



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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