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Know?



Genesis of the Golf & Green Committee

Given that the continued existence of the newly established Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Country Club was dependent upon growing the membership rolls and the accompanying cash flow, it is not surprising that the first committee established was Membership (1925). It was followed by the House Committee (1927), Grounds Committee (1927), Golf Committee (1928), Finance Committee (1929), and Planning Committee (1929).

Genesis of the Golf & Green Committee

The first nine holes of the original (Newman) golf course opened in September 1928 with the second nine opening for play in the summer of 1929. Until that time the focus was on golf course construction, so it was logical that golf was the responsibility of the Grounds Committee. Once play started, a separate Golf Committee was created.

The Grounds Committee carried on until 1943 when, due to the paucity of available members during World War II, it was combined with the Planning Committee. In May 1946 Grounds was liberated from Planning only to be disestablished and combined with the Golf Committee two months later (July 9, 1946).

In 1958 a separate Green Committee was established with responsibility for the golf course itself. The Golf Committee carried on with responsibility for play including events, handicaps, dress code, behavior, and discipline. This arrangement could be contentious as jurisdiction was not always clearly defined with one or the other committee wading into the other's area of responsibility. This was particularly true of the Golf Committee relative to golf course changes and maintenance. This problem was solved by combining the two committees into a single Golf and Green Committee in July 1972.

But this was not the end of the story. In 1988 when LGEN Wallace Robinson took over as the Golf and Green Chair, he established two "Sections" – a "Green Section" (under his leadership) and a "Golf Section" under separate leadership but still reporting to the Golf and Green Chairman. This was a way for General Robinson to concentrate on the area in which he was most interested (the golf course) while retaining control, but not day-to-day involvement in the areas of events and rules making. This arrangement lasted through 1991 when the "Sections" were abolished in favor of the single Golf and Green Committee we have today.



LGEN Wallace Robinson

Note: The name of the committee is Golf and Green, not Golf and Greens. Back in the day of Old Tom Morris, the individual responsible for the maintenance of the golf course was termed “The Keeper of the Green” with “Green” meaning the entire golf course. From this evolved “greenkeeper” (not “greenskeeper), “green fee” (not a “greens fee”), and Golf and Green Committee.



Old Tom Morris