



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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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 Annua 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 Annua 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 Annua. (Editor's Note : Better try this on the nursery first.) There was much more discussion on the problem of Poa Annua 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 Annua 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