



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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June 8th Mid-Atlantic Meeting

Brandywine Country Club's old nine was opened for play in 1968. It was then known as the Marlton Country Club. The course was operated as a nine hole facility until Boise Cascade purchased the Club in 1970 and started construction on a new nine. Due to financial difficulties after the new nine was cleared, graded, seeded and partially irrigated it was let go to seed for two years. In 1972 Earwin Atlantic Inc. purchased the club with the idea of completing construction on the new nine. Wayne Evans, course superintendent, started in the Fall of 1972 to try to rebuild the new nine which by now looked like a jungle. The irrigation system (three row in the fairways) had never been completed. Main line of 8 inch transite was completed and checked out and power cables for the controllers were completed first. Some fairways had eroded so badly that a small dozer was used to grade a road down the fairways so that dump trucks could be used to bring in more soil. Those fairways which were not eroded had not been mowed in years. A bush hog and a Flail mower were first used to chop down the brush. After the brush was removed an extensive overseeding program followed. The greens which are an 80-20 mix were built to USGA specifications, however they were not floated or established. Seven of the greens were floated seeded by late October and seemed to come along well. Two of the greens were not started on until late November because it was physically impossible to get to them because of eroded fairways. These greens were floated seeded and covered with polyethylene plastic right before Christmas 1972. The new nine was opened for play June 3rd 1973. The new nine was again closed for the Winter of 1973 and 1974 to complete grading, drainage and rough clearance. April 1974 the nine reopened. During the changes in ownership of Brandywine Country Club the old nine was also let go down hill. Many dirt roads criss-crossing the golf course were used daily by the residents. This has stopped. Many of the holes on the old nine have undergone major renovation and some holes are still undergoing reconstruction today.

The Greens are 100% Penncross with a touch of Poa in some of the old ones. The fairways are now bluegrass but are in the process of changeover to Bermuda. P-16 and Tufcote nurseries have been established.

Brandywine as of May 28th is now under its fourth ownership. The Ward Corporation of Gaithersburg has taken over the operation. As of this writing the entire maintenance of the golf course is accomplished by four men including Wayne.

If you come out and play, stop in at Wayne's maintenance barn at the #10 green for free beer or soft drinks.

Lunch available—pay as you go

Carts Available

No greens fees — golf after 10:00 am

Cocktails 6:30 — 7:30

Dinner 7:30

Directions to Club:

Beltway 495 to Rt. 4 (Exit 34 east) 8 miles to Rt. 301 South. Turn right for five miles — club on left. Turn left on Trumps Hill Road — follow signs to club house on right.

GCSAA Anniversary Tournament

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is going to sponsor a Golf Team to participate in the GCSAA Anniversary Tournament held at Sylvania Country Club, September 13, 14 & 15, 1976.

The Team will consist of 4 players and one alternate, Class A & B only. The Association will pay entry fees for all players plus each player will receive some funds for travel expenses according to his qualifying rounds, which will be a total of 36 holes.

The first qualifying round will be held at Brandywine Country Club in conjunction with our regular June 8 golf outing and the second qualifying round will be at Andrews Air Force Golf Course in conjunction with our

(Continued on Page 7)

Relationship Between Golf Course Superintendent and Green Committee Chairman

DIVOTS NEWSLETTER, Miami Valley, GCSA

*Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
23rd Annual Turf Clinic - December 3, 1975*

"This subject matter has to do with the relationship between the Golf Course Superintendent and the Club's Green Committee Chairman. Another way of saying this is their responsibilities to each other. I suppose I was chosen to discuss this because I have been Green Committee Chairman at Medinah since 1964, and if proper relationships haven't been established in that time — it's a hopeless case!

"One thing about those 12 years is that it certainly provided continuity which is so important in long range programs. There is, of course, with this long tenure, the danger of becoming complacent, a possible lack of new ideas, a sameness of emphasis, and so forth.

"I hope there is no evidence of that out on our Golf Courses!

"I must say, too, that there have been times when I wonder if things wouldn't go along just as well without a Greens Committee. I'll bet there are quite a few of you out there cheering that little idea!

"Seriously, however, overall, I do believe a Green Committee and its chairman can perform a valuable service to a club and be of use to the Golf Course Superintendent.

"The relationship between the Golf Course Superintendent and the Green Committee Chairman is dependent on many factors, including such basic things as the club's by-laws and organizational structure. It depends, too, on how much time the chairman has or will devote to his committee work. In my case, I see John Jackman quite often and we talk on the phone once or twice and often three times a week. I would like it better if I could get out on the grounds more often.

"The most important ingredients of a meaningful relationship, in my opinion, is to make sure there is understanding on common problems and goals, the establishment of trust in each other and good two-way communications on current conditions, problems and actions being taken.

"If the Green Committee and Chairman function properly, they provide a means of communication between superintendent and membership, which can be anywhere from 200 to 1,000 people. Without liaison, the Golf Course Superintendent conceivably could have these 200 to 1,000 individuals as bosses—a horrible thought—and a fate possibly worse than death. The Golf Course Superintendent should ideally answer only to one club member—the Green Committee Chairman. To me, this is one of the Chairman's prime responsibilities—to act as a 'buffer' between club members and the superintendent. Except as casual conversation, I see no reason why a superintendent needs to explain to a member why certain things were or were not done, or why conditions are one way or another. Now, I'm not

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so naive as to think that the superintendent will clam up or not respond to the club president of other members on occasion, but those are the exceptions we must accept. Explaining to the general membership is the duty of the Green Committee and its chairman; although the Golf Course Superintendent should be provided a means of communication directly to the membership if he so desires. This can be in the form of letters, articles in the club periodical, bulletin board notices, etc.

"The chairman and superintendent should make every effort to inform the membership of construction plans or work that may interfere with play ahead of time. It's best to avoid surprises.

"The Green Committee Chairman can be of help to the Golf Course superintendent by being alert to the comments of members relative to golf course maintenance. He can be observant himself as he plays his course and other courses and inform the superintendent of things he has noted or heard. These observances can then be evaluated by the superintendent. This type of communication by the chairman must be done in a constructive manner—not nit-picking or in the form of complaints.

"The Green Committee has the great responsibility of serving fellow members, by seeing to it that the type of golf course and grounds the members want, is maintained. This is often difficult to ascertain. The big pit-fall here is that too many green chairmen try to rebuild the course the way they want it. As a member, I would hardly appreciate the idea of some 18 handicapper using my dues to change a 40 year old golf course to suit his game. The ideas of a 2 handicapper might be just as

bad. I believe this is an area where the superintendents can and should help the club membership by stopping members and committeemen from doing anything silly, which could spoil a good golf course.

"Golf course alterations should be planned and done by experts, with the best interests of the total membership in mind. The gold committee, green committee, golf course superintendent, golf professional and, most important, a competent golf course architect should be involved when a course design change is being considered. The golf course superintendent should welcome this help and support since he can always have a shot at altering the plan to accommodate maintenance or changes based on his local knowledge of conditions. One thing I can guarantee - no alteration is accepted by 100% of the membership!

"Another pertinent duty of the chairman in establishing a proper relationship, is to see to it that the golf course superintendent, and only the superintendent, runs the grass-growing operation and everything related to it. This must be done in both a business-like way and a friendly, firm fashion. However, the green committee chairman has the right to be informed so that he can

(Continued on Page 6)

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Dr. John Hall — MC

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We have heard lots of good things and statements about our fine guest of honor this evening. It has been a great pleasure for all of us to work with Parker since he came to Maryland in 1962. I have the pleasure of presenting a few more bits of information that some of you may not be aware of.

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Annual turf scholarship — Parker Shirling Scholarship. Parker, as the first president of MTA, proposed an MTA scholarship to a deserving Agronomy (turf) student each year. The proposal was adopted and the size of the scholarship expanded over the years. The MTA Executive Committee in early April 1976, named the annual MTA scholarship the "Parker Shirling Maryland Turf Scholarship" in honor of the founding president and loyal supporter.

Instrumental in drafting and adopting the present Maryland and Virginia Sod Laws and Regulations.

Serves as a consultant and advisor to several national associations.

Also instrumental in drafting the first general "Guideline Specifications" for landscape architects, both local and national.

Served on Delmarva Advisory Council and for that group, was chairman of the committee on "land use" on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Parker has worked closely with the University Experimental Stations, Departments of Agronomy of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Penn State, Purdue and Michigan in research and development of new methods in turf production as well as being one of the stations maintaining test plots for new varieties of turf grasses.

— Member of (and Served on the Board of Directors of some of the following):

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Maryland Turfgrass Association
New Jersey Turfgrass Association
American Sod Producers Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association

Member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Centerville

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Mr. Craig Spottswood, Editor
Mid-Atlantic News Letter
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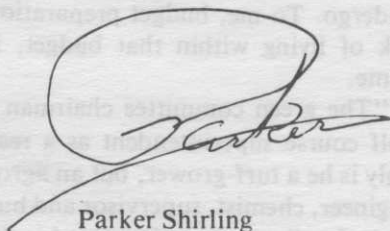
Dear Craig:

My most humble thanks to all of Mid-Atlantic.

The beautiful silver wine cooler shall always be in a place of honor to remind me of my association with all of you. Truthfully, I know of no group that has provided such a pleasant relationship. I think that what really put me away or caused my retirement was the "40" handicap.

Ruth and I thank you all again and I sincerely hope that I will be able to attend at least one more meeting before we move.

Most sincerely,



Parker Shirling

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Relationship

(Continued from Page 2)

again effectively act as liaison between the superintendent and the membership.

"Here at Medinah, John Jackman attends all our monthly green committee meetings, and is invited to participate occasionally at financial committee and building committee meetings as well as at board of directors meetings. His input is valued highly and is an example of good communications.

"The golf course superintendent must be supported fully by the green committee chairman and his committee. The green committee chairman should see to it that the superintendent has the support of all officers and directors of the club. This support is needed, for example, when it is necessary, in the judgement of the superintendent, to close the course, establish temporary greens or tees, restrict the use of golf cars, or any other action that affects normal play. To place this authority in hands other than the man directly responsible destroys the proper line of authority and may cause costly damage. This does not mean that the superintendent does not consult the golf professional and club manager or committee members, but the final decision must be his.

"In still another area, the green committee chairman must thoroughly understand the equipment and supply needs of the superintendent. Normally, the only way a

superintendent can get the things he needs to properly do his job is through the green committee chairman. This includes the securing of money, ideally through establishment of sound and reasonable budgets.

"It must be the responsibility of the golf course superintendent to develop and propose the course maintenance and capital budget.

"Budgeting must be a mutual effort, with equal consideration given to the superintendent's problems and desires of the membership. I suppose a superintendent can produce almost any grade of golf course quality dependent on the amount of money available. We'll have to allow some leeway for weather conditions.

"Working closely with the green committee chairman, a logical reason or argument must be formulated for each expenditure or cost center. This is necessary to defend the proposed budget to the finance committee, the board of directors and finally to the membership. Here is where you determine the quality golf course the membership is going to get. Here, too, is one of the real tests a golf course superintendent must undergo. To me, budget preparation, and then the big ask of living within that budget, is the name of the game.

"The green committee chairman must recognize the golf course superintendent as a real professional. Not only is he a turf-grower, but an agronomist, mechanical engineer, chemist, supervisor and business manager. We must do all we can to increase his skills in each of these areas.

"The chairman must insist that the superintendent be allowed and encouraged to attend, at club expense, seminars and meetings of various associations to which golf course superintendents and country clubs belong. The superintendent should take advantage of the U.S.G.A. services and the beneficial programs of universities and demonstrations by suppliers.

"The green committee should be alert to golf course news found in golf magazines, trade journals and publications. Contact with instructive and informative agencies is an essential adjunct to successful planning.

"The green committee chairman has other responsibilities in maintaining a good relationship with his golf course superintendent. For instance: the chairman, in



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my opinion, should not ask other golf course superintendents opinions or advise on correcting problems at the chairman's golf course. This obviously creates an awkward situation for everyone and probably should be met with stony silence!

"The same goes for calling in consultants. This must only be done with the approval of the superintendent, or better yet, at the superintendent's recommendation.

"Oddly enough, many club members are impressed with the use of consultants or experts in various fields.

"It might be a political gambit, but maybe golf course superintendents should consider using such services more often. I wonder how many club members know that golf course superintendents get together and discuss common problems! They should be told this. They should know about this very Clinic here today.

"Another policy the green committee chairman must observe is to deal only with the golf course superintendent. He must avoid the pitfall of ordering anyone in the grounds crew to do anything. This is an organizational no-no, since it dilutes the authority of the superintendent and lowers morale.

"Finally, the chairman should make every possible effort to see to it that the superintendent is fairly compensated and recognized for his work.

"I've talked quite a bit about the green committee chairman's responsibilities to the superintendent. Let's go the other way a bit.

"Aside from the normal turf growing function, a good relationship should foster a condition where the superintendent readily accepts the responsibility for attaining certain goals. I'm referring to such things as constant cost reduction through mechanization, better equipment, use of his own turf and tree nurseries, his own small scale experimentation on turf, chemicals, seeds, fertilizers, etc. I'd expect him to surround himself with competent workmen with high morale and capable of withstanding unionization.

"The individual crew member should be trained to do several jobs so that there is back-up available at all times. The superintendent and the green committee chairman must be concerned about the safety and general well-being of the crew including such items as lodging, wash-up facilities, food, hours of work, rates of pay, vacations, and every other working condition and fringe benefit.

"Later today, you're going to hear John Jackman give an interesting talk on his experiences relative to Medinah's hosting of the U.S. Open, so I will say very little about that event.

"From my point of view, however, the holding of this tournament strengthens the case for everything I've said about our relationship. It was a very busy and interesting period, what with two years of preparation and tending to hundreds of little details and several large projects. I wouldn't trade that experience for the world.

"At the beginning I mentioned that good relationships mean a sense of responsibility to each other, trust

in each other, an understanding of common goals and problems and good communication. In closing I'd just like to add one more and that is — that both parties use good old-fashioned horse-sense."

— D.F. Johnson

Ed. Note—Donald Johnson has been Green Chairman at Medinah C.C. for the past twelve years. Really a remarkable record.

Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

regular July golf outing.

In order to participate in this event, you must be Class A or B six months prior to the day the Tournament starts.

A & B members seeking to qualify for this event must do so on the days that were designated. If either round gets rained out it will be rescheduled with our August meeting.

The Team will be chosen from "Low Gross" scores only.

Qualifiers must play in a foursome.

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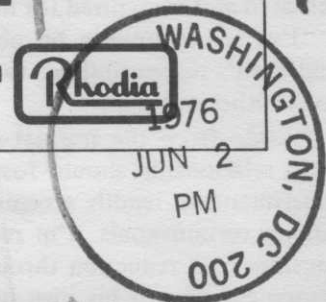
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