



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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JULY 1960

SEVENTY-ONE MEMBERS AND GUESTS attended the June 7 meeting at Turfvalley Country Club near Baltimore. Host, ex-sailor John Burt, had the place ship-shape and shining from bow to stern. The 28 who played golf found good surfaces on greens, tees and fairways and with the exception of a few comments on broadleaf weed had only praise for this newly opened course.

President Frank Dunlap called the meeting to order at 8:30 after a roast beef dinner was thoroughly enjoyed and introduced the following guests: Dr. E. L. Fry, Jr., Greens Chairman; Charlie Bassler, Golf Professional; Ray Rossetti, the club manager and Charles K. Hallowell of the USGA Green Section.

A LIVELY DISCUSSION on the features of the course followed in the form of the Constructive Suggestion Report. Greens had a good cover of bent that looked and putted well. Some thought that color could have been a little better, even though a total of 3# of Nitrogen had been applied this season. Too, recent heavy rains could have leached out some of the plant food. The general opinion on fertility was that enough Nitrogen had been used and the greens would come through in good shape if the already established program were continued. Briefly this program consists of using 8-10 # of actual Nitrogen per thousand square feet, applied at various intervals (about every two weeks) during the growing season.

Greens topdressing should be continued to true-up the putting surface and should be done in conjunction with 4-way aeration to help keep thatch under control. Topdressing material should be sterilized to keep undesirable plant seeds from infesting the green. Turfvalley is fortunate in having a good soil mix under the greens and every effort should be made to retain and improve that soil. Use a good grade of coarse, washed sand, free of silt and clay, in the topdressing mix, and try to match the soil mix used by the builder.

The grass on the tees was very good, but some golfers said the surfaces were uneven making a good stance hard to find. Topdressing would level the ground for better footing but would hardly be worth while now that cool season grasses are nearing the dormant period. Some U-3 Bermuda grass planted on the open sunny tees would give much more satisfactory teeing surfaces during the hot summer months. Consult back issues of the "NEWSLETTER" for methods of planting Bermuda grass.

HOW TO BUILD A TEE was discussed and brought out these comments: Make the tee large enough to accommodate the expected traffic. Par three tees should be one third larger because iron shots necessitate more frequent changing of tee markers. The front of the tee should be slightly higher than the back (some said 6" per 100 feet, others said 8" per 100) and should be about 2" higher down the center for drainage. Tees are usually elevated above the existing area but should not stand out like a loaf of bread. Some part of the tee should blend into the original terrain. Be sure that all

sides are gentle slopes for easy mowing with tractor drawn equipment. Give some thought to the preparation of the soil used on the tee surface. Some sand and humus here will make future maintenance easier. Be sure surface is smooth before planting. After grass is established, an occasional topdressing will smooth the surface and help divots' scars to heal.

Fairways of Fescue, bent and Merion Blue looked very good. Some broad leaf weeds were visible, but were not too objectionable. If a program to eliminate them is inaugurated proceed with caution as bent and Fescue are susceptible to 2,4-D. Perhaps a test could be run in some out of the way corner of a fairway when there is ample moisture in the soil and growth is rapid. Some fairways are wider than necessary and could be narrowed considerably. The Golf Committee could help in this matter by determining just what width is right for Turfvalley golfers. Less fairway area would mean less mowing time and therefore less interference with play.

TURFGRASS TRANSCRIPT READY. The transcript of the proceedings of the 1960 Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference at Baltimore are now ready for distribution. Those who attended the Conference will receive from the Secretary a copy of this publication as a part of their registration. Other may obtain a copy by forwarding the sum of \$4.00 to the Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Doerer, 1027 Potomac Ave., Apt. A-2, Alexandria, Virginia. To save the cost of handling and mailing, Tommy will distribute the brochure at the next meeting.

Also available from the Secretary are a few Mid-Atlantic lapel pins for Chapter members. These attractive pins sell for \$3.00

NEW MEMBERS. We are proud to receive into Chapter Membership: Woodrow E. Pitman of Greenspring Valley Hunt Club, Garrison, Maryland, and Edmund B. Ault of the golf architect firm of Ault and Jamison, Silver Spring, Maryland. These men are Associate Members of the Mid-Atlantic and hold membership in the National Association.

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS. Chatham, New Jersey. 18-holes - 6,700 yards - to be built at once. Needs qualified Superintendent. Two story house on property. Contact - Mr. James L.D. Roser, Chairman Greens, Ffarmount Country Club, P.O. Box 334, Chatham, New Jersey.

Parris Island Marine Base, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, P.O. Box 55, Parris Island, S.C. 18-holes-Superintendent - experienced. Major Harry D. French.

NEXT MEETING. Superintendent Clarence W. Lindsay of Hountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland has requested us to give you the following information on the next regular meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter which will be held at Fountain Head July 12, 1960.

Place - Fountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland

Golf - 12 noon (lunch obtainable at the Club)

Social Period - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Compliments of the Club)

Dinner - Fountain Head Country Club (Coats and ties required)

Meeting - Following Dinner. Hosts: Supt. Clarence W. Lindsay and Board of Governors of Fountain Head Country Club. Directions: The Club is located on Rt. #11 (1) 1/2 mile North of City limits. Watch for club sign. Turn right to the Club.