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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 GLENWOOD MEETING**

March 2, 1954

Basking in the sun of southern hospitality, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents opened their 1954 season at the Glenwood Golf Club, Richmond, Virginia. The 29 members and guests who attended were greeted by our hosts for the occasion, Mr. Bill Laverton, owner and operator; and Joe Cockrell, superintendent. Guests present were; Mr. Bill Goodrich, Toro Manufacturing Company; Mr. George Smith, Pro-Superintendent, Martinsburg, West Virginia; Mr. Thomas Ruffin, Green Committeeman, Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia; Mr. Strause, Assistant Green Chairman, Lakeside Country Club, Richmond, Virginia; Bob Elder, of the USGA Green Section; and our distinguished young friend, Admiral Jack Phillips.

Business Meeting

Following a very fine buffet dinner provided for us by our hosts, President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Bob Scott, Jr. read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report. Both were approved as read. Bob then read the correspondence, which included; Letters from Admiral Jack Phillips, Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Al Radko and Bob Elder, thanking the Mid-Atlantic for their honorary membership cards, letters from Mr. Lantz, Mr. V.T. Stoutmeyer thanking us for their complimentary membership card, and Mr. Densmore for his associate card. The National Association of Golf Course Superintendents informed us that the National Committees have been formed and that the Educational Committee is now entertaining suggestions for the Educational Program at the 1955 National Conference to be held in St. Louis. Suggestions should be sent the the National Educational Committee by March 25, 1954. Letters were also received from Mrs. Van Fossen, our retired secretary, thanking the Mid-Atlantic for her gift, and from the Muscular Dystrophy Association thanking us for our \$71.00 contribution.

Bob Shields, as Chairman, gave the Executive Committee report and listed the following proposals discussed at their last meeting:

1. In order to reduce the time consumed in our business meetings the Committee suggested that the different orders of business be channeled to the appropriate committee, there to be screened and then presented in finished form to the membership at the next regular meeting. The Chairmen when presenting their order of business should maintain control and limit the discussions.

2. Form letters should be sent to golf clubs in the

2. Form letters should be sent to golf clubs in the fringe areas introducing to them the many advantages and privileges we offer to members of our organization.

3. Arrangements are being made for a joint meeting of the local Professional Golfers Association, Green Committee Chairmen, Golf Committee Chairmen, Managers and our own Association. The objectives of this meeting are to produce closer harmony and a better understanding of each other's problems so as to give better service to the club member. We hope to have Dr. O.J. Noer as guest speaker.

4. Have a closer relationship with the Superintendents organization on the Eastern Shore. This is being realized in our May Meeting at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, Maryland.

5. The Executive Committee also proposed that our Association go on record as favoring the standarization of tee markers in the following order: Blue markers represent the long tees, white-regular, red-ladies.

James Reid, Chairman fo the Membership Committee, presented the following names for membership: For regular membership-n Frank Tull, Hercules Country Club, Wilmington, Del., J.H. Mitchell, Oceanview Country Club, Norfolk, Va., J.T. Howard, Snadycreek, N.Y. and J.W. Duke, Doverbrook Country Club, Baltimore, Md. For associate membership: Sam Conger, duPont Company; E. F. Knuckle, Green Chairman, Lexington, Golf Club, Lexington, Va. and Pete Petron, the Upjohn Co.

John Leavell, Chairman of the Golf Committee, gave the results of the of the first golf competition for 1954: Using the Clagoway system of handicapping, the following gentlemen took top prizes:

Joe Cockreil	George Smith
Admiral Phillips	Ernie Stanley

#### Constructive Suggestion Report

Bob Elder, of the USGA Green Section, acting as moderator for the Constructive Suggestion session in the absence of Al Radko, thanked our hosts on behalf of the Association for the opportunity of playing the Glenwood Course. We were all pleasantly suprized at the possibilities and sportiness of the 18-hole layout, and we are looking forward to playing it again sometime.

#### Greens

Our hosts agreed that one of their main concerns at this time is to eliminate the bermudagrass which is present in many of the greens. The bermuda can be removed temporarily by digging it out and resodding but there is always the possibility of its coming back. A more permanant method would be to Dow-fume ( MC-2 ) the bermudagrass patches and resod, using the improved strains, such as C-1, C-19, or C-7. All greens should be aerated thoroughly to increase root penetration, get the air and nutrients into the root zone, and improve drainage. The greens should be aerated two or three times each spring and fall. Following aeration, the thatch removal machine should be used at a fairly deep setting in order to remove the excess thatch build-up. Steps for thatch removal can be more



drastic in the early spring as the bent recovers more rapidly at this time of the year. The excess stolen material should be removed and the grass topdressed, using a mixture of a sandy loam. The loam soil can be sterilized, using cyanamid<sup>9</sup> (provided it is prepared eight or nine weeks in advance, allowing for the material to break down) or Dow-fume. A stepped-up fertilization program should be started immediately. One pound of inorganic nitrogen to a thousand square feet should be applied March through May. During the hot months of June, July and August an organic fertilizer (liquid and dry) should be applied at the rate of 1/4 to 1/2 pound to a thousand square feet, coming back in September and October with an inorganic at the rate of one pound of nitrogen to a thousand square feet. If the pH of the greens is too acid, dolomitic lime should be applied each spring and fall at the rate of 35 pounds to a thousand square feet. If the greens should still appear chlorotic following several fertilizer applications, it is recommended that iron sulphate be applied at the rate of one pound in 20 gallons of water to 5,000 square feet of turf. The turf should be dry when the applications are made as the iron must be absorbed through the leaves. It was the consensus of opinion that a vigorous bent turf will reduce the future encroachment of bermudagrass. However, the continued use of the power edger around the perimeter of the green is a good practice.

### Fairways

Everyone agreed that native bermudagrass predominated in most of the fairways. With a limited budget available calling for 10 to 12 tons of fertilizer, it was suggested that a high nitrogen carrier such as ammonium nitrate or sulphate of ammonia be purchased. One to two pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet should be applied in May and again in June or early July. The areas to be fertilized should be restricted. Start fertilizing about 100 yards out from the tee and cover the usual tee shop landing area, the fertilizer approaches, restricting fertilization on the aprons to reduce encroachment. If possible, it would be well to aerate several times prior to each fertilization. A fertilization program of this nature should be most beneficial to the development of a hardy stand of native bermudas.

In areas on the fairways such as on No. 3 where water tends to stand, it was suggested that a subsoiler be used to open drainage channels to speed up drainage. It was suggested also that some of the native white pines now located near the old railroad bed to the left of No. 7 fairway be transplanted to the roughs to provide fairway dividing lines and to enhance the beauty of the course. Several of these trees for example could be used to advantage on No. 11 to indicate the direction of play to the green.

A bermudagrass nursery of U-3 or natural native selection should be developed for expanding on the teeing areas. All the tees should be topdressed and aerated regularly each spring and fall to true them up a bit, and the same fertilization program as was recommended for the fairways should be followed on the tees.

### Nurseries

Joe has a nice nursery started of C-1, C-19, and C-7, and a newly seeded area of polycross bent. These grasses can all be used to good advantage in improving the existing putting greens where bermuda is to be eliminated.

Special Announcement

The February issue of the USGA Journal announced the opening of the Northeast Regional Office, activating the new Regional Turf Service Plan in that Region. The new Regional Office will service USGA member clubs in New York, Connecticut, and Upper New Jersey. Al Radko will be the Northeastern Regional Director, operating out of Rutgers University, for the time being he will continue in charge of the Beltsville Office. The sad part of the story is that we of the Mid-Atlantic will not be seeing as much of Al as we have in the past. Al has been closely affiliated with our group ever since he started working for the Green Section in 1947.

Our group is now recognized as one of the outstanding and most progressive associations in the country and this recognition is directly related to the excellent work Al has done in presenting our Constructive Suggestion reports and in helping to develop and write our monthly Newsletter.

The Mid-Atlantic takes this opportunity to thank Al for all the fine work he has done in helping our organization and we all sincerely hope that he will find time to visit with us in the future. Best wishes and success in the Northeast Regional operation; their gain is our loss.

Bob Elder to take Al's place

Bob Elder has volunteered to act as impartial moderator in Al's place during the discussion period of our Constructive Suggestion report. This is the job that Charlie Wilson started back in 1951, when he suggested we give such a report to Clubs visited.

Charlie moved on up the ladder and was made Western representative for the Green Section. He has been very busy ever since covering the golf courses in ten states. When Charlie left, Al stepped in and did a fine job of being moderator as well as making a host of friends along the way. Now Al is the Green Section man for the Eastern states and will move his headquarters to Rutgers leaving Bob Elder at Beltsville. Charlie or Al must have been with us a number of years, but now it seems like only a short time until they were advanced on to bigger jobs. It probably won't be long either until Bob also is moved out to where he can be in closer contact with USGA member clubs in keeping with the new policy of the Green Section. Until then, Bob wishes to continue to work closely with the Mid-Atlantic and we are very happy and fortunate to have him do so.

The Mid-Atlantic wishes to thank Mr. Auston Sydnor of the Sydnor Pump and Wheel Company, Richmond, Virginia, for providing the refreshments at the Glenwood meeting. We all enjoyed them very much.

Coming Events

April 5-6, Southern Turf Conference, Country Club of Jackson, Mississippi.  
Reg. Perry, P.O. Box 2057, Memphis, Tenn.

May- Eastern Shore Meeting, Talbot Country Club, Easton, Maryland-  
Host Superintendent- Joe Reposky.



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Next Meeting

Place Columbia Country Club

Date April 6, 1954

Time Golf at 11:00 a.m.  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Important:

Those wishing to play golf must be on the first tee by 11.00 a.m.  
No one will be permitted to tee off after 12 noon. Come early or do not  
plan to use the golf course- club request .

Know your host

Our new host at Columbia this year is Ernest Morgal who assumed the  
Superintendent's duties at the Connecticut Avenue Club upon the retirement a  
year ago of O.B. Fitts.

Ernest may be new to some of our members, but he is not new to golf  
or golf work, having started his career as a caddy at the Old Bannockburn course.  
From caddy he progressed into caddy master and reluctantly informs us that at one  
time he was an assistant Pro. before turning to greenskeeping. He held greens jobs  
at Bannockburn, Burningtree and Congressional before coming to Columbia in 1932.

He was born in Montgomery County 49 years ago and still lives on Bradley  
Blvd, near Burning Tree Club, Ernie is married, has no children.

Next Meeting

Place Columbia Country Club

Date April 6, 1954

Time Golf at 1:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Important

Those wishing to play golf should be at the club at 12:00 p.m. We will be prepared to start at 12 noon. Golf carts are not to be used. Please use the golf course-club roadway.

Know your past

Our new host at Columbia this year is Ernest Morris who assumed the Superintendent's duties of the Connecticut Avenue Club upon the retire- ment of G. B. Little.

Ernest may be new to some of our members, but he is not new to golf or golf work, having at this time a year as a member of the Old Brookhaven course. From early he progressed into other areas and eventually into the area of the time he was an assistant in the maintenance department. He held various jobs at Brookhaven, Park, and other courses and has been a member of Columbia in 1952.

He was born in Montgomery County 49 years ago and still lives on Brook- haven. His home is at Brookhaven, Park, and other courses and has been a member of Columbia in 1952.