

## 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.

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### From The Golf World

The Ryder Cup matches, which dropped off the U.S. television because they were played in England in September, will be shown on ESPN on Nov. 2 and 3; if you watch, you can get a good look at a British parkland course, much more American in style and appearance than the links that show up on most broadcasts from overseas.

The second professional golf management program in the country has been established at Mississippi State University, which like Ferris State will now be sending apprentices out to work in pro shops around the country. A total of 23 students are now enrolled in the cooperative program, whose curriculum takes 4½ years to complete. State is also upgrading its golf facilities, including a full-scale renovation of its golf course.

The American Society of Golf Course Architects reports that a number of ski resorts are adding golf courses so that they can operate year-round. Since many of them include housing units, these can be rented in the off-season to golfers, in the cold months to snow bunnies.

It's of some local interest that Fred Funk, assistant pro at the University of Maryland course and its golf coach, has decided to defend his PGA assistants' championship after all. Earlier, he had said he would try for his Tour card during qualifying rounds that conflicted with the assistants' event in Brockton, Mass.

Finally, one of the old-line golf club

## From Greenskeeper to Professional— and Back Again

by Lee Dieter

I've noticed a trend developing in our profession that disturbs me, one characterized by a lack of personal commitment to individual and professional goals. I believe that if in all areas of life you aren't improving yourself, you're falling behind. It's easy to fall into the status quo trap. We must look at all areas of our professional ability and identify the areas where we're backsliding or not improving and make the necessary corrections.

What can we do to maintain and improve our professional image and our public relations? The Mid-Atlantic Superintendents have certainly excelled in one area, certification. We have 37 certified superintendents, 42% of those eligible. Why are others holding back from this certain positive step toward true professionalism? Within our local and national association this is only the beginning of involvement as a professional. Holding office and working on committees at both local and national levels is the next step upward. How can a person explain away the minimum commitment of attending meetings? Put something of yourself back into your profession — you owe it to yourself, your fellow professionals, and the generations of superintendents that will follow you.



How do the golfers at our courses see us? Of course, we are judged primarily by the results of our efforts, the finished product, the golf course that we maintain. Are we perceived by our golfers as just another one of the workers on the course? Is our office or maintenance facility organized, neat, and tidy? We can strive to do all these things better and we can make ourselves more visible by addressing groups of golfers and others on various topics related to our profession. We can also make ourselves available to answer questions regarding the operation of our course. Are we recognized as part of the management team by our fellow employees and the golfers?

Do our personal friends, our neighbors, and others in the community see us and recognize us as professionals? We must find time to work in and serve the community. It isn't easy, but many of our fellow superintendents make the commitment. They coach sports, work with youth organizations, serve on church and service groups, and help with charity drives and fund raisers. Community service organizations such as the Lions, Optimists, and Rotary offer an excellent opportunity for us to be visible as professionals.

I'm hoping that these thoughts will awaken in all of our members, including myself, a desire to put a little more of ourselves back into the profession that we all owe so much to. We will be the beneficiaries.

### OCTOBER MEETING

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three of the many ponds, rebuilding portions of two fairways, rebuilding and enlarging two tees, installing new Toro VT III irrigation controllers, adding irrigation for the rough, and laying down cart paths tee to green on the front nine. The back nine is scheduled for full cart paths next Spring. The

clubhouse is presently being redecorated, and sewer and water are being brought to the maintenance building this Fall, completing an impressive list of improvements to this active country club.

Directions to International are: Take the Beltway (495) to Route 66 West toward Front Royal, turning right onto Route 50 at Exit 15 marked "Dulles-Winchester." The club is approximately three miles down Route 50, on the right.

The program for October 8 is as follows:

Lunch (cash or charge): 11:30 a.m. on Golf: Call pro shop (703-968-7070) for tee times, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; event is annual MAAGCS championship, stroke play, net and gross  
Cocktails: 6 p.m. (cash bar)  
Dinner: 7 p.m. (coat and tie; cost \$20)  
Meeting: 8 p.m.  
Reservations: Call 964-0070

manufacturers, PGA Golf Co., has officially changed its name to the Tommy Armour Golf Co. Part of the Kidde conglomerate, PGA has been making products bearing the Armour name for more than 50 years. The late Tommy Armour lost an eye fighting in France in World War I but went on to win the U.S. Open in 1927, the PGA Championship in 1930, and the British Open in 1931.