



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVIII

JULY 1985

NUMBER 5

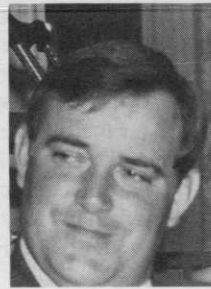
The President's Message

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*



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.

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)