



Volume XII Number 1
April 2010

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

I would like to welcome everyone back as we begin our 85th season of golf at Ballston Spa Country Club. I am hoping that as you read this first issue of the Fox for the 2010 golf season, we are playing golf or are very close to playing golf at BSCC.

Steve has been extremely busy during the winter months. Trees along the 7th tee, a new bridge over the creek on 12 and of course equipment maintenance and repair are just a few things that kept Steve and his crew busy this winter. Please look for an update from Sue or Steve in this issue with more details on Steve's winter work and other course news.



Rick Funaro

BSCC participated in the Malta Golf Show held at the Malta Community Center. The event was very well attended and there was a lot of interest in our club. We have also had very positive feedback on our Trial Membership Program.

I would like to remind you about a couple of items that I mentioned in my letter to the membership that was included in the invoices. The reduced guests rate of 3 guests for \$60 will be valid only until the end of April instead of May like we advertised in the fall. The guest passes issued in the fall will be valid until the end of May.

There has also been some confusion about guest play at BSCC. An individual may play only 6 times (as a guest) during the golf season. That is 6 times total, not 6 times as a guest of member A and 6 more times as a guest of member B. We have asked Todd and his staff to strictly monitor and enforce this policy. Therefore, I ask for your cooperation when Todd asks for your guest's name. He may also ask for your guest to sign-in in the Pro Shop. Of course, anyone is welcome to play Monday through Thursday at the public play rate, but once 6 times as a guest is reached, they are no longer allowed to play Friday, Saturday, Sunday or holidays.

There is a lot to be excited about as we begin this season. Interest in our club and in memberships is up from a year ago, our attrition has returned to a normal level and we are pleased to have Tony Panza and his staff on board. Global Foundries is becoming a reality and that can only benefit BSCC with what it will bring to the area.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is tucats@nycap.rr.com or you may call me, (W) 395-6472 or (H) 371-1926.

Annual Stockholders'/Members' Meeting

Make a note on your calendar to attend the Annual Meeting at the Club on May 21st, 2010.
It is important that every stockholder make the effort to attend. This is your Club.

April 2010

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

I want to welcome everyone back. This past winter moved rather fast, at least it seemed that way to me. The small amount of snow we had made conditions great for working out on the course. In the past, it always has been such a pain trying to work out there with two feet of snow to work through. We had the perfect weather for tree work and for completing some projects. The ground was frozen and there was enough snow cover to protect the turf. Other than encountering some mechanical problems, Ed, Chad and I were able to put a lot of time into the course, making the winter seem to fly right on by.

As you already know, the club purchased five greens covers last fall. This was a direct response to the ice damage suffered last year. Research was conducted last season to find the best protection for our greens during the unpredictable winter that Ballston Spa faces every year. The covers that were purchased are solid covers that are designed to prevent water from freezing on the green surface. After everything melted this past week, we are able to see that the covers worked great! The only problem that we had was with #9. I experimented with using perforated piping on this green to help change the air out underneath the cover during the winter. The lack of continued snow cover and the air gaps made by the piping made the cover susceptible to blowing off the green under heavy winds. This happened several times this winter and water was then able to freeze in the low areas in the front of the green and kill turf. This is the only damage suffered on our greens and does not even compare to the severity of the damage we had last year. So, it is my conclusion that these covers are a great protection for our greens and I hope we can purchase more of them. In the future, we just have to secure the covers to the ground better.

Once we were able to put the course to bed in late November, we started with this year's tree work. The majority of the tree work was done behind the #14 green. Before this tree work was done, this green would have trouble drying out. The lack of air flow through this area would make the green suffer during the hot humid times of the season. Black algae would form and choke out the bentgrass and the poa. The lack of sufficient sunlight during the spring and fall months would also hinder the green. Other tree work was done near the #7 tee area and the #6 tee. This yearly tree work is in an effort to provide quality turfgrass throughout the property and to give the cleanest looking golf course as possible.

One of the problems facing the greens that were not covered this winter is ice buildup. As you know, ice buildup over the winter can kill turf. This past January, we had a few days when the snow melted and then refroze to form a layer of ice. We took quick action to melt the ice on the non-covered greens. The now exposed greens faced another winter challenge, the contrast of warmer temperature during the day to extreme colds at night. We can see some severe tip burn on those greens this spring. The uncovered greens will be OK! They will just take a little longer to green up. If we would have left the ice on those greens all winter, we most likely would have lost at least some of those greens. We just can't seem to win without winter injury.

Lastly, Chad, Ed, and I kept ourselves busy with fixing equipment, rebuilding the #12 bridge, and installing a new grease trap for the clubhouse. It has been a great winter. We accomplished a lot every week. Our hard work will make our springtime easier. These time consuming project are done. We cleaned up most of the tree work as we worked, saving us time in the spring. I know our efforts to keep the greens from dying will save us a huge amount of time in the spring as well. All in all, I hope you are happy with the progress and are ready for another season to begin, which is only days away.





From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Once again we are back at it for another exciting season at Ballston Spa Country Club. Steve and his staff have been hard at work all winter cleaning up the golf course visually so the air movement will improve turf conditions throughout the summer months.

I have purchased a new High Definition video camera to help everyone see their swings in a clear light with the slow motion enhanced quality that is easy for everyone to learn. I will be available more this season for lessons as I will have my father working 3 days a week in the golf shop this season.

We have some great ideas for this season to make yours enjoyable. If anyone has any ideas or comments to further enhance the golf operation, please don't hesitate to send them along as we are here to service the membership as best as possible.

Golf Shop Staff

I have all of the staff from last season coming back for this year. In case you haven't heard yet. Kyle who works in the golf shop will be getting married this October 9th. He and Amy got engaged during the Christmas season. I will have John White returning for the Saturday or Sunday morning shift which will allow me to play with the membership in the mornings. And we can't forget about Jerry or Lemont as some of you know him. Jerry will be back from Florida in early April and will be there everyday as I think Ballston Spa Country Club is his second home and he loves working at the club and servicing the membership. We will also have Gary Krohl or Mambo taking care of Tuesday night men's league on the outside and many other tasks that we put forth.

I am very lucky to have such a great staff working with me as it will free me up more to help the membership as much as possible.

Course Rating

We have had some work done on the golf course the past few years as many of you have noticed and with that being said, we will be having the course re-rated to get it more accurate. We will be trying to do this as all of the fescue grass grows in. This will make the rating more accurate.

Tuesday Night Men's League

It's that time of year again. I hope it was happy and safe winter for everyone. I would like welcome back past members to the league and encourage all new members to sign up to play in our league. We had 6 flights of 16 members, A flight had 18, last season and hope to have that many again this season. We have never shut anyone out if they have signed up on time.

League play will be 9-hole match play within flight. Flights are made up by handicap. A, B and C flights tee off on one nine while D, E, and F flights tee off on the other. Tee off times are between 3:30 and 5:30. You can make up foursomes when you get there.

Our annual preseason meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6th at 6 pm in the clubhouse. There is a \$100 league fee. Please bring league payment, **by check only**, with you at this time. Checks are made out to Tuesday Night Men's League. This is to cover our end of season costs as well as flight payouts. Last season we paid the top six places in each flight for each half as well as overall season. Your place is not reserved until your payment is received.

Each flight usually has a nightly skins game going also and the price of this is determined by the members of the flight and is paid at the beginning of the season for the season. The Pro Shop runs a closest to the pins game as well.

Please let anyone that may be interested in playing to go to the website and read this or to attend the meeting on the 6th.

If you cannot attend, a sign-up list will be placed on the bulletin board by the men's locker room in the clubhouse. You can also sign up by letting Todd Manderson know in the Pro Shop or by calling league Secretary Tony Lupino at 587-6559 or league President Steve Ludwin at 265-2518 or 899-5401.



Steve Ludwin

Thursday Night Women's League News

Welcome Ballston Spa Women Association members. Please join us for the 2010 Women's League. League begins on Thursday, May 6th and runs weekly thru August 26th. Tee times range from 4:10 to 5:30. We make every effort to accommodate tee times based on necessary schedules. The league is divided into flights based on your handicap, and the game is match play. Although all the flights play together, you only compete within your flight. The league is divided into two sessions. The first session begins May 6th and runs through June 24th. The second session begins July 1st and runs through August 26th. You can sign up for one session for \$40 or both sessions for \$75. The fee includes league prize money, weekly prizes, two mini league tournaments "specials" and the league outing. Please make checks payable to Todd Manderson, and pay by April 30th.

There are more details on the website, or you can contact Cindy Walkanowski with specific questions. Basically, it is a lot of fun, and a great way to meet the BSCC women. Please join us.

Cindy Walkanowski

Communications Report

Members, we have added a few new features to our communication arsenal over the winter...



As you may have noticed, we have started to use our new blast email application. This new program will allow us to send emails to our membership as well as our 'outside list' in a timely manner. It also provides a more professional look as well as helps the Club adhere to new spamming regulations.



Keith McNab



Our Facebook and Twitter pages continue to grow. These networks can be a useful tool to disseminate quick information about the club to our members and guests. Please check them often.



MEMBER GUIDEBOOK

The Club's Member Guidebook is being updated and will be available soon. New revisions will include new policies and guidelines, league and tournament information, and more. The Member Guidebook will be provided to all members and will also be available online.

Our Website

I continue to make changes and additions to our website. Some new content and features include:

- A new flash rotator on the home page;
- A real-time calendar (provided by Google) containing tournaments and club events;
- I will be working with Panza's to provide food specials and event information on our Clubhouse/Restaurant page. The new, opening menu is available now;

In the coming weeks, I will be working with the Golf Shop to try and post tournament winners and Skins and Pins payouts online as well.



CONGRATULATIONS

Don't forget about our Congratulations Page...if you or a fellow member have a special golf-related achievement and wish to share it with the membership, log into the member's section of our website and enter the information in the form on the Congratulations page

and I will see that it's posted.

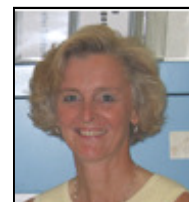


TEE TIMES

Just a reminder as the new season begins, you can book your tee times and view the weekend times online.

As always, if you have any suggestions or issues regarding our Club's communications, website, social networks, etc., please let me know. Thanks!

Green Committee Report



Sue Kahler

What a difference in the weather this winter compared to last. I am happy to report that the course has survived the cold season very well. This is thanks in part to our generous members, owners and friends who bought raffle tickets last year so that we could purchase 5 green covers. In mid January Steve noticed ice build up on a few of the greens that did not have covers. He worked diligently to clean off the snow and spread sand to ensure there would be no damage. His efforts were vital to making sure we didn't relive last year's problems.

Time was also spent refurbishing equipment, doing tree work and rebuilding the bridge on #12. Trees were cleared around the restroom on #6 and to the right of the white tee on #7 to improve the air circulation and sunlight exposure to the turf. Trees were also removed in various other locations around the course for revenue generation and turf improvement.

This spring we will be upgrading the electronics in the pump house to improve the efficiency of the irrigation system and outdoor restrooms. Steve is in the process of obtaining quotes and decisions will be made before we open.

Everyone has seen the terrific improvements to our course since Steve has become a part of the Ballston family. His tireless efforts to make sure we all enjoy our time on the golf course are very much appreciated.

Now is the Time for All Good (Wo)Men To Come to the Aid of Their Golf Club

(with apologies to Charles Weller)

It's that time of year again. No, not time to give your golf towel its annual laundering, time to consider whether you would like to contribute to your Golf Club by submitting your candidacy for the Board of Directors.

You can do this by submitting a letter to the Board stating your intentions, by sending a letter to the Fox stating your intentions and outlining your platform (no more than 300 words, PDF picture if you like, MS Word format, wtucker2@nycap.rr.com), or by simply showing up at the Annual Membership Meeting on the 21st of May and having someone nominate you and another second the nomination.

You are qualified to run if you have been a fully paid stockholder for at least six months before the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Business is going according to budget for the first three months of the year. We have had 37 members resign 10 of whom were shareholders. We filed our taxes on time and are receiving a refund. We ended 2009 in the black. Your board is very conscious of expenditures. Each of us is trying to live within our means. 2009 was a financial year that will gladly be forgotten.

Your club has done everything possible to remain solvent and that was accomplished. I would like to personally thank the many members volunteering time and expertise. You have really helped the bottom line. Many of our local clubs are not as fortunate. We receive the majority of our revenue from memberships. I would urge all of you to promote us with your friends and colleagues.



Bruce Kay

dues.

Senior Men's News

Thursday Morning Senior League play will start soon after the course opening.

I know how long the winter has been and I'm ready to play also. I will e-mail the details to members who have played years past.



If you want to play 18 holes of fun and competitive golf please let me know by e-mail or phone. You do not have to play every week and there are no

Ballston Spa Women's Association News

The Ballston Spa Women's Association is holding its annual spring meeting on Saturday, April 17th. There will be a light continental breakfast available for a small fee at 9:00 followed by the business meeting at 9:30. All women members of Ballston Spa Country Club are automatically included as members of the association and are encouraged to attend this very informative meeting.

This is an excellent opportunity to start making golf plans for the new season and to welcome new members. It is also the time to find out all that the club has to offer. Information will be provided on the following: the Thursday night women's league, club tournaments, the Northeastern Women's Golf Association, and Interclub competition. There will also be reports from board members and about various projects, committees and miscellaneous topics related to the women at Ballston Spa.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 17th.

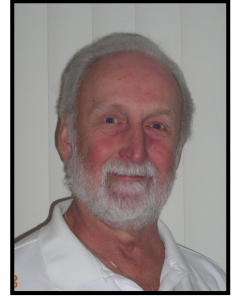
Anne Jorgenson

House Report



Spring is finally here and we are ready for golf and our new caterer.

As most of you know, Tony Panza of Panza's Restaurant on Saratoga Lake is our new caterer. Panza's is well known in the area and the family has been in the restaurant business for over 70 years. We have had several meetings with Tony Panza and his staff and they are very eager to start the season. Many of our Members have indicated they know the Panza reputation, have visited their restaurant and are looking forward to the season. Tony also has experience catering at golf courses, having operated McGregor Links successfully several years ago.



Dick Cody

An early season menu is published in this Fox and on our web site. Tony and Chef Jim Rhodes promise us weekly specials throughout the season. Lets all support Panza's. We are optimistic that with Tony Panza the Club will have a long term relationship with an excellent caterer.

Bob Miskanin

At the end of last season we purchased kitchen equipment including the stove, pizza ovens, warming tables etc from our previous vendor. Along with the new refrigeration units that the club purchased last spring, our kitchen is equipped for our new vendor.

We are in the process of changing the roadside sign advertising our golf course and Panza's restaurant. On an interim basis, until we know the status of our revenue, we will likely cover the existing sign with a sign designed by a local company. Our Member Steve McCorkell has designed two very attractive options for a totally new sign that we are considering.

We completed important and very reasonably priced work in the clubhouse this winter. The ceiling tiles in the forward part of the dinning room have been replaced to match the rest of the room. The TV over the bar and the sound system in the dinning room belonged to our previous vendor and they have been replaced. The men's shower room and main floor rest room have been painted and a new mirror and trophy case were added to the ladies locker room. We would like to thank Mike Zegarelli, Mike Peters and of course Don Gallagher for their help with this work.

John Caputo has replaced the troublesome grease trap for the kitchen. The new trap is located outside the building which will definitely eliminate the odors we have all noticed at times in the building and it should dramatically reduce some of our maintenance costs.

Please say hello to Tony Panza and Chef Jim Rhodes and visit and enjoy our restaurant often throughout the season.



Thanks to John Caputo, Bob Miskanin, Steve Solsky Bruce Kay and Al Squire for all their planning, negotiating and work to replace our grease trap. Our best estimate from an outside contractor was almost \$8,000 more than our cost using Steve and Club members. The new trap is 10X larger than the old and is self-cleaning.

Results of the 2010 BSCC Photo Contest



Second place:
Pete
McNamara's
shot of the
course in
Autumn.



Thanks to all contributors and to our two judges, who shall remain anonymous.



First Place: Cindy Walkanowski's
shot of our 18th green at twilight.



Tournament & Handicap Committee Report

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Time	Start	Format
May-01	Sat	Opening Scramble w/breakfast @ 7:30	9:00 AM	SGS	Scramble
May-23	Sun	Adult / Child Tournament - 9 holes	2:00 PM	SGS	9 holes alternate shot
May 28-29-30	F, S, S	Match Play Championship		TT	Match play
Jun-04	Fri	Wine Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS	Nine Hole Scramble
Jun-09	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS	BB of Partners
June 12/13	S & S	Member/Member Weekend (M / W)	8:30 AM	SGS	BB of Partners (Gross/Net)
			8:30 AM		
June 19/20	Sat & Sun	President's Cup (play with your own 4some)		TT	Stroke Play (NET Only)
Jun-24	Thursday	Men's Member Guest	12:00 PM	TT	Practice
Jun 25-26	Fri, Sat		7:30 AM	SGS	BB of Partners
Jul-10	Sat	4 person Scramble - (M / W)	8:30 AM	SGS	Scramble
Jul-09	Fri	Martini Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS	Nine Hole Scramble
Jul - 17,18	Sat, Sun	Senior Club Championship (M / W)	8:30 AM	TT	9 - Hole Matches
Jul 23-24	F & S.	Women's Member Guest	8:30 AM	TT SGS	2BB of 4
Aug-05	Thu	Men's Senior Member/Guest	8:00 AM	SGS	BB of Partners (Gross/Net)
Aug-07	Sat	Mixed Member/Guest	1:00 PM	SGS	BB of partners
Aug-19	Thu	Women's mini M/G – 9 holes	5:00 PM	SGS	TBD
Aug-13	Fri	Margarita Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS	Nine Hole Scramble
Aug 21/22	S & S	Men/ Women/ Junior Club Championship	9:00 AM	TT	Stroke Play
Aug-25	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS	BB of Partners
Sep-04	Sat	Mixed Member/Member	12:00 PM	SGS	Chapman
Sep-12	Sun	Women's League Outing	11:00 AM	TT	
Sep-19	Sun	Men's League Outing	8:00 AM	SGS	Stroke play
Oct-02	Sat	2 Person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS	Scramble
Oct-30	Sat	Cross Country	1:00 PM	SGS	4-Person Scramble

Since the start of the 2010 golf season is rapidly approaching, we need to outline the plan for administration of the GHIN system. When the handicap committee and I started exploring the GHIN system all it has to offer, it occurred to us that for some it may be rather intimidating. With that in mind, we'd like to begin by assuring everyone that if you apply a few basic principles the rest will take care of itself. Below please see some basic guidelines that you should be following not only at the beginning of our season but all season long.

First and probably most importantly – with few exceptions you should enter your adjusted score shortly following **each time you play golf**. The most popular exception to this would be when you play in a scramble. Each time you play golf means match play events (leagues) as well as incomplete rounds, 9 holes for instance.

Next, always use the equitable stroke control (ESC) table to determine what score to enter for each hole. This table can be found at the computer where scores can be entered.

The following are 3 of the most common questions / points that have recently been asked of the handicap committee therefore please see the question and it's answer –

(continued on page 11)

The bridge on #12 was replaced with treated lumber to ensure a longer life. It was becoming a safety concern.



Out with the old



In with the new



Some uncovered greens were seeing some ice build up in January. Plowing the greens and spreading dark sand solved the problem



The experiment with air movement under the green cover on #9 seemed to work well.

Tournaments & handicap Committee Report (continued)

q) I am member of two clubs – one here and one in Florida. How should I handle entering my scores?

a) If your club is on the GHIN network we can enter the club affiliation into the system and all scores from that club entered during the active season will be used and applied to your handicap. All we need is the club information.

q) When does our "active" season begin?

a) From April 9, 2010 all local scores should be entered into the system. Any golf played (locally) before that should not be entered into GHIN. Internet posting is possible too at www.ghin.com/posting.shtml

q) How does the GHIN system know if someone is being honest?

a) It doesn't. GHIN operates under the assumption that each golfer is honest and that his/her fellow golfers will help him/her maintain their honesty. It is what's called a "peer review" system. This is one of the main reasons that everyone's scores are viewable by all other golfers. This system is completely transparent.

In closing, please know that the handicap committee is here to support you. Should there be any questions you would like answered please call one of us. Soon we have a handicap committee email address to for you to utilize until then please use d.fizer@us.silhouette.com

Panza's on the Green

Starters

Chicken wings
Barbecue, mild, or hot with bleu cheese & celery sticks. \$ 9.00
Mozzarella sticks
Marinara sauce or raspberry sauce. \$ 6.00
French onion soup
Topped with melted Swiss and Parmesan cheese. \$ 6.00
Chili bread bowl
House chili topped with fresh shredded cheese
in a tasty bread bowl. \$ 7.00



Sandwiches

Grilled hot dog
Sauerkraut, relish and coleslaw, \$ 4.00
Add melted cheese and bacon \$ 5.00
8 oz. Angus burger
Lettuce, tomato, pickle and fries. \$ 8.00
Additional toppings \$.50 each
Fish-n-chips
Batter dipped with fries and coleslaw. \$ 8.00
Tuscan veggie wrap
Spring salad mix, oven roasted fava beans, peppadews,
olive tapenade, crumbled feta, balsamic glaze. \$ 8.00
Ham and cheese
Baked ham, Swiss, tomato, lettuce and red onion
on a French baguette. \$ 7.50
Chicken parm sandwich
Mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce on a Kaiser roll. \$ 8.50



Desserts

Homemade rice pudding with cinnamon, raisins,
and topped with whipped cream \$ 5.00
Mississippi Mud pie
Coffee ice cream in an Oreo cookie crust, topped
With chocolate and walnuts \$ 6.00
Warm chocolate muffin and vanilla ice cream \$ 6.00
Panza's signature Spumoni
Chocolate, vanilla and pistachio ice cream with
Frozen whipped cream and almonds \$ 6.00

Salads

House salad with a balsamic vinaigrette. \$ 5.00
Caesar salad \$ 7.00
With grilled chicken \$ 9.00
Cobb Salad
Crisp salad greens paired with grilled chicken, bacon
tomatoes, crumbled gorgonzola, avocado and a hard
boiled egg with your choice of dressing. \$10.00
The Bryant
Balsamic dressed field greens, bosc pears, candied
walnuts and crumbled gorgonzola. \$ 8.00



Sides

French fries..\$3.00 Sweet potato fries..\$4.00 Onion rings..
\$3.50



From the Oven

Cheese pizza
10" pie flavored with fresh herbs and covered with Melted
mozzarella cheese. \$ 7.00
Specialty white pizza - 10" \$ 7.00
Additional toppings \$1.00 each



Classic Entrees

Chicken Parmesan
Breaded chicken cutlet topped with provolone
and house marinara sauce, served over linguine. \$12.00
Flat iron steak
8 oz. steak served on toasted baguette, bleu
cheese mayonnaise and sweet potato fries . \$12.00
Shrimp Scampi
Sautéed shrimp with butter, garlic, and white wine
with rice pilaf. \$14.00

*This is the opening menu for our new caterer,
Panza's on the Green.*

*Once we get the season in full swing, this menu
will be modified to meet the needs of the
Membership.*



Tucker



There are few, if any, circumstances in the cosmos of connubial bliss that demand that one unit of the couple perform a task which then requires the other half to adapt to the resulting change , and perform the next task. We don't drop a glass on the kitchen floor and expect our spouse to clean up.

Except in golf. There is an odious competitive format that is as invaluable to lawyers as that bathroom wallpapering project you both took on last week. The British call it "foursomes" and Americans sometimes refer to as "alternate shot", or "Scotch Doubles" (probably because a double scotch is what you both need after most holes), but which I call "The Divorce Format".



The game is played in the Ryder Cup and other prestigious competitions, and it is a fine thing indeed. But once you change the team makeup to mixed foursomes, things get a bit edgy. Requiring that the mixed foursomes be made up of teams who sleep in the same bed is an act of the devil.

The state golf organization my wife belongs to, stages this matrimonial disaster each year, and for a couple of years The Amazing Max signed us up. I initially looked forward to the event, but soon we both realized that the entrance fee was but a spit in the ocean compared to the potential legal fees

the afternoon on the links might end up costing us both.

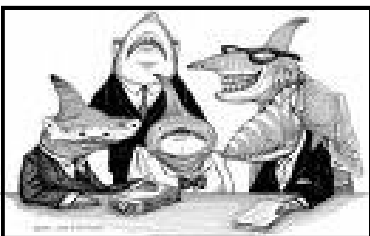
What's the problem, you may ask. The problem is that, if you are standing over a relatively easy shot to a green, knowing that wherever you place the shared ball, your spouse will have to deal with the next shot, you will, without a doubt, fizzle it into a place where no man or woman has been before. If, after your partner has made a beautiful 60 foot putt, you are left with a 3 foot par putt that in any civilized match would be conceded, with your yokemate standing nearby you will always miss the putt. And, as you are standing over the putt, you will pray that lightning might appear out of the brilliantly blue sky and strike you, sparing you the humiliation of the inevitable choke.

I have seen an early, involuntary gasp of astonishment from a spouse, after watching their mate miss a short putt, make the rest of the round a study in misery. This often results in the next shot being missed as well, with the resulting puttfest resembling what Bernard Darwin likened to a sort of "funereal ping pong".



Normal everyday decisions regarding course management and reading putts become diplomatic horror stories. You don't want to contradict your spouse's proposed strategy lest (s)he take it and it results in failure. If, on the other hand, the advice is taken with a favorable outcome, the spouse who had the opposing view feels chagrined.

There is no good to come of it and I strongly suggest that anyone boneheaded enough to play in this format, adopt the following two rules: No advice shall be solicited or given, and apologies are out of the question, no matter how much one may seem in order.



If you stick to these dicta, you may survive the round and, as you exit the eighteenth hole, you will be able to walk briskly past the rows of tables set up by voracious lawyers at such events, knowing that, at least until next year, barring any more wallpapering projects, your marriage remains intact.