

VICE PRESIDENT
PAUL WEISS, JR.
SPARROWS POINT C.C.
Baltimore, Md.

PRESIDENT
THOMAS DAWSON
COUNTRY CLUB of Va.
Richmond, Va.

SECRETARY-TREASURER
FRANCIS COUPE
WASHINGTON GOLF & C. C.
Washington, D. C.

TURF NEWSLETTER

(Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Courses Superintendents.)

L. R. Shields Editor, Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.

James E. Thomas Editor, Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

DECEMBER 1956

THE MONACAN HILLS MEETING

Monacan Hills Association, Incorporated, the home course of our fellow member, Jim Reynolds, was the location for the last regular meeting of the 1956 season on November 13. It was also a joint gathering with the members of the Tidewater Turf Grass Association which represents the Newport News, Hampton and Portsmouth areas of Virginia.

Tidewater sent a delegation of ten of their most active members to Richmond. They were led by President, Harley Savage- James River Country Club, Warwick, Va.; Vice-President, Fred Sappenfield- Portsmouth, Virginia; Secretary, Harry McSloy- Oceania, Virginia; R. D. Barham, Mike Bonavita and John Ward all of Franklin, Va.; D. A. Barnes- Kempsville, Norfolk, Va.; Tom Dougherty- Emporia, Va.; Cliff Doxey- Portsmouth, Va.; and Ross Goodwin- Hopewell, Va. We enjoyed their fellowship and hope that these get-togethers will become an annual affair.

Most all of us who were in attendance played golf over Jim Reynolds' sporty layout. A golf course design carved out of what was once a heavily wooded piece of property. Its terrain is of a gently rolling nature with a topography well suited to the construction of a golf course. Jim supervised both the design and construction and to quote Admiral Phillips- "Jim is deserving of monumental credit."

After a perfect autumn day for playing golf (regardless of how good our game was), we topped off the afternoon with a trip to the showers. This was followed by an enjoyable fellowship hour upstairs in the clubhouse lobby and in turn a most delicious repast of steak and trimmings. To sum it all up, the day was perfect; the dinner was very appetizing, well prepared and served; and hosts and guests alike made for perfect company.

As soon as dinner was out of the way, President Bob Scott, Jr. called the meeting to order. He first introduced our host, Mr. J.W. Reynolds. Jim warmly welcomed us to Monacan Hills and he expressed the desire that our next visit would not be in the too distant future.

(2)

Harley Savage, President of the Tidewater Turf Grass Association, said a few words of greeting on behalf of his organization. Also their Secretary, Harry McSloy, expressed his pleasure that our two groups could hold a joint meeting. It was suggested that sometime in 1957 such an event take place at some club in the Tidewater area. They also asked us to assist them in interesting the Virginia Agricultural College at Blacksburg to undertake turf research. This is a very worthy idea and should be followed through. The southern part of Virginia needs a more accessible center of turf research- one that has similar local problems.

Other introduced guests were: our old friend Junior Broadus from Quantico. He is now golf professional at the marine base - congratulations, Junior. Captain Baker, the new golf officer at Fort Belvoir -we bid welcome. Two new applications for membership were received: Harry Carlton Hurley, Seaford Golf and Country Club, Seaford, Delaware; Randolph R. Lang, Swannanca Golf and Country Club, Waynesboro, Va. Mr. Lang was in attendance. We welcome these men and are glad to have their applications.

Announcement was made that two of our Blatimore members are on the sick list: Howard McCarthy of the Mt. Pleasant Golf Course and Dave Edgar of the Elkridge Hunt Club. Howard has suffered a heart attack and Dave is a victim of skin cancer. They are both Mid-Atlantic verterans and we send them our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery. No doubt they would like to hear from all of their friends, so drop a card.

As November is the month in which we elect officers for the coming year, this was the most important business on our agenda. The election was conducted by our retiring Secretary-John Connolly. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was placed in office without opposition.

Our 1957 officers are: President- Thomas W. Dawson, Jr.; Vice-President- Paul Weiss, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer- Francis Coupe. The Association is in capable hands and will continue to grow and expand in usefulness under their guidance. We must all lend them a hand and give them our full support. To our retiring officers we express thanks and appreciation for a job well done. As a credit to their administration we have experienced a year of great growth and expansion.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Fred McKay. His subject was "Turf for the last fifty years." Mr. McKay is said to be the father of golf in Virginia. He has served as Green Committee Chairman for both the Hermitage Country Club and the Country Club of Virginia. He was the first to introduce bent grass greens to the Richmond area - the sixth and eighteenth greens at the Hermitage Country Club were the first ones in Virginia and were planted to Washington bent. In late years C-7 (Cohansey) appears to be the best strain of creeping bent for their locality and conditions.

Mr. McKay said that at the time there were very few golf clubs in the state of Virginia, and very little money available for their maintenance. Club dues averaged between \$12 and \$18 a year and annual budgets for upkeep were in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

The year of 1921 was the start of a golf boom in the state and since then the growth of the game has been continuous up to the present. We were told how in July of that year disaster hit the greens of the Columbia Country Club in Washington while the National Open was being played there.

This catastrophe was the start of research for the better development of golf courses; the improvement of greens, better grasses for them, control of turf diseases etc. He told us that during the intervening years since then State Agricultural Colleges, the Green Section of the United States Golf Association and others have all contributed to the program of progress up to the present day. However we were told that the real advancement in turf management has been brought about by the golf course superintendent; That it was he who had developed the practical side of the picture through trial and error and also by the exchange of ideas and experiences with other superintendents. Our guest speaker stressed the point that it was up to the superintendent to find strains of grasses best suited to his area. He said this would be governed by conditions of soil, weather and climate.

In closing his talk Mr. McKay told us that club members are becoming more exacting and demanding in their requirements of the golf course superintendent. That they lacked an understanding knowledge of his duties and problems and the less they knew about his work, the more critical they were. Yet they depend on the ability of the superintendent for satisfactory playing conditions. We were told to give some thought on learning how to sell ourselves to our members.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT
MODERATOR, ADMIRAL JOHN S. PHILLIPS

The tees on the first nine are large and well-covered with bermuda. Those on the back nine are also planted to bermuda, but are very narrow. This part of the course was the nine holes in existence before its enlargement to an eighteen hole layout. We would recommend that these tees be expanded when possible. All tees are free of foreign growth and have been constructed so as to provide for mowing with fairway units.

The fairways are well-drained with the exceptions of a few low swales. They are seeded to bermuda and in most cases have a good stand of grass. Nitrate of soda has been used as the fertilizer to thicken up the stand. We would advise that some spot seeding be done where the turf is thin and also that the rate of nitrogen feeding be increased. A fertilizer with the ratio of 12-6-2 would be a good one to use.

Due to the low PH reading, some liming would be beneficial. It could be applied in a fertilizer form such as calcium cyanamid, cal-nitro, or straight dolomitic limestone. Some of the low swales crossing the fairways should be tiled so as to provide dry footing during periods of wet weather.

On the third hole there is a tree on the left side of the fairway about 150 yards out that is in the direct line of play and could be removed without hurting the character of the hole. The dog leg on the seventh hole is quite severe for the average golfer. We would suggest that a few of the trees at the point on the right side of the fairway be thinned out so as to make the hole play easier and faster. Also, there is a tree on the back edge of the seventh green which should be removed before its roots invade the green and cause trouble.

The greens in some instances are thin, but they play well. Some of them have been constructed with considerable fall toward the line of play. They are built with a clay loam with sharp sand and well rotted sawdust added. Drainage appears to be satisfactory. The greens are planted to both vegetative and seeded bents. The creeping bents have been planted by plugs, planted on six foot centers. The eighth is in C-7 (Cohansey). The green on the 16th hole needs rebuilding as it is long and very narrow with hard sloping side banks.

The edges of the original greens which are now a part of the back nine are heavily infested with bermuda grass. An experiment is being tried for its eradication. A new product known as Amino Triazole is being used. It was applied in warm weather with a hand sprayer and effects a complete kill in about 7 days. As a result of its action the plants' Chlorophyll is destroyed. CAUTION: Try this material on a non-use area first and follow instructions to the letter.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As outgoing President of the Mid-Atlantic I wish to thank in writing, before I go any further, all those who helped me during my term in office. First, the Secretary-John Connolly who not only did his job very well but spent much time revising Secretary's membership information into a form that is precise and efficient. Future Secretaries of the Association will benefit greatly from his doing this work - the second time he has done such for the Association. Next- thanks go to the Vice-President Tom Dawson who presided over meetings I did not attend and did his part to keep the Association at a high level of efficiency.

The heads and members of the various committees are next to be commended on a job well done.

Finally I wish to commend Bob Shields and Jimmy Thomas for their work as editors of the "NEWSLETTER". They continued to do a hard job very well. The "NEWSLETTER" does much to hold the members together despite the distances which separate them.

During the year the Mid-Atlantic has continued to grow both in membership and in average attendance at meetings. This includes the Baltimore Conference which in 1956 broke all records for attendance. A record was established in October when over 100 attended a regular meeting at Woodmont Country Club.

(5)

Overall the educational feature of the monthly meetings was good, but there is still room for improvement both from the head table and from the floor.

These improvements will come I am sure for we have a hard working group of officers to lead the way. They are dedicated to see the Mid-Atlantic get better than ever, so let's help them all we can to make 1957 the best year yet for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

In closing I hope that more members will join the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, for as host association to the National Conference in Washington, D.C. in 1958 we should have a strong representation.

Bob Scott, Jr.
Retiring President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A very lively Executive Committee meeting was held at the Green Section office at Beltsville on November 20, 1956.

In attendance were: Bob Scott, Jr., Tom Dawson, John Connolly, Francis Coupe, Paul Weiss, Jr., Dick Watson, Admiral Phillips, Jimmy Thomas, Bob Shields, Dr. George Langford and C.K. Hallowell.

The first order of business was the completion of details for the Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference to held in Baltimore on January 17 & 18. The program is now complete and will be mailed to you along with the next "NEWSLETTER".

The next subject considered was the make-up of next year's schedule of meetings. A tentative list of meeting places has been drawn up but many dates are still open and available. If you would like to have the association visit your club, contact Jimmy Thomas or Bob Shields so that your invitation can be considered by the Committee.

Retiring Secretary-Treasurer, John Connolly, turned his audited records over to the new Secretary, Francis Coupe, along with a list of members who have not paid their dues. He recommended that the committee take immediate steps to remove these names from the rolls. John then presented to the committee a complete new workable system for handling the "behind the scene" business activities of this association and making record keeping much more simple. Cards, forms and folders were already set up and the complete system was turned over to the new Secretary. John recommended that a new brief case be purchased so that Coupe could carry the new folders with him to meetings.

Tom Dawson presented the 1957 committees. His report is included in this "NEWSLETTER". (The By-Laws Committee began to function

immediately with demands that the By-Laws be followed to the letter and that dues-delinquent members be dropped at once.) Tom also stated that he would like for Richmond to be host to our Turfgrass Conference at some time in the future.

The National Association was up for discussion as usual. Decision was made not to schedule a 1958 Baltimore Conference because of the fact that the National Conference will be held in Washington that year.

It was again suggested that the Mid-Atlantic make membership in the National a requirement for being a member of our Association. There is more and more talk along this line and perhaps some day something will be done about that.

NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Executive Committee: Chairman- Jim Thomas,

Robert Scott, Jr. Francis Coupe John Connolly Jim Reynolds
Bob Shields Paul Weiss, Jr. Adm. Phillips Frank Dunlap
TOM WILSON JIM REID

Membership & By-Laws Committee: Chairman, Paul Weiss, Jr., R. Kearns & B. Elder

Golf Committee: Chairman, Jim Reynolds, Joe Reposkey and Jr. Broadus

Constructive Suggestion & Program Committee: Chairman, Frank Dunlap,
Chas. Hallowell & Adm. Phillips

National Policy Committee: Bob Shields & Jim Reid

Auditing Committee : John Connolly

Nominating Committee: Chairman, H. Allanson, Ruben Hines, Sr. & R. Scott, Jr.

Transportation Committee: G. Cornell, J. Witcher, B. Adams, W. Disney

Publicity Committee: Chairman, B. Leverton (Rich.), C. Nason (Balto.) J. Connolly-D.C.

NEWSLETTER Editors: Jim Thomas and Bob Shields

General Chairman for 1958 Washington Turfgrass Conference.- Bob Shields

NEXT MEETING

For the next meeting, Mr. George Cornell has invited us to his store at 4715 Miller Ave., Bethesda to hold our business meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 1956 at 6 p.m.

If you have never attended a Cornell meeting, then you are in for a surprise and a real treat. You will be surprised at what George can do to his place, to a steak and to your appetite. He says that hospitality, food and fellowship will be the keynote and asks you to come & bring your Chairman.

The Reservation Card mailed to you should be returned at once if you plan to attend so George will know how many to prepare for. If you haven't done it, please fill in the card & mail AT ONCE so your name gets " in the pot".