



Volume XVI Number 1
December 2014

The Fox

President's Letter

Paul Steves

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on October 3rd, 2014. This was the first time our annual meeting and elections have been conducted in the Fall. Additionally the number of Board Members has been reduced to 8 for the upcoming year. Leaving the Board at the end of their term were President Mike Zegarelli, Treasurer Dave Runyon, and Restaurant Chair Doug Young. It seemed that the past year was dominated by budget and restaurant issues and these gentlemen were in the thick of successfully navigating many issues to the betterment of our club. Please thank them for their service to our club when you see them on the course.

New additions to the Board of Directors elected to three year terms were Rick Funaro, Don McCollum, and Cindy Walkanowski.

At the subsequent Board Meeting held that evening Officer and Board assignment and responsibilities were delineated. Here is your new lineup along with when their respective term on the BOD expires:

President: Paul Steves. Term expires 2016

Vice-President: Harry Talmon. Term expires 2015

Treasurer: Rick Funaro. Term expires 2017

Secretary: Mike Furina. Term expires 2016

House: Don McCollum. Term expires 2017

Golf: Beth Todd. Term expires 2016

Membership: Cindy Walkanowski. Term expires 2017

Greens and Grounds: Bob Miskanin. Term expires 2015

Year in Review

This past year has had some challenges dominated by budget due to falling membership and restaurant due to our previous vendor not full filing the term of his contract. Having a “Glass is Half Full” mentality I tend to accent the positives. Yes membership and revenue projections in the budget were down but with increased outside play and carefully watching expenses we are projected to finish our second year in a row with positive cash flow. When entering a new relationship with a restaurant vendor there are always concerns. I believe our experience with Kate and her Dozers team has been positive and exceeded expectations. A challenge we did not face this year was in the condition of our golf course. While we have always said we are the “Capitol District’s Best Golf Club Value” we may have to change that to “Capitol District’s Best Golf Conditions”. I have played many different courses this year and have not found 1 with better conditions than found on our golf course.

Thanks for your Help

One of the outcomes of the “new” bylaws was to engage the membership more fully in the operation of their Club. Central to those changes is the underlying goal of returning our Club to the sense of being a family of devoted owners who willingly volunteer to help out however they can. We have many Members who assume it is their duty to do something, whether it be cutting trees, making new tee markers, joining a committee, helping repair and renovate our aging Clubhouse, and there ranks are growing. We have had 2 very successful project days this year and other “call for volunteer” activities such as helping with aeration and assisting with the green covers. Members willing to serve on committees and share their knowledge and expertise continue to increase. Volunteering and helping out where you can, when you can, has the added benefit of insuring that BSCC remains the Best Golf Club Value by reducing our direct labor costs.

A special thanks to Dave Fizer and Minuteman Press. You are reading a quality newsletter because of his efforts. Thanks Dave!!



Save the Date

An informational membership meeting has been scheduled for Dec 7, 2014 commencing at 12:00 PM in the clubhouse.

Thanks to our Staff

I would be remiss if I did not mention our excellent staff that makes this all come together each and every day. Superintendent Steve Solsky and his limited staff have maintained a golf course second to none. Every year since Steve has been here I think there is no way the course can get any better and every year I am wrong.

The outside tournament success this year insured that we finished the year in a positive financial position. Our Golf Professional and Director of Golf, Todd Manderson and staff, certainly know how to “sell” BSCC and assist the outing organizers to make their day at BSCC memorable.

Last but not least is the “voice” of BSCC, Laura McNeil. When a prospective new member decides to call and inquire the first contact is Laura. The old saying “first impressions are lasting impressions” certainly applies here.

Think Spring!!!!



Superintendent's Report

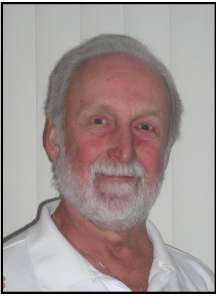
Steve Solsky

Winter is here.

As I write this last fox article of the year, there is snow on the ground. I guess Mother Nature has decided that the 2014 golf season is over at Ballston Spa Country Club. This weather pattern is a quick change from the mild temperatures that we experienced in September and October. We acted quickly due to this change with the weather starting with the application of the all important snow mold fungicide. This product helps protect the plant from snow mold disease that occurs under the snow usually in later winter. The warmer temperatures make the damp conditions under the snow a perfect environment for the fungal disease to really develop over short cut turf like greens, tees, and fairways. This product that we use is the same product that has been used in the past and it has done well for us. Our turf has come through tough winters before looking beautiful. Starting the season off with healthy turf will set the stage for the rest of the season. So this chemical application is extremely important to get it done right. The next step that needs to be done on the course to get it ready for winter is deep tinning the greens. This late season aerification makes large deep holes in the greens that stay open all winter. These holes help in the spring, when the covers are pulled off and the ground is still frozen. When the frost begins to come out of the ground, water can collect on the surface and kill the turf. Having these deep holes in the greens helps the water move down through the ground faster. The greens are also topdressed with sand. This will give us a smooth firm surface to play on in the spring. The last thing to do is put the covers on the greens. We were able to purchase two more covers this year giving us a grand total of 14 to put out. Volunteers helped and all were installed in one day. We were fortunate to get it done so quickly because we had some snow and windy conditions the next day. THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped because we could not have gotten all of them on in one day without you.

The main project for this winter is to finish the work that was started last winter. The left side of the eighth fairway has a large amount of roots that need to be removed so we can widen the fairway. The fairway will be extended to about halfway from the current edge to our new trees that were planted last year. This will give us a much wider landing area and give you a better surface to hit from not having roots everywhere. The right side of the fairway also needs a large amount of work. Some more trees need to be removed to let sunlight onto the fairway. Stumps and roots need to be removed so that we can have primary rough define the edge of the fairway. The cart path will be moved farther away from the fairway and lined with stone. The interior of the area will be covered with dirt and seeded with fescue seed in the spring. This is a massive job for us to do and will require most of the off season. We also need Mother Nature to give us some time to get the roots out of the ground before we get too much snow or the ground freezes. We will get started right away and hopefully have everything ready for seed in the spring.

Thank you members for your support this season. We had great turf conditions this year and I am excited about how healthy the turf was as we put the course to bed. This is an indication that we will begin the 2015 season with healthy turf. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped throughout the season. Your generosity helped keep the course in the great shape we all love. Have a warm safe winter and see you in the Spring.



Greens Report

Bob Miskanin

Greens Committee

The golf season is over in the northeast. It was a great year on a fantastic golf course thanks to the never ending work of Steve and his crew. Thank You.

Once again, I would also like to thank all the members that volunteer their time and efforts with work like Project Days, helping with the aeration of the greens, and many other jobs that would not be completed in a timely manner. Also, with your help, we managed to get the greens covered with short notice when bad weather was forecasted.

THANKS and WELL DONE TO ALL.

As mentioned previously, the greens cover raffle is on hold until spring. We have, however, sold a small number of tickets at the men's year end event and again at the cross country. This gave us enough money for 2 additional covers for the coming winter. This included donations from a couple members. Additional raffle tickets will be sold again in the spring with another 50/50 drawing later in the year.

As many of you have heard, there was a plan to do some extensive work on the 9th tee. Because we could not get sufficient sod to complete the project, it has been postponed. However, we did have the trees behind the tee trimmed to allow additional sun on the teeing area. This should help the grass growth in that area until the extending of the tee is completed.

Steve will be working on several winter projects.

I hope you all have a great winter season and I'll see you in the spring.

Thank you

Bob Miskanin



From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Tournament Results

We had 96 players for the Cross Country Event this season as it was and always has been our most attended event at the club. It is a great way to have 1 last party at the BSpa. This event seems to draw new members to our facility as they see just how much FUN it is to be a member at Ballston Spa Country Club. We offer more than just dollars per round at our facility as the experiences that our members have throughout the golfing seasons; you can't put a price tag on them. Life is more about just money and the experiences and friendships that are created at Ballston Spa Country Club are the biggest reason why people need to join. With that being said, the following are the winners in the respected categories for the final event of the season.

Men's Division Winners

Dean Donovan	31	\$60/Player
Dick Fox		
Bernie Fragomeni		
Rich Vanbuskirk		

Women's Division Winners

Suzie Mansfield	33	\$25/Player
Pat Joseph		
Susan Kahler		
Nancy Kroll		

Mixed Division Winners

Jack Cottrell	31	\$45/Player
Debbie Cottrell		
Roxanne Andrews		
Nick LaPosta		

The event had 2 skins in it as new member Nick LaPosta dropped one in the hole from #12 Tee to #15 Green from 160 yards for a 3. The other was Jimmy Bryant chipping one in from the side of #2 green for a 2. The 2 holes on every green made it much more exciting although the scores were higher this year than years past and players had 2 holes to pick from. I thought that was quite ironic. Fun was had by all once again.

Fitness for Winter

I have been working with a trainer to put together classes for our membership to attend for those who are serious about getting into shape and creating more flexibility and strength. This will no doubt help your golf game if the consistency and discipline is put into effect. His name is JR Michaels and he is part of Saratoga Peak Performance. He incorporates interval training that is very motivational with very light weights. It is a lot of core training and your own body weight that allows the exercises to be effective. Its time to get motivated and get that body ready for spring. I am putting this together for our members only and the rate will be \$150 for 2 times a week per month. That is 8 sessions per month. We need at least 5 people to have this rate per month. Rick Funaro and myself have already started and if you have any questions as to how effective it is, just ask Rick. The location is a off of exit 15. We can get all the details once we have enough members commit if so. Myself and Rick will be doing this for the entire winter along with our own workouts the other 2 days to supplement. If anyone is interested, Please contact me via email or phone.

Todd.c.manderson@gmail.com
518-588-0645 Cell

Golf Tip

As we go into the winter months and put the clubs away for the season, I recommend keeping 1 club out all winter so that you can keep gripping the club on a consistent basis. You will be surprised how much this will help you if you discipline yourself to do it regularly. This will make the change over back to golf feel that much better and it will happen that much faster come spring time.

Super Skins for 2014

There were 3 Super Skins out for this season and they were as follows:

Fred DeCelle	#2	Score of 1
Paul Steves	#4	Score of 2
Bernie Fragomeni	#15	Score of 1

Each Skin was worth \$150 in Golf Shop Credit.

Beth Todd

As the golf season has come to a close thanks to Old Man Winter, I'm glad to report it was a very successful one. Thanks to the hard work of Todd and his staff, we were able to increase our revenue from outside tournaments without too much inconvenience to our members. The outlook for next season already looks promising as we continue to get great reviews from people who played Ballston for the first time. Steve and his staff have made Ballston shine. Todd and I will be working on the club tournament schedule for next year after the Holidays, and we look forward to another great season at Ballston.

Passing the 19th



Tucker

The other day, I was reading about the time Walter Hagen and his trick-shot buddy Joe Tucker Kirkwood found themselves in a New York City hotel room with time on their hands.

They decided to amuse themselves by hitting shots through the open window of their fourth-story window into the adjacent Central Park. Tiring of this, they walked a few blocks away from their hotel, and with one club and one ball each, competed to see who could get their ball back into the hotel room with the fewest strokes. Into the toilet, to be precise.

These were the actions of desperate men obsessed with The Game, but miles from an appropriate venue. We see examples of this all the time: people out playing golf on New Year's Day in the frozen Northeast, people carving courses out of the sand dunes of Arabia. No other sport seems to inspire the degree of dementia that golf brings out in its devotees.

In my misguided youth (as opposed to my current phase, misguided geezerhood), I played a version of Hagen's indoor golf in the wintry months, when the only courses open were south of the Mason-Dixon Line. I would sit and stare at my golf clubs, like an obsessive arsonist with a book of matches, stranded on the peak of Mount Everest. Once I reached a certain point of frustration, I would make a phone call.

Within the hour, an equally unbalanced friend would show up at my apartment, putter and wedge in hand, and the games would begin.

We would architect golf holes around the apartment on an alternating basis, with each hole getting more imaginative than the last (off the elevated kitchen chair tee, onto the living room carpet fairway, a sharp bank off the hall closet door dogleg, left into the bathroom green and a smart chip into the bathtub hole).

We always had the same finishing hole. Our dreaded 18th made Pebble Beach's look like a gimme.

We would place one of those floppy aluminum putting holes on the edge of the apartment balcony. One had to roll or bounce the ball past the ingenious sliding-glass-door-track hazard to reach the concrete balcony green. After that, most shots would bounce and roll their way off the edge to the parking lot ravine, six stories below.

Howling with laughter at this predicament, clubs in hand, we would descend, chip the ball around to the front door, into the elevating device, and up to the sixth floor, where we would try again. Playing the 18th hole in anything less than triple figures was considered brilliant.

As winter approaches, each of us finds ways of feeding the monstrous hunger for The Game. We become irrational in our hopes for an early start to the next season, and our spouses once again suggest some sort of twelve step counseling program.

Like Walter and Joe we will play the games of desperate men. I personally will make no excuse for my actions. And I challenge each and every one of you to a toilet chipping contest.