



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

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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