



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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JUNE 1960

BALTIMORE COUNTRY CLUB WAS THE SETTING for the May meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. President Frank Dunlap was host superintendent. Golf got under way at 12 noon at the Five Farms Course near Lutherville, Maryland. Many who did not play walked over the course admiring the landscaping work of the previous superintendent, Bob Scott, Sr., who kept one eye on the grass and the other on the trees and shrubs during the many years he was on the job. The result is a beautiful view from any direction at any spot. The groves of dogwoods were most outstanding at this time of year. Mr. Dunlap conducted a tour (via carts) to explain some of the tee and trap work accomplished during the past year. The work of placing new traps to the rear of #17 green was interesting to all who saw it.

The meeting was held at Roland Park, the "in-town" course of Baltimore Country Club. President Dunlap got under way at 7:45 after a delicious chicken and ham dinner. Seventy-one members and guests attended. Guests introduced were: John Emick, Chairman Golf and Greens Committee of Baltimore Country Club and President of Maryland State Golf Assoc., Walter Romans, Golf Professional at Baltimore Country Club, Mr. Charles Fishman, Chairman Greens Committee at Nerbeck., Col. A.H. Machelm formerly at Fort Belvoir, now at Aberdeen and Charles Hallowell of the U.S.G.A., Harry Dreisen, owner of Mt. Vernon Country Club being built by Russell Roberts and Frank Haske near Mt. Vernon, Virginia., Bob Wiley of Aerethatch, Pete McDonough of Tere and Lee Cleary of Cleary Products.

GUEST SPEAKER WAS MR. GEORGE TAYLOR, Golf Editor of the Baltimore News Post and long time friend and booster of the superintendents in this area. George opened by saying he grew up with golf and golf course people and mentioned Bob Scott, Sr. and his son and brothers in golf in Baltimore as well as Dave Edgar and Bill Schrieber. To improve public relations George said the superintendents should "sell themselves". Be seen at special golf events, accept invitations to attend golf functions and be ready to explain the work of the superintendent at any time. Let it be known by your actions and deeds and your ability to speak on the subject that you know more about your business than anyone else does. Some members have yet to be convinced that the superintendent is needed - due partly to the fact that the superintendent has not kept the member informed on what he is doing, what he would like to do and what his problems are. The superintendent himself can go a lot further in letting others know that he is important. Not with a big sign or words to that effect, but as mentioned before - it's actions and deeds that count.

Mr. Taylor suggested a Superintendent, Pro, President and Greens Chairman Tournament at one of our regular meetings to improve public relations among these people. To get to know the club President better, ask him about his lawn and help him with the know-how to improve it. For a little publicity call the local golf writer and let him know what you are doing. Advise him of any changes contemplated or actually made with the reasons for change. Some day some enterprising superintendent might come up with a good written explanation of just how a player should properly repair a ball mark on a green or possibly design a tool with which to do the job. A superintendent could write his thoughts on the old controversy of ripple sole shoes vs. spikes. Any golf writer would like to have articles of this type anytime. Mr. Taylor closed by saying the Mid-Atlantic has made

great strides in the last few years and urged those present to continue to strive for better turf through better superintendents.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT . This discussion period of the meeting was led by Committee Chairman Bob Shields acting as moderator. Starting with the usual procedure of greens first, the problem of Poa Annuua in greens came up immediately since this grass shows up with a light color at this time of year. Mr. Dunlap stated the Poa had been in the greens a long time and up until last year had never been a real problem because there was enough bent to take over when the Poa went out. This situation seemed to prevail in most of the Mid-Atlantic area. When Poa Annuua is with us it's good and when it has lived its life cycle and is gone it's very bad. So we are back to the old question - is it " Friend or Foe "? - brought up by Dr. Fred Grau nearly 20 years ago and never really answered. Discussion of ways to keep it out of greens brought out these points: 1. Don't expose the soil at Poa germination time by aerating. 2. Try to keep seed from the collar area from getting into the green by removing collar clippings. 3. Plug it out with the cup cutter and relace with bent sod from the nursery. An idea once mentioned but not fully tested is to spray the green with DSMA or PMA when Poa is germinating. The theory is that since these chemicals will kill seedlings it might kill the young Poa Annuua. ( Editor's Note : Better try this on the nursery first. ) There was much more discussion on the problem of Poa Annuua with no final conclusions reached. For further reading on the subject we refer you to any turfgrass publication. They all carry articles on Poa. When fairways were mentioned, U-3 bermuda grass came up again but since this subject was covered rather extensively at the Norbeck meeting and in the May issue of the "NEWSLETTER" the Moderator closed the discussion.

MORE ON U-3. Received too late for the May " NEWSLETTER " was the following letter from Mr. P.W. Le Duc of Argyle Country Club commenting on the use of U-3 bermuda for fairways: " Sorry to have delayed in answering your letter and your question regarding the use of bermuda grass in fairways at Argyle Country Club. The project has been discussed pro and con at our club for a number of years. Sometime back a number of our Directors overheard a discussion on the use of the grass in this section between Jack Phillips and myself. Jack, you know, was a staunch advocate for bermuda and started introducing it at the Army-Navy Country Club sometime ago. I have been afraid of the use of bermuda because of the possibility of the cycle of cold winters returning, such as Washington used to have prior to the 1920's. There was no local bermuda around Washington, to speak of, at that time. For a number of years after I had built the Argyle course I was able to keep our fairways in good shape by cutting the blue grass at a height of 1-1/4" to 1-1/2". However, about four years ago, due to the pressure of our better golfers, we reduced the cut to less than an inch with the result that the blue grass and Fescue have gradually gone out letting the Poa Annuua come in. After seeing some of the nice fairways of bermuda at some of the other courses, particularly #18 at Burning Tree, our Directors felt that we should follow the trend. I have finally agreed to it in view of the fact that some of the strains are being used successfully as far north as Philadelphia. Also, by using the method you described at the Baltimore Turf Conference for introducing the stolens, costs can be kept low. " - Percy W. Le Duc.

IN THE MAIL . To the Members of Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association : " It is hard to express to you how much it has meant to me to be able to enjoy the wonderful floral arrangement sent to me here at the hospital. Everyone enjoyed the freshness and the beauty of the flowers. My thanks to each and everyone of you. I've had visits from Jim and Ruth Thomas, Frank Dunlap and Jim Reid, calls from Dick Watson, Bill Wright and Bob Shields. I've talked with Bob Adams and George Cornell. The attention has been very good for my morale. After nearly losing my left leg to a vascular collapse following

surgery on April 11, and after a urinary tract infection a week later, I've made steady progress. Now I'm disgustingly healthy, just lying flat to let my backbone heal ( spinal bone graft ). My cast goes on May 5 - then 2 months I can lie or stand with crutches ( can't sit ). After that I expect to be able to play golf again. Thanks again to all of you for your thoughts and expressions."Sincerely - Fred Grau.

Fred says he will be in the hospital until Mid-July and we are certain he would like to hear from you. His mailing address is : National Orthopedic Hospital, Room C-15 , Wakefield Annex, Arlington, 6, Va. The phone number is OTis 4-6700 and visiting hours are 2-3 and 7-8.

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS . Glenn Dale Golf Club at Glenn Dale, Maryland is in need of a superintendent to maintain their 18-hole golf course. Contact Ray Shields at the club or Phone Cedar - 6- 6666.

Paul Weiss, Jr. has left Sparrows Point Country Club and has accepted the position of superintendent at Shawnee- On -The- Delaware in Pennsylvania. Sparrows Point is in need of a superintendent and asks those interested to contact : Thomas K. Lankford, Assistant to General Manager, Sparrows Point Division, Bethlehem Steel Corp., Sparrows Point, Md.

CHANGING JOBS . In every issue of the Mid-Atlantic " NEWSLETTER " there are notices of job openings listing the names of people who are interested in securing the services of a golf course superintendent. This information is published primarily as a service to the members of this Chapter, but it is also intended to build up the prestige of the Mid-Atlantic by benefiting the clubs seeking employees. This service will be continued because we think it right and proper for a man to want to better his position or standing in life and we will present every opportunity for him to do so. If you want to make a change ( you will face many temptations in the near future ), first of all make certain you are qualified for the new job so you won't end up a failure and lose some of your present standing. If you are just moving for more money then give your present employer at least the opportunity to bid for your services before going too far toward the new job. He is entitled to that loyalty from you because you are still on his payroll. Be careful tho' not to make him think you are presenting him with the threat to leave if he doesn't come across with more dough. He may meet your demands at that time, but then when the other job has been filled he could fire you out into the cold with no immediate job to go to. Once you have made up your mind to leave and have told the new employer you will take the job, then take it - don't turn back. A good idea when changing jobs is to talk to other superintendents. Your Chapter officers can help here by giving advice that will make the position much more valuable to you and you to the club. Our complaint on this subject is that men are changing jobs without notifying their last employer. Such discourteous action is deplored by this Chapter and every effort will be made to stop it before discredit is heaped on all superintendents. Any club putting such a man on their payroll is asking for the same type of treatment because he won't last and will leave without notice when he is needed most. Clubs can help by insisting that any man they hire give notice to his employer before leaving. One recent case involves a man holding the worthy title of golf course superintendent, but hardly qualified to be a superintendent's helper. This individual has held four superintendent's jobs in the last six or seven years. He left three of these jobs by simply walking off without notice and was fired from one by a self-respecting employer who got fed up with him. Superintendents are accustomed to workers who do not report for work, but when it happens without good cause they lose respect for the man and will never rehire him. A superintendent committing such a deed should lose the respect of all other superintendents as well as the title and should never be recommended by a member of this Chapter for another position.

NEXT MEETING . PLACE : Turf Valley , Baltimore Md. DATE ; June 7, 1960, GOLF: 12 noon  
Social Hour : 5-6 p.m. DINNER : 6 p.m. MEETING : Following dinner. HOST: John Burt.

FROM OUR BALTIMORE CORRESPONDENT . "Dear Bob: The attached newspaper clipping may or may not be of interest. Your Baltimore Public Relations Dept. ( mainly me ) got Jim Wild's ear and mentioned it so he thought it worth a line or two. John Burt didn't have much to say. Now on the directions to Turf Valley, I rode this route myself. From Southern Maryland, stay on Rt. #301 and watch for signs of " Keep right for Beltway & Rt. #3 - Keep left for tunnel " Turn right on Beltway and follow signs to Rt. #40 West. Beltway ends on Rt. #40 West exactly 10 miles from right turn off #301. Take West exit for Rt. #40 West exactly 10 miles and Turf Valley on right. Baltimore Beltway can be reached from Baltimore Washington Expressway by turning right on Baltimore Beltway North sign. From Hagerstown and Frederick, Turf Valley 3 miles beyond Rt. #32 connection.

John L. Milan, 3216 Carlisle Av.

Editor's Note : Translation - West thru Baltimore on U.S. 40 to Club sign on right - 10 miles out. The clipping mentioned above is reproduced below with grateful appreciation to golf writer Jim Wild of the BALTIMORE SUN for these fine words published May 16, 1960. John Burt is to be commended for having earned this attention which brings credit to all superintendents.

OFF THE TEE

By James E. Wild

Next to army supply officers we know of no one that gets more squawks than a golf course superintendent, especially at the beginning of the season. There is one superintendent in the Baltimore area, however, that seems to have a secret. He is a new one at that. Over the past week-end, John Burt at Turf Valley, was the recipient of a testimonial tournament by the members. The reason being that they appreciate the fine shape that the new course is in at this time of the year. Naturally no one could be responsible for it but John. The only deduction one can make is that either Turf Valley's membership is one of the nicest or John is one of the best greens superintendents. We happen to know some more greens superintendents, and good ones at that, who would like the same consideration for their efforts. Generally speaking theirs is a tough life with the amount of play going on and the small amount of time they have to get their work done.

GOLF COMMITTEE. The Golf Committee pleads that as many members as possible participate in golf at our meetings. We must have at least 3 scores for computing your handicap for the annual tournament next fall.

BY THE BOARD . The following men were accepted for membership by the Board of Directors at its last regular meeting on May 3 at Baltimore Country Club; Wm. Clarence Jett, Associate, National; Beaver Creek Country Club, Hagerstown, Md., Scott Morris, Regular, National; Elks Golf Club, Slaisbury, Md; Sheldon Betterly, Associate, National, Chantilly National Golf Club, Cmaterville, Va.; Lee Charles Dieter, Associate, National, Bolling Air Force Base Rec. Center, Rixeyville, Va.

As of May 1, the following regular members were dropped from the membership list for non-payment of dues: Jack Athey, Kenwood,; Howard McCarty, Pine Valley; Cliff Olinger, Great Oak Lodge; Pat Sheridan, Annapolis Country Club. Seven associate members were also dropped.

COMING EVENTS . July Meeting - Fountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown, Md. July 12, Clarence Lindsay, Host.

August Meeting - Sparrows Point Country Club, Sparrows Point, Md. Aug. 2.

RETURN YOUR DINNER RESERVATION CARD. WEAR YOUR TIE.