

## President's Message

It is officially summer and the weather is finally cooperating. The course is responding nicely to the recent rains and warm temperatures and the turf is in perfect condition.



The COVID-19 restrictions have finally been lifted and we are seeing the end of the rainbow! Member and outside tournaments are in full swing this season, the next one is the Cocktail Tasting that will be held this week Friday at 5:30pm. This is a fun social event with members and guests so be sure to sign up for it.

The restaurant has been striving to improve service and hiring additional staff, which has been difficult over the past months. The Board and I understand our member's frustration at times over service, but I ask that each member and guest be patient and courteous to the wait staff and bartenders. Rudeness and offensive behavior will not be tolerated. The dining room overlooking the 18<sup>th</sup> green has been fully restored after the tree fell into the clubhouse and damaged the wall, siding, roof and windows, so please stop by and take a look. There was a delay in getting our new beverage cart due to the supply shortages from the pandemic. The new one finally came in and was delivered this week Wednesday so keep an eye out for it on the course.

The Board and Committees have been working hard over the past few weeks. The Board just appointed a replacement Board Member, John Lockwood, to fill the position vacated by Tim Preston. I wanted to thank Tim for his tireless efforts as the Chairman of the Restaurant/House committee and for his handiwork on various projects around the course. I also wanted to thank our members who submitted their names to the Board for consideration. I hope that the membership will put their names in for the Board elections in October, since there will be 3 positions open at that time.

As always, if you want to reach me to discuss anything, please send me an email at [roger.laime@aecom.com](mailto:roger.laime@aecom.com) or call me on my cell phone at 518-772-7754. Please practice respect and tolerance, be safe and enjoy the summer.

Roger Laime

Thank you everyone for your continued support to our club. It is not that easy to continue to operate a quality business, balance budgets and give everyone all they want. But we continue to try to do that. The course is in excellent condition and we continue to make improvements in areas of our club.

Financially we are continuing to collect our Dues Revenue and have increased healthy activity in golf revenue, while trying to balance increased costs. We have approved a new blower for Steve and continue to invest in equipment to keep our course in good shape. The course is in amazing shape!

The Finance committee is trying to dig deeper and peel some layers to improve operations and save money.

If anyone has a question on their invoices, Bri prefers that you call or email her to work out any details.

We still need copies of everyone's stock certificate so if you have not done so already, please submit a copy for our files.

Suggestions are always welcome so please reach out if you have good suggestions.

Thank you all for your support to the Board!!

We are now making our way into the summer months. The golf course is really in great shape. All the short grass is nice and tight. The fescue native areas are starting to change color and have that wispy look to them. We have had to use our irrigation system some but not enough to worry about our water levels in the ponds. We are spraying the course on a regular basis now to prevent pests and fungus from hurting our turf. I put out our summer fertilizer a couple weeks ago on all the short grass. After that fertilizer kicked in all the turf got a lot greener. That fertilizer application should last us till after we aerify the course in September. We are basically in our summer maintenance mode now. Trying to keep all the grass cut and keep the course consistent. The green expansion is slowly getting lowered. We will keep smoothing it with sand until the surface is like the current green. It will probably be after Labor Day before we get it down to the same height as the current green.

Green speeds were a topic at our last greens committee meeting. A stimp meter is used to measure the speed of the greens for all golf courses. It is a simple tool. Just a 3 foot bar that has a groove down the middle to let a golf ball roll down. The golf ball rolls down the bar and you measure the distance the ball rolls from the tip of the meter. You pick a flat part of the green surface and roll 3 golf balls down one direction and measure the average. Then go back the opposite direction and measure the average of the 3 golf balls. Add both directions and divide by two. The night of the meeting we got a green speed of just over 9 feet on the practice green. We spend a lot of time on our greens trying to give you smoothest surface to play on. A lot goes into giving you that surface. It all starts with healthy turf. Tight vertical growing turf gives you a smooth surface to putt on. Our greens mower is an amazing mower that gives you an unbelievable cut surface. It stands the blades of grass upright before the blade of grass is cut. This mower gets checks daily to ensure that it cuts paper on each reel. We also use a roller to smooth the surface frequently. Sand is applied frequently to the greens to keep a greens surface firm. We spray wetting agent monthly on our greens which helps keep the water moving down through the surface after rain events. During the spring and fall times we raise the cutting height so help with turf health. But during the summer months we lower our height of cut to give you the best putting surface. We are just finishing up member member tournament this weekend and the greens were rolled Friday thru Sunday and the greens speeds where around 10 foot 9 inches each day. Faster speeds like this gives you a very smooth surface but limits you on pin placement on our small undulated greens. That is why we usually have then in the mid 9s.

### How a Golf Ball was Lost on BSCC's 4th Hole and Found on the 10th Hole 90 years Later

As they say, the following is based on a true story.

It was a sunny day, with Winnie-the-Pooh clouds slowly scudding across the sky over Ballston Spa Country Club. It was late May 1931, as DeForest Weed, BSCC's first President and Jay A. Curtis, its first Treasurer ambled down the 4<sup>th</sup> hole in 75 degree weather. In short, a perfect day for a leisurely round.

But DeForest wasn't happy. "These new balls are damned useless. Don't go anywhere. What were they thinking?"

The new official USGA ball was angering golfers across the country, including Mr. Weed. There had been changes in the game and among the more important was the trend, beginning in 1909, towards a smaller and heavier ball, resulting in longer and longer tee shots.

Professional tee shots were carrying extraordinary lengths. Bobby Jones was landing the ball 220 yards from the tee box and seeing run-outs of up to 75 more yards on bone dry fairways. J.H. Taylor demanded a bigger, lighter ball and Harry Vardon called for the creation of a maximum distance for all golf balls. The result was a new standard issued by the USGA in 1930 calling for a change from the 1.62 inch minimum circumference and 1.62 ounce maximum weight to 1.62 inches and 1.55 ounces starting in 1931..

The resulting shorter ball flight was causing national golfing consternation and golf ball manufacturers played to the new size in their ads. Wilson claimed their new Hol-Hi ball had "Uniformly lower compression than has ever been produced—even in the old, small size" and Spalding crowed about their Kro-Flite, claiming "It'll go just as far as in 1930 if it's a Kro-Flite."

Meanwhile, DeForest watched as Jay Curtis hit a fourth shot niblick into the creek fronting the green. "See what I mean?" he snorted.



1930 Cartoon

Ninety years later, Bob Ricketts, Ken Stevens and Bob Miskanin were ambled down the 10th fairway under the same conditions that had been experienced by DeForest and Jay.

Ken recounts how he found Jay's ball: "I finally got over the creek (barely), on #10 after hitting a rock in the embankment, my ball caroming to the right and landing in the vicinity of the bridge. When I arrived at my ball, it was nested among several gray orbs. My guess is that somebody discovered them in the stream bank while searching for their own ball, and merely dumped them onto the nearby ground. Rather than using my own ball for the next shot (I think I was lying 8 or 9 at that point), I used one of the muddied orbs instead. Bob Ricketts, watching me during this whole ordeal, was compassionate enough to concede my next putt. Afterwards, he noticed the unusual dimple design after washing off several pounds of mud. Another guess of mine would be that there are many more lost balls that have been resting in the embankment for years. Then again, somebody also suggested that it was a golf ball recently lost by one of our current seniors." *Ouch.*



Bob describes what happened next: “ It was mud covered and not very interesting. I noticed a square dimple peaking through the dirt and took the ball home for a thorough cleaning and some research. The numbers on the ball refer to diameter and weight. The combination of 1.68” and 1.55oz was USGA legal for only one year (1931).

Stan Ziobrowski is probably the only remaining BSCC Member who remembers that our current 10th hole was originally our 4th hole before the expansion to 18 holes in 1965. And that’s how a golf ball was lost on the 4th hole in 1931 and found on the 10th hole in 2021, 90 years later.

I’d like to thank Ken Stevens for playing a muddy old ball and especially Bob Ricketts for taking the time to clean the ball and research the significance of the ball’s specifications that were the clue to its age.

Ken and Bob approached me with an inquiry as to what they should do with the ball and accepted my suggestion to box frame it, surrounded by a brief version of this accounting, and that’s what my plan is.

PS: Despite DeForest blaming the Gordon Creek– bound shot on the ball’s lessened distance, the cut on this ball suggests Jay may have caught that niblick a tad fat.

PPS: On hearing this story, Ed Lake expressed astonishment that someone other than Jimmy Bryant found the ball “Jimmy’s losing his touch,” said Ed.

## **Gleanings from past Newsletters**

### **Fox April 2011**

Steve reports on his winter projects which included tree removal from the right side of #12 and the right side of #16 at the 150 yard marker as well as dredging the pond on #11.

Bruce Kay's treasurer's report mentions an income surplus as well as a \$57,000 reduction on our mortgage.

### **Fox May 2011**

Mike Zegarelli, Randy Alexander, Dave Runyon, Carl Jahn and Rick Funaro declare they are running for the Board of Directors.