



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

It is a great honor to be elected President of the Mid-Atlantic Association and I wish to thank all fellow members for their confidence in me.

Another Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference has gone by and I had many people come to me and express their thanks for having such a successful meeting. This credit should go to all those who worked to make it so.

In today's world of constant change, today's Golf Course Superintendent is no exception. Things are coming in our direction so fast that if the old routines are continued, many will drop by the wayside. This is the time of year to recharge and plan for the coming season so that we can cope with the demands of Space Age Golfers.

Here's hoping all members from our Association will attend as many Educational Conferences as possible, especially the NATIONAL at Houston.

Russell W. Kerns

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As president (Lame Duck) I would like to express my appreciation to the directors and members for making this a successful year for the Mid-Atlantic Association. The directors performed well in the execution of their normal duties and also recorded our past progress in order to better plan for the future.

Thanks also to the many members that helped make this association move ahead and special thanks to the members who were our hosts for our regular meetings this year.

A word for all of us in the new year, let us not be DIFFIDENT in our association matters.

It has been with great pride that I have served as your president, I look forward to helping our new president Russell Kerns in anyway I can.

Bob Milligan

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE

Well, another year beginning and another very successful conference in Baltimore. There were 187 member and guests in attendance and from all the remarks heard and overheard, all was complimentary.

The main comment seemed to be that everyone was pleased with the balance of superintendents versus the university and technical people.

A note of thanks goes out to all the people who participated in the programs, the sponsors of the social hour, the U. of Md. who worked on various parts of the program, to the program committee, Dr. Langford and George Thompson.

WASHINGTON — NEXT YEAR?

There has been discussion and thought of moving the Mid-Atlantic conference to Washington, D.C. next year. The main thought behind this is that by the program being in D.C., we might pick up some people who don't or can't make the trip to Baltimore. The conference would not be held permanently in Washington, but rather be alternated between there and Baltimore every other year. Facilities are much more available and suitable in D.C. and some investigation has been made along these lines. Discussion will no doubt be heard on this, but consider all the aspects before forming an opinion.

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CERTIFIED PROS?

The following article was published in Golf World, December 16, 1969 and has a lot of good information as far as both pros and superintendents are concerned. In the first place, it should make the professional group stronger and more solid in as much as it clearly defines the "can's and can't do's" of their organization. In the second place, it may give our own organization an idea or two along the lines of the certification bug that is in everyone's ear. The PGA seems to have done an excellent job on their new classification structure and should be commended for coming up with a seemingly sound group of ideas which should satisfy most of their members.

To be sure, when we are in Houston in February, you can depend on hearing a lot of talk about certification and rightly so. This seems to be a must, as well as some other possible changes in by-laws, member classifications, and other areas if we are to keep abreast of our cohorts in the golfing world.

It is going to be a difficult job for our group just as you can be sure it was a difficult job for the delegates of the PGA to draw up and validate a slate of requirements to suit the majority of their members. But any undertaking of this size and stature cannot be accepted by all the members of any group of this size due to the fact that regardless how large or how small the membership may be, there is always a certain number that will never be satisfied on any plan presented. This is why committees and boards of directors and delegations are set up. These groups are supposed to represent the entire membership by taking different ideas and thoughts from different individuals as well as their own groups.

So when we go to Texas, try to have an idea or two in mind to suggest concerning our own certification program. The more ideas we submit to the certification committee, the more possibilities they will be able to work from and this may lead to a solution much sooner than we ever anticipated. Please read the following carefully and see what comes to mind.

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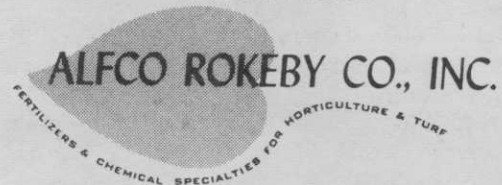
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MASTER PRO AT HEAD OF PGA CLASSES

Delegates to the 53rd annual meeting of the PGA of America agreed to a broad overhaul of the membership classification structure, abandoning the time-honored letter designations and substituting categorical identifications.

At the same time, they voted to create a new elite classification of "Master Professional" and to restore the apprentice concept for young men advancing towards membership.

Meanwhile, in parallel action, the Executive Committee approved a proposal to launch a golf club certification program. These certificates of approval will be awarded to clubs meeting PGA physical standards and where the PGA head professional is employed under a contract acceptable to his Section.

Abandoned now, effective September 1, 1970, are the membership class designations "A" through "J". In their place is an entirely new membership classification structure. Essentially, it provides for two routes to the position of "head professional" (the old Class A designation). On the one hand, an aspiring professional may apply for apprentice status. This is defined as "a registration program for golf professionals who are not working toward PGA but who are working toward membership in the association."

After acquiring at least six credits toward membership and completing Business School 1, the aspirant receives his Apprentice I card and becomes eligible to attend Sectional meetings. After acquiring 24 credits and completing Business School II, he receives his Apprentice II card.

From the Apprentice classification, the candidate may become either an assistant (if employed as a shop assistant or teacher under a head professional), or an associate (if he assumes a position of head professional without meeting the minimum requirements for this classification). The assistant also may move into the associate category under similar circumstances. Each may then qualify as head professional after serving a full year as an associate and pass a comprehensive examination. The head professional, of course, has all the rights and privileges of full membership.

Under the terms of a "Grandfather Clause", all present Class A members not subject to transfer classification will automatically become "head professionals".

A second route to head professional is open to full-time playing professionals. From Approved Tournament Player, as they become eligible for membership, the tournament regular becomes a PGA Playing Professional. Subsequently, when he chooses to end his playing career and accept a resident club position, he moves into the Associate Professional category for a period of one year until he completes the minimum requirements for graduation to Head Professional.

Meanwhile, a cluster of "Transfer Classifications" were set up to provide for members who, for one reason or another, do not fit what, for want of a better word, might be called "active" classifications. These included:

Affiliate—Members actively engaged in golf capacities other than at a club or course. This category would include all present Class B members. Affiliates will not have a vote, nor can they attend executive sessions, endorse membership applications or hold office.

Professional Emeritus—Members in good standing for 25 years who continue in golf activities other than at a club or course. It would include past presidents not qualifying as "Master", "Head" or "Playing" professionals, and those who own or lease clubs on courses or driving ranges. They would have all rights and privileges.

Inactive—For members in good standing for 20 years who are incapacitated by illness or injury, or those unemployed for a period of one year who are recommended for this category by their Section, or those unable to meet the obligations of membership and are recommended for transfer by the Section, and those who leave the profession (with a 2-year limitation applied here). Their rights and privileges limited to insurance and subscription to The Professional Golfer.

Retired—Members for 25 years who are 65 or over and retired from the profession. Rights and privileges limited as for the Inactive class.

Honorary—Those accorded this status by a vote of the delegates in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the game and to the association. They will be privileged to attend meetings and to vote on matters referred to them by the Executive Committee.

However, the most significant action of the delegates at Scottsdale dealt with the creation of the new role of Masters Professional. He will be defined under the constitution as "a golf professional who: (1) as a PGA member, has served in the capacity of a head professional for a minimum period of ten years, (2) has satisfactorily completed all PGA training programs, and (3) meetings other requirements as prescribed by the Executive Committee."

These "other requirements" have been spelled out by the Executive Committee in these terms:

He must complete all PGA Home Study programs.

He must have demonstrated his playing ability, at present or at some time in the past (the equivalent of 5-handicap under the USGA handicapping system) or the ability to break 80 consistently on a regulation course under reasonable playing conditions.

He must submit an acceptable thesis on golf instruction.

He must have attended an Executive Management Seminar, and continue attendance at these at least once every three years.

He must pass an initial examination.

He must participate actively in Sectional affairs.

In other important actions by the delegates, it was agreed that time spent at approved Par-3 courses will count toward membership eligibility. A recognized Par-3 course was defined as one which "consists of no less than nine holes and driving range with a minimum hole length of 55 yards and a total yardage of at least 1,000 yards for nine holes and 2,000 yards for 18 holes. It must have at least 14 acres in total course area, exclusive of clubhouse, golf shop and parking area, must be planted in grass but may provided artificial tee mats. It must have a professional golf shop located on the course and be operated by a Class A (head professional) member."

The delegates also voted to grant eight credits toward membership for all degree graduates of an accredited 4-year college or university and make them eligible to apply for membership after being employed in the golf profession for 32 months.

Action at the urging of the Northern California Section, the delegates added a clause to the Code of Ethics which would make anyone liable to disciplinary action who accepts a position without first consulting with the officers of the Section or accepting a position which doesn't comply with the job requirements of the Section in which it is located.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

At the board meeting following the conference in Baltimore, the following memberships were read and reviewed and if no opposition is heard within 30 days after publication, these men will be accepted as members under the published classifications.

James J. Torrillo—Belaire Golf and C.C. in Bowie, Md. Jim is applying for a class E membership and was sponsored by Ron Hall and Bill Emerson.

Grant Pensinger—Chambersburg Golf Club in Scotland, Penna. Grant is applying for a class B membership and was sponsored by Fred Baker and Bert Yingling.

William T. Ramberg—Elks Club in Salisbury, Md. Tom is applying for a class E membership and was sponsored by George Gumm and Lew White.

Bernard W. Bornhorn—Baltimore, Md. Bernard is replacing Jack Witcher and is applying for a class E membership. He was sponsored by Russ Kerns and George Cleaver.

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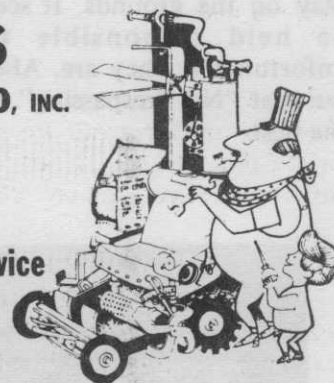
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TRAGEDY

On December 23, Springfield Golf and C.C. was the scene of a pre-holiday mishap. Patrick McCaffery, 13, of Springfield drowned while playing on the ice on a lake on club property. The boy was on ice which was not more than 3/4 of an inch thick over 10 feet of water. His body was located about 3 hours after he went under the water.

This was something that was bound to happen sooner or later at the club. The property is completely surrounded by houses and there is no fence anywhere around the perimeter making it easily accessible to every neighborhood kid who wants to cut through or to play on the grounds. It seems unfair that clubs should be held responsible for acts of trespass, but unfortunately they are. About all the club can do is to see that "No Trespassing" signs are posted and hope for the best



Patrick McCaffery, 13, of 4917 Oak Dale Ct., Springfield, drowned Tuesday afternoon when he fell through the ice while skating on a pond behind the West Springfield Golf and Country Club. Officers from the Springfield Fire Service arrived unaccountably for the boy's body, which was found later about 10 feet from shore.

EDITORIAL

The seventies! What a great sound! Although it sounds a bit mysterious and foreboding, it sounds exciting and challenging as well. The population is faced with a myriad of problems to be solved, both as a whole and as individuals as well. The scope of these problems range from things that don't live long enough to things that live too long.

But our own field is faced with its own private set of problems. We are faced with all the old problems such as no money, no help, bad weather, and more as well as new problems like rising prices, higher budgets, fewer pesticides, and shorter workweeks (for everyone but us) and the list goes on.

We just finished our first educational conference of the year in Baltimore where we learned how to either live with or solve some of these problems and we have several more conferences scheduled in the very near future.

In this new decade opening up, there should be hundreds of changes and advancements in our profession. The ten years just past gave us so many new advancements that one could not begin to list them all. Changes and improvements in technology, actual practice, equipment, chemicals, and others are just a few.

The tools of the trade changed and so did we. When you stop and look back for a minute, ask yourself what you learned and how you changed. What did you do to better yourself personally and professionally?

Our job is becoming very refined and more demanding with every season that goes by and the man who cannot or does not conform is lost.

Forty years ago, the members of our profession changed their name from greenskeepers to superintendents. Could the time be close at hand for another name change? The term we now use somewhat seems to fall short of including all the areas we are now engaged in.

We have one of the greatest jobs in the world. We are our own boss (most of the time), we are outdoors all the time, and we can see the results of whatever we do, be that good or bad. What more can a man ask for? Material things - sure, we can always ask for them. But these mental satisfactions no money can buy.

Condition your equipment in the shop and condition your mind at the conferences.

GRAND OPENING

The membership committee of the Mid-Atlantic is now accepting applications for all classifications. Applicants sending applications will have them reviewed by the directors and published in the newsletter for approval. Anyone needing applications may be them by writing to the chairman of the membership committee.

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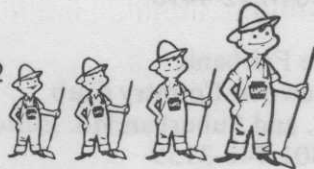
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