



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



PUBLISHED BY

MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS TO AID IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND MERIT

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JAMES E. THOMAS EDITOR ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB ARLINGTON, VA.

Our June gathering was a joint meeting between the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater golf course superintendents associations. This get-together, which we would like to make an annual affair, was held at the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. The turnout for the occasion was most gratifying, as some seventy-three members and guests were in attendance. Perhaps one of the reasons for the presence of so many superintendents and their friends was due to the club's James River course being the scene of the 1955 National Amateur Championship of the United States Golf Association. This event takes place in mid-September.

Forty-two of the group signed up to play golf, but due to a bit of tough luck with the weather, only sixteen were able to finish. We were rained out, but we were happy for the course needed the rain. The weatherman spoiled the afternoon for some of us who wanted to pre-view the championship layout of the James River course. Because so many players were unable to finish the eighteen, Golf Chairman Louis Bargman cancelled the tournament with the announcement that the prizes would be carried over and played for at the July meeting.

While the elements would not let some of us enjoy a complete round of golf, our Virginia hosts provided us with a most enjoyable social hour followed by a fine steak dinner with all the trimmings. This took place at their Westhampton clubhouse. The Association expresses their appreciation for a delightful evening of entertainment and southern hospitality.

After this excellent repast, President "Bob" Shields called the business meeting into session. He presented our host superintendent, Tom Dawson who in turn introduced the club officials. They each greeted us with a few words of welcome. Our official hosts were: Mr. Leonard Blackburn, President; Mr. Gil Miner, Vice-President; Admiral Glover, Chairman of Greens Committee; Mr. Harry Easterly, Jr., the club's USGA representative; Bob Roper, club Manager; Mr. Fred Mc Kie, long time secretary of the Virginia State Golf Association; Golf professional, Mr. Darrel Napier; his assistant, Mr. Fred Chesbain; and assistant golf course superintendent, Mr. John Graham.

Russ Jernigan headed a visiting group from our new neighbor association from Norfolk- The Tidewater Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

A surprise visit by Dr. Fred V. Grau of West Point Products and his participation in the discussion was welcome by all. He has been a good friend and backer of all superintendents for many years..

The business meeting was concluded by the reports of the secretary-treasurer and the different committees, with all reports being accepted as read.

Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association. This was Mr. Hallowell's first visit with us in his new capacity. We hope to see him at our meetings often and to be able to work closely with him. We would like for him to consider himself as one of us.

Edger-Trimmer
ON
Golf Green collars.

After dispensing with these formalities, President Shields introduced Mr. Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association. This was Mr. Hallowell's first visit with us in his new capacity. We hope to see him at our meetings often and to be able to work closely with him. We would like for him to consider himself one of us.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Mr. Charles Hallowell acted as Moderator for this report. I
Question : If the Tournament for the USGA amateur Championship was scheduled for today, would the course be ready? This was the question put to us by our Moderator. The answer was both yes and no. The Golf Professional from the Fort Belvoir Service Club found things much to his liking and said, " The greens were perfect, putt true and held approach shots well. "

The putting surfaces were found to be well covered with grass of good texture, and free of unwanted growth such as clover and bermuda grass. They seemed to be quite resistant to normal wear and tear. However, we believe that it would be well to be on guard against over watering and the build up of unwanted thatch. This could very easily occur at James River.

Mr. Harry Easterly asked: " How can we introduce C-7 (Cohansey) bent into our greens?" It is the opinion of many superintendents that C-7 does well in that area. Observation has shown that it is hard to introduce a new strain of grass into old established turf. The results are slow and uncertain. The surest, quickest and cheapest way is to establish a large nursery of C-7, remove the old sod from the green, and resod with the new desired strain.

Cohansey (C-7) bent with its upright growth does not present a problem of grain and is said to be quite tolerant of heat. The grass is an easy victim of dollar spot but with the use of some of the newer fungicides, this should not be too much of a problem. It has a light apple green color which no doubt accounts for its lack of popularity. The grass deserves a much better rating than it has received and might be considered by other courses in this area.

It is quite impressive how Tom Dawson has stopped the bermuda grass infestations around the edges of the James River greens. This has been accomplished through the use of a power edger regularly twice a week. One man covers the eighteen holes with the machine in about seven and one-half hours.

All the adjacent collars around the putting surfaces are mowed at a height of seven-sixteenth inches. This sets off the green and provides a pleasing contrast between the fairway and the putting surface. It affords a special and suitable area for the playing of chip shots up to the greens.

The principal recommendation concerning the tees was that some seeding of Chewing's fescue or Kentucky 31 fescue would be advisable in the shaded areas and that C-1 bent be given a trial. The tees for championship play should be mowed at a lower height of cut similar to the being maintained on the aprons around the greens.

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The fairways came in for the following discussion: It was again pointed out that the cool nights have been a detrimental factor for the growth of bermuda grasses. That at this time a very heavy application of nitrogeuous fertilizers are needed on all bermuda areas. Also, existing weeds can be controlled with the use of sodium arsenite used at the manufacturer's recommended rate of application.

A few further notes, here and there: Tom has used pine needles on all of his foot paths for a covering, making them pleasant to walk over. Trent Jones, the golf architect has recommended that all of the James Riversgreens be enlarged. One comment was that the good bents are always at their best in the latter part of the season. Another was that we are badly in need of warm nights for good growing conditions and this is true for both bents and bermudas.

There are forty-three traps on the course. They are well maintained by one man who rakes them in eight hours. Hard fescue planted around their edges would cause them to stand out to good advantage.

GOLF COMMITTEE NEWS

Forty-two members and guests entered the scheduled monthly tournament at James River, but the unscheduled thunderstorms permitted only 16 to complete the round. As this was a minority, the committee voted no contest and the prizes will be held over to the annual tournament at which time they will be added to the regular prize list.

The putting green was found to be too small to conduct the scheduled putting contest, so another attempt will be made at the July meeting at Army-Navy.

In answer to questions concerning handicaps: All scores of members and guests are being kept on file. Handicaps based on these scores are also kept. However, a true handicap cannot be given all members until a sufficient number of rounds are turned in to this committee. Therefore, all members are requested to use their home club handicaps until the annual tournament in the fall, at which time, handicaps based on cards turned in this season will be announced. If you do not hold a card a handicap you consider correct should be used. The present graded handicaps are used only in the event a player chooses a handicap figure above the one on file.

Louis H. Bargmann,
Golf Committee Chairman

TIPS OF THE TRADE

Your feet are very important to you and to the performance of your job. Take care of them by giving them the proper attention. If you forget to put on your boots in the morning and your shoes get wet from walking in the dew or while watering, then change to dry shoes as soon as possible. Keep several pairs of shoes in your office and change when the ones you are wearing cause trouble or get damp.

Clean your feet thoroughly while bathing and dry carefully, especially between the toes, before dusting with foot powder. Wear a different pair of shoes and clean socks every day.

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Have a list of inside jobs for your men to do on rainy days so they won't have to be sent home and lose time. If a job can be done inside and can wait, then save it. The men will appreciate it and perhaps you can get more done outside.

For the good of the profession: Never let our monthly meetings interfere with you going to work next day.

An idea taken from Oct. 1954 NORTHEASTERN TURFLETTER - Play your golf course at least once a week so you can see it as your players see it.

THE GOLF COURSE REPORTER

If you are a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, you receive the GOLF COURSE REPORTER as part of your membership. If you have not yet joined the National, perhaps you would like to subscribe to the REPORTER. Just fill out this form and mail-

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The GOLF COURSE REPORTER is published eight times a year by and for golf course superintendents and should be in the library of every superintendent who wants to do a better job for his club.

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SHORTLY NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, Virginia, on July 12 with Jimmy Thomas as host superintendent. Jim and his greens chairman, Admiral Jack Phillips, say they have some very fine strains of common bermuda in the fairways and would like for us to see them.

We are to have with us as a guest speaker an old friend - none other than Charlie Wilson. Charlie becomes associated with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission on the first of July, and our Army-Navy gathering will be one of his first assignments. We tried to seduce Dr. O.J. Noer for the date, but he had a previous commitment. He suggested that it would be a good spot for Charlie Wilson to fill in on, as Charlie was so well acquainted with all of us in the area. In lieu of O.J., this is an ideal substitution. We of the Mid-Atlantic owe much to Charlie Wilson. When he was with the Green Section at Beltsville, he was always a friend to this association. He was the instigator of our NEWSLETTER and our constructive suggestion report. Let's turn out in force and give him a royal welcome home.

PLACE : Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

DATE: July 12, 1955

Golf- 12 noon

Social Period - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Meeting - following dinner

Guest Speaker- Chas. G. Wilson

WEAR TIES-

Again we must remind our members that ties must be worn in the Club House. More and more this is becoming a general rule and it's one with which we should be happy to comply. Let's look like golf course superintendents should, when, once a month, we enjoy the privileges of a country club member.

DIRECTIONS:-

From Baltimore and Washington, cross the Potomac over the 14th St. Bridge into Virginia, Just over the bridge, look for sign reading Army-Navy Drive. Turn right on Army-Navy Drive to club entrance.

TRANSPORTATION:-

Transportation will be furnished from Washington and Baltimore so that you won't need to drive unless you want to. In Baltimore it's Jack Witcher and Balto. Toro. In Washington it's Bob and Neal Holnead at National Capital Toro and George Cornell & Leon Brown at G.L.Cornell Co. Give them a call, they will be glad to hear from you.

DRIVE SAFELY*

Speeding is driving faster than the road, the traffic, or you, or your car will permit.

NATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The June issue of the Golf Course Reporter carried a report of the National Policy Committee Co-Chairman of at least two topics which should be discussed by us in our local association.

The first item mentioned in the report was the proposal to be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in Long Beach next February to increase the annual dues in this Association to \$50.00 effective January 1, 1957.

The second matter was the discussion on the addition to the Association of a type of paid director to conduct, contact, promote and direct our cause through various channels for the progress and benefit of the G.C.S.A. and all superintendents in general.

Both of these topics should receive sufficient attention so that all Policy Committee members will be in a position to state the attitude of their respective groups when meeting in Long Beach. Co-Chairman, Leonard Strong mentioned some of the reasons these two points were proposed. He will be glad to give additional information if you write him at Route 4, Bethlehem, Pa.

Additional information on these and other items of business to appear before the Long Beach Meeting will be printed in the Reporter as well as sent to members, District and local associations and Policy Committee members. Discuss all these topics and come to Long Beach prepared to act in the interests of your organization.

Mid-Atlantic representatives on the National Policy Committee are Jim Reid and Tom Dawson. Talk these matters over with them and let your views be known.