



Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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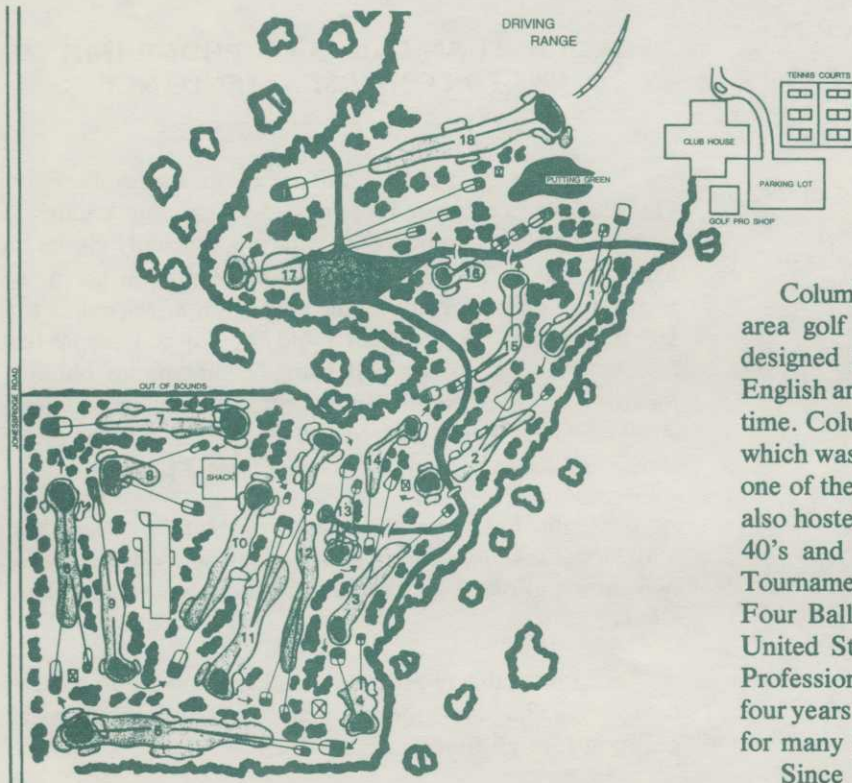
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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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July 8 Meeting Columbia C. C.

Columbia Country Club is one of the original Washington area golf clubs. It was founded in 1909. Columbia was designed for the most part by Walter Travis, a notable English architect and one of the better amateur golfers of that time. Columbia hosted the 1921 U.S. Open Championship which was won by Jim Barnes, who was an Englishman and one of the longer strikers of the ball in that era. Columbia also hosted a Celebrity tournament on two occasions in the 40's and 50's. More recently we have had a Four Ball Tournament every October called the Fred McCloud Eastern Four Ball. It attracts many fine amateur players from the United States and Canada. Fred McCloud was the Golf Professional at Columbia for over 57 years before his death four years ago. He was the oldest living U.S. Open Champion for many years.

Since Columbia's golf course is 70 years old we have many old trees which make shot placement very important. Our putting surfaces are rather small, 3500-5000 sq. ft. on the old greens, number 5 and 18 greens were redesigned by Ed Ault in 1966 and are of more modern size and design. The greens are about 70% old mixed bents and 30% Poa annua.



George Thompson

The fairways were probably fescue originally and were seeded with everything imaginable since then. When I came to Columbia in 1963 a fairway program had been started with native Bermuda, but the winter of 1962-63 had killed a good amount of it. We replanted during the summers of 63, 64, 65 and 66. In 1966 we had about 85% Bermuda which was about all we could expect because of shade and north slopes. We were mowing the fairways down to 1/2" and they were beautiful in July, August, September and even October some years. However, we were starting to get spring dead spot and many members were unhappy with the brown turf in March, April and May. In many years it still looked poorly in June. To most people "Brown is Bad and Green is Good." The fairways were playing pretty well in the spring, especially when we were paraquating in March. They didn't look green

Presidents Message

Well, July is here. It is the month most of us Superintendents would just as soon do without, but that's not hardly possible. As all of us know, July and August separates the men from the boys in our profession.

The majority of us will spend countless hours and sleepless nights trying to save as many of those little grass plants; whether they are poa, crab, bent, blue or rye, as long as it holds up a golf ball and will survive the busy golf season. That's what you and I get paid for.

It is your obligation to give your membership the best possible playing condition under the worst weather condition within the budget provided.

Most of us have the manpower, equipment and chemicals to cope with just about any situation that may confront us. Get out on the golf course, stay on top of what is happening, it is your "responsibility".

George Thompson was brave enough to invite us to Columbia for the July 8th membership meeting. I'm sure George will show us how to maintain quality turf under the heat and humidity of Washington, D.C.

Ron

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