

The



Fox

Volume VIII Number 6

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

August, 2006

Superintendent's Report

I would like to answer a few questions that I have been getting lately. Many of you have been asking how you can help out around the course. I think the biggest help would be the filling of fairway divots. My crew and I have been trying to keep up with filling the divots with new mix and seed the best we can. If anyone wants to help out, please stop over to the shop and we will get you set up with a cart full of divot mix.



Steve Solsky



Please replace your divots

Interested in doing something other than filling divots? E-mail or call Mike Zegarelli and tell him you want to adopt a course project or an entire hole. mzegarel@nycap.rr.com

Another question is about disease pressure on the golf course. This year the Board of Directors approved an increase in the budget to spray the entire course in a preventive approach to deal with fungal diseases such as dollar spot and brown patch. Having a fungicide out there on the course before the humidity and moisture create an environment suitable for the disease to start killing grass, is the best way to provide the best turf quality all summer long.



There's a fungus among us



Green Committee Report

At this time of year, the bulk of the attention from Steve and the maintenance crew is on the routine activities on the golf course, such as keeping the grass mowed, the bunkers raked, etc. Steve is also focused on disease control in this, the hot and humid portion of the year.

With the onset of August, we are saying goodbye to Dave Christy, who has been a valuable member of Steve's team for quite some time now. Dave has decided to enroll in a college program to pursue long term career in golf course maintenance and turf management. We wish Dave the best of luck with that.

Dave Runyon

Because of the long periods of extremely wet weather, there are areas of the golf course that remain too wet for carts and other equipment to be driven on them. Because of this, the Green Committee recommended to the Board that holes 11 and 12 be designated as "cart path only" until further notice. This recommendation was accepted by the board, and signs to that effect are being posted. Also the GC recommended and the Board approved a change to limit carts to the paved cart path on the left side of hole # 15. The stone path on the right has become too dangerous because of the continued wash-outs. This restriction is also in effect until further notice.

Thanks, and please enjoy the remainder of the summer



President's Letter

As we reach the midway point of the golf year, all aspects of the club's business continue to go very well. Despite a record rainfall in June and some heavy rain in early July, the golf course has held up very well and Steve and his crew continue to do an excellent job. I have had an opportunity to play Lakeshore Country Club in Syracuse and Pinehaven Country Club recently and while both were excellent courses, Ballston Spa Country Club is every bit their equal.



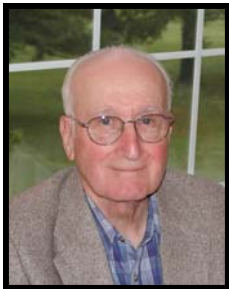
Rick Funaro

Financially, the club continues to have a good year. Due to the rainy weather in June, our revenue was substantially lower as compared to that of June 2005. However the outlook for the year remains excellent. Everyone is doing very well in keeping expenses in line with their budgets and with a strong second half of the golf season, we expect to end the year in another very positive financial position.

With our increased public play fee, we have substantially reduced outside play without a significant reduction in our public play revenue. This is the result we expected when we made the decision to raise the public play rate. I have not heard of any problems with the course being unavailable to members during the week.

We are looking into leasing new golf carts for next year. We certainly have a need for upgraded carts and are soliciting bids from various vendors. We will evaluate them to get best deal for the club.

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.



Treasurer's Report

There have been several charge tabs for food and drink that have the wrong member name and number. When the Member charged questioned the billing, the tab was examined and the signature was illegible.

Al Squire

As a result, the Club (we Members) had to pay this tab. I am certain that the person signing the tab had unintentionally missed the fact the name and number were incorrect, but to avoid this in the future, please check your tab to be sure it has your name and number printed on it.

From the Golf Shop

Driver Fittings

I will have the Callaway fitting cart for Drivers starting on Monday July 24 and will have it for a week. The system is the proper way to select the correct shaft and driver head that is suited for an individual's game. The shafts are interchangeable with the different heads so it makes it easy to understand that we can properly select the right shaft and loft as well as the draw, fade or neutral head. Callaway is also offering a free fairway wood with the purchase of a driver through the end of the month. Take advantage of this offer and select the driver that is correct for your game. Please call to make an appointment

Mulch Chips

I have had a few players asking me about the mulch chips on the 8th hole. If your ball lies in the mulch in the woods on this hole, the ball is to be played as it lies. There is no relief from these areas and the ball must be played as it lies.

Pace of Play

I would like to make everyone aware of this issue once again. It seems that many people complain about pace of play but there is never any one individual who is responsible for it. I would like to make everyone aware of this and ask that they do their best to try to keep up with the group in front of them and not just try to stay ahead of the group behind them. This always seems to be an issue and it comes up at board meetings. I feel that it is an easy issue to resolve if all players will just pay attention to where they are on the golf course and try to get the others in their group to do the same.

Lightning

As we are deep into the summer and thunderstorms pop up everywhere, it is very important that all players listen for the horn signal to come off the course as it is a dangerous situation and has to be taken seriously. So please pay attention to this.



Todd Manderson

A committee is being formed to guide the Club through reorganization from a "For Profit" to a "Not For Profit" corporation. This is being done to eliminate most, if not all income taxes.

If you wish to serve on this committee, please contact Jan

What was Joe Friday's response to the Poll question asking what he read to keep up to date on everything important?

"The Fox, Ma'am, just the Fox"



Jon Paolucci

BSCC Policies

Since this is my first article in the Fox, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members for giving me the opportunity to represent you on the Board of Directors. I welcome your feedback, so please feel free to speak to me anytime or send me an e-mail at jmp@nycap.rr.com.

My specific Board responsibilities include the Golf Shop, Long Range Planning and Human Resources. Having a great Pro like Todd makes that part of my job easy. Part of my responsibility is to assist Todd in making sure that members follow BSCC rules and regulations, so there are a few Golf Shop issues I need to bring to your attention.

Proper Attire:

We wanted to remind members and their guests of our Dress Code, which is outlined in our Member Guidebook.

All players must wear proper attire on the golf course at all times.

- Bermuda style shorts may be worn, however, cutoffs, tennis, running, athletic or short-shorts are not permitted.
- Golf shirts must be of acceptable style, similar to what is sold in the Golf Shop. Football jerseys, tee shirts, tank or halter tops are not permitted.
- Blue jeans are not permitted.
- Soft-spike or spike-less golf shoes must be worn at all times.

Todd and his staff are responsible for enforcing these rules and they have the full support of the Board of Directors.

Coolers Aren't Cool!

We have had reports that some members have been bringing beer, and or coolers on to the course. This practice is prohibited. We have contracted with Villiagio Green to provide all beverage services at BSCC, including the course. The beverage carts are fully stocked, and since BSCC does get a percentage of the profits made from this service, you are supporting the club every time you purchase a beverage.

BSCC Trivia From The Past

The Golf Shop used to be located in the current kitchen area ...Claire Walbridge was the first woman to serve on the BOD....until the Nineties there were no formal tee times - you just showed up and put a ball in the rack..... Dick Osborne used to rise at 3 AM to water tees and greens....the Rodriguez's ran the restaurant out of the caddy shack....Betty Eldridge staged a protest to get equal tee time rights for women....at one time Sam Baker was the soul man responsible for cutting grass....During WWII when the Club was in dire financial straits, 10 Members donated \$100 each to save the Club from bankruptcy.

Tough Times

10/7/32 - Club Professional Dan DePalma was laid off **1934** - Tim O'Connel was hired as Club Professional for \$750/year, reduced to \$700 by 1941. **10/7/32** - Dues and green fees were down 40% from 1931 (\$6,309.50). **4/7/33** - Initiation Fee waived for the year. **August 1935** - A section of the course was leased to the WPA to build 2 new tennis courts.

Better Times

10/7/25 - James Thompson, Mohawk Golf Club Professional, was hired for \$150 "to supervise the clearing and laying out the Golf Course." **June 1933** - Floyd Shutts, founder of the Ballston Spa Knitting Mill served as President **1935** - Membership was up to 190 from the previous year **December 1946** - Dues were raised to \$35, Women and students \$15. **June 1949** - BOD approved the purchase of soap for the Men's Locker Room, the last \$1,000 of the mortgage was paid off and Green Fees for Sat/Sun/Holidays were increased to \$2, weekly Green Fees were \$6.

Chopper's Corner

"Nice shot, Dad!" My partner, Pat Shannon and I first heard those words during the practice round for the member-guest tournament from Chris Tucker after his dad found the middle of the third fairway with a high draw. I didn't realize at the time that we'd hear those same words from other playing competitors over the course of the weekend. We found out the next day that our flight included the father and son teams of the Lavigna and Stefanik families, and Winston Wachtel paired with his son-in-law, Tom.

The practice round got rained out shortly after we had made the turn for the back nine, so we only got to enjoy the company of the Tuckers for eleven holes. During that time, however, it was obvious that they had looked forward to the event and it was impressive that Chris was operating on very little sleep because of his trip from Charlotte. The bond between dad and son was obvious from the moment we met on the driving range.

We couldn't have asked for a better pairing for our first match on Friday than the Lavignas. We'd been in the same flight several years ago and we knew we could expect friendly competition as well as some good natured ribbing from the Mikes. We got lucky to get a couple of points early, before the senior Mike was fully awake and we accomplished our weekend goal by squeaking out a win in that first match. Again, we witnessed the bond between our competitors that is unique to a parent and their offspring during the course of that match.

Our next match was with Winston and Tom for a 10:30 AM start. Those of you who know Win realize that by 10:30 on most weekends, he's already on the last few holes of his round. So, it was no surprise that he was ready to go on the 4th tee when we arrived. Not having ever played with him, I wasn't sure what to expect, but Tom quickly broke the ice with some comments busting on his father-in-law. They got the best of us when Win holed a 15-foot putt to win our all-square match on the last hole, but we left with smiles on our faces as the company was as enjoyable as the golf.

Our Saturday morning match was against the course, but we ended our weekend with the Stefanik pairing of Jim and Jack. Our match progressed with a series of halves, but they finally got the best of us with some solid play as a team. On number 12, while Jim was walking across the fairway to hit his shot, Pat and I made comments to Jack about how well they appeared to be playing. He replied that he didn't really pay attention to the golf. He was just happy that he got to spend three days with his dad, playing golf, enjoying the time together and that the golf was a bonus. He said that Jim was not going to be able to keep him away from the member-guest in the future because of how the weekend had progressed.



Doug Young

This year marked the ninth consecutive year that Pat and I have teamed up for the tournament. Like every other year, we talked about it for weeks ahead of time, mostly focusing on the fact that it was each other's company, three days of a lot of golf, and the camaraderie on the 19th hole that made us come back every year. However, always lurking beneath all that talk were the nerves that come from playing competitive golf in situations where you don't want to over-use the phrase "your hole, partner." So, like the years before, Pat and I set the same goal of winning at least one match and avoid being shut out over the weekend and we had accomplished that goal and more.

However, it was a comment from Jack Stefanik that brought Pat and I back to the real reason we do this. Jack said that he was one of the luckiest people to have a dad like his and have the opportunity to do this over a weekend with him. His exact words were if he could start his life all over again with a choice of fathers, he'd pick Jim. Now, before you get all teary eyed, you should know that these comments came moments before Jack and Pat "shot-gunned" a beer near the 12th green. Pat had his golf towel tucked inside his collar and Jack had beer dribbling down his chin when it was done. Jim and I just looked at each other and shrugged our shoulders with big smiles on our faces.

Competitive golf really tests our abilities to cope with a lot of things, many that aren't related to the golf. Through the rain, the nerves, the good and bad shots, it all ended with the foundation of camaraderie and family values that make the game what it is to most of us. I'm already looking forward to next year. And, by the way, we finished second in our flight, guaranteeing that those nerves will be below the surface when we tee it up on Friday morning next year.

Tournament Committee Report

We have had a few questions surrounding the advertising of Club Events. Here are the Tournament Committee's procedures for how, when and why we schedule and advertise tournaments. We put together a tournament schedule in the Fall of the events from the previous season with chairperson(s) that have organized it in the past. This is then revised based on new chairperson(s), date changes & added or removed events over the winter. If no one steps up to chair a tournament, Todd Manderson usually picks it up.

The schedule is then put in the Fox, on the place mats and the website. As for this past season we had price variations due to new food vendor. Therefore, some of the tournament prices and what they included were revised to accommodate the membership. The chairperson(s) of each tournament is responsible for how the event is communicated/advertised to the membership, usually with the help of the Pro-shop. However, each month in the Fox the "Upcoming Events" are placed with any changes that we have been provided with. If you have any suggestions on how to better this process please email me at tomhudy76@yahoo.com

2006 Tournament Schedule "Upcoming Events"

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Time	Start	Format	Chairperson(s)
Aug 6	Sun	Relative Tournament 9 Holes	1:00 PM	SGS	BB Partners	Bob Cooper
Aug 9	Wed	Home/Home Skenendowa	12:00 Pm	SGS	BB Partners	Todd Manderson
Aug 17	Thurs	Women's Mini M/G 9 Holes	4:00 PM	SGS	2 BB of 4	Kahler/Blau/Carr
Aug 19/20	Sat/Sun	M/W Senior Club Champ	9:00 AM	TT	Medal Play	Stan Ziobrowski
Aug 30	Wed	Women's Invitational	8:00 AM	SGS	Stroke Play	Suzie Mansfield
Sept 2-4	Sat-Mon	Men's Club Championship	7:30 AM	TT	Stroke Play	Bob Cooper
Sept 2/3	Sat/Sun	Women's Club Championship	11:00 AM	TT	Stroke Play	Sharon Naftzger
Sept 2-4	Sat-Mon	Junior Club Championship	7:30 AM	TT	Stroke Play	Bob Cooper

Senior News

Our annual Outing/Tournament will be held on Thursday, August 24 at our Club, 8:00 AM, Shotgun Start.

Continental Breakfast and dinner served after play.

We will play Quota Teams with Designated Drive, have Team Pins, Skins, Line and Gifts for all attending.

Please join us for a great, relaxed, fun game of golf.

We need to know who's playing, so sign up in the Golf Shop or call/e-mail me.

Bruce Kay

Reciprocal Reviews

Having played three reciprocals this year, here are my thoughts: Of the 3, Berkshire Hills, CC of Syracuse and Lakeshore, Berkshire Hills was the best layout (Tillinghast) and had the best greens (11 Stimp the day I played) and a brand new Clubhouse.

CC of Syracuse had excellent grooming and a dramatic back 9 (see photos on page 8) , also with a new Clubhouse and good food at a reasonable price.

Lakeshore has an older Clubhouse with a great view of (wait for it) a lake. There are, unfortunately, no lake views from the course. Long par threes and a couple of very short par 4's (#1 & # 18). Lakeshore's layout was uninspired, with no memorable holes with the exception of # 18, a tough short par 4. Anyone with any reviews/opinions on reciprocals? Let me know - Tucker

The Winners' Circle

Men's Member/Guest June 30th-July 1st

Championship Flight:	1st Matt Moore / Mike Demars	29 points
	2nd: Bob McGuire / Pete McGuire	28 points
First Flight:	1st: Jim Bryant / Jeff Guido	32 1/2 points
	2nd: Stan Ziobrowski / Norm Korniak	31 1/2 points
Second Flight:	1st: Doug Calvey / Greg Calvey	32 points
	2nd: Tucker / Tucker	28 points
Third Flight:	1st: Ed Hall / Bob Stulmaker	31 points
	2nd Pete Kanches / Paul Graveline	27 points
Fourth Flight:	1st: Bob Hartman / Mike Sivik	33 points
	2nd: Tom Shannon / John McClure	28 1/2 points
Fifth Flight:	1st: Bill Furman / Gary Tribley	32 1/2 points
	2nd: Gerry Todd / David Catazone	30 points
Sixth flight:	1st: Pete McNamara / Bob Pizarra	
	2nd: Mark Rider / Rob Rider	
Seventh Flight:	1st: Mike Lavigna /Mike Lavigna Jr	29 1/2 points
	2nd: Doug Young / Pat Shannon	27 1/2 points
Eighth Flight:	1st: Bob Paliwodzinski / Jack Lewis	28 1/2 points
	2nd: jeff Reynolds / Adam Reynolds	28 1/2 points

July Fourth Holiday Mixer

1st Net: Jim Bryant, Mary Assey, Stan Ziobrowski, Joan Taylor

2nd Net: Ed Lake, Linda Lake, Mark Rider, Mandy Rider

1st Gross: Pat Mauboules, Mary Mauboules, Ryan Simpson, Sue Simpson



Parring the 19th

Golf zealots, in their uncompromising devotion to the game, often attempt to isolate it from sports played by the Heathens. They do this by pointing out the aspects of golf that lift it out of the sea of sports melba toast and place it delicately, like a raspberry chocolate truffle, on a gilt-edged, fluted pedestal cake plate.

They point out, with an oxymoronic smugness, that it's the only sport in which the spectators move around, but the ball is motionless when struck; it's a game that nurtures social intercourse while pitting a lone being against nature and himself; it evokes sartorial extravagance from those who normally occupy dark, three-piece, pinstriped havens.

Another darling affectation adopted by The Chosen is the old "Golf is Life is Golf" philosophy - the belief that golf mirrors the essence of Man's existence. A corollary of this creed is that, unlike other major participant sports, golf has affected the very fabric of our society, through the rich heritage of its literature. For example, Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorne published a poem in the New York Tribune in 1914 that revolutionized our labor laws:

*The golf links lie so near the mill
That almost every day
The laboring children can look out
And see the men at play.*

Thanks to this poem, Child Labor Laws have been drastically altered. Today, society has ensured that factories employing child labor are established far from golf courses, to avoid these pitiful situations. One never knows when one of the little whelps might scream out some indecency during the execution of one's swing.



Tucker

Few other mass participant sports can claim so strong a cultural influence. Bowling, for example. I challenge anybody to quote *any* form of literature related to bowling that has had an enduring impact on our society. For that matter, I challenge anyone to quote any bowling literature. Period.

The aspect of golf which I find particularly endearing, is the variety of venues offered by the sport. Unlike the other two major participant sports, tennis and bowling, golf is not contested on an invariably precise, forever constant playing field. Tennis, although played in a strictly defined space, at least offers a limited variety of shots to play. Bowling, on the other hand, is played in the same windowless warehouse no matter where you are. And you play the same hole again and again.

Now take these stupor-inducing participant sports and add an audience. Watching bowling has one saving grace, in that it allows one to experience death without going through the messy part. Watching even the last few frames of a hotly contested final game for the World Championship of Bowling is more enervating than listening to the Barry Manilow Tidy Bowl Tri-City Pro-Am Golf Classic on AM radio. In Nebraska.

With golf however, we are presented with a new hole, with changing scenery and fresh challenges, eighteen times in each game. I know some golfers who have played the same course all their life, yet never played the same hole the same way twice. I myself have played several holes in which I have used fairways, greens, tees and bunkers not technically on the same hole I was officially playing. Try getting a strike on lane 6 while bowling from lane 4 next Friday night and see what happens to your ten pin career.

I have played golf holes surrounded by jungle, ocean, lava and shopping malls; played with the sounds of kookaburras, cockatoos and cows ringing forth on my backswing; made shots off bent and Bermuda grass; putted on oiled sand greens and dueled with the tentacles of Scottish gorse. I have stood waiting on the fairway as a truck came roaring up beside me, ten kids jumped out, climbed the mango tree under which the truck was parked, shook the hell out of the tree, and roared off with their harvest before they were caught. I have been quietly lining up a putt when a gaggle of screeching geese have attacked out of nowhere. And when was the last time a squirrel picked up your bowling ball and ran off with it?

I suppose I'll be hearing from The Infidels who, in their ignorance, arbitrarily and totally dismiss the attractions of golf. I, on the other hand, am broad minded enough to find something to like about almost any sport.

At least bowlers never lose their ball.

You know it's been a wet season when Todd offers a special price on regripping your umbrella.



Picture Gallery

Top Row: The 14th tee at The Country Club of Syracuse

2nd Row and Above: Todd & staff run the Wednesday Junior Clinic

Above Right and Far Right: Pirettes of The Caribbean - Women's Member/Guest