonderful time— even those who lost most of their money at the dog races or the Jail Bait games.

Sorry the attendance was not better, many members missed the excellent summaries by Bob and Jim.

#### Resure of 1953 Constructive Suggestion Reports

Al Radko, Acting Eastern Director for the U.S. Green Section, extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the Green Section, and stated that he was happy that it is our desire to meet at Beltsville once a year. He said the Green Section considers it a privilege and a pleasure to be our host.

Al continued by stating that the golfer wants. Years ago he wanted a good green— today he wants all-around perfection. We try to give him the playing conditions he desires. One of the mediums which helped us to do this has been through attendance at conferences and our monthly meetings. The monthly meetings of this Association have been healthy and constructive. Through an exchange of ideas many problems have been brought out into the open which otherwise might have gone unnoticed.

The Constructive Suggestion reports have proven to be of considerable value not only to the host club but also to other members of the Mid-Atlantic Association. In an organization such as ours where the cumulative experience of superintendents attending these meetings runs into several hundred years, it was felt that this experience should be put to work to the advantage of the Association. Oftentimes in the past the members would meet, have a social, and leave without offering anything in the way of suggestions on the golf course proper. Therefore, an impartial observer was appointed to handle the constructive suggestions submitted to him by visiting superintendents. With the permission of the host superintendent these suggestions were discussed as a regular feature following the business meeting. The program has been continued without interruption at every meeting possible since 1951.

Some of the high spots of the reports submitted in 1953 touch on the following points:

Tees

Tee areas are a focal point for traffic. As a general rule, most tees in this area are on the small side. On small areas which bear heavy traffic it is difficult to maintain any grass cover. Therefore, for good tees it is felt that these steps are very important: (1) make them large enough to allow for the frequent movement of markers; (2) where it is possible construct tees with gently-sloping sides so that it will be possible for the fairway gang units to sweep over them in a matter of seconds to keep them mowed. It is realized that certain strains of bermuda grass (the finer selections) and certain other grasses cannot be cut close enough with gang mowers; therefore, other machines must be used; (3) the selection of the proper grass (one which will stand close cutting and heavy traffic and resist weed infestation) is the next important step. On sunny areas, winter-hardy strains of bermudagrass, such as the U-3 selection, have proved themselves on many golf courses. It is felt that the best method of introducing improved turf into a tee area in play is to use sod. The plugging method is also employed, but it is much slower in establishing a turf. Under some conditions it was found disappointing. The zoysias are also being tried on moderately shaded tee areas where bermudagrass will not thrive. In some cases zoysia is being tried on sunny tees also. However, they have not progressed to the point where reports can be made. (4) Aeration and fertilization schedules for tees should coincide somewhat with the treatment of greens.

Fairways

The past two seasons during which we were very hard hit with drought in this area, have pointed out the value of planting grasses which would stand such conditions. Golf courses which had fairways predominately of bermudagrass withstood the drought in excellent fashion, other management practices having been considered proper. Bermudagrass thrives under close mowing, heals over divot scars quickly, provides a weed-free turf, keeps our nemesis crabgrass and goosegrass to a minimum, is drought-resistant, keeps high spots green, grows well on slopes; and provides a good lie for summer-rudé play. Many superintendents in this area have been introducing winter-hardy strains of bermudagrass into difficult or troublesome areas on fairways, with good results.

By and large, more aeration and more fertilizer is needed in most cases on golf course fairways in this area.

Greens

Although weather conditions were difficult for management on the rest of the course, the greens had considerably less disease incidence this year. The importance of judicious watering and syringings daily when necessary were practices which held turf during our periods of high temperature and high humidity. Hand watering of greens was recommended on difficult - to - manage greens and all other greens wherever possible. Uniformity of watering applications is important (sprinklers don't have eyes), and a man educated to apply water properly is essential.

Improved bentgrass selections were showing up to good advantage on many golf courses in this area. The C-1 (Arlington) and the C-19 (Congressional) were particularly outstanding on heavily played courses, with the C-7 (Cohansey) strain doing very well in the Richmond area. Proper management of these grasses is most important to get the best out of them.

eration of greens proved itself one of the most important factors in promoting healthy, vigorous turf. Aeration alleviates compaction; promotes better root systems; and allows water, nutrient and air penetration.

The importance of good air drainage, good subsurface drainage, and good surface drainage was stressed at nearly every meeting. It was agreed that proper consideration for drainage is one of the most important factors in producing healthy turf.

Thatch removal was emphasized at many meetings. The equipment designed to remove thatch from above through raking, mowing, combing, and brushing, was stressed many times over. We all have thatch to some degree on our putting green surfaces, and the degree of severity dictates the method of removal. By and large, the better putting surfaces have a spring and fall combing in the maintenance and management schedule each year, thus requiring no drastic action.

#### Turf Nursery

The value of a good turf nursery was proved many times over in the past difficult year. A small turf nursery which included improved grass selections is good insurance for the superintendent. Improved strains of grasses can be introduced throughout the golf course as time and labor permit. A turf nursery is a testing or proving ground for the superintendent. It permits him to try his new ideas or new chemicals without fear of injuring his golf course.

#### Thanks to the Green Section Staff

The President and the members of this Association wish at this time to express their sincere gratitude to Al Radko and Bob Elder for their worthy guidance in all matters pertaining to turf during the past year and for their most valued friendship and good fellowship. The close relationship between these two men and our Association is greatly cherished by each member and we will ever strive to continue as we have in the past. Thanks Al. Thanks Bob.

#### Notes of Interest

Our President, Jim Thomas, has been asked to continue as the Chairman of the National Membership Committee. Let's all get behind Jim and give him our full support by having 100 Mid-Atlantic membership in the National.

The Mid-Atlantic was well represented in the Annual Golf Tournament at the Miami Conference. Joe Eposkey, Talbot CC, Easton, Md. tied for top honors in the Pro-Ampt. flight, and Clarence Lindsay, Fountain Head CC, Hagerstown, Md. received a prize for the highest score.

We were sorry to hear that Ernest Parsley, Manor CC, had been in the hospital, but we are happy to report that he is better, and is now back on the job.

The 1954 Maryland State Open will be held at Jim Reid's course, Suburban Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland., June 10-11-12-13. If there is any way that we can be of assistance to you, Jim, please feel free to call on us.

Last Rēmindē

The annual Baltimore Turf Grass Conference will be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 8-9 with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Program Committee has made every effort to make this meeting a success. The final effort must be made by you to have yourself in Baltimore Monday morning. Be sure to hear the talk to be given by John Gonella at the dinner Monday night. John is a sports writer for the Washington Post and has something to say of interest to golf course superintendents. You have asked for something different- you will hear it.

Committees for 1954

Executive: Chairman, L.R. Shields, Jr., Francis Coupe, John Connolly, Clifford Eisle, Robert Elder, Carroll Hitchcock, John C. Leavell, Adm. J.S. Phillips, Al Radko, James Reid, Robert Scott, Jr., Ernest Stanley, Charles Schalestock and Richard Watson.

Membership: Chairman, James Reid, Ruben Hines, C.A. Hitchcock, C.W. Lindsay and James Reynolds.

Publicity: Chairman, Charles Schalestock, Harry Allanson, Robert Scott, Sr. and James C. Seacrist.

Nominating Committee: Chairman, Thomas W. Dawson, Jr., Clarence Lindsay, Hugh McRae, Howard McCarty, and Ernest Stanley.

Golf Activity: Chairman, John Leavell, Vice-Chairman, J. Seachrist, Ernest Stanley, Richard Scott, and Robert Williams.

Public Relations: Chairman, Admiral J.S. Phillips, John Connolly, Walter Dinsmore, Clifford Eisle, Richard Essex, Leo Freudberg, Louis Fuchs and Isreal November.

Transportation Committee: George Cornell, Wilson Disney, Robert Holmead, and A.T. Witcher.

Baltimore Representative: Dave Edgar

Richmond Representative : J. Wm. Leverton

Western Representative : J. Seachrist

Good Reading

"Down to Earth "

A Review of Ag. Chem. Progress

The Dow Chemical Co.

Midland, Mich.

"Agriculture News Letter " ( bi-monthly)

Public Relations Department

E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.

Wilmington, 98, Del.

"Agri-Chem. Review "

American Cyanamid Co.

Agricultural Chemical Division

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York 20, N.Y.

" The Golf Course Reporter"

Agar M. Brown , Editor

Box 106

St. Charles, Ill.

"Agricultural Chemicals"

Publication Office

123 Market Place

Baltimore 2, Md.

" Golfdom "

Publications Offices

407 S. Dearborn St.

Chicago 5, Ill.

" The USGA Journal and Turf Management "

United States Golf Association

40 East 38th St.

New York, 16, N.Y.

Next Meeting

The time and place of the next meeting will be announced at the Baltimore Conference and your News Letter following.