



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVII

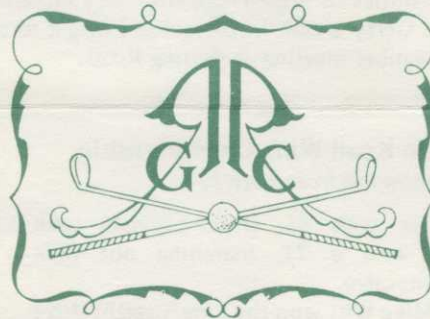
NOVEMBER 1984

NUMBER 9

Famed Rolling Road Golf Club Will Host November 13 Meeting

Rolling Road Golf Club in Catonsville, designed by the legendary Scots architect, Willie Park, Jr., and built in 1920, will be the host club for the Mid-Atlantic's November 13 meeting. As with many older courses, it is short, playing to 5,935 yards and par 70, and covers only 98 acres in an area of rolling hills. Its small greens are considered "tricky" and difficult to putt.

Willie Park, Jr., was part of the second generation of a family highly regarded in Scottish golf's history. Born in Musselburgh, he had a number of careers, including professional, greenskeeper, clubmaker, and writer. As a player, he won the British Opens of 1887 and 1889 and was runnerup in 1898. During two long periods in the United States, 1895-98 and 1916-24, he designed some 70 golf courses, including Baltimore Country Club, Atlantic City Country Club (a natural links), and the Pittsburgh Field Club. Among his better known courses in Britain were Sunningdale and Huntercombe. The entire Park family were noted golfers, greenskeep-



ers, and architects, including his father Willie Sr., his uncle Mungo Park, and his brother, Mungo Park II.

Few changes have been made at Rolling Road, although No. 18 has just been reconstructed based on an Eddie Ault design that conforms to the overall aspect of the course. Michael Doetzer is the golf course superintendent, and he mows the bent/poa annua greens six times a week to 3/16" and the bluegrass/rye fairways (in their third year of rye overseeding) three times a week to 13/16". The rough is cut once a week to 2". Fertilizing schedule includes 4-5

pounds of N each year, applied 1 pound each in September, October, and November plus quarter-pound applications in the summer months. Fairways get 2-3 pounds of N per year in September and October.

Golf will be available to MAAGCS members after 11 on November 13, with net and gross prizes for open play. Cocktails will be at 6 and dinner at 7 p.m.

Directions from the Baltimore Beltway (reached via I-95 from the Washington area) are to take Exit 12, Wilkins Avenue, off the Beltway, and go approximately 1 mile west to Hilltop Road. Turn right on Hilltop Road to the club entrance.

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 13

Golf — After 11 a.m.
Cocktails — 6 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner — 7 p.m. (cost: \$15)
Meeting — 8 p.m. (coat and tie required)
Reservations — Call 301-964-0070 to register

Dave Kroll's 76 Wins 1984 MAAGCS Championship

Dave Kroll of Wilmington Country Club fired a 76 at hilly Maryland Golf and Country Club on October 9 to win the 1984 MAAGCS Golf Championship and possession of the Bill Glover trophy. John Hoover of Hillendale was second with 79 and Harry Allen of Prince Georges third with 81.

In the net division, Ed Porterfield of Hunt Valley took the Ruben Hines trophy with his 70, two shots ahead of Bob Orazi, also Hunt Valley. Grant Pensinger of Green Spring Valley Hunt Club was third with 74, followed by Tom Regan of Bethesda, Jeff Yingling of Yingling Golf Center, and Steve Nash of International, all with 76. Dave Fair-

RULES, MARKING SEMINAR

Don't forget the Rules and course marking seminar to be held at Columbia Country Club at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 29. Tom Meeks of the United States Golf Association will be on hand to talk to us and to give practical, on-course advice on course marking. This is an area in which we can be a big help to our pros, green chairmen, and local association executives who are involved in preparing our courses for tournaments. Call Ken Ingram at 951-5060 if you plan to attend.

bank of Army Navy was seventh with 77, and Bert Yingling was eighth, also with 77.

Among the guests, Frank Sanzaro was low gross with 76, followed by Tom
(Continued on page 2)

"Our" Conference Tops Las Vegas '83 Record for Space

Almost four months remain before the ribbon is cut marking the opening of GCSAA's 56th International Golf Course Conference & Show in Washington, D.C., and total exhibit space has already surpassed the record set in Las Vegas a year ago.

"We are faced with the pleasant problem of having to find enough booth space to satisfy the demands of our exhibiting companies," declared Mark W. Herlyn, GCSAA's manager of marketing and program development. Presently, 201 exhibitors have contracted for over 76,600 square feet of exhibit space on the floor of the Washington, D.C. Con-
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Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

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

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From the Golf World

Middle Atlantic area golfers are watching carefully to see what happens to "Inside Golf," the latest local golf publication to hit the clubs. Steve Plyer of Mitchellville, Md., is the publisher and editor, and the 32-page second issue, dated September 15, was jammed with local golf news, including a story on the upcoming GCSAA national conference. A one-year subscription is \$14.95, and it will be interesting to see the reaction of golfers around Washington, D.C., who have been grouching for years about the poor coverage of local (and national) golf in the POST. We've agreed to help Steve wherever possible and wish him the best of luck.

Tom Haske has reason to feel proud of his work with all those new greens at Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Va. The Middle Atlantic PGA Pro-Am on October 8 drew the second biggest pro participation in a pro-am of the year, and most participants were in agreement that the new greens are a big improvement. Pros and their amateur partners who three-putted more than twice had additional comments on latest seven greens, designed, like the others, by Eddie Ault.

Ted Zahn has been named the National Golf Foundation's director of education and golf promotion, replacing Annette Thompson, who is returning to active teaching at the JDM Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens.

Congratulations are in order for Fred Funk, assistant pro at the University of

The President's Message

Due to the acceleration of construction plans at Hobbits Glen Golf Course, our November meeting that had been scheduled there has been changed. Our thanks go to Bill Neus for finding an alternate site and to Mike Doetzer at Rolling Road Golf Club for agreeing to host the November MAAGCS meeting on such short notice. It has been many years since the Mid-Atlantic has met at Rolling Road, and we are very pleased to be going back.

This change of meeting site highlights an important aspect of our association's annual activities. Time and again, the association must solicit locations for our monthly meetings. I hope that each member considers it both his responsibility and privilege to have an MAAGCS meeting at his course; and, don't wait to be approached—show some initiative and volunteer. This year the scheduling of meetings for 1985 has been one of the duties of Vice President Gerry Gerard. Do your part and give Gerry a call. Finally, don't forget to call 964-0070 to register in advance for the November meeting at Rolling Road.



Michael J. Larsen, *President*

Dave Kroll Wins Championship (Continued from page 1)

Fisher with 85; Dave Lipinski took net with a 71, matching out Jack Montecalvo.

Mike Witt won the long/straight drive contest on No. 18, and closest to the pin winners were Dave Kroll, 10' on No. 3 and Bob Orazi, 5" on No. 16.

Conference Tops Las Vegas Record (Continued from page 1)

vention Center; 32 new companies will join the ranks of GCSAA exhibiting companies.

"We are extremely pleased by the response from exhibitors to the Washington, D.C. show site," added Herlyn, "and we see a steady growth in the number of exhibitors all the way up to show time."

The Trade Show will be open February 10-12, 1985, and close to 10,000 conference registrants will have 19 hours in which to walk the exhibit floor and converse with industry representatives. Aisle upon aisle of products and services devoted to the management of the golf course and turfgrass will be on display.

Maryland as well as its golf coach; he won the 1984 National Assistants Championship at Brockton, Mass., sponsored by the Foot-Joy people. His rounds of 71, 66, 69, gave him a 206 total, 4 under par.

New Member

Ronald C. Prillaman, Class F
Sales, Loft's Seed Co.
Beltsville, MD

By-Law Change Could Add A New Non-Resident Class

At the December meeting, MAAGCS members will be asked to vote on the following addition to Article VIII, Section A, of the association by-laws:

Non-Resident Member

Non-Resident Associate Membership shall include all privileges of full membership with the exception of receiving the death benefit.

Qualifications: Applicant's work residence must be greater than seventy-five (75) miles (on a straight line basis) from the MAAGCS office located in Columbia, Maryland. If an applicant does not meet this criteria but believes he/she has extenuating circumstances that might qualify him/her for inclusion in this category, applicant shall make written application stating such reasons to the Board of Directors which will make a determination on a case-by-case basis.

Dues: A reduced membership fee will be set by the Board of Directors.

Note: Dues for 1985 shall be twenty dollars (\$20). It must be noted that it will be up to each individual member to apply for reduced membership.

1984 MEETING DATES

November 13 — Rolling Road Golf Club, Mike Doetzer, Host

December 11 — Lakewood Country Club, Jerry Robine, Host

Meeting Today's Demands: Fairway Maintenance and Improvement

By Bruce R. Williams, Bob O'Link Golf Course

Great strides were taken during the 70's in golf course management. During that decade, we saw major advances in chemicals, equipment, cultural practices, and fertilizers.

The demand for golf courses increased during the same period, and along with that came the demand for improved playing conditions. Fast and true greens are now expected at most golf courses today. The golfer of the 80's expects only a slight variance in the greens from one golf course to another. It has become a foregone conclusion that the golf course superintendent will provide a high-quality putting surface.

Our eyes have not turned to the condition and playability of the fairways. Improved fairway conditions set the better courses apart from the others. This is the demand of the golfers of the 80's, who prefer a tight fairway lie so that they can hit the ball cleanly with the club face and eliminate fliers. In order to make that possible, we must provide a dense, healthy, upright plant so that the ball sits up.

It is important to note there at the onset that, when we speak of fairway maintenance, the superintendent is usually dealing with the native soils. In many cases, we have clay soils located in flood plains which drain rather poorly. We must make the best of whatever conditions the natural soil and terrain provide.

Long-Range Planning Objectives

In 1977, we began a long-range plan to accomplish two objectives with our fairways. The primary concern of the members was to enhance the playability of the fairways, as mentioned above. The natural approach would be to reduce the height-of-cut and reduce the amount of irrigation. As we all know, this is easier said than done.

The secondary concern was that of the golf course superintendent in trying to keep the fairway turf alive at the reduced height-of-cut and on a reduced irrigation schedule. Things were already tough enough without putting additional stress on the fairway turf.

Each area of our program will be seen to have played its part in our total approach to achieving those original objectives.

Drainage

Without a good drainage network it

is nearly impossible to establish and maintain good turf. At Bob O'Link, the golf course was working with the original drainage system installed in 1916. The system had since been repaired, updated, and expanded, but was not producing optimal results.

Over a three-year period we replaced deteriorating main lines and laterals. We installed new laterals on every fairway, as that procedure was cheaper than repairing the existing laterals.

Two additional men were employed during those three years. On the average, we used five men on the drainage project Monday through Friday. We installed over 33,000 feet of 4-inch perforated PVC on 14 fairways and back-filled the trenches to the surface with No. 5 stone. The project cost was roughly \$60,000 for labor and \$40,000 for stone and drain pipe.

Irrigation

The existing automatic controls for our automatic irrigation system were 15 years old and no longer reliable. Timing was erratic and our central control was barely holding its own. A decision was made to convert our existing field controllers to the Toro VT 3 system and then install the compatible central control.

The project was completed in less than a week, and we now have accurate timing for our sprinklers. It's always nice to have a head run for 5 minutes when so programmed — rather than running for 2 minutes or sticking on a station for 60 minutes or longer.

The use of solid-state controllers, replacing electro-mechanical controllers, enabled us to run the system with a high level of accuracy. We currently employ one full-time man to operate, repair and maintain our irrigation system and pumping plant.

Wetting Agents

Beyond the direct improvements in our water application and drainage, it is important to note also that the use of wetting agents on our fairways contributed to a successful program. Our best results were shown using four applications of Aqua-Gro at 8 oz./M. at 30-day intervals starting May 15th. The wetting agent helped water percolation and drainage — and enhanced root development.

With an improved irrigation system, an improved drainage network, and the

use of wetting agents, it was much easier to limit the amount of water applied to the fairways. Moisture continuity developed and the number of wet spots and localized dry spots were kept to a minimum. Our objective of drier fairways was met.

Mowing and Clipping Removal

Several years ago, we experimented with the use of light-weight mowing equipment and clipping removal for the fairways. The results — after one year of clipping collection with Turf Pro 84's — were outstanding.

We followed the work already done by superintendents such as Al Muhle, Cal Gruber and Tony Bifano — all fellow GCSAA members. This topic has been covered at length in recent years, so let it suffice to say that the members of Bob O'Link were impressed with the program and we plan to use three new HF-5's — with baskets — to mow all of our fairways this year.

Our height-of-cut on the fairways varied from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in the 1970's. We now mow at $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the beginning of the season and raise the mowers to either $\frac{5}{8}$ " or $\frac{3}{4}$ " depending on stress. What was formerly the low end of our cutting-height range is now the top of that range. By removing the clippings, we have noticed a reduction in disease incidence, an increase in the bentgrass population, and reduced temperatures in the turfgrass canopy.

Fertility

During the early 70's recommendations for fertility of fairways may have been as high as 6 lbs. N/M per year. Research has shown that in the north-central part of the U.S., we can now feel comfortable with 3 lbs. N/M annually.

With clipping removal, we must increase our fertilizer requirements by about 20 percent. We apply $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. N and K/M in December with half of the N being Urea and the other half sulfur-coated Urea. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. application of the same material is used in early May, in late August and in October. The seasonal fertility ratio is 3-1-4. High levels of sulfate of potash enhance the heat and drought tolerance of the turf, making the leaf blades more rigid.

To be continued in December issue. Reprinted from *The Gateway Green*.

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