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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)

THE PATUXENT MEETING

Our July meeting was held at the Cedar Point Golf Club, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland. There were 43 Mid-Atlantic representatives in attendance and of this number, 27 played golf. They found the recently constructed layout to be an exacting test of their golfing skill and a tribute to the maintenance skill of one of our members.

We were welcomed to Patuxent by our host superintendent, Mr. William Schreiber and his charming wife, Daphne.

Cedar Point officials showed their interest in their golf course by turning out in force to hear the discussions, which took place following a social hour and dinner. Those present were Cdr. A.H. Coolege, greens chairman; Lcdr. Mac Graham who will be the next greens chairman; Cdr. Downs Wright, golf committee chairman; and Cdr. C.E. Bishop, Special Services officer.

Our reception and entertainment was most gracious and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In addition to the playing of the golf course, we were invited to make full use of the club house and its facilities. These included the lounge, dining room, bar, a jeep to see the golf course in for those who didn't want to play golf, and indoor swimming pool. One Tom Dawson demonstrated his ability to swim like a fish and float like a whale. Evidently he differs from the proverbial mail-carrier - he does not play golf on his day off.

Those who played the course saw three new poly-cross bent greens that had just been put in play, 15 re-sodded bent greens less than two years old, and the very latest in jet aircraft coming and going all the time.

The person who gets upset when a camera is clicked as he addresses the ball would pull his hair out at Cedar Point. High powered jet planes warm up and take off so close to the golf course that the heat from their exhausts has had an effect on one of the greens. As Bill put it " number 8 green is several hundred miles farther south than the other greens on the course." He asked what he could do here to protect #8 from this heat blast and pointed out that large planting or soil or rock mounds could not be erected because they might be hazardous to low flying planes or possible emergency landing. One wit suggested after the meeting was over that Bill install water pipe that would sand water spraying high into the air on the approach of a loud noise and turn on colored lights at night. This is no doubt a good idea, but who would furnish rain coats for the players on the green and loud noises like John Leavell and John Milan couldn't get anyone to play golf with. They would set the thing off long before they got near it.

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Those of us who saw this property before the golf course was relocated could hardly realize that such a transformation was possible in so short a period of time. A large percentage of the design is new. It was accomplished through a maze of underbrush that was almost impassable about one year ago. It is only proper and fitting to say that "Bill" Schreiber is due much credit for a job well done. Another real power on this project was Comdr. Harry Helfrich. The Mid-Atlantic salutes both of them for a unique dream come true.

This work is more outstanding in view of the fact that weather conditions have not been conducive to the establishment of new turf grasses. All recent golf course construction in this area has been subject to the same trying conditions. The long drought with its consequent shortage of rainfall has taken its toll amongst the grass family and has created many difficult problems for the golf course superintendent. Again we say that good sound management practices are indispensable at all times. —

Bill- you have much to be proud of. Your part in the picture is commendable. When weather conditions are again right, and the layout has had a few normal seasons to mature in, the finished product should be one of the show places of the Mid-Atlantic territory.

BUSINESS MEETING

After a cocktail hour provided by our hosts, we were served a very appetizing dinner. This completed, President Thomas called the business meeting to order. Only two committees had reports to submit. " Bob W Shields, Chairman of the Executive Committee invited all members to attend and participate in the activities of his group. He further stated that all ideas and suggestions for the good of the association are always welcome and in order. BoB also recommended that a question and answer period be made a part of our regular program at meetings. This is good as education is our primary objective, so bring along your problems for discussion. Someone is bound to have the answer. If you don't know the answer or are not sure ask questions. We guarantee to help you.

In reporting on the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Chairman Bob Shields reported that he and Admiral Phillips had been appointed co-editors and charged with the responsibility of writing and publishing the NEWSLETTER. This issue is their first attempt. He explained that this is a time consuming appointment and asked that those present write articles or even paragraphs on any subject for possible printing in future issues. If you have an idea that might be of interest to another superintendent or which might help him do his job better, easier, faster, less expensively, or safer, then write it down and send it in. We need it to help keep the NEWSLETTER going. Articles on sportsmanship, salesmanship, or how to get along with your fellow man would be greatly appreciated.

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Red Hancock, acting as Golf Committee Chairman, reported that Pat Sheridan, the lucky Irishman from White Flint, again took first prize in the blind bogey. Other winners were John Milan, the two Franklins from Dahlgren and George Cornell. As usual George declined to accept his prize by saying that he plays for the fun of playing. How's that for sportsmanship?— the best golfer in the association always turns his prize back in for some one else.

THE MAIL BAG

A card of thanks has been received from "Redge" Giddings; he is up and about again and is doing nicely.

The Greater National Capital Committee, Convention and Tourist Bureau of the Washington Board of Trade is desirous of inviting the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to hold an annual conference in Washington at some future date. Mr. Joseph W. Elliott, the Bureau's Assistant Manager, is meeting with our Executive Committee to discuss the prospects of a National meeting in this locality. The opinion and ideas of every member is urgently needed before the National Association can be invited to Washington. Would you like to have the meeting here?

Al Radko acknowledges with appreciation the set of golf clubs presented him by the Mid-Atlantic. Al, we derived much pleasure from doing this and hope that only eagles and birdies come from these clubs. We hope that you will always consider yourself one of us and will visit with us whenever you can. Again— the best of luck in the Northeast area.

M Mr. Joseph C. Dey, Jr., Executive Director of the USGA, thanks the association for it's subscription to the Research and Education fund of their Green Section.

In keeping with the By-Laws of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents, our association is entitled to submit to the Nominating Committee of the National the name of one our members for consideration in making the list of nominees for the 1955 election. A letter to the above effect was received from Warren Bidwell, Nominating Committee Chairman. His address is: Seaview Golf Club, Absecon, N.J. Those present at the meeting selected President James E. Thomas as the Mid-Atlantic choice and his name has been forwarded to Mr. Bidwell.

The Green Section of the USGA through its Northeastern Director, Alexander M. Radko, acknowledges the assistance given to the White House putting green project. This was a gift to President Eisenhower from the United States Golf Association. "Dick" Watson and "Jim" Thomas both represented the National and Mid-Atlantic organizations in an advisory capacity. Security measures prevented an earlier mention and a greater number of participants.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Tom Dawson was the only member of the Educational Committee present, so he became moderator for the discussions on constructive suggestions. This task he performed ably and with great credit to his committee.

As most of the Cedar Point greens are new, and rainfall for the season has been below normal, the proper application of water has become a grave and serious problem. The putting areas have suffered from severe wilt, and considerable drying out along the edges and high spots has occurred. To cope with such a situation, an ample supply of water must be available, pipe sizes must be adequate and sufficient labor is a very necessary requirement if the work is to be accomplished in a satisfactory manner.

It appears that the first two necessities are sufficient at Patuxent. However it is understood that the water supply for the club house air-conditioning plant is coupled into that of the golf course system. Each should be separate and independent of the other, for at times both need to be at a peak performance when temperatures are high. It would be good insurance to remedy this condition as soon as possible. During a vital period this situation could mean disaster for the putting greens. Grasses on such areas cannot be maintained to meet playing requirements without sufficient moisture being available when needed.

The present period of insufficient rainfall is abnormal to this region, and should be considered and declared a time of Emergency. If more help is needed on the golf course, a special watering crew should be made available at once if greens are to be saved and further damage to grass prevented. A few dollars spent for labor now could forestall much future work and expenditures and protect the investment already made.

A few suggestions:

Water all greens thoroughly once every 24 hours as necessary. If sufficient help is available, do this by hand, if not use sprinklers set on the edge of the green and regulated to a slow speed. A fine spray or mist is to be preferred over coarse drops applied at a high rate of speed. Give the water plenty of time to soak in. Check greens in early afternoon for signs of wilt and if evidence - syringe with a fine mist of water to cool them off and to prevent foot tracking. Allow water to cover a reasonable portion of aprons and approaches. This will help to conserve moisture in the greens and keep the edges from drying out. Also, while the drouth continues, allow the grass on the aprons, approaches and shoulders to go uncut as much as possible. When sprinkling, pay particular attention to high spots and collars. Increase feeding rate and apply regularly in small amounts.

Caution: Be on guard against over saturation and water-logged soil. Teach workers to recognize when sufficient water has been applied. Too much can be as bad as not enough. Again, good water management in important - do not consider it lightly. If greens become saturated and water-logged, aerifying them is a good means of accelerating the drying out process, but

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with Cedar Point's sandy soil, over watering probably won't be much of a problem!

DELINQUENT DUES

Certain members have not paid their membership dues for 1954. The following paragraph has been copied from the By-Laws as a reminder for those people.

QUOTE - All members who shall fail to pay their dues for the current year by May 1st of such year shall be automatically dropped from membership of the Association, and shall be so notified by the Secretary of the Association. Members who have been dropped from the Association may be reinstated by paying their back dues, and such dues shall not exceed the total of two years, but such reinstatement must be approved by a majority vote of the Regular and Life Members at a regularly scheduled meeting.

The Secretary has notified delinquent members without success and recently brought the matter before the Executive Committee which took the following action. Rather than mail a third reminder and rather than drop a name without notice, a list of those behind in their dues will be published in the next issue of this NEWSLETTER. The names of country club members are posted on the bulletin board of the club when they fail to pay their dues. We feel that as employees of those people we can do the same.

Dues checks should be mailed to : Robert E. Scott
1409 Medfield Ave.
Baltimore, 11, Md.

SUGGESTED READING

GOOD READING- Send for your copy of "SUMMER WILT ON BENT GREENS" Turf Management Bulletin 32-54. The Manlon Company, 1089 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

"SOUND WATERING PRACTICE TO DEVELOP AND HOLD BENT GREENS" By Dr. O.J. Noer, June issue 1954- Golfdom, Pages 36-41

"KEEPERS OF THE GREENS" By Brian Bell, Jr. Sunday Star Pictorial Magazine, Sunday, June 18, 1954. This is a surprise article, and a welcome bit of publicity for the Golf Course Superintendent.

Transcript of Proceedings 1954 Annual Conference Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Feb. 8-9, 1954, published by West Point Lawn Products Corp, West Point, Pa.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd 1954

FORT MEADE GOLF COURSE

FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

HOST SUPERINTENDENT - SERGEANT FRED M. SLACK

KNOW YOUR HOST

Master Sergeant Fred M. Slack will be our host Superintendent at Fort Meade. He is one of the few real old time sergeants left in the Army. He has been in the army so long that no one knows exactly just how long it has been. They say his records were lost in the Battle of Gettysburg, so he started over and accumulated enough time to retire about five years ago, but won't quit because the Brass in Washington says the army wouldn't be the same without him.

Take our advice and don't give him any argument or he will have you going through close order drill or presenting arms with a two wood and by the number.

About five years ago when the Sarg wouldn't quit, the army wanted to be good to him, so put him in charge of the golf course (out to pasture so to speak) and he has been so enthused with the work since then that he can't leave. Instead of giving him an easy job, he says it's the most difficult he ever had, but also the most interesting. In meeting Fred Slack you will find a man of fine character, with a sincere devotion to duty and a sense of humor that's hard to match.

DIRECTIONS

Fort George G. Meade is near Laurel, Md., half way between Washington and Baltimore of Route 1. Look for Mapes Road, after following the signs to Fort Meade. The golf course is on Mapes Road.

TRANSPORTATION

George Cornell is Chairman of the Transportation Committee for the Washington area. Call George at G.L.Cornell Co. for a ride over and leave your car at home. It's safer and much more fun especially if Cliff Bisley and Hugh McRae go along. George likes a full load each time - to push when he runs out of gas.

From Baltimore, Jack Witcher of Baltimore Toro is the man to call and even tho he gets lost on every trip, it's still more fun to pool cars.