

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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MAY 1960

NORBECK MEETING . The April 1960 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter was held at Norbeck Country Club, Rockville, Maryland on April 5 with seventy members and guests present.

After a steak dinner, President Frank Dualap called the meeting to order and introduced the host superintendent, Bill Wright; club manager Ray Kyber; Charles Fishman, chairman of the Greens Committee; Harry Hais, Golf Committee chairman and Henry Giradi. Other notables introduced were : Charles Hallowell, Director Mid-Atlantic USGA Green Section; Louis Knight, Secretary-Treasurer of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association; Major Paul Harris, Golf Officer and Major George Renault, Inspector General's Office, Fort Belvoir Golf Club; R.J. Sepulveda, Greenschairman from Bethesda Country Club; Gilbert Schapiro, owner of Laurel Pines Golf Club and a Past President of Norbeck Country Club.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT . Due to the all-day rain, inspection of the golf course was confined to the greens around the club house, but all agreed that the greens seen had received the best of early spring care.

Discussion of Bermuda Grass for fairway planting in this area brought out the fact that some members are in favor and some against.

These against mentioned : (1) Winter color. Meaning spring color when everything is green except bermuda. (2) Possibility of fairway grass creeping into bent grass greens. (3) Almost impossible to change back to other grasses after using bermuda.

Superintendents in favor said : (1) Winter color is over rated and not too important when good bermuda turf has been established. (2) There is green grass in July, August and September when everything else is brown. (3) It will withstand the cart traffic. (4) It will creep and cover divot scars faster than cool season grasses. (5) It will compete favorably against weeds - clover, crabgrass, pea-annua. (6) Insects and diseases are not problems on bermuda in this area. (7) Golfers like the half inch cut which other fairway grasses won't tolerate. (8) It requires no artificial irrigation after once established.

Jim Reid of Suburban Club in Baltimore is not in favor of bermuda grass fairways and has this to say on the subject: " At our Norbeck meeting in April there was considerable discussion for and against using Bermuda grass on fairways. Several club officials showed their interest, but I am sure they were quite confused about the subject after hearing the various opinions expressed. U-3 Bermuda is a good grass and definitely has a place on some golf courses. Some superintendents think very highly of it. There is no finer grass in my opinion for tees, but it cannot stand winter traffic. Therefore, I move off the tees during the dormant season onto tees covered with Blue Grass. I wait until the bermuda has started to green before putting the markers back in the spring. This is usually about the first of May. Where U-3 Bermuda is thick no weeds will grow and in winter you have nothing but a gray, dead looking fairway. At the present time our golf course is a beautiful, lush green; both fairways and rough. Where we have patches of U-3 Bermuda, they look horrible in contrast.