



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVII

MARCH 1983

No. 1

March 8 Meet Set For Penderbrook GC

Penderbrook Golf Club, where the Mid-Atlantic's first meeting of 1983 will be held on March 8 and where George Renault is superintendent, is a relatively new course, built in 1979 and opened to play in June 1980. A fee course owned by Wayne Lynch, who is a member of the well-known golfing Lynch family, it stretches 6,465 yards from the blue tees, and its naturally rolling fairways were carved out of deliduous woodland on Route 50 in Fairfax County, across the highway from the busy Fair Oaks Mall shopping center. Mark Guttenberg is the PGA professional.

Local architect Eddie Ault designed Penderbrook, and Moore Golf Co., Inc., was the prime contractor. The greens were built on a modified USGA specification 90-10 formula foundation and were sown in Penncross bent. The fairway seed mix (100 pounds per acre) was a 30% combination of Pennfine and Manhattan rye grass, 20% each of A-34 Blue and Adelphi, and 15% each of Baron and Fylking; the same mixture was sown on the tees, which have a 2-4" layer of sand mixture over the basic clay. The greens are mowed to 3/16", tees to 3/4", and fairways to 7/8". The greens receive seven to eight pounds of nitrogen per year, fairways and tees two pounds.

When the course was built, Superintendent Renault reports, the debris cleared from the fairways was pushed into the wooded areas bordering each hole. One of his primary tasks has been to clean out this debris and scrub undergrowth, which may take as long as five years. He has also been thinning out the deciduous trees to give those retained a chance to grow. Because the land originally contained very few evergreens other than some holly trees, he has started a pine nursery and is raising young pines for future transplanting.

Penderbrook is a busy course and has been well received by Northern Virginia

The President's Message . . .

I would like to thank all of you for your help and participation in nominating and electing our officers and directors for 1983. Also, Turfgrass '83 is over and once again was a success, with attendance up for the fifth straight year. Those who missed the educational sessions this year missed some of the best ever. I would like to thank the Maryland Turfgrass Council and the University of Maryland staff for their contributions to the meeting's success.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will find a list of this year's officers and directors, along with their committee assignments. If you have any questions concerning the association, don't hesitate to call a director in your area and ask. If he can't provide a satisfactory answer, have him take your question to the Board meeting and we'll get an answer for you.

Our first meeting of this year will be at Penderbrook Golf Club in Fairfax in March, so don't forget to send cards or call George Renault and let him know that you'll be there. And remember, the rule on wearing jackets and ties to all meetings will be enforced this year.



Ken Braun, *President*

ADDRESS CHANGES

All changes of address should be reported promptly, both to Secretary Paul O'Leary for the record and for the directory and to the Newsletter editor and his mailing list. If a wrong address is still being used and the Newsletter is being forwarded to you, please let us know about that, too.

golfers. Its men's golf association of more than 100 members is affiliated with the Virginia State Golf Association. The course closed for the winter on January 7 and will reopen March 12, so Mid-Atlantic golfers will actually be playing the course four days before it is officially opened for the 1983 season.

Program for March 8

Lunch — Not available at Penderbrook, since the course is not yet open (limited showers will be available, but no towels).

Golf — 12 noon

Cocktails (cash bar) — 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner (buffet, cost - \$13) — 6:30 p.m.

Cocktails and dinner will be served at the Holiday Inn on Route 123 in Fairfax
(Continued on Page 2)

Schedule of 1983 Meetings

- March 8 — Penderbrook Golf Club
- April 12 — Evergreen Country Club
- May 10 — Washington Golf & Country Club
- June 14 — Andrews AFB Golf Club
- July 12 — Mount Pleasant
- August 9 — Annual Picnic
- September 13 — Bonnie View Country Club
- October 11 — Ocean City Yacht & Country Club
- November 8 — Leisure World
- December 13 — Belle Haven Country Club

All 1983 monthly meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of the July meeting, which will be on the first Tuesday.

New Job Openings

Assistant Superintendent,
Leisure World

Assistant Superintendent,
Herndon Centennial Golf Club

Call or write Ben Stagg for details

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

1983 Officers and Directors

President Ken Braun
Vice President Mike Larsen
Secretary Paul O'Leary
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Educational Chairman Lee Dieter
Membership Chairman Robert Lambert
Golf Chairmen Walter Montross &
George Renault
Social & Benevolence . . . Paul Barefoot
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GCSAA Chapter Relations. Bill Emerson

LETTERS . . .

Sorry to have missed your visit but glad Mike Claffey was able to talk to you. I'll be happy to pass along some newsletter items from time to time, for what they are worth. The experience I gained as superintendent at Columbia for 18 years gave me valuable tools to carry anywhere in the country. Washington-Baltimore growing conditions can be difficult, and I don't think there will ever be a fairway grass for that area.

I have always been impressed with the long tenure of the Mid-Atlantic people. I think it's because we were never happy with the conditions of our courses, and we felt compelled to stay until we got them in outstanding playing condition. The growing seasons were normally against us, with an exception every 5 or 6 years. After the cool summer of 1981, I said, "That's it. Mother Nature won't be this kind to us for another 10 years, if ever." It was a good opportunity to leave with a beautiful, well-conditioned golf course. As luck would have it, 1982 was another exceptional year, which certainly helped those of us who were starting new jobs.

As you become acquainted with the Superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic, you will be impressed with their abilities and their genuine concern for each other. Give them all my best—I miss them and their families. Hope to see you next time you come to the Sandhills.

Sincerely yours,
George B. Thompson

Ladies Night Features Pirates of Penzance

Members and their wives who attend Ladies Night this year — March 23 at the Harlequin Dinner Theater in Rockville — will not only enjoy a cocktail hour and a buffet dinner but a performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan favorite, "Pirates of Penzance" as well. The total price is \$50 per couple, and reservations should be made by calling Paul Barefoot at either 722-3262 (office) or 291-2095 or by sending your check directly to Paul at Box 161, U.S. Soldiers Home, Washington, D.C. 20317, by March 4.

As stated, the price includes unlimited bar, except for wine by the bottle and specialty orders. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., dinner at 7, and the show starts at 8:30. To get to the Harlequin, follow the Beltway to 270 (toward Frederick), which you leave at the Shady Grove/Gaithersburg exit. Then, turn right on Shady Grove Road, right again on Frederick Ave. (Rte. 355), and left on Gude Dr., proceeding one mile to the theater, which is on your left.

New Membership Applications

Michael J. Doetzer,
Superintendent
Rolling Road Golf Club
Class D

Bernard I. Beavan,
Superintendent
Chesapeake Country Club
Class D

Thomas E. Cassat,
Assistant Superintendent
Towson Golf & Country Club
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Bonnie View Country Club
Class D

Ronald C. Tumiski,
Superintendent
Forest Park Golf Course
Class B

John W. Hoover,
Superintendent
Hillendale Country Club
Class B

(ed. note: On a November visit to Pinehurst, I stopped by the Country Club of North Carolina to meet George and see if I could pick up some material. As it turned out, he was away on a duck hunt, but this fine letter resulted.)

MARCH MEETING (Cont. from Page 1)

City; the address is 3535 Chain Bridge Road (turn right at the first stoplight on Route 123 after turning left off Route 50/29-211 coming from Penderbrook; if coming from Route 66, Fairfax exit to Route 123, turn left at the stoplight just before reaching the one at 50/29-211). Return your reservations cards or call George Renault (278-8740 or 385-8121) as soon as possible.

Directions to Penderbrook

From the Washington Beltway, take either Route 66 exit (just past Tysons Corner) or Route 50 exit (next one after Route 66 if heading toward Alexandria). If you go via 66, switch over to Route 50 where they intersect, go through the underpass to the Fair Oaks Mall and turn right immediately after that on to Route 1554, which leads to the clubhouse. If using Route 50, which has more traffic and many more stop lights, just go through the underpass and turn right on 1554.

STRAY DIVOTS . . .

Headed down to the national tournament at Myrtle Beach as a stop on their way to Atlanta are Ken Braun, Paul O'Leary, Ron Hall, Dave Kroll, Bill Emerson, and Bob Orazi; all scores will be reported in due course. . . . Ken, Paul, and Tom Turner will man the hospitality suite at the national meeting, while working for Bill's election; Cornell will sponsor its annual cocktail party. . . . In case you missed it, Paul O'Leary has an excellent article on the superintendent's view of winter golf in the November-December issue of *USGA Green Section Record*.

Donald Ross Award Goes to Al Radko

The Donald Ross Award for 1983 will be presented to Alexander M. Radko, former national director of the Green Section of the USGA, by the American Society of Golf Course Architects, who annually present the award to a person who has made significant contributions to golf course architecture.

Radko was primary editor for the USGA book *Turf Management for Golf Courses*; he joined the USGA Green Section in 1947 as a Research Assistant, became Eastern Regional Director in 1953, and from 1968 until his retirement in 1981 was the National Research Director. He was editor of the *Green Section Record* and wrote more than 100 articles on turfgrass maintenance and golf course management.

Match Play Tourney Opens 1983 Season

The 1983 golf schedule will get off to a flying start on April 12 at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket, with the first round of the Match Play Tournament. This year, it will be limited to the first 64 entries, which should be called in to Walter Montross (451-6619 or 455-0524—home) as soon as possible.

Walter and golf co-chairman George Renault have announced several policy changes, including the requirement for a USGA handicap. They'll be able to take your most recent scores and have them figured by Compu-Golf (the fee is \$4 for the year), or you can have your handicap figured at your club. Their goal is to have everyone with a current USGA handicap by 1984, and they will be checking to see that cards are turned in after each round and that Stroke Control is observed.

The annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament will be at Washington Golf & Country Club on May 10. Check with your pro early, because the field will be limited to 50 teams. The low net team will earn possession of the Clare Emery Memorial Trophy for the year.

The 1983 Golf Schedule is as follows:

March 8 — Open play, Penderbrook

April 12 — 1st Round, Match Play; open play for non-contenstants, Evergreen

May 10 — Superintendent-Pro, Washington Golf

June 14 — 2nd Round, March Play; blind bogey for non-contestants, Andrews AFB.

July 12 — 3rd Round, March Play; flag tournament for non-contestants, Mt. Pleasant

August 9 — Annual Picnic

September 13 — 4th Round, Match Play; open play, non-contestants, Bonnie View

October 11 — Annual Superintendents Championship, Ocean City Yacht & C.C.

November 8 — Match Play Final; 2-man team scramble, non-contestants; Leisure World

December 13 — Open play, Belle Haven

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, March 8, at Penderbrook Golf Club, time—3 p.m. Their April meeting will be on Thursday the 7th at 1 p.m. at the Woodmont Country Club maintenance building.

Re-Rating Process Underway in Mid-Atlantic

If you spot four guys prowling your course, carrying notebooks and a Stimp-meter, don't call the State Police. It's just a course rating team from one of three local associations, doing the re-rating that is part of an effort by the United States Golf Association to make handicapping of golfers fairer and to take into much more account the differences in the difficulty of the more than 13,000 golf courses in the United States. The re-rating is going on nationwide and in 1983 will be in its second year.

The system devised by the USGA to do this is not a simple one, but its aims and methods are understandable. For many years, golf courses have been assigned a "rating" by their state or regional associations. These ratings were based primarily on the length of the course, according to a set formula (total yardage divided by 220 plus 40.9), so that a 6,100-yard course would rate at 68.6 whatever its par, while a 6,900-yard course would rate at 72.3. Ratings are important, because when a handicap is figured for each golfer, the basic differential used is that between the player's score and the course rating.

Under present rules, handicaps are figured using the low 10 of your most recent 20 scores, with 96% being taken of the average differential (result of subtracting course rating from your score) to arrive at a USGA handicap. The lower the rating, the lower the handicap. But, by using only length as a criterion of difficulty, some short, tight little courses ended up with low ratings, while long, wide-open ones had high ratings. Also, there was no way to assist a golfer with a handicap earned on an easy course who had to play in competition on a harder one.

In order to implement the new USGA system, which involves the assigning of a "Slope" number to each course, all courses within an association must be re-rated. The Slope expresses numerically the relative difficulty of each course, compared to an average course Slope of 113. Through a formula based on the new ratings, each course's Slope can be determined and used as the basis for adjusting the handicaps to the course. Thus, a 15-handicapper would get 20 strokes on a course with a 150 Slope and only 11 at an 80-Slope course.

The re-rating considers 10 factors, seemingly subjective but based on an objective scale of from 0 to 10, with detailed descriptions in a written guide to help the raters arrive at a figure. The factors to be considered for each hole are:

- Topography — What kind of lie does the landing area offer? Uphill? Downhill? What type of approach shot?
- Fairway — How wide? Sloping? Overhanging trees?
- Rough — How heavy? Recoverability?
- Out of Bounds — Where? How close?
- Water Hazard — What effect? How much is hole impeded?
- Bunkers — Fairway and green, size, depth, texture
- Trees — Density, height, location, affect on play
- Green-Target — How difficult to hit, firmness, clearly visible
- Green-Surface — Speed (using a Stimp-meter), undulations
- Psychological — 1st and 18th holes usually play hardest

The rating team of four trained golfers walks each hole, making individual judgments on the above factors. If they differ by two points or more on a factor, they discuss it and resolve to within one point. They should not play the course when rating, although the fact of having played it before gives them added insight.

The bulk of the re-rating in the Mid-Atlantic area is being done by teams from the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association, under the leadership of Ed Dosek, an outstanding senior golfer who is chairman of the WMGA Course Rating Committee. To date, 29 courses have been re-rated and assigned a Slope, and the general trend has been for ratings to go up very slightly. There are also Virginia State Golf Association and Maryland State Golf Association rating teams and cooperation among these three associations is excellent, because there is a great deal of work to be done in a fairly short period of time.

If your course has not yet been re-rated, be patient. Either the WMGA, the MSGA, or the VSGA will get around to you in 1983. Then, in 1984, if all courses have been re-rated, the comparative Slope charts will be posted at each course, and handicapping will be fairer for everyone.



Ed Dosek

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NEWSLETTER**

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