



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXVIII

NOVEMBER 1985

NUMBER 9

## November 12 Meeting is at Hunt Valley Golf Club

Hunt Valley Golf Club, where the November 12 MAAGCS meeting will be held, makes a dramatic impression. Its clubhouse perches on a hill and looks down on the first two nines that fill the valley below it. Those nines, the Red and White, are fairly open but definitely rolling, whereas the Blue nine, behind the clubhouse, is wooded and even hillier. The valley nines were built in 1969 and were designed by Eddie

Ault, while the Blue nine was completed in 1975 and was done by Algie Pulley.

Bob Orazi, one of the better golfers in our association, handles the superintendent's duties at Hunt Valley on behalf of the American Golf Corporation, one

of the major companies in the relatively new business of managing golf courses and country clubs. His Penncross bent greens are mowed seven times a week to 3/16", while his fairways of blue/ryegrass combination are cut three times a week to 7/8". Rough is mowed weekly to a 1 1/4" height. His fertilizing schedule includes 6-8# of N per year on greens, 3-4# per year on fairways.

To get to Hunt Valley, you must first reach the Baltimore Beltway (I-695); take it north to Rte. 83 North. Take the Schwann Road exit and go east until you reach York Road, where you turn left. Go to Phoenix Road, where you turn right (stay right after the bridge). The clubhouse entrance is on the left, at Highland Ridge Road.

Golf activities for November 12 include the final round of the match play tournament, plus open play for all other members, with low net and gross prizes. The program schedule is as follows:

Lunch — Available after 11 a.m. (cash)

Golf — 11 a.m.-1 p.m. starting times

Cocktails — 5-6 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner — 6 p.m. (Cost, \$17.50)

Meeting — 7 p.m.

Reservations — Call 964-0070

## Vance, Haske Take 1985 Championships

Nick Vance's 79 at windswept International Country Club in Fairfax, Va., won the 1985 golf championship of the MAAGCS on October 8 and with it the Bill Glover trophy presented this year by the G.L. Cornell Co. It was a narrow win for the Laytonsville superintendent, however, as Nick's score matched out the 79 posted by Virgil Robinson of Burning Tree. Tom Regan of Bethesda Country Club was third with 80, followed by John Hoover of Hillendale with 81 and Grant Pensinger of Green Spring Valley Hunt Club with 81.

Tom Haske of Westwood, who earlier

in the year teamed with his pro, Glenn Brown, to win our Superintendent-Pro title, shot an even 100 at International, which with his 36 handicap gave him the winning 64 and the Ruben Hines trophy donated by Bert Yingling. John Tutich of Herndon Municipal was a close second with 65, trailed by Steve Nash of the host club with 71, Dick Gieselman of Hidden Creek with a 72 that matched out a similar score by Ken Ingram of Columbia.

In the guests' division, editor Claud Corrigan had 79 for low gross honors, with George Ragland of International second at 91. Harry Fridley of Lea's Green Meadows won low net with a 71 that gave him a one-shot margin over Tom Harris of the G.L. Cornell Co.

## President's Corner

The end of another golf season is fast approaching, and soon much of our time will be spent attending both local and national conferences. However, our association's election of officers and directors is an important event scheduled for December. I feel very strongly that every MAAGCS member should be willing



to contribute his time to serve on the Board of Directors. Each of us should feel obligated to participate in the affairs of our professional organization. So, if you are approached by the Nominating Committee, accept the challenge. This association has remained viable over the year because interested individuals have given freely of their time to help foster the profession of golf course superintendent. It may be time for you to do your part.

I recently learned that George Cleaver has suffered a heart attack. George was a long-time active member of the Mid-Atlantic before he retired and was our National President as well as MAAGCS President. I'm sure I speak for the entire association in wishing George a speedy recovery, and I'm certain that he would enjoy hearing from us.

Our November meeting will be at Hunt Valley Golf Club, with Bob Orazi as our host. Remember to register in advance for golf and dinner by calling our office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

### Elections Coming Up

Annual election of officers and directors for the MAAGCS will be held at the December meeting at the U.S. Naval Academy golf course in Annapolis. No by-laws changes have been proposed for membership consideration this year.

## 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*

### 1985 Officers and Directors

President . . . . . Mike Larsen  
Vice President . . . . . Gerald Gerard  
Secretary . . . . . George Renault  
Treasurer . . . . . Lee Dieter  
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Editorial & Publicity . . . . . Walter Montross  
Finance, Golf Chairman . . . Nick Vance

### From the Golf World

Congratulations are in order for a number of MAAGCS superintendents whose courses were picked on GOLF DIGEST's latest list of best courses in each state in October. The courses in Maryland included Congressional Country Club (Bill Black), Baltimore Country Club (Merrill Frank), Chevy Chase Club (George Renault), Columbia Country Club (Ken Ingram), and Woodmont Country Club North Course (Mike Larsen); in Delaware, they were Wilmington Country Club, both South and North courses (Dave Kroll) and Rehoboth Beach Country Club (Tom List); in Virginia, Farmington Country Club (Dick Fisher), and in North Carolina, The Country Club of North Carolina (George Thompson). All in all, quite an impressive list, if not quite in the "Top Ten" category, which was headed by Pine Valley and included Augusta National, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach, Winged Foot (West), Muirfield Village, Oakmont, Seminole, Merion, and Olympic Club (Lakeside), in that order and to no one's great surprise.

The GCSAA has announced that it will soon be providing to member superintendents a public relations manual designed specifically to meet their needs. It takes the how-to-do-it approach to gaining favorable publicity for the superintendent as an individual and as a member of the profession. The manual will cover such subjects as relations with news media, how to write news releases, public speaking, preparation and presen-



AMERICAN GOLF CORPORATION

Dear Class A&B Golf Course Superintendents:

We at the American Golf Corporation are proud of our association with the GCSAA and affiliated regional superintendents associations. We now have more than 70 superintendents and assistants on our staff. We employ more professional golf course superintendents than anyone in the United States.

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Because of American Golf's continued and rapid growth, we have openings occurring regularly which must be filled on short notice. We invite those professional golf course superintendents interested in being a part of this growth to discuss these opportunities and submit their resumes, in confidence, to Joan Stewart, Vice President for Organizational Development, at our corporate office. We would like to hear of your capabilities and career goals.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN GOLF CORPORATION

Bob Orazi, CGCS  
Regional Golf Course Superintendent

tation of reports, and other subjects that promote our professional image.

The 19th annual Clemson Turfgrass Conference will be held Nov. 12-13 at the Ramada Inn in Clemson, S.C., with the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association as a co-sponsor along with the university's Cooperative Extension Program and Department of Horticulture. Write to Dr. Landon C. Miller at Clemson for more information.

A University of Rhode Island plant scientist has been named Man of the Year by the Oregon Seed Trade Association; he is Dr. Richard C. Skogley, who has worked closely with the seed trade in the production of seed varieties. Skogley and URI have been instrumental in the production and marketing of four turfgrass varieties — Exeter, Colonial

Bent, Kingstown Velvet Bent, and Jamestown Chewings Fescue.

If you're at all interested in the Rules of Golf, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews has published a very fine little booklet entitled "Help in the interpretation of the Rules of Golf." Not intended to compete with the voluminous Decisions on the Rules, it provides a lot of practical examples from the Decisions and, being pocket size, is a lot easier to carry around. It's available through the USGA for \$4.

Two active country clubs in town are in the process of rebuilding a number of holes — it's four holes being rebuilt out at Manor Country Club and another four torn up for reconstruction at the Country Club of Fairfax. These are signs of progress, but they can be tough on member and superintendent alike.

## Some Thoughtful Words on Teeing Grounds

by Dr. Douglas T. Hawes

The golf courses I visit have come a long way from those old, old days when you teed up your ball a few club lengths from the hole you had just putted into. The custom then was to take a pinch of dirt from that hole to make a small mound for your featherie or guttie (depending on the year). Tees at some clubs today are so finely mowed you can practice your putting on them, which is progress of a sort.

Still, there seem to be two problems with tees, even now. They are either not large enough or in the wrong place — sometimes both. Ideally, you should have 100 square feet of usable tee surface for every 1,000 rounds played per year, with that figure doubled for starting holes and par 3's and doubled again if the tee is in the shade.

Tees get rebuilt and moved a lot more than greens because it is cheaper and easier to do so. Yet, as tees get larger and the quality of their turf improves, their construction becomes more expensive. Multiple tees are now more common; Jack Nicklaus may put four on a hole, and I've seen at least one hole with five tees. Some of these are so small you can't turn a triplex mower around on them without leaving tight rings of wheel tracks. Even so, scattered small tees look a lot better than Robert Trent Jones' "landing strips."

On a busy golf course, however, those long landing strips are real practical. Wide middle tees are even more practical, since most golf courses find their heaviest play is from the middle tees. Shorter-than-average courses are the exception.

Architects as well as golfers are beginning to waken to the fact that even the best women golfers hit the ball only some 80% of the distance that men golfers of the same caliber do. Thus, if a 15-handicap man is hitting his second shot into a par 4 from 150 yards, slightly better than average women golfers should be able to place their drives within 120 yards of the green so that they can use the same club as the man for their approach. To achieve this means moving ladies (or forward, as the USGA prefers to call them) tees a lot further forward than they currently are on most golf courses in the country.

The next step is to encourage the very young, the very old, and most women to use those forward tees. The new USGA terminology of forward, middle, and back should help in this regard, and on over-crowded courses, it may be necessary to require weaker hitters to use those tees. It is no wonder that those three categories of golfers often take much longer to play the course, since they are often playing the equivalent of 21 holes of golf even when using the current "ladies" tees.

Shortening a hole, incidentally, does not always make it easier or less interesting to play. One new tee location I recently suggested for a par 3 shortened the hole considerably but left the golfer looking into the mouth of an awesome bunker; a short lofted tee shot was now demanded to carry this bunker with a prevailing wind from behind to a now relatively narrow green.

Care should be taken when selecting "forward" teesites when a carry over water occurs on the second shot. Some holes may work better if you change par for the players using the new tee. For shorter hitters, a par 3 might be better if played as a par 4, and vice versa. However, moving a "forward" tee back on a hole can lead to confusion and will only be workable at a country club or other course where there are few strangers playing.

## Match Play Winds Up at Hunt Valley

The final and deciding rounds of the 1985 Match Play Championship will take place November 12 at Hunt Valley Golf Club, with the contestants scheduled to go off before the open players. Set for an 11 a.m. start are matches that pit Virgil Robinson against Ben Stagg and Jeff Miskin against Bill Neus. At 11:10, Bert Yingling takes on George Renault and Nick Vance plays Johnny Johns. The 11:20 group finds Walt Montross meeting Lee Dieter and Ken Ingram playing Dick Gieselmann, while at 11:30 Dave Fairbank takes on Mike Larsen and Steve Cohoon meets Jeff Yingling. The final scheduled time is 11:40, with Ken Keller playing Dan Rozinak.

## Architects Debate Golf Car Worth

Two noted golf course architects recently debated in *Golf* magazine on whether golf cars are good for the game of golf, each representing widely held views.

Michael Hurdzan, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, took the negative, saying: "The widespread, even required use of golf cars—a growing and pernicious trend—is a practice contrary to the spirit of golf. I have no problem with the limited use of cars by individuals who need them. Seniors, we're told, have to ride because they're not in shape. I believe they're not in shape, in many cases, because they ride. A lot of old folks, men and women, play golf in Scotland—and walk. But in this country, yesterday's joyride has become today's necessity. We think we need the cars. We don't."

On the affirmative side, Pete Dye said, "I hate golf cars and never ride one for more than a hole, but they are definitely beneficial to the game in this country, allowing many older people to play and providing needed income for courses and clubs. Senior and resort golf can't exist without golf cars. Do we want to go back to some purist tradition at the expense of millions of people for whom the game is a wonderful pastime?"

Hurdzan also pointed out that there are few caddies left because clubs make more money from cars, a regrettable fact of life. Strangely, neither architect mentioned the added wear and tear on turf or the intrusive existence of asphalt car paths, which often come into play.

### NEW MEMBERS

Doug Carlson, Class F, Sales Representative, Elanco Products Co.

Leah A. Hurd, Class D, Assistant Golf Superintendent, Rolling Road Golf Club, Catonsville, Md.

Lance V. Ernst, Class F, TESCO, Elkridge, Md.

### USED EQUIPMENT

Toro Groundmaster 52 or similar Fairway Aerifier, Jacobsen 5- or 7-gang ramlift Ranger, Jacobsen Fairway Sweeper Unit. Call Dan Rosinak, 301-575-7079.

### MEETING SCHEDULE, 1985

November 12 — Hunt Valley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host

December 10 — Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host

### FOR SALE

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