



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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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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JUNE MEETING

1956

The May meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Virginia on Tuesday May 1st 1956.

There were forty-nine superintendents and guests present and when one considers that Farmington is on the outer southern edge of our territory, this was a very good turnout.

The day was a perfect one and those of us who played golf found everything much to our liking. Tees, fairways, greens and particularly the traps were well groomed. Only a chronic fault finder could have found anything to criticise - and he would have had a difficult time.

Farmington superintendent, Marcus Pleasants, and his able assistant, Frank Gibson deserve much credit for their accomplishments. The golfers at Farmington must be well pleased with their efforts.

President Bob Scott, Jr. was absent from the meeting, so Vice-President Tom Dawson officiated in his absence. After a pleasant social hour and a very appetizing buffet dinner, the business meeting was called to order.

The following members of the Farmington staff were introduced to the Association: Mr. Raymond Loving, General Manager of Farmington, Inc. Mr. Fred Findlay, golf course architect and designer of the Farmington layout; Mr. Joe Cannon, the resident golf professional; Mr. Marcus Pleasants, the club's golf course superintendent and Mr. Frank Gibson - Marcus' assistant.

Also the following visitors were presented to the membership: Mr. Lawrence Leonard, Sports Editor of the Richmond "NEWS - LEADER"; Mr. Austin Sydnor, Toro representative for the Richmond area; Mr. D.P. White, official of the White Oak Country Club, Oak Hill, W.Va. and Mr. Gilbert Shapiro, green committee chairman of Norbeck Country Club, Washington, D.C.

An old friend of our, " Pat " Gardner of Fort Belvoir is back home from a tour of overseas duty and is one of us again. Pat, we are glad that you are back- you have been missed.

The first order of regular business was the report of our Secretary-Treasurer, John Connolly. His report was received and accepted as read. Due to the absence of Bob Shields, Jimmy Thomas reported for the Executive Committee as follows: first, that all applications for membership in the future would be cleared and screened through the Executive Committee; second, The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has agreed to let a part of the proceeds of the Souvenir Program become available for financing future National Turfgrass Conferences and Shows. The latter will be of great benefit to all local groups when they play host to a big show.

Jimmy Thomas, chairman of the Membership Committee, presented the name of Charles W. Beach as an applicant for Associate Membership. Mr. Beach is with the Fairfax Country Club.

GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

The May tournament of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, held at Farmington Country Club, in which 35 members and guests participated, conclusively separated the men from the boys.

Everyone playing on this beautiful layout enjoyed it, despite the fact that scores generally may have indicated otherwise. However the course proved to be exactly what "Brownie" has been looking for, very seldom if ever hitting any of the fairway grasses so as not to damage that beautiful turf, he fashioned a fabulous 11 on No. 11 to win top prize (compliments of Farmington Country Club and Pro Joe Cannon) for his perfect pair of "Naturals".

In the "lesser" portion of the tournament, the results were as follows:

Low Gross

- 1. Bob (Ringer) Hopkins - 72
- 2 S. Zontek - 75
Geo. Cornell
- 3. John Connolly - 83
Adm. Phillips

Guest

- 1. W. Beach - 83
- 2. C.P. White - 91

Low Net

- 1. Bill Schrieber 79-8-71
- 2. Dick Stedman 88-15-73
- 3 E.H. Franklin 85-12-73
- 3. Lewis Lamp 96-22-74
- 4. Frank Haske 93-17-76
E. Parsley 101-25-76
- 5. Jimmy Thomas 90-13-77

Handicap Revisions for the June Tournament are as follows:

L.W. Brown	43	Tom Dawson	17	C.V. Lindsay	33	B. Hopkins	0
L.W. Burkholder	25	E. Franklin	10	E. Parsley	28	D. Stedman	13
G.W. Campbell	19	Lt. Col. Jednoff	11	Adm. Phillips	7	B. Harper	15*
J. Cockreil	6	Roy Jefferies	26	J. Reynolds	5	S. Zontek	1*
J. Connolly	6	R.W. Kerns	33	H. Sheridan	11	P. Gardner	4*
F.W. Coupe	27	Lewis Lamp	21	E. Stanley	7		

*These handicaps at players' own request. Members who do not have the original 1956 handicap list may obtain copy by asking Golf Comm. Chairman.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The guest speaker of the evening, Mr. Lawrence Leonard, Sports Editor of the Richmond, Virginia "NEWS - LEADER" opened his talk on public relations with a tribute to Mr. Fred Findlay, Virginia's own golf course architect. He made reference to the many fine golf courses Fred has designed and constructed in the Mid-Atlantic area. As a further acknowledgment to the veteran architect, he quoted one of his sage sayings - namely - "an ounce of experience is worth a pound of theory."

Mr. Leonard told us that the position of golf course superintendent was an enviable and important post to fill and that this was a fact that the average golfer failed to recognize and realize. That a superintendent could maintain a well kept and beautiful golf course for many seasons, and his efforts would go unnoticed without a word of praise or commendation given. It was taken for granted that good playing conditions were just a matter of course and came about naturally. No work, energy, planning or thought was necessary.

Yet, Mother Nature can conspire against the superintendent and present him with a lot of adverse weather conditions such as extremes of heat and high humidity, too much moisture, severe attacks of disease and heavy insect infestations. All of these a man cannot always cope with, nor can he control them if they continue on for too long a period of time, the speaker said. Then the man in charge becomes a very unpopular individual - all at once everyone seems to know his name - he even falls heir to a few pet ones. He finds himself in the same boat as the athletic coach who is guiding the destiny of a losing team.

Mr. Leonard mentioned a few desirable requisites necessary for the complete success of a golf course superintendent, such as cooperation with and from the proper officials and the desirability of having a long term green committee chairman.

As a parting thought we were told to leave no stone unturned in letting golf players know the work we are doing for the welfare and benefit of their golf game. Mr. Leonard closed his talk by saying that golf writers could well afford to give superintendents more mention and space in their golf columns, that our work along with the daily happenings on a golf course could provide many a human interest story.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

The moderator for the constructive suggestion report was Admiral Phillips. Due to the fine condition of Farmington, most of the discussion centered around the control of Poa Annua in the greens.

The merits of Cohansey bent (C-7) for its ability to withstand invasion from other plants was brought out and stressed. The return to the use of arsenate of lead on putting greens for the control of certain weeds and grasses was discussed. Dr. Daniels of Purdue University advocates lead for definite control of Poa Annua in greens. Dr. O.J. Moer in recent articles has also suggested that it would be advantageous to resume the

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use of the chemical on many putting greens.

Another point brought forth was that the infestation of Poa seed could be controlled by using baskets on approach mowers, so as to catch and remove the clipped seed heads. Also pointed out was that when permanent grasses were deeply rooted, they were better able to compete with Poa Annua. Timely fertilization before and after the appearance of Poa was another method of control used.

One school of thought presented was that where there was a heavy infestation of the grass, the thing to do was to learn to live with it, meet and provide its growth requirements. This is all well and good, if we are in a position to syringe the plants continuously during periods of extreme heat. To successfully maintain Poa, a lot of extra work and vigilance is needed during spells of hot weather.

The tees at Farmington were in good shape. An application of fertilizer, plus aeration would no doubt be of some benefit to them. Also, on some holes additional teeing area could be provided - we noticed this was being done on the tenth and fifteenth holes.

Farmington's traps were well groomed. The question was raised - had they been severely lipped so as to cause lies difficult to play. Sand worked up into the outside edges would correct this.

Fertilize fairways with high nitrogen fertilizer to encourage bermuda during the hot weather ahead.

While it is still early in the season, the playing condition of Farmington is a goal we all could strive for.

The following was taken from "TURF NEWS" published by Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association, L.E. Lambert, Editor :

" Thirty-five to fifty years ago, when a golf club was organized it started out in a small and limited manner. Usually the first year the golf course had temporary greens and tees, no water system and only nine holes. Any sizeable buildings on the property was remodeled for clubhouse and locker facilities. The golf course superintendent (in those days called the greenskeeper) also started in a small and limited way. Sometimes he even came with the property or from the force of some other club. As the club grew in membership and funds, he attained experience to fit him for the duties which each year became larger and more complex. In the course of time, superintendents organized into associations to exchange experiences and thus improved their knowledge and ability to manage turfgrass for golf. Land grant colleges started to give short courses and hold conferences in turfgrass management. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America organized in 1926 was a leader in the education field.

Today, when a golf or country is organized, it is an entirely different manner. Golf course, clubhouse, locker house, swim pool and all facilities are built before the club is opened for the use of the members.