

## 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 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