



Gleaning From Past Newsletters

Tucker

The Fox, May 2007

The course has a late opening due to excessive flooding that covered greens near the creek for several days.

The USGA Turf Advisory Service Report mentions winter damage to the 4th and 16th greens and some damage in some areas where greens are getting insufficient sun. Recommended tree removal around 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 16th greens.

Many tees need leveling, especially 1st, 2nd, 6th, 10th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th. The 17th, despite recent renovation, needs extensive changes. The scope of all the tee work needed will take several years if done in house. Trees around the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 15th and 17th need to be thinned out.

Fairway and rough areas on the 2nd, 10th, 11th and 18th need better drainage and the severe contours of the 10th fairway make drainage difficult.

Pictures published show tree removal to the left of #12 green, and #13 tee, the bridge washout on #1 and the new, wider bridge from 17 to 18.

The Fox, June 2007

New Board Members are Sue Kahler, Bruce Kay and Tucker. Outgoing President is Rick Funaro, new President is Dick Cody.

The flower bed behind #1 is enlarged and many shrubs are added.

Tournament Results

Opening breakfast Scramble: 1st: Todd Swetkowski, John Paolucci

Men's Scramble: Gross: 1st: Bruce Kay, Ken Stevens, Ken Koran, Dave Wellington 3rd: Tom Hudy's team

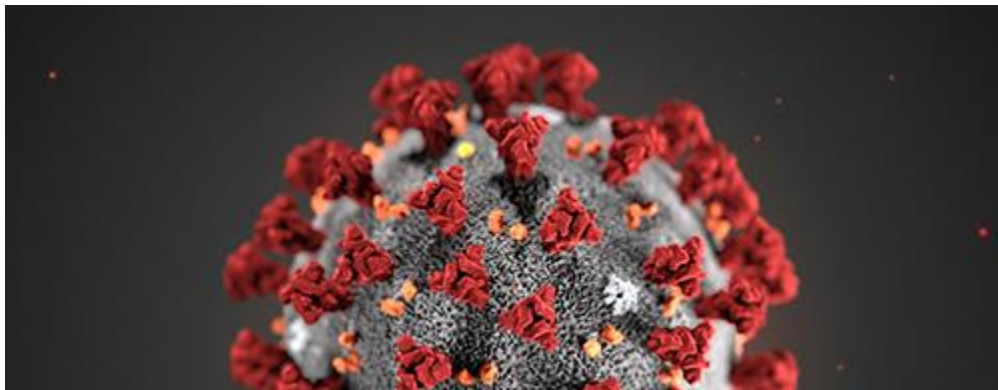
Net: 1st: Steve Ludwin, Leo Bouleris, Dave O'Connor, Ron Symanski



President's Letter

Roger Laime

President's Message



Corona-virus (Kr-ow-nuh; vai-ruhs) - For most of us, it has changed our lives and disrupted our normal daily activities and for others, it has been much worse. I hope that all our members, their families and friends are healthy and staying safe because that is the most important thing in our lives, everything else can be replaced.

The 2020 season started off so well, the weather was cooperating, and we were able to open the course on April 3rd, earlier than most years. Then came the pandemic and the disruption to all our lives, forcing us to close the course to play, attending school from home, working from home, and the extreme shortage of vital goods, including TP!



We are all getting used to the new normal, and in recent days there have been some positive signs reported by the authorities which may indicate that we are cresting the hill and better times are coming. The Board, committees and maintenance staff have been busy, working remotely, to accomplish as much as possible during the down time. We have been approved for an SBA loan to enhance our balance sheet. There is more information about this in the

Treasurer's Report. The greens are being aerated now to eliminate the need to complete it in the fall. Improvements have been made to the clubhouse, the kitchen equipment and the snack shack. The Membership applications have been steady and there have been renovations to the pro-shop as well.

I want to encourage the members to support the local businesses and their staff if you can. Henry's in Ballston Spa is open for take out and curbside pickup. They offer their full menu and weekly family style dinners. The weekly specials are posted to [Facebook](#) (@HenrysTavernBspa) and [Instagram](#) (henrys_irishtavern) throughout the week. Their full menu can be viewed on the website (www.henrysirishtavern.com). They have growler fills and beer/wine/cocktails/milkshakes available for takeout with the purchase of a food item.

Henry's hours of operation:

Sunday-Monday 4pm-8pm, Friday-Saturday 4pm-9pm.

Phones open for orders at 3pm daily, 518-309-3584.

We are all in this together and I am optimistic that we can make it through this tough time.

Be safe and think warm weather.

Roger Laime



Treasurer's Report

Rick Funaro

With all of the unknowns that we are entering this 2020 golf season with, I will start with what we do know with regards to our membership revenue.

This year, we set our budget at \$600,000 which is approximately \$15,000 less than our 2019

revenue. To date we are guaranteed \$555,600 in membership dues. We have collected to date \$465,000 in dues. We will collect another \$90,000 from those members paying by month. We have 11 members who have to make their final payment which is another \$10,000 to be collected. We also have 28 2019 members who have not paid anything towards their dues nor have they contacted us regarding their 2020 status. I do not expect all of them to return but certainly some percentage will.

We always hear from members about how their friends will be joining and this year is no different. Bri has been busy answering questions about membership and getting packets out to people. We never know how many of those actually will join but we will certainly continue to add new members. With all the above information, I see no reason we should not reach our revenue goal for membership.

That was the good news, now for the not so good news. I'm confident we will fall short of our budget for green fees, tournaments and cart revenue. We have already had three events cancel that provided \$13,000 to \$15,000 in revenue. While only three are official, we fully expect more to cancel and each one is important. With the States decision to close golf courses, we will lose approximately \$8,000 in revenue.

If the restaurant is unable to open in May due to continued NYS restrictions, that would be a month of rent we would lose.

I did complete the application for the Small Business Loan under the CARES Act and submitted it on Friday, April 3rd. This is a loan that is will be used to pay our payroll expenses, mortgage interest and utilities for the 8 weeks following loan approval. If when the 8 weeks are over, you can show that 75% of the money went to those expenses, the loan is forgiven. I received notification on Thursday, April 9th that our loan was approved for the full amount we applied for. As of Friday, April 10th, I'm waiting on the official loan documents to be emailed to me. I will sign them electronically and I'm expecting that within the next 7 days, the money will be in our account.

Thanks to the efforts of Bri in reaching out to our members who had balances carried over from 2019, we only have 2 people we will be taking to collections. She has also worked with our Point of Sale vendor and you will now see a due date at the bottom of all of your

invoices. For all restaurant and golf shop charges that are not paid on time, there will be a late fee of \$25. Please pay your bill on time. You can provide the office with a credit card and that can be charged automatically, you can mail in a check, call the office and pay over the phone or pay online.

We will be checking who is late starting June 1 (those who have a balance from April) and those individuals will be put on the no play list. If we keep on top of this, we won't have to expend hours upon hours tracking members down once the season is over.

As always, if you have questions on anything that I have mentioned or you have been wondering about, please email me (tucats@nycap.rr.com) or talk to me when you see me at the course. I would be happy to provide you any info you need.

Sincerely,

Rick Funaro,
Treasurer

Addendum

While most of us have more questions than answers regarding our 2020 golf season, I want to share important information regarding BSCC's finances.

Firstly, BSCC had a financially strong year in 2019, ending the year with approximately \$114,500 in cash reserves at Ballston Spa National Bank. This includes just over \$20,000 in a stock refund account, and \$94,500 for unbudgeted expenses. Years ago, the Finance Committee agreed that BSCC should keep approximately \$50,000 in our account as working capital at the end of every year. So, typically the balance of \$44,500 would be put to work for BSCC. Earlier this year, a "new" used excavator for the Superintendent was considered as were other options. Like most years, we make no firm commitments on these investments until we realize our membership revenue. Membership revenue makes up 60% of our total revenue, and we always prefer a wait-and-see approach before making important and significant spending decisions.

Saving money will continue to be a top priority until such time we are confident about our other sources of revenue. These sources include carts (members, public and tournament) and green fees (both public, tournaments and guests). To date, three tournaments have canceled, one is trying to reschedule, and I expect others will cancel.

More uncertain variables include restrictions that may be placed on golf courses when we can open. Will it still be one person per cart? What about the restaurant? Will it be closed in May? When it does open, will it be a full capacity or 50% as has been speculated. What does that mean for our larger tournaments scheduled at BSCC? Will they still want to hold the event if they can't gather at the end for a meal? This includes both external and internal tournaments.

On a positive note, BSCC was recently approved for an SBA loan which will be a major help in weathering this unique 2020 golf season. Some members affiliated with small businesses may be familiar with this government-sponsored loan. Essentially the loan is forgiven if the amount borrowed is appropriated to qualified expenses. We fully expect 100% of this loan will be forgiven.

With our 2019 cash reserves we are well-positioned to make it through 2020 without significant financial consequences. The Finance Committee did meet and discussed various scenarios and listed some ideas to be presented to the Board. The ideas were focused on saving money and suggestions to potentially make up some of the early season revenue that we are losing.

With BSCC's success over the past few years, I believe we are well-positioned to make it through these challenging and uncertain times. The Board and Finance Committee will meet as frequently as necessary to navigate through the challenges of our 2020 season. Members will be informed as decisions are made regarding our re-opening and any changes we are required implement to follow safety guidelines.

If you have questions or comments, send them along (tucats@nycap.rr.com). I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.



Membership Report

Cindy Walkanowski

Hello members. This is certainly not how any of us planned to kick off the 2020 golf season, but hopefully we will be playing soon. In the meantime, I hope this Fox finds you are all healthy and staying safe. Our membership remains steady and we do have some new members to welcome aboard. If you have any friends or family that are interested in joining BSCC, the 2020 new membership brochure is on the website.

Please feel free to download and/or

share. https://www.ballstonspacc.com/images/Membership_packet_2020_v2.pdf.

Current Membership as of 4/2020

| Description | Count | % |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Corporate | 12 | 3.35% |
| Couple-Restricted to 20 rounds | 18 | 5.03% |
| Couple-Unrestricted | 29 | 8.10% |
| JE Couple | 8 | 2.23% |
| Jr. Executive Age 25-26 | 22 | 6.15% |
| Jr. Executive 27-29 | 15 | 4.19% |
| Jr. Executive 32-33 | 5 | 1.40% |
| Jr. Executive 30-31 | 5 | 1.40% |
| Lifetime Member | 4 | 1.12% |
| Senior Couple 70+ | 25 | 6.98% |
| Senior Single 70+ | 36 | 10.06% |
| Single | 108 | 30.17% |
| Single w/children | 12 | 3.35% |
| Socials | 20 | 5.59% |
| Student | 13 | 3.63% |
| Summer Couple | 2 | 0.56% |
| Summer single | 4 | 1.12% |
| Weekend Single | 4 | 1.12% |
| Young Adult | 16 | 4.47% |
| Totals | 358 | 100% |

New Members as of 4/2020

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Michael Cavotta | Single |
| Anthony Cavotta | Student |
| Matt Jones | JE |
| Justin Robbie | Student |
| Jeffrey Nudi | Single |
| Jake Baxter | JE |
| Collin Cunningham | YA |
| Erin Poole | Single |
| Kyle Mau | JE |



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

Well we have made it through another upstate New York winter. This past winter saw a quick end to our 2019 season and heavy snow in early December. We were able to get the course put to bed properly. All the short grass was sprayed for snow mold. Greens, tees, and approaches were deep tined. Greens also got a good topdressing of sand. Also, all 20 covers got installed thanks to the help from our members. Thank you volunteers and my crew for getting the course put to bed in a short period of time. All that hard work has showed off because the golf course has handled the winter beautifully. We pulled the cover several weeks ago and there is no damage to any part of any green. There is no snow mold on any short grass. With the early warmer weather helping us we have already mowed all the short grass a few times and the golf course has really start to shape up. I am really excited to have such a great start to the season with all healthy turfgrass.

During the winter months we spent our time working on equipment in the shop. Every piece has to get serviced, sharpened, and have a thorough gone through to see if there are any issues that might arise during the season. Outside on the course we spend time clearing brush, clear dead or dying trees, dredging, and try to keep up with cleanup from storm damage. We had a lot of wind last fall into winter and we lost quite a few trees because of the wind. Before we got too much snow in November, we were able to strip our next green surround as well. #13 is our next green surround that we will work on this year. It is part of the 5-year program we have been on to improve our bunkers as well as the entire area around the green. Now that all the old sod and sand is gone, we can install new sod and the bunker will see a liner and of course new bunker sand. I am hoping to return to this project soon once we get the irrigation up and running first.

I am happy to announce that we have a new assistant superintendent here at Ballston Spa Country Club. His name is Mike West. He was formerly the assistant at Brookhaven. He has been here for over a month now and has really fit in nicely here. I am excited to have another

knowledgeable person here with me. I am only one person and have realized over the years that I can not do everything myself. Having good employees around me is a big reason why BSCC is so successful right now. We will continue to improve the golf course and to give you the best most pristine golf course we possible can. I know Mike will be a big part of this course moving forward. Please give him a warm welcome when you see him out there on the course.

I want to welcome everyone back and say hello to any new members. So far this season the turfgrass is off to a great start. We just got to get through this epidemic that has the state on lock down. We will get through this and we will have a beautiful golf course waiting for you when we get back open. Everyone think positive and be safe.

Parring the 19th

Tucker

This is an excerpt from my new book, The William Tucker Bathroom Book. I set up a Google News Feed that gave me every news item with my name in it, every day, from all over the world, took the headline and relevant facts and concocted a story around the information. This resulted from an obituary in a Santa Monica newspaper stating I was 89 at the time of death and was an avid golfer.

My name is Mike "The Hammer" Columbo-Clouseau (M"tH"C-C). As a long time member of the Investigative Arm of the Coroner's Team of Investigators Investigating Homicides (IACTIIH), I was assigned the task of determining the cause of William Tucker's death.

It occurred at his home golf course, Brookmount Oak Hill Creek Glen Shadow Lake Golf Links and Country Club (BHOCSLGGL&CC). He was found at the foot of the stairs leading down from the Men's Locker Room to the Club Bar, Mulligan Bogey and Shillelagh O'Brien's Irish Nineteenth Hole Tavern and Pub Grille (MB&SO'INHTPG).

There was a blunt trauma indentation on the back of the victim's skull, suggesting a fall down the stairs. But you never know. That's why they need guys like me.

I had the boys back at the cold storage cadaver castle measure the wound and compare it to the edge of the stair. Like I thought: not a match. To me, it looked like he was blindsided with a golf club. My first thought was that BHOCSLGGL&CC, being a golf and country club, was going to make this case tougher than solving a murder at a butler's convention.

I probed the indentation carefully. A three iron, judging by the angle of the leading edge of the perp's purported weapon, possibly a strong four, but definitely somewhere between 21 and 24 degrees of loft. Probably forged, not cast. Southpaw.

Now we have a victim, and a weapon. Next, we needed to concentrate on a suspect and a motive.

The BHOCSLGGL&CC is a century-old established warren of Old Money (OM). On my visits to the crime scene, it seemed to me the average age of its members was about 67, maybe 68 if the majority had birthdays early enough in the year. The perp was a hair over five feet eight and a half, judging on the indentation strike angle, with a high draw swing.

Now I could narrow my suspect list down by eliminating almost all members, retaining only those five feet eight and a half with a left-handed high draw. Probably a single digit player with a swing like that, but I reined in my hunch horse at that point, eliminating that assumption as well as my theory on the perp's grip (I'd bet on a Vardon), as going a tad too far.

Those of you who noticed how I skimmed over the average age of BHOCSLGGL&CC members remark, won't be surprised if I surprise you with its relevance. At that stage of rot, there's no doubt that the number of suspects will be severely pared down because hardly anyone over forty has a three or four iron anymore. It's Hybrid Heaven at BHOCSLGGL&CC, and when you factor in the southpaw factor, and limit my list to those who fit all the above criteria and have a three and/or four iron, it brought the Perp List (PL) to just two. Only M"tH"C-C can bring this kind of brilliant deduction to a complex case such as this.

The first person of interest I interviewed was one of the two lefties at the club who owned a three/four iron. He was the Club President, Cecil Royston Ainsley-Pinkerton (C - - P). He admitted to not being William Tucker's most avid fan.

"He was an abrasive fellow, that Tucker. Annoyingly tasteless in a despicably repulsive and negative manner that made one hate his visceral innards and wish him an eternity in the flaming bowels of Hell.

"To illustrate, he and I once bumped into each other on the first tee. It seems we were both singles that day and I couldn't refuse his suggestion that we play together; it's just not done. I always play for a modest wager and I asked if he would like to make the round more interesting. His response was 'I would, but you're the only one here.' That's William Tucker."

I made a note: C - - P not victim's best friend.

His alibi was that he was in Borneo at the probable time of the probable homicide, attempting to confirm Bertram Smythie's 1917 sighting of an extremely rare Rufous-Tailed Codswallop (*Rufuscus Swallopis*). I asked if he had hotel receipts or thruway toll slips that would confirm this.

He threw me a condescending smirk and said, "There are no roads and only Yanomani tribal longhouses in the Sungai Bangang jungle in the Palau Babi region of the Borneo interior, detective Columbo-Clouseau, and none within one hundred and forty-nine miles of the Bukit Raya summit."

The only other person of interest was Ruby Tuesday (RT), the club's only other dutchie who played with a three/four iron. She was the Club's Treasurer.

Tuesday was said to be close to C - - P, sort of a Girl Friday. Rumor had it that they met every Monday and Thursday at the Thank Goodness It's Saturday Motel for covert hanky-panky with some nooky on the side.

I asked her about Tucker's reputation at BHOCSLGGLCC.

"He was an annoyingly repulsive chap, that Tucker" Ruby said, "tastelessly abrasive and

dispicably despicable with a non-positive manner that made one despise his inner viscosity and hope he would some day experience an eon in the fiery entrails of the Netherworld. Or some such thing.

“I was on the practice range once and he came over and watched me hit a few shots then said, ‘You swing like you were under attack by a colony of fire ants after downing a quart of 100 proof vodka. Like you’re wrestling a python in a phone booth, like...’ That’s when I flashed him the finger.”

I made a note: RT – not a big fan of victim.

I asked her where she was on June 22nd.

“I was in Borneo on a mission to confirm Bertram Codswollop’s 1791 sighting of the Smythie-Tailed Rufous (Smythus Rufuscous)” she answered haughtily.

I asked if she had any restaurant receipts or Uber credit card charges that would confirm her presence there. She looked down her prodigious honker at me and sniffed, “There are no restaurants, even the popular Mama Yani chain, or taxis in the Bangang Babi jungle in the Palau Sungai region of the Borneo coast, detective Clouseau-Columbo, and none within 941 miles of the Raya Bukit Valley.”

There was no more to be done. Ruby and Cecil could just as well have claimed to be together in the Thank Goodness It’s Saturday Motel the day of the homicide. It would amount to the same, because the Thank Goodness It’s Saturday Motel (from what I’ve heard), doesn’t give customers receipts, just like most businesses in Borneo. I was, for the first time ever in my years on the IACTIHH, hogtied.

But it was time to move on. There had been a suspicious death at the Sea Island Dunes Barefoot Pine River Trail Golf and Tennis Country Club (SIDBPRTG&TCC), and that’s what they need guys like M”tH”C-C for.

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