

OFFICIAL
ORGAN OF
MID-ATLANTIC
ASSOCIATION
OF
GOLF
COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS

Turf News Letter



NOVEMBER 1954

VICE-PRESIDENT
TOM DAWSON
Country Club of Virginia
Richmond, Va.

PRESIDENT
L. R. SHIELDS
Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Md.

SECRETARY-TREASURER
ROBERT E. SCOTT, JR.
Bonnie View Golf Course
Baltimore, Md.

ARGYLE MEETING

The November meeting and annual election was held at Argyle Country Club, Lay-hill, Md. on November 9. Argyle is the home course of our fellow member Percy Le Duc. His friends affectionately dub him with the title "The Duke of Argyle".

The Argyle Golf Course is about five years old and has a length of 6,537 yards. Par for the 18 hole layout is 72. The course has plenty of variety of character in the over-all strategy of play and is quite hilly, though not over taxing to the physical being. It is the handiwork of Percy Le Duc and is a monument to his creative skill and ability. Percy should hang out his shingle as a golf course architect and builder. He has the qualifications and experience.

The day was perfect, one of those fine fall days that accompany Indian Summer. Fifty-five Mid-Atlantic members and guests took advantage of the Autumn weather to attend our last official get-to-gether of the year.

Twenty-eight players toured the course in a blind bogey event for a final fling and attack against old man par. The winners of the event were: Jack Rodgers, 93-18+75. H. N. Allanson, 102-27+75; Martin Mc Carthy, 78-3+75; Neil Holmead, 85-10+75. Joe Reposkey and George Smith were low gross performers for the day each shooting a 76. Several deuces were made on the par three holes: Louie Bargman on the 17th, S. G. Loeffler, Jr. came through on the 13th; and Charlie Schalestock showed the way at the 5th hole. Outside of a few birdies here and there, old man par remained master of the situation.

Golf was followed by a trip to the showers and a social hour at the 19th hole. Afterwards, we enjoyed a repast of roast beef and all the trimmings. Argyle people welcomed us with open arms and were perfect hosts. We appreciate this kindness and hospitality.

BUSINESS MEETING

After dinner, Percy welcomed us to Argyle and introduced Mr. William Deal, President of the club, who also greeted us. Our Secretary, Bob Scott, Jr. then read the minutes of the previous meeting and our business session was officially opened. All committees gave their final report of the season.

The Membership Committee proposed three names as associate members: Edward Ondrasik, C. J. Colwell & E. Whittaker. They were unanimously accepted. The Mid-Atlantic welcomes and greets them to it's midst.

There was a final report made on our first annual dinner-dance at Prince Georges Golf & Country Club on Nov. 3rd. Forty-three couples were present and as our regular monthly gatherings usually have a turnout between 50 and 60, this was a fine attendance for a start. \$150.00 had been appropriated from the treasury to help defray expenses, however only \$33.00 of this amount was needed and used. If you were not there you missed seeing a lot of pretty ladies, hearing some good music (and some bad) and special entertainment by Club manager Frank Sherman. Again to Hugh McRae and his committee, the donors of the cocktail hour, Cliff Eisle and the Prince Georges staff, we say - MANY THANKS for a delightful evening.

ANNUAL ELECTION

As this wound up current affairs, new business was in order. Namely, the annual election of officers for the calendar year of 1955. The Chair appointed Bob Shields to act as election judge; Paul Weiss, Jr. & Harry Allanson served as tellers. Tom Dawson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate: For President - Charles Schalestock; Vice-President, John Connolly; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert E. Scott, Jr.

Charlie Schalestock asked that his name be withdrawn because of other activities outside of his job which require considerable time. He expressed his appreciation for having been nominated and said he considered it a great honor to have been selected.

Walter West then nominated Bob Shields who was eventually unanimously elected. More by popular acclaim than by Robert's Rules of Order. Upon accepting the President's chair, Bob pledged continued support for the Association and said every avenue for progress of the Association and its members will be explored in an effort to reach our goal which he quoted as being "Recognition through Merit".

We are grateful to Bob for agreeing to lead us again after having so recently held the same office. He was President during the years 1951 & 1952. In 1951 this Association sent Bob to the GCSAA meeting in Chicago to look into the matter of membership in the National Association. The report he made to the members on his return was published in the Feb. 1951 issue of this "TURF NEWSLETTER" and is still good reading.

Tom Dawson was unanimously elected Vice-President and Robert E. Scott, Jr. remained as Secretary-Treasurer.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our new officers. They are loyal members of the organization and have proven themselves to be hard workers for the Mid-Atlantic. We will support them 100% and under their guidance and leadership, climb to new heights.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your retiring President wishes to thank the membership for the loyalty and support given his administration during 1953 and 1954. Also, to the members of all committees appreciation and gratitude is expressed. Serving as your prexy has

afforded many happy moments and leaves pleasant memories. To the incoming administration support and assistance is pledged. The association is in good hands and will grow and prosper under it's new leadership.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION PANEL

Moderator for this discussion was Rueben Hines, Sr. Does fairway fertilization pay off? After visiting Argyle, we answer yes. These fairways are well covered with grass and considering their age along with the extreme dryness of the past season, it is quite evident that well-fed turf pays big dividends, both in appearance and good playing conditions. The abundance of blue grass afforded a fine picture and gave the golfer many good lies to play from.

The last Mid-Atlantic visit to Argyle was in July, 1951. At that time the greens were heavily matted, a thatched condition was affecting their color and playability, and as a result they were quite spongy. These conditions no longer exist. It was hard to find anything to criticize. The course was well groomed and kept and special mention should be made on how tidy the property was. The recent remodeling job adds much to the course in general. The tees have improved immensely.

The only weak spot was the new 7th green. Moderator Hines brought out the thought that the front of the green should be lowered a bit so as to provide better surface drainage. Also, he mentioned that the putting green should be larger.

The large poplar tree on the back left hand side should be removed for sooner or later its root system will invade the green for moisture and the plant food. When this happens the turf adjacent to the tree will suffer. A similar condition exists on the right hand side of the 2nd green and injury already exists in the form of thin turf, bare ground and localized hard spots. Algae is quite prevalent on the 7th green. Turf authorities tell us algae is caused by thin or bare areas becoming oversaturated in hot humid weather. This is especially true on soils that are slow in drying. The scum formed by algae acts as a seal and excludes both air and moisture.

The first control is water management - do not over water. When the green scum of algae first forms the green should be dusted with hydrated lime at the rate of 2 to 5 pounds for each 1,000 square feet. The grass needs to be dry at the time of application and just enough water applied to wash the lime off the leaves. Repeat whenever algae appears. Where the crust or scale has become well established, allow the green to dry out then aerify and scarify the surface. This should be followed by a top dressing containing a high percentage of sharp sand. Watch closely the application of water and perhaps explore the possibility of poor internal drainage.

26th NATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW

JEFFERSON HOTEL - ST. LOUIS, MO.

JANUARY 16 - 21, 1955

Are you going? Tell your officials of the many advantages to be derived from attending. Ask them to send you. The cost is a nominal one and should be part of every golf course budget. Everyone benefits.

All activities of this 26th National meeting will be held at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. Reservation cards have been sent to all members and should be filled out

and mailed to the hotel to be assured of accommodations. Those who are not National members are welcome to attend but are urged to write the hotel for reservations so as to be with the crowd.

Your National membership dues are due and payable now. Take care of this important matter before going to St. Louis so as to keep your insurance in force for the month of January.

Your Mid-Atlantic dues of \$6.00 per year will become due Jan. 1. Why not come prepared to pay them at the next meeting?

Jim Reid and James E. Thomas were appointed delegates to the National Policy Committee and will represent the Mid-Atlantic at meetings in St. Louis. Jim Reid was named to carry our proxy votes and campaign for our Board of Directors candidate Jim Thomas in order to gain representation on the governing National body. You recently received a proxy form from Agar Brown. Please fill in this form and mail to Jim Reid at Suburban Club, Baltimore, SOON. By having all votes in the hands of one man we gain voting strength and are in position to exchange votes with other locals to create advantages for our candidate. When you get to St. Louis and meet old acquaintances ask them to vote for James E. Thomas for Director.

1955 MEETINGS

Open dates for meetings next year are March, October and November. If you would like to have the group visit your club on one of these dates, contact the Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS

We have been asked to help locate a Superintendent for the Camelback Mountain Golf & CC at Phoenix, Arizona. Ground will soon be broken for construction of this course. The management is seeking a man who is familiar with construction, irrigation installation, etc., and with management of bent and bermuda grasses. Make application and write for further particulars to:

Mr. David Gill
National Bank Building
St. Charles, Ill.

Mr. Gill is architect for the course. Mr. Agar M. Brown, National Secretary, would appreciate hearing your response to this inquiry. Please mention to Mr. Gill that the employment inquiry was referred to you by Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

There is an opening for an experienced man to supervise construction of a 9-hole pitch-n-putt course and later act as Manager and Superintendent. If interested, contact Mr. Doug Smiley at Union 4-6710, Washington, D. C.

NEXT MEETING

PLACE: G. L. Cornell Co., 4715 Miller Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland
DATE: December 7, 1954
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
FEATURE: Steak, oysters, George, Brownie, Frank and talk

KNOW YOUR HOSTS

"Genial" L. Cornell is the man with a smile behind the welcome mat at the Miller Ave. address. He is and always has been a real booster of this Association and

knows as much about turf, turf work and turf people in this area as anyone. He is an expert on machines and knows his equipment from A to Z. He is well-known around Congressional Country Club as a golfer and after having held the Club championship for two years - he should be.

George has been owner - manager of the G. L. Cornell Co. , Worthington - Jacobson distributor, for a number of years. His assistant and right hand man is Leon Brown whom he met at an Air Corps training base during the war. After the war, George persuaded Brownie to leave his native Kansas and come east to his present position. He is well liked and respected by all and will be on hand to greet you on Tuesday.

Another member of the firm to welcome you is Frank Haske (the e is silent in case he hasn't told you) who joined George and Brownie two years ago as salesman.

COMING EVENTS

National Turfgrass Conference and Show
January 16-21 1955, St. Louis, Missouri

Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference
February 7 & 8, 1955. Dr. Ernest N. Cory, Director
Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY

MID-ATLANTIC 1954 HIGHLIGHTS

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents has just completed another busy year under the leadership of President James Thomas. Mr. Thomas called ten regular meetings, held a two day Turfgrass conference in Baltimore last February and organized and held the first all social gathering to which the ladies were invited.

The year began with re-election of last year's officers, except that the Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer traded offices. Jimmy Thomas stayed in as President but Bob Scott exchanged the office as Vice-President with Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Schalestock. This was a good move for it kept the team in harness. At this meeting Dr. Robert M. Hogan of the University of California was the speaker and a new set of by-laws modeled after the national rules was officially adopted by the membership to help guide the Association in the future.

On December 1, the Association was the guest of the G. L. Cornell Co. in Bethesda, Md. where a steak and oysters and George, Brownie and Frank were the feature attractions.

The highlight of the 1954 season was the National Turfgrass Conference held at Miami, Fla. To leave the snow and ice of the north and go into the warm sunshine of Florida in winter was an interesting experience for us, but to renew old acquaintances and meet other superintendents from all corners of America was a more memorable and more heart-warming experience.

The Mid-Atlantic was represented by about 30 men at this important gathering which was a long stride from the 8 who attended the Boston meeting and cast 3 votes. At Miami, this group had 21 votes and had even more at St. Louis. We are becoming more National conscious in our thinking and can foresee the day when we will have 100% of our members in the National Association.

In August of this year we extended an invitation to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to come to Washington to hold a Turfgrass Conference & Show on some future date.

The January meeting was held in the auditorium at Beltsville, Md. soon after we returned from the Miami conference. We talked about the Miami meeting, then heard Al Radko give a resume of our Constructive Suggestion Reports for the preceding year. After extending the Green Section's welcome, Mr. Radko who was Acting Green Section Director said "The Golfer years ago 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 has 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 into the open which otherwise might have gone unnoticed. The constructive suggestions reports have proven to be of considerable value not only to the host club, but also to the 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. Often times in the past 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 superintendents these suggestions were discussed as a regular feature following the business meeting. The program has been continued without interruption at every possible meeting since 1951."

The next highlight of '54 came in February when we met in Baltimore for our 15th Annual Turfgrass Conference under the directorship of Dr. Ernest N. Cory of the University of Maryland, who has directed this event annually for us since its beginning in 1939. This conference was saddened by the passing of Tom Dougherty in the hotel room while he was waiting for the program to begin.

In March we moved three weeks nearer to spring by traveling 120 miles south to Glenwood Golf Club in Richmond, Va. where Bill Leverton and his capable son-in-law, Joe Cockrill, were hosts for the day.

At the Richmond meeting all who became association members in 1928 & 1929 were made life members. Eight men met the requirements and were so honored.

For the April meeting we crossed the new Chesapeake Bay Bridge to the eastern shore of Maryland and dropped in on Joe Reposkey at Talbot Country Club for a very damp round of golf, but a very warm reception by Joe, his wife, and the entire club staff.

The largest group ever to attend one of our regular monthly meetings met at Columbia Country Club in May. Seventy-four superintendents and others interested in

turf grass were welcomed by Ernest Morgal, Superintendent and Mr. Richard Essex, Greens Chairman at the Connecticut Ave. Club. It was no surprise to many that Columbia should draw a record crowd for this club has been a favorite with this Association since 1928 when her Superintendent at that time, Mr. O. B. Fitts, helped get the area superintendents together and founded the Mid-Atlantic.

The June meeting was another big one and another first. It was so big in fact that it almost got away from us because of so many details and so many people involved. A joint meeting of superintendents, pros, club managers, green chairmen, commercial men and golf chairmen brought together about 200 men for golf, dinner, and a fine talk by our friend and booster, Dr. Fred Grau who emphasized the value of cooperation, harmony and close relationship between the superintendent and club officials and also stressed the importance of overall efficient golf course management.

July found us sizzling at Bill Schrieber's Cedar Point Golf Course at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station down where the Patuxent River runs into the Chesapeake Bay. We not only sizzled from the heat of the sun, but from fast Navy jet planes which kept turning around on nearby runways and spitting more heat at us - and at Bill's greens.

At this meeting because of the departure of Bob Elder, Bob Shields and Jimmy Thomas were named as co-editors of our "TURF NEWSLETTER" and charged with the responsibility of getting out an issue each month. (Editor's Note: The July issue was our first attempt and we are still trying.)

In August we joined the Army for a day and played golf "by-the-numbers" under old Sarge Fred Slack at Fort George G. Meade, near Laurel, Md.

At the invitation of the Vice-President, Charlie Schalestock, we visited his recently opened Norbeck Club in September and played golf. We found exceptionally good grass on the spring-seeded fairways in spite of the summer drought. The decision to cut high for the summer had paid off and will continue to pay dividends in good turf in the future.

The highlight of this meeting was the 100% attendance of the Norbeck Club officials including President, Secretary and Golf and Greens Chairman, and Pro and Superintendent.

At the annual golf tournament on October 5 at Bonnie View Country Club in Baltimore John Connelly won the prize and the honor being the Association's golfer of the year.

This meeting at the home course of our Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Scott, Jr. was almost cancelled because of the passing of charter member and National member Reginald M. Giddings, whose funeral was held that afternoon with many members of the Mid-Atlantic in attendance.

On November 3 an all social event was held at Prince Georges Golf & Country Club with approximately 40 members and their wives in attendance. This was another first for us.

In November at Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, Md. the group had only praise for Percy Le Duc and the golf course which he built himself about five years ago.

At Argyle Bob Shields discovered that lightning does strike twice in the same place - he was unanimously elected President of the Association again after having held that office during 1951 and 1952.

Our new president says that we are going to make an effort to improve our constructive suggestion reports, our education program at meetings and our "TURF NEWSLETTER". We shall also try to increase our membership in GCSAA and our representation at national meetings. Our membership in the National Association now stands at 46% and we hope that by the end of 1955 we will have the 60% required for affiliation.