



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

L. R. SHIELDS

JAMES E. THOMAS

Editor Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.

Editor Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

JUNE 1957

The May meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, Salisbury, Maryland on Tuesday, May 2, 1957. There were thirty-five members and guests present. The day was a perfect one for an outing, and those of us who made the long trip were well-rewarded by being able to enjoy ideal weather conditions.

The evening meal was a buffet supper of fried chicken and all of the trimmings, expertly served. We would like to comment on the smooth way in which we were fed. The tickets for the meal had to be purchased in advance and at the buffet table we exchanged our tickets for a plate and then passed on down the service line. This seems to be a good system for the handling of our gatherings and we would suggest that it be tried again.

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Dawson at 6:30 p.m. The following guests were introduced: first, the host superintendent, Russell Kerns who warmly welcomed us to Green Hill. Other visitors from Maryland's eastern shore were: Alex Taylor, golf pro at the Salisbury Elk's Club, and his assistant, Scott Morris. Luther Scott of Pokanate. Harry Hurley, club manager and green committee chairman, Seaford Country Club, Seaford, Delaware. James Kreeger, a director of the Talbot Country Club at Easton, also with him was Campbell Koehn, Talbot's greens committee chairman.

Others who enjoyed the day with us were: Admiral Phillips of Army-Navy Country Club and John O' Donnell, golf pro at the Mt. Pleasant course in Baltimore. Bob Miller of the DuPont Chemical Company and last but by no means least, Charles Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the USGA Green Section.

Two old members of long standing in our association who do not attend our meetings very often were asked to stand up and take a bow. They were Charles Heintzman and Howard McCarty. To them we say - come more often, you are Mid-Atlantic landmarks. We miss you.

(2)

Jim Reynolds' golf committee reported that there were 29 players in the Blind Bogey Tournament. Low gross for the day was shot by George Cornell- he had a 76. Harry Offutt, the home pro, 81. Alec Taylor, 82. Joe Reposkey, 80. Net 80's were had by Pete Cavanaugh, Russ Kern's and Jim Thomas. Each won a prize of three balls apiece.

BITS OF BUSINESS

Paul Weiss, Jr. of the membership committee reported on an application for associate membership from John S. Stough, agronomist with the United States Army. Action on this application will be announced at the next meeting.

The following committee was appointed to make a complete study and revision of the association's By-Laws: Chairman, Reuben Hines, Sr., John Connolly, Hugh McRae, L.R. Shields and James Thomas.

Bob Miller of the Dupont Company was our guest speaker. Bob brought to the meeting a very interesting film entitled "The Du Pont Story". The picture ran for about half an hour and covered the story of the beginning of the great Du Pont Company.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT CHARLES HALLO'ELL, MODERATOR.

As golfers we enjoyed putting on Russ Kerns' well-managed greens at the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. The combination of U-3 bermuda and Poa Annua on the tees gave a firm footing. Reports showed that the U-3 excelled in the late summer and early fall of 1956. Russ realizes that his work is cut out for him to bring the fairways up to the standard of the greens and tees. He talks about increasing his fertilization and using more U-3 bermuda. To accomplish this, he needs a sizable nursery from which he may move strips and plugs to the fairways.

A Mr. Findlay aided in starting 9 holes at Salisbury in 1928 for the club, but by 1938 the club had fallen by the wayside and had again become a privately owned tract of land. It was pastured for 10 years, then rebuilt and played on again, starting with the putting green sites of the original layout. The new greens had Reg. Gidding's touch which was C-1 and C-19 bents. With only a fair start and no good guidance the nine holes were slipping by 1950 and 1951. In October 1951 Russ started to introduce bent plugs, C-19 stolons and some seaside bent seeds into the greens. Golf architect, Alfred Tull, laid out the second nine, six holes of which were rebuilt by Russ in 1953 and the other three in 1954. His construction program included good subsoil drainage covered with a topsoil of sandy loam. C-19 stolons from Reg Giddings were again used.

The records show that during the unpleasant summer of 1955 when it was hard to keep and maintain good greens, the new ones at Green Hill were in exceptional condition. The program of fertilization is a good one; it includes the use of organic nitrogen, Ureaform and a

TURF DISEASES
DR. FRANK HOWARD

The amiable Dr. Frank Howard gave us a very interesting and educational talk on turf diseases, their causes and methods of control. He used illustrated slides along with his discourse to explain the facts he presented.

He told us that merion blue grass was an excellent plant to use when properly fed, but when undernourished, it was subject to leaf spot and kindred diseases. The Doctor stated that for best results, merion should be planted in a mixture with other grasses. He advised us not to use merion unless we were in a position to keep it well fed.

The subject of soil nematodes was touched upon, they are said to exist in all soils. Their presence is not cause for alarm since they do damage only in about one case in twenty. (However, certain areas of Minnesota are reporting the presence of numerous parasitic species of nematodes. On one course in that state, a nemacide was applied to one half of a putting green and the treated half was sufficiently different from the untreated half to be noticeable. So the subject can be a controversial one.)

Dr. Howard strongly stressed the value of a preventative disease control program. He told of the appearance of the new broad spectrum fungicides which will give control of several different diseases that have similar characteristics, yet they are sometimes difficult to identify and distinguish between. A lot of these diseases occur during cool damp weather, and in the seasons of heavy dews. Some of them are dollar spot, leaf spot, curvularia, helminthosporium and melting out. Several of the courses in Baltimore last year found that it was possible to mistake curvularia for dollar spot. The Doctor also told us there were several different organisms which could cause snow mold. However, in this area it does not cause us much concern. Malachite green is advised as a specific cure for pythium or spot blight.

The good doctor referred to bulletin 308, a publication of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island. " Fungus Diseases of Turf Grasses " is the title of the issue. It is possible that a few of these pamphlets are still available and can be obtained by writing to the Rhode Island Station.

A few extracts are quoted from the contribution : Keeping turf healthy is a major chore and to think that grass just grows is no longer sufficient. Damage from disease and insects has become an increasing problem as our knowledge of the conditions favoring the growth of grasses accumulated. As with grasses, the fungi that injure turf are conditioned by many factors. Cultural practices, site and soil play an important role in the outbreak of disease. With few exceptions, vigorous turf is less likely to become permanently injured by disease than poorly managed turf. However, the repeated injury of mowing cultivated turf offers an ideal infection court for many molds".

" From a growth and aesthetic viewpoint the selection of a superior species, variety, or clone of grass is good practice. However, the exclusive use of a grass, because it is " resistant" to a hitherto pathogen, may impart a false, temporary security. The use of mixed populations of species or varieties to minimize the concentration of disease-susceptible individuals is a principle worthy of emphasis. It has been shown to be sound practice to use mixed strains of grasses to offset the ravages of disease."

"Experienced greenkeepers are familiar with the sudden appearance of diseases associated with cool or warm, bright or muggy weather. To those whose major interest is growing grass it is clear that precise knowledge of the climate at the soil surface level will permit prediction of the development of some diseases."

The grasses that make up lawns, fairways and greens are attacked by 100 or more diseases. Just as it is unreasonable to expect any one grass to be immune to them all, so it is to expect one fungicide to control them all. It is imperative that injuries be correctly identified in order that intelligent preventive or curative measures be applied."

Dr. Howard's message was enjoyed by all of us: his talk brought out many fine points that will enable us to practice better disease control methods in the future. The only fault we have to find with the Doctor is - that he is too far away from us. We could use his advice and suggestions quite often. His smile and jovial nature is quite contagious and that is one disease we would all like to have.

NATIONAL NOTES

A letter from National Secretary , Agar M. Brown, asking for photographs of your golf course is reproduced below. Here is your opportunity to show a part of your job to National members from all over the country.

St. Charles, Ill.
June 5, 1957

Dear Bob:

In the souvenir program which we plan to publish and distribute at the Washington meeting next February, we would like to have pictures of as many Washington area golf courses as possible. In previous years we have used aerial pictures, pictures of a favorite hole, club houses, etc.

To obtain these pictures, may I ask that you inform the membership of the Mid-Atlantic Association to obtain 8" x 10" glossy photos that can be used in the souvenir program. Each photo should be accompanied by a paragraph or two describing the picture, course, when built, the name of superintendent; and any other interesting information. For best appearance these photos should be taken while there is plenty of foliage. They can be sent direct to this office

(5)

or to you as general chairman. If requested we will return undamaged any of the photos.

I am sure you will get good cooperation from your group if you ask them early enough.

Best regards,

Agar N. Brown, Secretary

Correspondence with Mrs. Mary Jane McCaffree, Secretary to Mrs. Eisenhower assures a visit to the White House for the lady guests at the Washington National meeting next February. Whether Mrs. Eisenhower can meet the group won't be decided until some time in January when the First Lady's schedule is made up for February.

IN THE MAIL

TIDE WATER TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
23 Lynnrivier Drive
Route 1, Lynnhaven, Virginia

June 14, 1957

Dear Jim:

Mr. Henson Maples has tentatively agreed to come to our December meeting (information via Mr. Hallowell.) You had suggested the joint meeting of our two associations for a Friday in December. The date of Friday December 6th 1957, would be agreeable with us, and the location is James River Country Club, Newport News, Virginia. Please advise if this arrangement is satisfactory.

Mr. Hallowell advises that V.P.I., Blacksburg, Virginia, has a turf field day slated for July 11, 1957. Trust your association and green chairmen will descend "en masse" upon Blacksburg that day, so that the State Agricultural School will visibly see the great interest in turf management.

This association expects you to ask for help on the National Convention in Washington next winter.

With best wishes to you and the Mid-Atlantic superintendents, I remain,

Very truly yours,

S/Harry J. McSloy
Secretary

(6)

NEXT MEETING

For the July meeting the association has been invited by Superintendent Ernie Stanley to visit Quantico Golf Club at the Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia on July 11, 1957.

Festivities will get underway with golf and inspection of the golf course at 12 noon, followed by a short social period at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and our regular business will follow.

DATE -- JULY 11, 1957

PLACE -- QUANTICO GOLF CLUB
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

TIME -- Golf 12 noon, DST
Social period , 5:30
Dinner , 6 p.m.
Meeting , following dinner

HOST * Ernie Stanley

DIRECTIONS:

From Washington and Baltimore--

Follow Route 1 south to Triangle, Virginia, then turn left to Quantico Marine Base

From Richmond --

North on U.S. 1 to Triangle, Virginia, then turn right

Ask for golf course at sentry gate