



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVII

SEPTEMBER 1984

NUMBER 7

September Meeting Is At Chevy Chase

For the first time since 1980, the Mid-Atlantic Association returns to Chevy Chase Club's famous old course for a meeting on Tuesday, September 11. At 6,500 yards, par 69, it is still considered one of the best tests of golf in the Washington metropolitan area, and a large field of MAAGCS players are expected.

Superintendent George Renault reports that his course's bent and poa annua greens are routinely mowed six times a week to 5/32", while his fairways, a mix of ryegrass, Bermuda, poa, and bluegrass are cut three or four times a week to 1 1/16" in the spring, 3/4" in summer. Tees and aprons are mowed three times a week to 7/16", while the rough is cut twice a week to 2 1/2".

The schedule for September 11 includes golf anytime after 9 a.m., with lunch available in the outdoor snackbar after 10 a.m. (charge or cash) and in the clubhouse after 12 noon (charge only). Cocktails will be served (cash bar) after 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom, and dinner will follow at 7 p.m. (cost will be \$20, and checks should be made payable to MAAGCS). The meeting will be immediately after dinner, and coats and ties are required after 5 p.m. Be sure to call the MAAGCS office in Columbia to make reservations: 964-0070.

To get to Chevy Chase from either Va. or Md., take the Capital Beltway (I-495) to Connecticut Avenue, using the south exit (toward town rather than toward Kensington). Go past Columbia Country Club on the right, and then immediately after passing Bradley Lane, which is a stoplight, take a right-hand turn through the gate in the stone wall.

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 11

Lunch: Available anytime after 10 a.m.

Golf: After 9 a.m.

Cocktails: After 5:30 p.m., in ballroom

Dinner: 7 p.m. (\$20)

Meeting: After dinner (coat and tie)

The Chevy Chase Club — A Short History

Back in the early beginnings of golf in the Washington, D.C., area, before the turn of the century, the Chevy Chase Club built a 6-hole course that was completed in 1895. A new 9-hole course was completed the following year, making the club one of the pioneers in American golf. Another nine holes were added in 1898, and this addition plus some improvements in the existing nine cost the club the grand sum of \$500 (the first nine had been less expensive; its building costs were only \$250). The club became one of the early members of the United States Golf Association in December 1898.

In 1909, the club purchased the land on which the present course is situated, and Donald J. Ross, the famed native of Dornoch, Scotland, who built so many fine American courses, was hired to lay out the new course on the 195-acre site. The old course was abandoned when the new one was completed in 1910, at a total cost of \$7,577.

The club commissioned a remodeling of its course in 1921, and a well-known British firm of architects that included Harry S. Colt, Charles H. Alison, and Alister Mackenzie was employed to do

the job. Alison, an Englishman, is generally given credit for doing the bulk of the design work, since he handled most of the company's North American clients. Completed in 1923, the renovation job cost the club \$25,676.

Although Chevy Chase's course remains much the same today as it did in 1923, another noted architect, Robert Trent Jones, was brought in as a consultant in 1947 to make some recommendations for modernization. His ideas were mostly concerned with the rearrangement or elimination of Ross's bunkers, plus the redesign of several holes, including making No. 11 into a par-5. Not all of his suggestions were implemented, but the plans remain on file for possible future use.

Thus, the Chevy Chase Club has had the benefit of a variety of golf course architects who are regarded as being in the very top rank. Donald Ross courses are generally highly thought of by golfers of all skill levels, and the work done by Colt, Alison, and Mackenzie has involved some of the world's great courses. The latest architect to be involved, Robert Trent Jones, is a byword in American golfing circles.



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Early registration at a discount, introduced during the 1984 National Conference and Show, will be in effect for the 1985 conference here in Washington, according to James Timmerman, GCSAA president. Under Early Bird registration, members are allowed a 10% discount on all conference fees, a 25% discount on purchases of educational tapes, preferential banquet seating, housing assignment, and seminar assignments. Final date for early registration is Sept. 15, and special forms were mailed to all members around July 15. If you did not receive the forms, call Bonnie Stephenson on 1-800-GSA-SUPT.