



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Beaver Creek Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland was the site of the September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Messrs. John Young and Bert Yingling owners and operators of the club, were our hosts for the day and our fellow member, Clarence Jett, is the superintendent in charge of the grounds.

The design and construction of the golf course can be credited to Reuben Hines, Sr. Reuben has created a pleasing layout over rolling terrain and the property is well adapted for the playing of golf. From the championship tees the course measures 6,867 yards, the yardage from the white markers is 6,553 yards. Both lengths play to a par of 72. The distance from the red tees, used by the ladies, is 6,157 yards.

The first and tenth holes are parallel fairways, each averaging over 400 yards in length, and they separate the property into two sections. The South portion containing the first nine holes and the North half the second nine holes. Both nines finish at the clubhouse, with the ninth green situated in close proximity to the tenth tee.

All tees are large and of simple construction. The greens are planted to C-7 (Cohansey) strain of creeping bent grass. They have good surface drainage and are gently undulating with every inch of their surface being available for cupping locations.

There is still considerable work necessary to bring the fairways into good playing condition. They were seeded in the Fall of 1958 and while the stand of grass was still in the seedling stage, a flash rain storm caused severe erosion damage to the newly planted areas. This, followed by a hot dry summer, has been an added handicap to the establishment of a good sod.

With the arrival of cool weather the owners intend to fertilize liberally, reseed all thin areas, practice soil erosion control where needed by using mulching materials, strips of sod and board checks.

When the course does finally come into its own, from a superintendent's viewpoint, it will be a dream come true. There is plenty of air circulation over the property, the grounds drain well, and most of the contours lend themselves to machine maintenance. Reuben surely had his fellow superintendent in mind when he built the course, nor did he forget the interests of his employers.

As full clubhouse facilities were not yet available, after finishing playing golf we retired to a nearby restaurant for dinner and a short meeting. During the meeting slides were shown describing the different stages of construction work performed in building the course. To our hosts we express thanks and appreciation for their hospitality and we wish them the best of success in their golf venture. We wish success also to the newly acquired superintendent of Beaver Creek, Mr. Clarence Jett.

We were happy to see Clarence Lindsay of Fountainhead Country Club in attendance. Clarence as you know has been unable to attend association meetings because of the illness of his wife.

Tom Dawson is the proud winner of the first place in a Toro sales contest. The prize was a boat and motor and an all-expense paid trip to the Toro plant in Minneapolis. Congratulations to you, Tom.

OPEN LETTER TO JOHN YOUNG

Mr. John Young
Beaver Creek Country Club
Hagerstown, Maryland

September 5, 1959

Dear John,

If you don't mind I'll put in my two cents' worth of recommendations on how to go about over-seeding your fairways at Beaver Creek.

You are on the right track because you know that September is the best time to seed and you are making preparations to do the job.

It seems to me your big problem will be in getting the seed in good contact with the soil. With the ground as hard and dry as it is, I'm afraid your alfalfa drill may not penetrate deep enough to make an opening for the seed. If it doesn't, then use a farm disc set straight to make shallow cuts. Run over with the disc once from tee to green, then go over again across the fairway to make sure the soil is open. Come right in behind with a chain link harrow to break up lumps and smooth.

This may sound like harsh treatment but sometimes we have to get rough. If players complain, then close the nine holes you are working on and let them just play nine. This job has to be done and done right now.

With the fairways cut up you are ready to seed. The alfalfa drill will work now or you could use a Brillion seeder or cyclone seeder. Here again I'd divide the seed and go over the fairway in two directions to assure even distribution. CAUTION: don't get too far ahead with the discing operation or one rain before seeding will mean it has to be done over.

You surely must have some merion growing from last year's seed, so for this year's seeding rate I'd use half of the amount used last year or about ~~44~~ to the acre. Seed when the soil is dry.

If the ground is hard, rolling won't do much good, so in that case, water as soon as the seeding job is finished then, if you want to, roll it the next day. Don't let a sprinkler run long enough to start water to running, but instead water lightly and more often. Keep up the watering until the next rain - then as needed after that.

If you have not already fertilized (I hope you have), then do it before you disc and then water in lightly. If the ground is hard you could have the fertilizer spread by truck, but don't wait for anything. Remember what happened last year when you waited to seed?

If you can't get the fertilizer on now then go ahead and seed. You can fertilize a month later when the seed is up by using a material that won't burn, Milorganite would be my choice.

Those washes in the fairways look bad to you I know, but remember, 90% of them wouldn't show if you had good grass coverage. Stick to your seeding job, then when it's finished go ahead on the washouts. Seeding can only be done now, but ditch repairs can go on all winter.

You and Bert are to be commended on the good job you have done in building and getting your course into play so soon. Let's hope that next year you can take a little time out for golf.

Bob Shields.