

Meet Bob Scott, Sr.

UNIQUE AMONG THE golf courses in the mid-Atlantic region is one which is almost entirely bentgrass — tees and through the green. Such a golf course exists. It is the Five Farms Course of the Baltimore Country Club, in Maryland. The man in charge of turf operations there is Bob Scott, Sr.

Bob Scott was born in Galston, Ayrshire, Scotland. He comes from hardy stock, as evidenced by the fact that his father, now 93 years old, has been working on the large estate called Cessnock Castle for some seventy years. Bob, too, received his early training and studied horticulture on this estate, where all the Scott family was raised. Early in his youth Bob played golf with the gutta ball and caddied on a course within a stone's throw of his home.

Bob left Scotland and went to England to further his education in horticulture, intending to migrate to one of the British colonies. In the interim, Bob's older brother, Bill, came to the United States as a golf professional and advised Bob to get some experience in golf-course work. Bob took his brother's advice and got a job on a golf course at Welbeck, in Nottinghamshire, which was laid out and supervised by James Braid, one of the famous old golfers. Gaining experience there, Bob then came to the United States and was employed as a construction superintendent by a New York firm which was building many golf courses in the United States and Canada. During that time he was sent to supervise the remodeling of the Baltimore Country Club, where brother Bill was pro. The golf committee asked Bob if he would like to stay with them to take charge of the golf course. That was thirty-four years ago. He has been there ever since.

Builder of Five Farms

Shortly after he arrived at the Baltimore Country Club, officials decided to build additional golf facilities, and it was under



BOB SCOTT, SR.

Bob's supervision that the Five Farms Course was built. The PGA Championship was played there in 1928 and the USGA Amateur Championship was held there in 1932. Bob supervises the Baltimore Country Club's Roland Park and Five Farms Courses, which include some 420 acres of ground with 28 grass tennis courts at the Roland Park site. Several major tennis tournaments have been held on these courts.

Bob is a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. He has held most offices from president on down in that organization. He is also a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He was a member of its Board of Directors

and Vice-President of the Eastern Section in 1934 and 1935. He regularly attends turf meetings and conferences and often is asked to participate. As he is situated close to the Beltsville, Md., office, Bob has been in close contact with the USGA Green Section down through the years, from the days of Lyman Carrier to the present day.

The Scott family holds the distinction of having a total of more than 200 years' experience in turf and golf-course work. Besides the elder Scott, Bob, and Bill, Dick Scott for the past thirty-two years has been superintendent at the Rolling Road Golf Course, Catonsville, Md.; David Scott is superintendent of grounds at the Prestwick Airport, in Scotland; and Bob's son,

Bob, Jr., is superintendent at Bonnie View Golf Club in Baltimore, Md.

Years ago Bob planted white birch trees to serve as directional markers in a background of evergreens to the rear of each green at the Five Farms Course. Bob laughingly says that the white birch is truly a Scottish tree, "it repaints itself each year." He is constantly experimenting with grasses and techniques on his golf courses and in his home. If you were to visit with him, he would show you around the golf course with the same enthusiasm and interest as if it were his first time over the layout. Although a veteran by all standards, Bob still is one of the keenest students in today's turf world.

Keep A Turf Nursery

ONE CAN NEVER ANTICIPATE attacks of diseases or insects, chemical burns, mechanical damage or vandalism which might destroy valuable turf on a putting green.

What do you do to repair such damage? Is it a matter of having to wait for the grass to recover, to grow back from seed, or do you have a nursery to which you can go and take enough sod to repair the damage quickly and easily? In case of such mishaps, a nursery can be invaluable.

There are numerous strains of improved grasses available which have been studied at experiment stations and have been tested on golf courses until they have positively demonstrated their merit. Those improved strains which are known to be adapted to your area should form the basis for your turf nursery. On most golf courses, however, there are patches of excellent turf, which have developed over the years. These patches arise from a single seed planted many years before. These strains are known to be adapted to local conditions. Sometimes they may prove to be superior to

some of the more widely tested strains.

Every superintendent should make numerous selections of strains that are thriving on his own golf course. They should be grown in the nursery and compared with standard, improved strains. If local strains prove to be better adapted, they should be submitted to state experiment stations for inclusion in a larger testing program. This is the way new selections come to be grown.

The question is frequently asked: "How can new and better strains be introduced into my existing putting green?"

There is a very good opportunity for new strains to be introduced into existing putting greens at the time that cups are changed each week. If you change cups two or three times a week, it does not take long to introduce improved grasses into your greens in considerable quantities. Each time you change cups, go by the nursery, take up eighteen plugs of the improved strains and substitute them into the old holes on the putting green. You will be surprised how quickly you will get the improved strain introduced.