



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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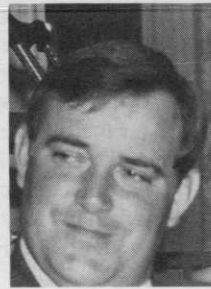
The President's Message

Last month's article in this newsletter by Virgil Robinson struck home with me, and I'm sure many other readers agree. Our experiences as golf course superintendents result in a series of highs and lows. For the most part, I think we would all agree that there isn't a more gratifying yet humbling profession. We have all had bad years. If you haven't had yours, it's just a matter of time. The demands of our profession are very taxing on our leisure time, often at the expense of time shared with our families.

Time away from the course is something that we owe ourselves, our families, and, yes, our employers. By being married to the course, a superintendent can become complacent or stale. You can easily begin overlooking details or symptoms you should be seeing. A mental break from the day-to-day operation at the club can give you a fresh outlook, help you to keep matters in perspective, and sharpen your senses.

Our July meeting will be at Winters Run Golf Club and our host is John Drew. This will be our first ever luncheon meeting, with golf following. Please note the details of the July 9 program on this page, and don't neglect to register in advance by calling our office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



Some Insight Into New Zealand Courses

At our June Meeting at Montgomery Country Club, Paul Standerfer of Toro Turf Equipment ably filled in for a speaker forced to cancel at the last moment; he talked about golf course maintenance in New Zealand, based on his own experience in that faroff part of the world.

Himself a former superintendent in California, Paul said that after three years he left that business because of the stress level he encountered, and that circumstances made the relaxed attitude he found among superintendents very intriguing. The New Zealand Turf Culture Institute, their equivalent of the USGA Green Section, arranged for him to tour courses on the North Island, starting in Auckland. He found the two islands that make up the country to have the largest ratio of golf courses to people in the world, some 300 to 3 million.

Among the other things that Standerfer learned was that most greenskeepers in New Zealand have gotten their

Tour TPC-Avenel

If you're interested in how zozyia is being sprigged at the TPC course at Avenel, you can see for yourself. Brian Finger of Summit Hall Turf Farm, working with Southern Turf Nurseries and Vince Hankely, Avenel superintendent, has scheduled a meeting Thursday, July 18 (rain date, July 19), starting at Summit Hall, 21300 River Rd., Poolesville, Md. at 9 a.m. and ending up at the golf course. Call Brian at 948-2900 by Friday, July 12, if you can attend; he needs a head count for box lunches and refreshments.

impressions of U.S. golf course maintenance from the superintendents' magazine and the USGA *Record*; as a result, he had to spend a lot of time debunking ideas of what it is we do. Generally speaking, their procedures are much simpler and cheaper than ours. Some courses use grazing sheep to keep their fairways mowed, relying on low-charge electric fences to keep the animals off

(Continued on page 2)

We Meet July 9 At Winters Run

An unusual luncheon meeting will precede golf at the MAAGCS July 9 gathering at Winters Run Golf Club near Bel Air, Md., where John Drew holds forth as superintendent. His schedule for that day includes an informal outdoor lunch after 11:30 a.m., the business meeting at 1 p.m., followed by the match play quarterfinals and open golf.

Winters Run Golf Club was opened in 1972, having been designed by Raymond F. "Buddy" Loving, well-known golf course architect from Charlottesville, Va. It is a fairly open course laid out on gently rolling land and features water hazards on 8 of its 18 holes. Its greens are Penncross bent and its fairways are a bluegrass, perennial rye mixture.

John Drew has been superintendent at Winters Run since the course was under construction; indeed, he describes his tenure as having lasted "forever." It is his first and only golf course affiliation. His mowing schedule is five times a week for the greens, to 5 mm., three times a week for fairways, to 3/4", and about once a week for the rough, 2 3/8".

Directions to Winter Run, which is north of Baltimore, are as follows: Drive north on I-95 from Baltimore (members coming from Washington should use the Harbor Tunnel), take the Md. Rt. 152 exit, turning left (north) onto 152 to Fallston. Several miles later, turn right at the next stop light onto U.S. Rt. 1. Follow it to Bel Air, turning left at the traffic light at Harford Mall onto Toll Gate Road. The club is 1.3 miles on the left. There used to be a sign, John says, but it fell down two years ago and he hasn't had time to put it back up. The red barn is a good landmark.

The program is as follows:

11:30 a.m. — Beer is tapped

12 noon — Lunch (cost \$10, including beer, etc.)

1 p.m. — Meeting, followed by golf

Let John know you're coming; call 301-964-0070 for reservations.

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*

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From The Golf World

They played the first tournament ever scheduled at the new TPC at Avenel in mid-June; that's the PGA Tour course in Potomac, Md., where the Kemper Open will be played, starting in 1987. It was held for a select group of invitees from the 40 corporations that have purchased memberships in the club, plus some press people and other guests. The fairways are still rough-graded dirt at present, and the cups were 1-foot-wide plastic buckets; players were limited to five clubs, and the format was a scramble. It won't be long before they start sprigging the zoysia in the fairways, and the results of that effort will be of great interest to many clubs and their superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area. Zoysia is a popular grass for fairways in the mid-West now, but other than some stripping and plugging in landing zones, it hasn't been tried locally before.

Something else being tried locally is American Golf, the new, non-traditional game. Two public courses, Goose Creek and Prince William have made it available on an optional basis. Each green has both a 6" cup and a regulation cup, and you can putt to either one. American Golf, which franchises its rules to courses willing to pay, allows 18 clubs instead of 14, sanctions mulligans, goes easy on the penalties, and pretty thoroughly perverts the game. Most true golfers either oppose such ventures violently or else just wish they could call it anything but "golf," which it isn't.

NEW ZEALAND (Continued from page 1)

the greens. The pH is low (3.5), there is less microbial activity in the soil, less *poa annua*, lots of thatch, no insects, and little use of chemicals.

Two courses on the North Island are fully irrigated; 25 more have water available for greens and tees; the rest rely on nature, which because of the geography, can usually do the job.

Paul believes that the courses he saw could not afford mechanization at anything like U.S. levels. The Wellington Golf Club, regarded as the finest, collects fees from its members at the rate of \$600 per year. His advice to the New Zealanders was not to push for the adoption of expensive U.S. methods. He spoke very highly of the golf course maintenance people he met, naming Ray Wendt as one who had devised very effective electric drive equipment because of his lack of trust for hydraulic drives. Finally, he noted, although chemicals are not widely used, there are no regulations on chemicals and their use, and almost any compound can be openly bought and used.

The Middle Atlantic PGA is collecting (and cutting down to size) used golf clubs to be given to youngsters who want to learn the game, as part of the National PGA's "Clubs for Kids" program. Clinics by PGA members will be held at nine sites on July 1 from noon to 4 p.m., and the clubs will be distributed to juniors who show up for the free lessons, plus refreshments from United Van Lines, which is sponsoring the local program. The nine sites for clinics (and club collection) are Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, Hogan's Range in Upper Marlboro, Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, Shannon Green in Fredericksburg, Woody's Range in Herndon, Langston in D.C., Lehr's Range in Richmond, Peninsula Range in Tidewater, and Drive-a-Way Range in Roanoke.

Something that could have been better publicized was Lesco's series of educational seminars given this spring. One was held at College Park, where Maryland's Dr. Mark Welterlen discussed tall fescue. Lesco reports that over 3,500 turf professionals attended seminars held in 13 states in conjunction with Stauffer Chemical, Monsanto, and 3M.

LETTERS . . .

May 8, 1985

Dear MAAGCS Members:

It is with gratitude that I write to thank you for the honor you bestowed upon me several weeks ago. Making me a Life Member of your organization was indeed a surprise and an honor for which I am very grateful. While living in the D.C. area, being a member of the Mid-Atlantic was one of my greatest pleasures. You are a great bunch of fellows, and I enjoyed my years of association with you. The friendship and closeness I had with some of you then is still there today. True friendship is indeed a treasure, and again I thank you.

At the present, I'm not feeling too good, but I'm doing my best to lick the big "C". There's always hope. God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Wayne B. Jerome

(Ed. Note: Wayne Jerome succumbed to his cancer at his home in Naples, Florida, in June.)

NEW MEMBERS

Jack Montecalvo, Class F, Sales Representative, Harford Industrial Minerals, Joppa, Md.

Kevin Driscoll, Class F, Loft's, Inc., Beltsville, Md.

Errico G. Pacilio, Class F, General Manager, Loft's, Inc., Beltsville, Md.

Lewis A. Lamp, Jr., Class F (Non-Resident), Consultant, Winchester, Va.

Golf in the Later Years

My muscles are flabby;
I can't hit a drive.
My mind often doubts if
I'm really alive.
My chipping is lousy,
I never could putt.
I guess I'll just stay home and
just sit on my butt.
My iron play's awful,
my woods are as bad.
I'm describing my game as a
shade sort of sad.
So the outlook for today is for
grief and for sorrow.
Say! who can we get for a
fourth tomorrow?

Reprinted from "The Greenside," GCSA of New Jersey, Sept. '84.

An Architect's View Multiple Tees

by Bob Lohmann
(continued from May Issue)

The tees begin to show wear about midway through the season, and if they are too small, the continued beating creates an eyesore that never has a chance to recover until fall when the golfing season is over. At this time, if the tee is only resurfaced and not enlarged, the problem reoccurs the following season. If a country club would spend the time and money to enlarge the tees properly, or better yet, to design and build additional tees, the wear problem would be alleviated. If properly planned and executed, the design of the golf hole could be improved at the same time. With the addition of multiple tees, the golf hole can vary in length and also in the line of attack. With the new golf equipment and the better caliber of golf being played, shorter golf courses must change from being a challenge of length to being a challenge of shot making.

The good golf course is challenging and fair for all golfers and not always penal to the higher handicapper. The new tees should be placed relative to the location of the fairway hazards and landing areas. The tee locations are based upon the length of the golfers' tee shot. A suggested range would be as follows:

Back tee — 225 to 275 yards
Middle tee — 175 to 225 yards
Front tee — 125 to 175 yards

Usually the tees would be placed so the fairway hazards come into play for tee shots landing in the latter part of each tee range. It is impractical and impossible to set up each hole the same for each golfer from each tee. But with the use of multiple tees, the shorter hitters are provided a fair and reasonable length golf course.

Each tee should be built large enough to allow for two and possibly three sets of tee markers to be placed on it. Depending on the wind direction and velocity, the pin placement on the green and the caliber of the golfer on the tee, the markers can be set up to create a difficult or easy golf hole.

Many clubs contend that because of the limited amount of play on their courses, the tees do not need to be very large. But in the last 10 years, even though the U.S. population has grown by only 10.5 percent, the number of frequent golfers has risen to 30 percent.

Have We Forgotten Where We Started?

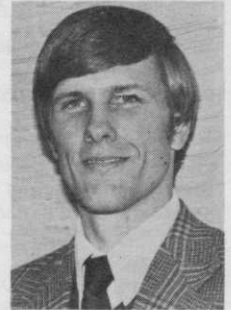
by Bill Neus

Many superintendents started as seasonal golf course workers, acquired an interest, went to turf school, became an assistant, and finally landed a head job. Now you are a successful superintendent (we hope). But let me take you back to the days of yesteryear when you were an assistant. You remember, don't you? Was it really that long ago? Let me help you, then. Long days, hard work, low pay, more was expected of you than of the other employees. Things haven't changed a bit, have they? Weren't those also the days that you began forming your opinions of the association, what it did for you and what your role could be? What? You say you didn't think about it that much and very seldom went to a meeting because your boss didn't make it seem very important and you really couldn't afford those expensive dinners at a gathering of people you hardly knew.

So now that you are a superintendent, how do you treat your assistant with regard to his (or her) involvement in our organization? My feeling is that the vast majority of superintendents don't stress their assistant's involvement at all. Here are some of the reasons I've heard: 1) I hired an assistant to be there when I'm not. I can't imagine that your operation would fall apart if you both missed part of one day in a month. 2) I don't have enough money in the budget to pay for his dues and meetings. Well, I'm sure we all waste enough money somewhere in our budgets to more than cover the yearly costs. The association is there if he wants to take advantage of it. That's real encouragement if I ever heard it. 3) He just isn't interested. In this case either you haven't stressed the importance very well or maybe your assistant should be in the computer field. Aren't these the people who will run our organization in the near future? Let's face it, we as superintendents have a duty to make sure our assistants are exposed to the association and how we conduct business. They don't exist just to mop up behind us. They are part of the whole and have a lot to offer.

Now, after making a plea for more involvement by assistants, I'll pose a larger question. Why should they? What does the Mid-Atlantic offer them? Well, we have our continuing education, ladies night, picnic, monthly meetings, etc. But isn't this all set in the world of the superintendent? Can the assistant really be comfortable and feel welcome? I think not. If you don't believe me ask a few assistants. Should we offer an apprentice-type program specifically designed for assistants? How about an article each month in the newsletter by assistants for assistants? How about an assistant speaking at the annual turf conference? Maybe a golf tournament just for assistants?

We can and should do more. Some superintendents tell me that the association is here and anyone can take advantage if they want. But if you don't promote and market your product, no one will buy it. And let's be honest, we're not doing either. Our association is the product that needs to be promoted. It's up to all of us to make sure that it becomes part of our assistants' job to take part in the association and it's up to the association to focus some attention on an assistants' program.



Combining the probability of an increased amount of golfers and the possibility of creating a variety of golf shots from a single hole, multiple tees are a much-needed improvement for all courses.

New larger multiple tees, if constructed properly, will fit naturally into the site and alleviate the eyesore of a small, square, continuously worn-out tee. Just as the entrance road gives a first impression when arriving at the country club, the tees should set the stage for each golf hole.

(Reprinted from *Divots*, Miami Valley GCSA)

Meeting Schedule, 1985

- July 9 — Winters Run G.C. (luncheon meeting), John Drew, Host
- August 13 — Bretton Woods, Annual Picnic, Gerry Gerard, Host
- September 10 — Hobbits Glen G.C., Bill Neus, Host
- October 14 — International C.C., Steve Nash, Host
- November 12 — Hunt Valley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host
- December 10 — Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host

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