



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXIV

JUNE 1986

NUMBER 4



Winners in the 1986 Superintendent-Pro tournament, Mike McKenzie and Larry Ringer, hold the Clare Emery Memorial Trophy and their own individual trophies; the two have agreed that the big trophy will be on display in the pro shop for six months and in the maintenance building for the other six months of the coming year.

McKenzie-Ringer Top Superintendent-Pro

A sizzling 65 by professional Larry Ringer aided by three net birdies by superintendent Mike McKenzie gave the U.S. Naval Academy team a net score of 62 and a one-shot victory in the annual Superintendent-Pro tournament played at Springfield Golf and Country Club on May 13. Taking second place with 63 were pro Mark Guttenberg and superintendent Steve Cohoon of Penderbrook Golf Course. Two teams tied at 66 — Jim McHenry and pro Bob Rementer of Caroline Country Club and Virgil Robinson and pro Steve Ranney of Burning Tree Club — with the match of cards giving third place to the Caroline duo.

(Continued on page 3)

JUNE 10 MEETING IS AT COUNTRY CLUB OF SWAN CREEK

The June 10 MAAGCS meeting will be held at the Country Club of Swan Creek near Belair, Md., and the day will feature the second round of the match play tournament in which Tom Regan leads Virgil Robinson by a point.

In describing his course, host superintendent Dan Rozinak says that Swan Creek's original nine holes were designed and built by Russell Roberts in 1956, with an assist from local architect Frank Murray, at that time Russell's partner. The second nine holes were designed and built by Eddit Ault in 1974, the full 18 holes coming into play in 1976. The course now plays to 5,816 yards from the white tees and has a par of 70.

Part of Swan Creek's history is that the club went under in 1983 and was sold at auction. The new owner had his own construction company, which enabled Dan to start an extensive renovation program. So far, 13 tees have been expanded, 2 miles of blacktop cart path have been installed, drainage problems improved, and the three lakes on the course were rebuilt as were 65 of the 85

bunkers on the course. Some 500 deciduous trees were planted in 1985, and this Spring a double 48" diameter drainage line 330 feet long was installed to stop above-ground runoff from neighboring farms. Dan added, "When all the MAAGCS golfers arrive in June,

Call Collect to Reserve

For members forced to make long-distance calls for meeting reservations, the MAAGCS office in Columbia will now accept calls on 301-964-0070. The directors hope this will solve a long-standing problem of too many unexpected people showing up for dinner meetings.

the grass should be growing — if rain arrives in time."

Swan Creek's front nine is partially wooded with tree lines, while the back is more open as tree lines develop. The bentgrass-poa greens are mowed six times a week to 5/32", the perennial

rye and poa fairways three times a week to 3/4", and the rough once a week to 1 3/4". The fertilizing schedule is 4# N per year on greens, 3# per year on fairways.

Directions to the club are as follows: From Baltimore — take I-95 north from the Baltimore Beltway, bear right at the Aberdeen exit and follow Rt. 22 to Old Post Road, turning left at the light; go 2 miles and turn right on to Oakington Road and proceed to the clubhouse. From Washington, follow I-95 north to Aberdeen exit, bear right to Rt. 22 to Old Post Road, turning left at traffic light; go 2 miles, turn right to Oakington Road, which leads to club.

The program for June 10 is:
Lunch — 11 a.m. on
Golf — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Cocktails — 6 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner — 7 p.m. (cost, \$16, jacket and tie required)
Meeting — 8 p.m.
Reservations — call 301-964-0070
(collect, if long distance call)

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

The new Tournament Players Course at Avenel is due to open very shortly, possibly by the time this is in the mail, so it was none too soon for it to receive its course rating and Slope. A five-man Washington Metropolitan Golf Association rating team toured the course with new golf pro Tim Gray on May 14, and after five hours of hard work came up with a Slope of 133. This is not the highest Slope in the area, but it's in the ball park, and for those who question why it isn't the big one, the answer is that the Slope reflects the difference in difficulty between scratch golfers and bogey golfers. Any course with a higher Slope probably means that from the back tees bogey golfers would have a hard time completing certain holes. From the blue or championship tees, the Eddie Ault course has a 72 rating and a 129 Slope; from the white tees, it will play to 70 and 123 Slope, and for women, the course is rated at 75.4, 135 Slope from the white tees, 69.4 and 121 Slope from the red tees. A lot of earth is still being moved on the back nine, and many, many yards of zoysia sod are being laid in order to get the course ready for an early opening.

Mention of Avenel brings to mind, of course, that the Kemper Open, which starts at Congressional on May 29, will be making its last stand at the River Road course, its home for the last half-dozen or so years. It moves over to the TPC course, as so many PGA Tour

President's Message

Once again the annual Superintendent-Pro tournament was an outstanding success, thanks to our host, Walter Montross, who along with his professional, Quin Sullivan, worked so hard to make this an enjoyable day for everyone. Both Walter and Quin were quick to share the credit with their staffs when the praise was passed out at the dinner meeting.

At our April meeting, a number of our members expressed their views on having to phone long distance in order to make reservations for golf and dinner at the upcoming meetings. Since reservations are an absolute necessity for host clubs, which must plan for the meeting, the Board of Directors looked into various alternatives, including establishing a Washington, D.C., metro number as well as an 800 number. All the options that were considered were either prohibitively expensive or discriminated against some members who would be outside the service calling areas. Thus, the Board has decided that the simplest and least costly method was for us to accept collect calls for reservations. The secretaries in our office have been notified of this decision and will accept collect calls.

The association's June meeting will be held at the Country Club of Swan Creek, with Dan Rozinak as our host. This will be the first meeting we've held at this club, so I hope everyone joins me in looking forward to attending. Remember, call your reservations in at (301) 964-0070.

Gerry Gerard, *President*



events are doing these days, in 1987. Labron Harris, once a touring pro himself and before that one of the world's finest amateur golfers, resigned as Kemper Open executive director this Spring and was replaced by Ben Brundred, Jr., a Congressional member who formerly was the club's Kemper Open chairman. There is no question that Avenel will be a great place to watch a golf tournament, and some of its holes will give any golfer a fit, including the Tour's finest. It will be a very demanding test of skill.

Lee Dieter's highly practical article in this issue on the uses a progressive superintendent can find for a computer is echoed by our frequent correspondent, Dr. Doug Hawes, now residing in Plano, Texas. In his latest communication, he describes the use of a computer by a golf course design firm, which employed it to analyze their course designs, hole by hole to make sure they had achieved a design balance for each hole. They analyzed the layout for the playing factors they had built in, including bunkers, doglegs, water, yardage, prevailing wind, and topography, with reference to uphill, downhill, and side-hill lies. They sought to anticipate what the club selection sequence might be and make the design fit that sequence so that it would pose a particular challenge. The designers set up the targets on the course to reflect the value of the shot; a wedge shot, for example, would be expected to carry a hazard or part of

the green, which would be broken in a number of directions to make the shot more demanding, rather than just pitching from front to back.

Each hole would be analyzed to make sure that as many varied options as possible were built into the course, to make it interesting, challenging, and fair. The goal would be to pace the play and spread out the difficulties, to start easy and finish tough.

It's pretty obvious that if the golf course architects are going to computerize their designs, golfers are going to have to fall back on pocket computers to find out how to deal with all those problems presented by the architects. A portable scorekeeping pocket computer is already available; all that is now needed is a software program on how to attack the course.

NEW MEMBERS

Randy Dayton, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
River Bend Golf & Country Club
Great Falls, Virginia

Kevin Pryseski, Class A
Superintendent
Pine Ridge Golf Club
Lutherville, Maryland

Robert Stiffler, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Woodholme Country Club
Pikesville, Maryland

A Few More Gags About Those Geese

Willet Wilt, the humor columnist for *The Greenside*, the publication for New Jersey superintendents, said recently that he had been asked why styrofoam swans no longer had any affect on geese. His answering analogy was, would you be afraid of a 6-foot styrofoam mugger with a knife? As for the USGA recommendation that a couple of good bird dogs could be used to pester the geese off a course, Wilt feels this could be a problem in that most of the geese are now so fat and happy they're bigger than most dogs.

He met a superintendent who was confused by something his greens chairman said, to wit, "Those things are noisy, disruptive, and messy." The superintendent couldn't be sure if his chairman was talking about the geese or a recent outing held at the club.

One course has tried putting out styrofoam swans, fenced around the shore, installed sirens, thrown cherry bombs, fired a starter's pistol, bought chase dogs, and sprayed repellent. Wilt says that if the Germans had done this on D-Day, they might even have won the war.

Geese are fast becoming the superintendent's greatest adversary, surpassing the weather, his labor force, his bosses, and even the golfers. Have you ever tried to predict what a goose will do, or pay one to do what you want, or reason with one, or even work around a whole gaggle of them? Finally, the Rules of Golf say nothing about what to do when your ball is lying on goose droppings, so it comes down to whether you're playing USGA or Winter rules (tip: if playing USGA rules, keep mouth tightly closed when hitting the ball).

Meeting Schedule 1986

- June 10 — C.C. of Swan Creek, Daniel Rozinak, host
- July 8 — Eisenhower G.C., Louis Rudinski, host
- August 12 — Picnic, Hobbit's Glen, Bill Neus, host
- September 9 — Open
- October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host
- November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
- December 9 — Open (Annual election meeting)

WILL A PERSONAL COMPUTER BE AN ASSET TO YOUR GOLF COURSE OPERATION?

by Lee C. Dieter, CGCS

Do you write reports, keep records, prepare your budget, have an inventory of equipment and/or supplies as part of your responsibilities? Granted, these are all chores that you can accomplish with a pencil and a piece of paper, but a computer can make it much easier. Recall, storage, comparison, and evaluation of your records can all be done quickly and economically.

The basic system I use is a Commodore 64, with a single disc drive, a monitor, and a Smith-Corona electric typewriter with an interface. This system with the following software gives me all the capability that I've found necessary. I use a spread sheet, a data-base, a word processor, and a golf course software program designed by Tom Mitchel, a superintendent in Georgia.

The spread sheet is actually a ledger with variable rows and columns. This program is used for budget preparation and comparison, the daily maintenance schedule, and other records that require a ledger format. The ability to move material around on the record and for totals and calculations to be done automatically add to the flexibility of the program.

Data-base is a filing system. Individual records may be kept on equipment, employees, supplies, parts, or any other desired category. Each record can contain numerous questions and can be called up as needed and printed in report form. Only the necessary information is drawn from the file. Again, calculations can be done automatically.

Word processing is used in all writing applications. It is especially helpful in preparing reports and in correspondence.

Probably the most helpful software available is one that is designed for a particular application. The one I use keeps records and makes calculations on equipment, pesticides, and fertilizer. The use, costs, rates, and timing are all pieces of information that are immediately accessible. The information on this program is so varied and detailed that an article could be written on it alone.

I started using computers very cautiously. I already had a computer at home and decided to experiment. The first program I bought was a Typing Tutor. If I was going to use a computer, I wanted to be a more proficient typist. The next was the data-base. I entered my entire equipment inventory, including all information I felt pertinent. At this point I was about convinced, and receiving my EEZY-GOLF software was all I needed to make my decision — I was ready to purchase a computer for use at the club.

Many types and models, of course, are available and all will do the job within certain limits. I knew that the Commodore would do all that I wanted to do and the price was certainly right. I spent \$350 on the computer, and the letter-quality typewriter cost about the same. The typewriter has an interface so that it can be used as a printer for the computer. I've spent less than \$300 on software to date.

I put in some extra time and made a few mistakes along the way, but I believe I've got a better operation, and I know I'm maintaining better records. I'd also like to think that it's made me a better supervisor, manager, and golf course superintendent.



SUPERINTENDENT-PRO TOURNEY (Continued from page 1)

Four 67's were registered, and matching cards ranked them in this order: fifth, Preston Licklider and pro Billy Phillips of Winchester Golf Club; sixth, Tom Haske and pro Glenn Brown of Westwood, the defending champions; seventh, Buddy Williams and pro Kevin Wilmuth of Prince William Golf Course; and eighth, Bob Miller and pro Ernie Rosen of Suburban Club. Two teams posted 68's, with Nick Vance and pro Dave Walker of Laytonville Golf

Course matching out Scott Wagnor and pro Luther Showaker of Leisure World, for ninth and tenth place, respectively.

Longest drive on No. 15 was hit by Tom Regan of Bethesda, while Paul O'Leary was closest to the pin on No. 4 at 11'2" and Bobby Jenkins was 11' away at No. 13. Among the pros, closest to the pin at No. 4 was Gordon Murray of Bretton Woods at 4'8½" and on No. 13 it was Hilton Phillips of International at 9'11".

The Clare Emery Memorial Trophy will thus reside in Annapolis for the next 12 months.

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