



*Ballston Spa Country Club*

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*The Fox*

## *President's Letter*

*Mike Zegarelli*

**2014, Wow!** Very hard to believe that we are about to start the 2014 golf season. It seems like only yesterday the world was anxiously awaiting the Y 2 K computer disaster which was supposed to accompany the turn of the century. Somehow we survived this non event and time marched on. In a few days/weeks we will begin another great year of golf at Ballston Spa Country Club.

As I write this article, the course is still covered in ice and snow, despite the fact that it is the first day of spring. We all hope that Mother Nature has been kind to the greens and fairways, after a most miserable winter. I have been warming up my slice and three putts in Florida so I can begin the new season right where I ended it in 2013.

Once we open, you will see a number of improvements since last you played the course. All of which I believe will add to your enjoyment in playing. All the Board members have been working very hard in their area of responsibility in this golfing off season. Changes have been made to the golf course itself, the restaurant will be under new management, all to create the best possible golfing experience to the membership and greens players. Our golf pro has scheduled a number of golf tournaments for the members which will be great fun to play in and test our golfing skills. Additionally, outside tournaments have been scheduled to help increase income to keep our budget balanced .

I can't wait to tee the ball up on number one, take a deep breath, and hit my first drive of the year, (into the driving range). Hang in there. The weather WILL improve and spring will really be back at BSCC. I anticipate an excellent year at BSCC, and with everyone's hard work we will have one.



# Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

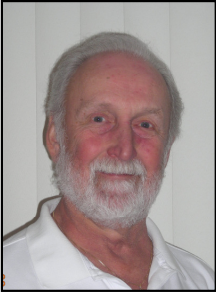
I first want to welcome everyone back and say hello to our new members. I know you are all as excited as I am to get this season underway. Mother Nature doesn't seem to be helping. We still have a lot of ice and snow to melt out on the course. Also the frost in the ground is about 6 to 8 inches deep. Hopefully the weather will change soon so we can open.

Last fall we closed the course down like we do every year. The greens were deep tined to leave open holes in the greens to allow for water to drain through the soil better when the snow and ice starts to melt. The greens were also topdressed with sand to protect the crown of the plant during the winter. The entire course (greens, tees, approaches and fairways) was sprayed with a fungicide to protect the turf from snow mold disease. Lastly, some of the greens were covered with the covers that we have to protect them from ice and winter damage. We have 12 covers for our greens. I would like to continue to purchase covers until all the greens are covered. The greens are the most important playable surface on the golf course and dead grass in the spring is not a good thing.

After we got the course put to bed, we focused our attention on winter projects. This year we worked on the #6 hole with the removal of the Hickory tree next the creek. The creek was then cleaned and rocks were added to the creek bank to hold the bank from erosion. The #8th hole saw the most work with the removal of some of the white pines on the left side and their replacement with maple trees. We thinned a lot of the spruce trees on the right side to allow light to get to the fairway. The goal of this work is to try to get sunlight on the fairway and to eliminate tree roots that are competing with the turfgrass on the fairway. This is a start to making the turfgrass on this fairway a little better. The last area that we worked on is the right side of the #14th hole. The right hand side of the old tee cannot be used because of the trees that lean out toward the fairway. So we worked on removing one line of trees down the right side. We were productive this winter with our projects, even with all the snow and cold temperatures.

We have been dealing with ice on the greens several times this winter. All the greens are not covered and ice builds up on them whenever there is a warm spell. I am sure most of you remember when we had severe ice damage on four of our greens in 2009. I am hopeful that we don't have any damage this year but it is too soon to tell. Every time I try to plow the greens off in an attempt to free the greens, the ice doesn't seem to want to melt because of the cold temperatures. It takes several warm sunny days to melt off several inches of ice. The grass that I do see looks OK even though it has a bad smell. The covered greens have had air blown under them this past week so I think those should be OK as well. The entire golf course also has ice built up. There is at least 2 inches on every tee, approach, and fairway. Until the ice melts off and I have visual of the underlying turf, I am not sure if there is ice damage. But I am hopeful that if there is damage that it is small in area.

As you can see, I am ready for spring. The golf course could really use some warm temperatures. We need to get rid of this ice and snow asap! Not only so we can play golf but for the survival of our turfgrass.



# Greens Report

Bob Mishkanin

*Welcome back spring, it's about time.*

Steve and his crew have been busy over the winter working on the 8th hole. The pine grove on the right side has been thinned to allow more sun on the fairway; this should help the problematic grass on that side. The pines on the left side were removed late last year with the help of some volunteers (Thank you). Four nice Maples have been planted. The roots from the pines will be removed and the area seeded making the fairway a little wider and more of a “dog-leg”. As was announced at the member meeting in the fall, the tree on 6 has been removed and the creek dredged to help drainage in that area. The creek will be lined with rocks as was done on the 12th hole.

Some additional tree work has been done between the 3rd and 10th fairways and on the right of the 14th.

Cleanup and finishing touches for some of this work has been postponed due to weather conditions, it will be completed ASAP.

We are in process of planning the Spring Project Day. The proposed date is Saturday, May 3. Along with the normal cleanup work, we are looking at doing the leveling work on the 7th fairway that was postponed in the fall because of weather. The date will be finalized later. We are looking forward to seeing as many volunteers as possible.



## *From the Golf Shop*

*Todd Manderson*

We are hoping to get onto the course as soon as possible as I am sure everyone will agree with me on that note. As we begin our 2014 Season of fun and sun and lots of golf this season, I have a few things to let everyone aware of first.

As we all get used to using today's technology to our advantage, I would like to let everyone know that all of the years events will be able to be found on the calendar on our website. The calendar is one of the tabs on the main page as soon as you open up our website. There are a few ways to view it. You can use the "agenda format" which is a list of events in order by date, Weekly view or you can view it by the month. Each event will have a brief description of what it is and the time and format and it will have the fee for the event also if there is a fee associated along with it. We are going to have this up there for the season so all members will know what is going on at the club on a daily basis and it will have all of the events for the season. It will be updating as needed with any changes that you will need to be aware of. All events are on the calendar as of today so check it out and see if there is some event that you may feel could be a conflict so we may make an adjustment before the season starts.

### *GRIPS*

The beginning of the season is always a good time to get your grips replaced on your clubs. I always recommend changing all of the grips not just a few so you will have the same feel on all of the clubs. Change a few here and there throughout the season as needed will help you get through the season on the ones that are used more than others. There are many choices in grips out on the market today and I usually have access to most all of them to me to be delivered in 1 day if the distributor has them in stock. So, check them out and get them replaced before the season gets started.

## GOLF INSTRUCTION

There are many teachers and coaches out in the game today. With that being said, the fundamentals of golf are always the things that go wrong with most of peoples games. One quick note to start out the season the correct way would be to “practice with a purpose”. I see many players practice on the range trying to have the white round ball go as straight and as far as they possibly can hit it. One thing I would recommend players try is to hit each practice shot with a purpose which means to line up the shot, check your posture, balance, grip, and ball position before the swing is actually started. This is a very important aspect to the game as now players will be practicing the same way that they play the game. Too many players come to me and ask why they can’t take it from the driving range to the golf course? This is the real defining factor that leads to the demise of the players games. When you practice the same way you play; it makes the feeling the same when a pressure situation happens to come about so it allows the player to hit the shot with success. If the same routine is repeated time and time again, then it begins to become a habit. If the shot doesn’t happen, then that is when it is time to see me. Your PGA Golf Professional to iron out some of those flaws so the repetitive pre shot routine is the correct one. Good Luck and don’t wait until June to get on the right track.

## Tournaments

*Beth Todd*

As the snow still flies, Todd has been busy scheduling several new tournaments for the club. I am also working on several others and have contacted Doziers for a banquet/tournament menu to be given to prospective tournament bookings. Once we have an idea of what they will be able to do at what price, we should be able to confirm these dates with the various groups interested. I look forward to working with Todd, and believe we are off to a great start in insuring our outside revenue continues to keep our membership fees at an affordable rate.



# Member Communications

## Secretary

Paul Steves

I trust everyone has had an enjoyable winter and are looking forward to another great year of golf and camaraderie at BSCC. Hopefully by the time you read this the snow will be melted and we will be looking forward to opening day. As you can see from the other articles this has been a very busy “off season” for the Board and Committees. If you want to catch up on everything that has been happening around your club you can review the minutes posted to the web site. Board Minutes can be found by following the link on the home page under Members Only Content. To review the minutes from the Committees click Member Resources from the Members Only Content and then Committees. Speaking of Committees I want to thank all of the committee members that do some much to help make BSCC the great place it is. If you are interested in helping out please email Laura at [officemanager@ballstonspacc.com](mailto:officemanager@ballstonspacc.com) and let her know you want to be involved in your club.

If you have any questions, ideas, comments, or concerns you may forward them to [suggestionbox@ballstonspacc.com](mailto:suggestionbox@ballstonspacc.com). Your input will be shared with the Board of Directors, forwarded to the appropriate personnel for resolution and you will receive a response.

Think Spring

## Membership

As President Mike Zegarelli has stated numerous times membership, retaining current members and attracting new members, remains a top priority. We have had a “Think Spring Special” posted on our website and have had quite a bit of interest. The week of 20 March we advertised on local radio and hope as the weather breaks this will generate additional interest. Starting Masters week we will be offering a “Trial Membership” special which will allow a prospective member take a test drive until May 31 and experience all that you love about BSCC. We are confident that after getting to know the course and the people they will want to become members for the long term. Advertising to support the Trial Membership will include radio, a newspaper ad, and social media. As always we rely on our members to spread the word and tell their friends what they like about BSCC and encourage them to explore a membership. You can contact Laura in the office at 885-1603 or email [membership@ballstonspacc.com](mailto:membership@ballstonspacc.com) for more information

# Restaurant Report

*Doug Young*

BSCC and Dozer's Bar and Grill have signed an Agreement for the 2014 Season. Kate Boyce will be the general manager and is committed to providing good food at reasonable prices. As of this writing, she is in the process of securing a new liquor license and we're confident that the restaurant will be fully operational by the time the course opens.

Kate brings golf course food service experience to us as she operated the restaurant, bar and beverage cart at Brookhaven Golf Club from 2011-2013. She has owned and operated Dozer's Bar and Grill since 2004.

A menu is currently in the works and Kate has told me on several occasions that she's open to suggestions from the membership for menu items or special drink requests.

Tony Panza elected to end his contract with BSCC before finishing the final year of his commitment. According to local news reports, Panza's has been awarded the contract to provide food service at Brown's Beach in 2014.

It's important that our members provide constant feedback on our restaurant so that the restaurant committee and Dozer's can respond to your needs. Your support of our restaurant is critical for the success of our new partner and for the success of BSCC. Please bring any feedback directly to me or any member of the committee listed below, or as mentioned above, directly to Kate Boyce.

I would like to thank the restaurant committee for their work on this and to remind them that we still have a lot to do before opening day. The current restaurant committee consists of Deb Cottrell, Mike Farina, Penny Monnat, Betty Thornhill, Roy Williams, Kate Boyce and myself. Kate Oppedisano also deserves a thank you for connecting us with Kate Boyce.

*Think Spring!*