



CHARTER

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June 9 Meeting Columbia C.C.

by George B. Thompson

Columbia Country Club is one of the original Washington area golf clubs. It was founded in 1898. 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 64 years before his death five years ago. He was the oldest living U.S. 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.

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 like home lawns and even though you could almost putt on them in August, it didn't matter.

President's Message

For those of you who participated in the Superintendent/Pro Tournament, THANK YOU. We had a great turn out, 44 Pros, 49 Superintendents and 13 guests. I think that is a new record and it goes to show that our relationship with the Pros is getting better. As we know, to best serve our members we must work together.

I want to ask your help! The Institute of Applied Agriculture is in trouble and you can help. The budget cut at the University is making it almost impossible for the Institute to survive. You can help by writing your state legislator, the governor of Maryland or Dr. John S. Toll, President of the University of Maryland. The Institute is the only two year technical program left in Maryland and it is the only place a student can gain both classroom and on the job experience. If the Institute is phased out it will weaken our industry and other phases of agriculture in Maryland.

I'm looking forward to our June meeting at Columbia Country Club. Our host is George Thompson. Let's hope we don't get rained out this year.

Mike McKenzie

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Columbia Country Club

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I started overseeding with Turf types Ryegrass in October of 1969, mostly for cosmetic reasons but also to get something to live on shady north slopes and in Spring Dead Spot areas.

The Ryegrass have done a good job for us. Their playing characteristics are not as good as Bermuda and we have Rhizoctonia and Pythium problems, but we get our members started in good spirits in the spring. They like to see that green grass in March and April. We may still see 30% to 40% native Bermuda by midsummer but we are trying to manage for Ryegrass, with fall feeding and maybe a little potash in May or June. If the Bermudas come through, all the better, these are areas we won't have to irrigate.

Russell Roberts installed a Moody Automatic Irrigation System in 1973. We found it efficient and simple to work on. Sometime in the future, I would like to install a triangular or rectangular system for our fairways to give more control over elevation differences. Columbia is very hilly and in some instances one side of the fairway may be 15' higher than the other. How do you irrigate this with a center row system?

We have many management problems not associated with more modern constructed courses. Many steep slopes require a lot of hand maintenance. One of our greatest problems is thatch. We have many spongy areas on tees and collars. Because of the excess thatch, we are seeing unusual insects and fungi, such as many species of Rhizoctonia and another one called Southern Blight (*Sclerotium rolfsii*). We have had it on our #1 championship tee for three years and to date have not been able to effectively control it. I have seen winter brown patch since 1967 and I have had *Ataenius* for two years before Ohio State even started to mention it. Last fall we found in addition to *Ataenius*, larva from the Northern Masked Chafer, Asiatic Garden Beetle and the Japanese Beetle; 1980 could well be the year of the insect at Columbia.

We have a considerable amount of construction going on now. Parts of four holes have been torn up since January with a 60" W.S.S.C. water line. This 60" line crosses #1 fairway, goes through 15 and 16 greens, across 17 fairway and through 18 tee drive. We will be playing only 15 holes until May or June of 1981. Algie Pulley has been contracted to rebuild 15 and 16 greens, five tees and some additional improvements. The 60" water line has been installed, however the contractor is still on the job building two lakes, two concrete dams and enclosing two streams. He is also restoring stream banks with Rip-rap and Gabions.

George B. Thompson is a native of Massachusetts. Started caddying at Pittsfield C.C. in Pittsfield, Mass. at the age of 10. Later worked on courses in Massachusetts, Florida and Chicago. After a hitch in the U.S. Navy, he enrolled in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts in 1961. Graduated in 1963, and hired as Assistant Superintendent at Columbia in June of 1963 under Dick Watson. Promoted to Superintendent in October 1964. George and his wife Jacqueline have four children, Julie, Tom, Regina and Sara. The Thompsons live in Gaithersburg.

Program for the Day

Match Play Starts at 11:00 a.m.

Golf - After 1:00

Cocktails - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m. - \$13.00
(Cash Bar)

PLEASE RETURN CARDS OR PHONE (301)656-4995 TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE

Bill Strasbaugh and his staff are anxious to be of service. Our club manager, Jim Troppman, was gracious enough to open and staff his dining room, which is normally closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Lunch can be purchased in the men's grill, on the terrace by the pool or the snack bar at #8 tee. If you choose to come early and not play golf, please feel free to drive out to our golf maintenance building located off Manor Road ½ mile north of the club on Conn. Ave., or have a drink in the Mixed Grill located on the lower level near 18 green and the first tee after 3 p.m.

Columbia has a very good caddy program, we prefer that a foursome take two caddy's or one cart and one caddy, or two carts and one caddy to be of service. No pull carts are allowed.

Our policy also requires that jackets be worn in most of the lounges and dining rooms other than the mixed men's grillrooms, at all times.

Directions: From Baltimore, take Balt.-Wash. Parkway, Route 95 or Rt. 29. Take 495 Washington Beltway West to Conn. Ave. South. Club is approx. 2½ miles on right. From Virginia, take 495 north into Md. Take exit 20 south to Conn. Ave., the club is two miles on your right.

Membership

The following names have been presented to the Board of Directors for acceptance as new members of the Mid-Atlantic:

Ed Cashman	Class D	Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
William Angerer	Class B	Twin Shields Golf Club
Richard Hill II	Class F	Hills Irrigation
Steve Vessells	Class B	Lake Montecello
David Dabbs		Georgetown Prep