



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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VOLUME XXI

OCTOBER

No. 10

OCTOBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will be held on October 12 at Woodmont C.C. in Rockville, Md. Our host will be Bob Shields and this will be our annual golf tournament, so bring your clubs and your best handicap.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Woodmont is located inside the Rockville city limits at 1201 Rockville Pike about one mile south of the center of town.

From Baltimore take U.S. 95 to the Washinton Beltway 495 and turn west to exit 19, Rockville Pike. Turn right 4 miles to club entrance sign on left.

From Virginia leave Beltway same as above and proceed north 4 miles on Rockville Pike.

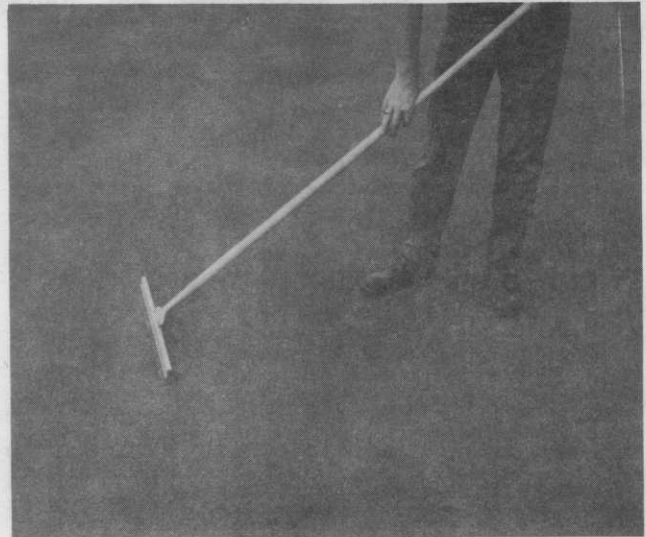
Those traveling south on 70S turn east on Montrose Road (S Rockville) and turn left on Rockville Pike to Club on left.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference will be held in Baltimore on January 10 and 11, 1972. Mark this on your calendars NOW so you won't forget it. Things are well underway right now for speakers, topics and moderators. This year's conference looks like another good one. What can YOU do to help? The answer is simple — just volunteer. That's all it takes. Just mention to Al Watson or any other board member that you're interested and we'll put you to work.

HOW 'BOUT THAT?

The following article was written and submitted by Al Watson, Super at Sparrows Point C.C. in Baltimore.



While watching the championship matches from Ligonier, Pa. on TV several Sundays ago, we watched the way the excess water was removed from two greens so play could be finished. We have been using a deck squeegee for several years at the Point to remove excess water from our greens. They do a great job and get the water off in a hurry. A couple of times over an area (always pulling the squeegee TOWARDS the user — never push it) does not mar the putting surface. If areas do require using the squeegee several times, the surface takes on the look of a pile rig. After the water has been removed, we use spade forks to punch holes in problem areas to allow air circulation.

So, the old navy squeegee has saved many dollars by keeping turf from getting scalded or burned out and having to be replaced.

We know that at this time of year when the sun is bearing down on a green that has puddled up after a tropical downpour, many fellows are looking for something — anything to remove the water, so we offer this as possibly a scalp as well as a grass saving possibility.

NEW MEMBERS

At the last board meeting, applications for 2 new members were read. They are as follows.

Charles F. Brandstetter
Robindale Golf and C.C.

The application is for a class B membership and was signed by Joe Reposky and James Brock.

Robert C. Smith
Westwood C.C.

The application is for a Class D membership and was signed by Jack McClenahan and Wally Stedding.

Two members asked for a change in classification. They were:

Walter Elseroad
Diamond Ridge Golf Club
Baltimore
Change from B to A

Mike Wilkins
Argyle C.C.
Change from E to B

Both changes were reviewed and approved. For the new membership applications, if no written objection is received within 30 days from receipt of this publication, the memberships will be approved as published.

COMMENT

Well, ol dad has been reading the Ladies' Home Journal again and in the July issue, there is a real mind-blower of an ad on pages 146 and 147. It is from the makers of d-Con and shows a picture taken by a member of the National Audobon staff showing a pile (literally) of 210 dead birds that were supposed to have been wiped out by the application of some terrible death spreading "hard" pesticide. Usually in such an item you would think there would be data to back up the claim. But there isn't. Nothing says what killed them or where they were killed, just how many and what kind there were.

It seems funny that a company that markets a "non-selective" mouse killer which would kill a scavenger bird if he ate the dying mouse would resort to this kind of a scare technique, making it just that much tougher for the good guys to score. As Houston Couch said at the conference in Baltimore last year — "If a spray of insecticide put on to save a tree, saves the tree but kills a bird, then it's bye-bye birdie!" All I can add to that is HOORAY!!

* * *

Did you receive the color brochure on "Trapmaster" trap rake? It is a really good looking piece of equipment and it might be just the thing for these traps with silica sand in them. Wally Stedding from Westwood loaned me his I-H tractor with the trap rake on the back to try at Springfield. He has been very pleased with the job it does for him but we hadn't driven it over 2 feet in one of our traps and it sank to the frame in some of our 8" deep sand. After we pushed it out of the trap and were loading it back on the truck, consensus of opinion was it wasn't the answer for us.

The machine in the folder is described as having 4 wheel drive, being hinged in the middle, having a short turning radius and a hydrostatic transmission. Wonder if that tough blonde on the front drives it up from Florida?

And Jacobsen-Rogers has also introduced a trap raker — wonder how far IT will go before it gets stuck in my sand?

* * *

Yay — the National finally got a survey sent out to find out what its members are doing on their jobs as far as salaries and benefits. It has taken them long enough and it seems that the majority of the local associations have been conducting their own surveys for several years. The Mid-Atlantic started ours in 1967 and we're still going.

The questions on the form from the National may produce rather vague results similar to the surveys taken from time to time by Golfdom but hopefully there will be some explanation offered to show how these figures and final results were arrived at. Without some kind of explanation, the figures will no doubt be misleading and murky water is one thing we don't need in the puddle of salaries and wages.

Hopefully too, the National will have a higher percentage of response than our survey had. Fifty percent is hardly a good cross section but maybe any more than that is too much to hope for.

SUPERSTAR

Paul Barefoot, super at the U.S. Soldiers home was elected the national President of the Professional Grounds Management Society. The organization was formerly the National Association of Gardeners but changed their name at their election in August.

Paul said the aims and purposes of the group are similar to those of the GCSAA except they encompass people employed in fields other than golf course management. They do, however, have a few supers from golf courses in their membership and if you are interested in finding out more about the organization, you can talk to President Paul.

SURVEY REPORT

The results of the 1971 survey follow this explanation. There are three columns, one for each of the three years the figures have been available.

In figuring the salary portion, each questionnaire was checked and base salary had housing, transportation, conference expenses and

hospitalization insurance added to the dollar figure where the super indicated which ones of these he was receiving.

The entire total was taken as salary since these items should be considered as cash. This is the way it had been done in the previous surveys.

The amounts were figured as follows: If the super had housing furnished, \$3300 was added; Transportation added \$1650; conference expenses added \$600; hospitalization insurance added \$220.

As far as the number of forms returned, we've already discussed that end of it. The fact that less than 50% came back is not good, but here are the results.

RESULTS OF THE 1971 MID-ATLANTIC GCSA EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

	1971	1970	1967
Are you a member of the National?	100%	100%	99%
Are you a member of the Mid-Atlantic?	100%	100%	100%
Are you a superintendent?	100%	100%	100%
What classification?	39A	33A	34A
	12B	9B	11B
		1D	2D
			2E
		F (1 retired)	
Age?	39	39	39
What is your educational background?			
Grade school	5%	2%	10%
High school	27%	33%	48%
Some college	45%	48%	10%
College degree	21%	15%	32%
What is your base salary?			
9 Hole	\$11,950	\$12,000	\$ 8,500
18 Hole	16,850	14,100	12,500
27 Hole	17,855	16,500	12,600
36 Hole	18,106	17,500	12,800
Do you have a house furnished?	31%	22%	25%
Do you have transportation furnished?	62%	64%	65%
Do you receive a Christmas bonus?	62%	66%	70%
Do you have hospitalization?	76%	80%	70%
Does the club furnish life insurance?	56%	37%	25%
If so, how much?	\$12,500 av.	2 - 30m range	1 - 10 m
Does the club have disability or sick benefits?	56%	62%	50%
Does the club have a retirement plan?	29%	40%	35%
How much vacation do you get?	3 - 5 wks av.	3.7 wks av.	2 - 4 wks
Is it paid?	90%	91%	80%
Do you have sick leave?	82%	77%	80%

Does the club pay National dues?	86%	97%	75%
Does the club pay Mid-Atlantic dues?	84%	90%	75%
Does the club pay National expenses?	76%	77%	75%
Does the club pay for books and publications?	64%	77%	75%
How many holes on your course?	9 - 5	9 - 4	9 - 6
	18 - 31	18 - 31	18 - 31
	27 - 4	27 - 6	27 - 8
	36+ - 9	36+ - 7	36+ - 6
How many men on your crew?	9 - 6	9 - 4	9 - 4
	18 - 8	18 - 9	18 - 8
	27 - 14	27 - 12	27 - 12
	36 - 18	36 - 20	36 - 16
Do you have an assistant?	62%	47%	50%
What is his salary?	\$8,600 av.	\$6,800	\$6,800
Do you have a foreman?	52%	68%	30%
What is his salary?	\$6,700 av.	\$6,760	\$6,500
Do you have a mechanic?	66%	65%	65%
What is his salary?	\$6,500 av.	\$6,450	\$6,500
What is the pay scale for the crew?	\$1.50 - \$4.80 hr.	\$1.60 - \$4.60	\$1.60 - \$2.50
	\$2.57 hr. av.	\$2.17 hr. av.	
Do you pay time and 1/2 for over 40 hrs, Sundays and holidays?	82%	84%	65%
How many hours per week does your crew work?	44	45	45
Do you have a contract?	31%	27%	
What is your operating budget?			
9 Hole	\$ 30,200	\$ 26,600	\$ 20,000
18 Hole	85,000	82,300	66,500
27 Holes	134,000	108,000	88,600
36 Holes and up	166,000	145,000	116,650

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

Where a 2 - 5% difference showed up, it was not regarded as significant. Things can easily vary from year to year and I don't feel this year's survey gave a full picture of a lot of items.

1. It is interesting to note that for the third year in a row, the average age is 39. It looks as though each club has its own resident Jack Benny, but we all know this isn't the case. In fact, the only guy who plays the fiddle is Lee Dieter. Come to think of it, he IS close to 39!

2. It looks as though we have picked up a lot of four year college grads. There might be few 2 year men with degrees in turf management from say Penn State or somewhere who listed their education as a college degree. By college degree, we mean at least a 4 year Bachelor's or better.

3. Salaries are good again this year with increases in all numbers of holes reporting. Don't forget to read how these figures were arrived at the beginning of the article.

An 11% increase was shown in furnished housing. This is an added job incentive and is a good one. Greens chairmen - pay attention now!

5. Life insurance also showed an increase in both the number of supers receiving it and in the net worth of the policy.

6. Big question - why are the percentages for dues payments to the National and Mid-Atlantic down so much? Could be a miscalculation - or maybe they really ARE down.

7. Well, this year it seems everyone decided to put down they had an assistant. An assistant, technically speaking, is a person with some education beyond high school who is training under the super to one day take his own course. A foreman is a man who sees the job is done and sometimes knows why, but has no intention or desire to get into this rat race on his own. Possible the reason for this drop in foremen and rise in assistants is due to what they are CALLED by the super on the job. Any, the salaries made a nice increase.

8. Unfortunately, the salaries for foremen and mechanics stayed the same. How can you guys not ask for increases for these men who have been making the same wage for nearly 5 years?

9. Operating budgets – they are obviously up. It would have been very unnerving to see no increase in the amounts this year. 18 hole course figures show the lowest percentage of increase, however. Seems like it should have been more in proportion to the rest.

Thanks to all of you who sent in your responses. The results are interesting, to say the least. They are rather complex to figure and maybe next year we should change it around a bit. How 'bout some suggestions? Should we use a multiple guess like the National and deal in rough guesses or should we use a more detailed form and deal in specifics like we have been doing?

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

The next meeting will be held at Woodmont on Tuesday Oct. 12. As Golf Course Superintendent at Woodmont and on behalf of the board of Directors, the Club President, Mr. Harold Bobys; Greens Chairman, Mr. David Stone; and the Club members, I invite you to attend.

On hand to greet you at the Golf Shop will



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5 - be Tony Marlow Golf Professional at Woodmont. At the first tee you will be met by Dick Secreto who will enter your name in the golf tournament if you would like to play golf. Our club manager Mr. Jacques Aimi, will have a cold drink and a famous Woodmont Buffet waiting for you when you get back to the house.

As host for the day I have two ground rules to put into effect which I hope you will observe.

The first is that if you come to play golf you stay for the meeting. President Yingling and the Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors are in complete agreement on this and we hope it meets with your approval. The second ground rule is that you send your reservation card in as soon as you receive it so we can serve you better when you arrive. Be sure to list the number of guests who will come with you and also explain to them that they are expected to stay for the meeting.

The golf course has grown from an 18 hole course and a short par 3 to two regulation eighteens. One of these, the original eighteen is called the North Course. It is planted to cool season grasses and is just so-so at this time of the year but is great in the early spring. The South 18 built in 1956 and 1958 is shorter in length but the small greens, narrow fairways and strategically placed traps make it an interesting challenge to both the pro and the duffer.

Two south course fairways are in cool season grasses. No. 1 is a mixture of several Ky. blue grasses and No. 14 is cross seeded every 30 yds. with 8 different grasses or seed mixtures.

The north course fairways were overseeded last fall with Ky. Blue, Merion blue and Pennlawn red fescue. This was the first seed these F.W.'s had received since the original seeding in 1948 as we had been trying to grow Bermuda grass on both courses. The plan now is to grow cool season grasses on the north course and warm season on the south so we can have one course in good shape at all times.

We have had good luck with Windsor Blue Grass on our N.C. tees and like it so well we seeded all N.C. tees and fairways to Windsor this fall.

All greens are C-1, C-19 over seeded with Penn Cross bent for several years. We have suffered from Poa-Annua infestation year after year but this year we started the Chip-Cal program after seeing the good results obtained by Bill Livingston at Norbeck and Dave Burdette at Congressional and we hope for better bent grass greens next year.

The Annual Superintendents tournament will be played on the south course starting anytime after twelve noon. Enjoy your game and have a good day.

Bob Shield.

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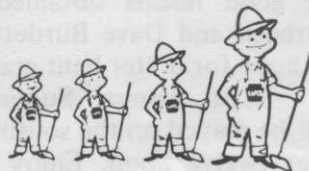
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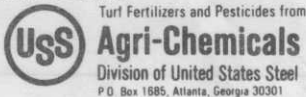
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