



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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Tom Regan Leads Match Play Tourney

Tom Regan, who compiled a total of 10 points in the first round of the annual Match Play Championship played in April at Chartwell Country Club, is leading the tournament by one point over Virgil Robinson and two over Grant Pensinger. Tied at seven are Ken Ingram and Dave Fairbank, while Nick Vance has six, a half-point in front of Tom Walsh and Dick Gieselman. John Hoover has five, Ben Stagg and Gene Dyke four, Dwight Wiggins and Joe Emanuel three, George Renault and Steve Potter one-and-a-half, and Howard Gaskill and Bill Neus, one apiece.

In open play on April 8, Tom Regan took low gross honors, trailed by Virgil Robinson, while Dave Fairbank was low net; Tom Walsh matched out Dick Gieselman for second net.

The second round of match play will be played June 10 at Swan Creek.

Enforcing the Rules . . . Who Does it at Your Club?

by Ken Ingram

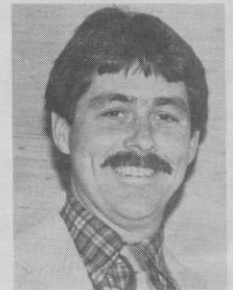
Superintendent, Columbia Country Club

Did you ever sit through a Golf Committee meeting at your club as its members discussed cart rules, starting rules, guest rules, dress code, etc., only to finally say, these rules are fine but who's going to enforce them? I don't think any of our job descriptions point to us as policing agents, but we often find ourselves doing more of the enforcement of rules at our clubs than we like. And, in that regard, don't you get the feeling that, like a lot of the work around a country club, if the grounds crew doesn't do it, then nobody will?

Now that the fuse has been lit, here's an even more pointed question: why do so many private club members despise the idea of marshals or rangers on the course? It could be because they get hassled by them during winter trips to Florida and other places, and they're happy to be home where they can play as slowly as they want. Or, could it be too many of those Top-Flite commercials (OK, hand over them hot balls!)? Look in your club's golf car parking area. If it's like mine, the junkiest cart out there will have "marshal" painted on its side. Marshals may well be the answer to slow play, but most clubs will never bring themselves to go that route.

Country clubs, of course, expect their members to police themselves and those in their foursomes, something that we all know doesn't happen. The system also calls

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Superintendent-Pro Tournament Is At Springfield On May 13

The lush fairways, firm greens, and beckoning lakes of Springfield Golf and Country Club will welcome Mid-Atlantic golf course superintendents and their golf professionals entering the annual MAAGCS Superintendent-Pro tournament on May 13. The field will be limited to the first 50 teams entering, on a first-come, first-served basis, and pairings will be by blind draw. The entry fee of \$120 per team covers lunch, range balls, golf car, refreshments on the course, dinner, and prizes. The Clare Emery Memorial Trophy will go to the winning low net team, and Tom Haske and Glenn Brown of Westwood Country Club will be on hand to defend the title they won in 1985 at Woodmont.

Springfield was built in 1959, having been designed by local architect Eddie Ault and his partner at that time, Al Jamison. Walter Montross is starting his eighth season as golf course superintendent, having previously served as

assistant at Washington Golf and Country Club. He is a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland turf course. His poa annua/bentgrass greens are mowed seven times a week to 5/32", tees and collars three times a week to 1/2", perennial rye fairways three times a week to 3/4", and rough once a week to 2". Quin Sullivan is the popular golf professional at the club.

Directions to Springfield Golf and Country Club are short and simple. Take the Washington Beltway (495) in either direction to the 95S exit. Almost immediately after getting on 95, take the Springfield Exit (Rte. 644), which is Old Keene Mill Road, on which you go almost precisely three miles before reaching the club on the left, just before Keene Mill's intersection with Rolling Road.

The May 13 program is as follows:

Lunch — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Golf — Shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Cocktails — 6:30 p.m.

Dinner — 7:30 p.m. (jacket required; dinner cost for those not in tournament is \$20; reservations through 964-0070).

Meeting Schedule 1986

- May 13 — Springfield Golf & C.C., Walter Montross, host
- 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)

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Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

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From The Golf World

Ken Ingram's provocative article in this issue should strike a number of responsive chords among club officials and staff. It certainly hit the mark with me, recalling a recent incident at my own club where I spotted a golfer playing ahead who was hauling his pull cart along the collars of the greens. After a few holes of watching this, I finally yelled at him. He waved and walked on, but I ran into him when I finished, and he said, "What were you shouting at me about?" When I told him I was trying to ask him to keep his cart away from the greens, as our club's rules specify, he grumped, "Who appointed you sheriff? If I'd known that's what you were saying, I'd have come back and punched you in the nose!" And that's a typical response to a member's attempt at enforcement. All too often, when a committee ventures to write a member a letter about a rules violation on the course, the answer will be a note from the guy's lawyer, demanding a jury trial.

This year's Masters was a very eventful tournament, in more ways than one. Two of the most testing greens on the Augusta National course were rebuilt over the summer. No. 9's slope was leveled off to some extent, although shots hitting into the front portion still rolled back off the green; putts from above the flagstick no longer rolled on down and turned into chips coming back, however. And, No. 18 was lowered several feet, extended 15 feet or so in back, and generally made less severe. Also, Bill Fuller, the superin-

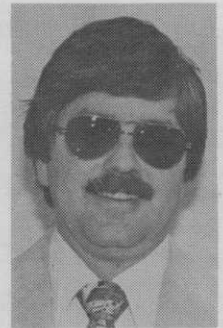
President's Message

One of the biggest and most successful events sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents each year is the annual Superintendent-Pro golf tournament. This is the occasion for us, as superintendents, to show our professionalism and invite our club's golf professionals to take part in an outstanding joint event. Walter Montross and Springfield Golf and Country Club will be hosting the tournament, and they have a super program planned for the entire day. If you have not already received your entry blank for the tournament, no further reservations through our office are necessary.

For those of our members who will be playing in the tournament, no further reservations through our office are necessary. For those not playing but coming to the dinner meeting, please be sure to call 964-0070 to make a reservation. At its March meeting, your Board of Directors, concerned about the number of members who did not make reservations but who show up for golf and dinner, voted to add a \$5 fee for those who do not call in a reservation, commencing with the June meeting.

Early in April, along with six other golf course superintendents I attended a meeting of the Turfgrass Subcommittee of the Horticulture Technology Curriculum Advisory Committee of Northern Virginia Community College. This committee is trying to initiate a program geared to golf course and green industry employees that will give them the basic training needed to take part in our business. Graduates of the 10-week course will receive college credits as well as a turf care certificate. As planning for this program progresses, I will try to keep everyone informed of developments.

Jerry Gerard, *President*



ENFORCING THE RULES (Continued from page 1)

for the chairmen of the Green and Golf Committee to be watchdogs, but how often are they on the course? As for the golf professional, I can only say that I've worked with great ones who always were willing to do their share of enforcement, but they're usually in the shop or on the lesson tee rather than out on the course where the rules are being broken. After all, the pro's real job is to supervise his staff, including the starter, and to provide service to his members.

It might help if we were all hard-nosed, like some of the great figures in golf in the past who were harsh masters but who ended up being loved and respected. Think about the great clubs that have been dominated by one menacing figure—Cliff Roberts at Augusta National, William Fownes at Oakmont, John Arthur Brown at Pine Valley, and, locally, maybe Jack Emich at Baltimore Country Club—nobody breaks rules when Jack's around. Columbia used to have a mean starter named Reds Branagan, who once kept Nixon waiting for two hours. The women would say, "Good morning, Reds," and he'd answer, "Yeah, what's so good about?" Still, everyone loved him, and after he died, they named the first hole and one of the bridges after him. Old Carroll Hitchcock who was superintendent at Woodholme Country Club for years was the same way, but they still talk about him, even though he's been dead for 20 years.

So, where do we, as superintendents, stand? I always enforce the rules with the juniors. I'll give them hell for playing with range balls and then throw them a couple of Titleists that are always rolling round in the Cushman somewhere, and they probably think I'm nuts. If a member's actions make me so mad that I start talking to myself, I'll usually go over and say something to them, but most of the time that's the only enforcing of the rules I do. I don't really think it's our job, but somebody should be doing it.

tendent at Augusta for the past five years, has advised the club that he is leaving to become Director of Golf at the Port Armor Club in a development east of Atlanta; he also plans to start a turf consulting business. Replacing him at Augusta will be Paul Latshaw, who will be coming from 10 years of service at Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh, where he prepped that famed course for a PGA Championship and an Open.

NEW MEMBERS

Sean Remington, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Chevy Chase Club
Chevy Chase, MD

Dean M. Graves, Class B
Superintendent
Kenwood Golf and Country Club
Bethesda, MD