

discuss some of our problems with you. Perhaps you would like to inspect a new green we just built to USGA specifications which will be open for play next spring.

We solicit your constructive suggestions on how we might improve our golf courses, or on how we might be of greater service to our club members.

We hope the weather is good, that you have a pleasant day, and that you have a safe trip to and from Woodmont.

Costs for the day will be as follows:

Golf car	\$ 8.00 plus tax
Dinner	\$10.00 tax and tips included
Drinks	\$1.25-\$1.50

We do request that you make arrangements for lunch before you come to play golf.

Guests are welcome at this meeting but make certain they understand that golf guests are expected to stay for dinner. In other words, if your guest can't stay for dinner, don't invite him to play golf. This is a Mid-Atlantic policy — not a Woodmont rule. Return cards were sent out earlier. Anyone who did not return his card and still wants to come should contact me at 301-424-7482 or 301-424-8439 so that reservations can be made.

Directions to the club — Woodmont Country Club is located one mile south of Rockville at 1201 Rockville Pike, which is Wisconsin Avenue extended from the District of Columbia. Take exit 19 north from the Washington Beltway and proceed 4 miles north towards Rockville to the club entrance sign on the left.

Golf may be played anytime after 12 noon, the social hour will be at 6:30pm and dinner will be at 7:00pm.

It isn't what you know that counts, it's what you think of — in time.

The more you say, the less people remember.

## MARTINO WINS TRIP TO LONDON

*The following article is reprinted from the Gaithersburg Gazette.*

Montgomery Village Superintendent, Robert Martino, is bound for London, England, as a result of his victory last February in the Golf Course Superintendents of America Tournament. Martino's combined score of 148 for the 36 holes at the Hilton Head, South Carolina tournament has enabled him to visit England, along with three other Americans, to compete in the international tournament in early October.

It's been a long journey from caddying for a quarter a round in Clarksburg, W. Va., to scratch tournament golf and London, England. Bob Martino appears to have weathered the trip well. Sporting the tanned health good looks of a man who works and plays outside, Martino impresses one with a shyly confident nature concerning his accomplishments in amateur golf — which are many.

While readily admitting this his upcoming trip to Europe is the "most prestigious" result of his list of amateur victories, that list alone is enough to make the weekend duffer turn green with envy. Besides winning this year's "Supers Tourney" (a tournament which, by its very nature, includes some of the best amateurs in the country), Martino

won the same tournament at Houston, Texas, in 1970 and at Tallahassee, Fla., in 1972. Fortunately for his opponents he did not participate in the 1971 Supers Tournament.

Martino says he was "surprised" at receiving a letter from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in June informing him of his opportunity to travel to England and participate against "supers" from America, Europe, and Canada. "I have three watches from the previous wins," he says, shyly displaying one of the awarded time pieces. "This is the first time in the history of the tournament that a trip was made available," he continues. Martino plans to spend part of his time in England "visiting other golf courses and seeing how they operate."



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Martino consistently (and modestly) shoots "around par" golf. This "around par" ability has earned him many local amateur victories through the years. In 1960 and 1961 he won the Brookmanor Country Club Invitational. In 1959 and 1962 he captured top honors in the Bellhaven Fourball Tournament. Martino was "Club Champ" at Argyle Country Club in 1958, 1959, and 1960. In 1964 he won the Manor Club Member-Guest Tournament.

Despite his obvious success as a "super" and as an amateur golfer, Martino reluctantly admits to his one and only regret in life — the fact that he "never turned pro." Considering his ability with a set of clubs, this seems a legitimate longing.

Martino was born and raised in Clarksburg, W. Va. As one of 14 children, he "had to make money some way" and

took up caddying at 25 cents a round (18 holes) at a local private club. While he admits that he "took to golf naturally," he also adds that he availed himself of every opportunity to play "anywhere and anytime I could" to improve his game. Caddies were allowed on the private course each Monday morning and Martino was always "one of the first there." As well as he can remember, Martino was 11 when he became serious about golf.

At least once a week Martino can be seen on the Village links attempting to improve his already enviable game. "I play only about once a week since my operation (for ulcers) last March," he says. "During September I hope to get in at least two or three days a week" in preparation for the tournament in October.

During this period Martino intends to "work hard on my woods" which he considers the weakest part of his game. Putting, however, should prove no problem. "Putting is definitely the high point of my game," he says.

## FEBRUARY CONFERENCE PLAN AHEAD FOR AIR TRAVEL

Air travel plans to Anaheim, California, for the 1974 conference and show should be made well in advance to benefit from special reduced rates.

A recently received flyer from our GCSAA Executive Director, Conrad Scheetz, states that American Airlines will offer up to a 48% reduction in fares between Washington and Los Angeles if plans are made three months in advance. Three months in advance is mid-November of this year. The plan is called the "look ahead plan". Other airlines might offer similar advance notice flight plans if you look into the numerous possibilities. As of yet, the Mid-Atlantic has not officially planned on a charter or group rate plan, either of which still might be a possibility for those people not able to take advantage of the 3-month advance registration plans.

## GOLF COURSES IN NORTHEAST IN WORST CONDITION IN 20 YEARS

Golf courses in the northeast area of the United States are in their worst condition in the last 20 years. Varying types of weather since spring have caused havoc to fairways and greens.

"If anything could go wrong it did. This is the worst year for fine turf grasses that I can remember and I've been around for 20 years. It's rare to find a course not in trouble," said Al Radko, eastern director of the United States Golf Association's Green Section and its national research director.

Radko listed a weather chronology of events that has resulted in this year's increase of turf diseases, the Long Island and Westchester invasion of a weevil, and a resurgence of crab grass. Crab grass, of course, is known to suburban gardeners but golfers don't like to hit shots from its surface. Neither do most of them enjoy playing "winter rules" in professional competition or in friendly matches in mid-summer. It's all right, they say, when there is frost on the hard ground.

# E.&S.

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