



Volume X Number 4

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

Just a short note this month to update the membership on a couple of important items.

We continue to see interest from prospective new members regarding membership for this year and even inquiries for next year. We have signed up a few new members within the last month and the BOD will be discussing fall membership specials at our next meeting. Through the hard work and leadership of Tucker and his committee, we are having an outstanding year with a net gain of approximately 35 new members.

The club is having a good year financially. We are on target to meet our revenue projections and are currently under running our budgeted expenses. We are all looking at our remaining expenses and looking for additional savings to ensure the best possible financial outcome for the year.

I recommend that all of you take the time to check out the Facility Improvement section of our BSCC website. You will find a mission statement for the Facility Improvement Committee (FIC) and the meeting minutes from all of the FIC meetings held to date. This is just one of the methods the FIC is using to keep our membership informed on the progress being made. *(Editor's note: These documents can also be seen below and on pages 4-8)*

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



Rick Furnaro

FIC Mission Statement

The Facility Improvement Committee's mission is to determine the viable options for the betterment of our facilities without compromising our ongoing golf course improvements. The FIC will thoroughly investigate the fiscal ramifications, suitability of design and marketing potential of each option before reporting their recommendations for further action to the membership.

See Pages 4-8 for FIC Meeting Minutes

House Report



The house remains in order.

We serviced the a/c and it's performing well. A junior golfer in a tournament broke a window the next day.

We passed a Town of Milton fire inspection by installing panic bars on the front doors and removing a bolt on the door to the deck. The door return on the door to the deck was broken and repaired. The outside men's locker room door was re-keyed and should remain closed

There are lockers available for both men and women. Their cost is \$21 a year. Paper towels, soap, linen towels and other toiletries are available in the locker rooms for your use. Please feel free to use them and let myself or Don know if you are in need of anything. I Thank Don Gallagher for his help. He takes care of the restrooms and their supplies and often times an emergency cleaning...

Water coolers have been kept filled and back-up keys made. Our maintenance staff (Larry) does a great job keeping the coolers full.

The shed and beverage cart are operating but not up to member expectations BoD is working on this.

I welcome member comments good and bad. I continue to monitor the whole clubhouse, restaurant included. Please tell me what you need. We want to be comfortable there.

Our caterer does a wonderful job with special events and tournaments. Please book your event with us at the club.

Bkay1@nycap.rr.com

583-8864



Bruce Kay

2008 Men's Member/Guest

As chair of this event, I would like to thank the following:

Steve Ludwin

Out hole in one sponsors, Jim and Tina Koehler - Scotia Dodge
Our Pro Todd Manderson and the rest of the Pro Shop staff - These guys do a fantastic job.
Our superintendent Steve Solsky and his crew. We had many, many nice comments from the guests regarding the condition of the course and greens.

The restaurant did an outstanding job this year. No one went home hungry from this tournament. The food was great!

All the restaurant staff for their extra effort to make everyone happy and supplied with whatever was requested.

Dick Cody for handling the emceeing of the player evaluation on Thursday evening.

To our members, Dave Fizer, Larry D'Alberto, Jimmy Bryant and Johnny "The Dream" Caputo, who played as markers in the two flights that needed another team to even it out.

Thanks to everyone who competed and I hope enjoyed themselves.

Without your participation there is no tournament.

I hope to see a few more teams in next years event.



Men's Senior Member/Guest

Thursday August 7

Open to all male Members 50 or over

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Format is best ball partners gross and net.

Gift and Prizes

Dinner following golf.

\$65.00 per man

Please sign up in the pro shop.

Rutland Country Club

We have negotiated the return of Rutland Country Club as a Reciprocal Partner

The Conditions of the agreement are as follows:

No more than three foursomes per week

No more than 2 foursomes on any given day

\$25/round, including cart

Meeting Attendees:

Rick, Funaro, Dick Cody, John Paolucci, Ed Schwencke, Bill Tucker, Max Tucker, Roger Laime, Mike Zegarelli, Pete McNamara and Bill Swietnicki

The following are summary bullets of the areas we discussed:

Committee must be in agreement as to the need to move forward, and be well prepared to address all likely member questions and concerns prior to meeting with the membership.

Open and regular communication and information sharing with the members is critical, so we must develop a communications plan.

What can we afford and how much can be borrow?

If we increase banquet facility, what will be our projected revenue?

Member donations may help offset some costs, but we shouldn't rely on this when developing our fiscal plan.

We must develop a Mission Statement.

Clubhouse initiative needs to be part of the 5 Year Plan.

We need to stay within our market and maintain our image.

We need to assess current structure and the viability of renovation versus new structure.

Issues and additional costs to consider **if** we build a new structure:

Preliminary estimate of \$35K to remove existing Clubhouse.

We will need to enlarge the parking lot.

We will have increased property taxes.

The maintenance of the course must always come first when allocating funds.

Need to assess any necessary major course improvements/projects, such as water/sprinkler system to ensure we have funds to support them.

We need to develop survey questions to obtain members' opinion for need and design criteria.

We need to get Committee consensus on the appropriate timing of the release of such survey.

Use previous successes to illustrate the long-term impact, such as how the parking lot expenditure allowed BSCC to expand its capability to hold larger outside tournaments, which has greatly benefited us.

Next Steps:

We believe we reached consensus Friday night to move forward simultaneously with various tasks. Here is an attempt to describe what we arrived at and the committee members who will work on the tasks.

Mission Statement – develop a mission statement. Who are we, what is our objective now and in the next decade. Tucker, Paolucci.

Member Input - ascertain from the members through small group meetings "what are basic member needs" and "if we can afford to spend more, what are member wishes above the basic needs." Tuckers, Ziggy, Cody and basically everyone if you are comfortable doing this.

Survey – begin to develop a survey to obtain member thoughts and suggestions for meeting the present and future facility needs of our club. Max T, Schwenke, Paolucci.

Other Area Golf Club Facilities – through visits to selected area country clubs, "how do their facilities meet the needs of members?" This task would obtain data/information on the number of memberships, activities (i.e. golf course, tennis, pool) facility size and accommodations, number of internal events, number of external events, restaurant use, caterer and overall management of the club. Swietnicki, Laime, McNamara.

Finance Plan – We need to determine the club's net worth, how much we can borrow, and how much we can afford to spend on facility improvement. The answer will come from the results of the work of the above groups, projected enrollment, additional revenue from an improved facility and member commitment and willingness.

Facility Improvement Committee

June 30, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Created by Dick Cody & John Paolucci

Meeting attendees:

Dick Cody, John Paolucci, Rick Funaro, Bill Tucker, Max Tucker, Bob Miskanin, Pete McNamara, Bill Swietnicki, Carl Jahn, Chuck Griswold, Ginny Charbonneau, Tony Reed, Ed Schwencke and Mike Zegarelli

Dick Cody distributed the meeting agenda.

Meeting Minutes:

The first order of business was the approval of the June 20, 2008 meeting minutes. Bill Tucker made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Mike Zegarelli seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously in a voice vote by the Committee.

A subsequent discussion followed regarding the importance of keeping open and clear communication with the members, and as a result we would publish our meeting minutes and other informational items on our home page. There may be times when members ask legitimate questions that the FIC may not have answers to. With a project of this importance and magnitude, that would not be unusual. If such instances occur, the FIC will state that we currently do not have the answer, however, the FIC will research and explore alternatives to address the matter. Once the FIC has completed sufficient research and analysis to answer the question, they will get back to the membership with the details.

Action Item: John Paolucci to discuss with Keith McNab and implement a Facility Improvement Committee page/link for easy member access. We will also use the bulletin board, business office and our newsletter to public/post this information for those members who do not use the Internet.

Mission Statement:

Bill Tucker had drafted a mission statement for the Facility Improvement Committee (FIC), which was previously e-mailed to a limited number of FIC members because the FIC did not have everyone's e-mail address, and he also distributed hard copies at the meeting.

Member Input:

The FIC agreed that obtaining member input throughout the process is critical and that the FIC members have a consistent position/message/opinion on issues. It was suggested and agreed upon that we should maintain member comments regarding needs for facility improvement on a Fact Sheet, and include a Questions and Answers (Q & A) section that we can publish on our homepage and or, add to the end of meeting minutes, when appropriate. Committee members are encouraged to obtain input from club members.

Rick Funaro will encourage members to send any comments, questions or concerns to him via e-mail, and he will maintain a log of all these comments, which will be also posted on our FIC Internet page.

Facility Improvement Input:

John Paolucci, Max Tucker and Ed Schwencke have begun preliminary work to create a questionnaire to gather member input, which will ensure the FIC takes into account what the membership deems as the critical needs for our clubhouse facility. They will continue to work on this and have conceptual draft to share at a FIC meeting in the near future.

Information Gathering from Other Clubs in the Area:

Bill Swietnicki and Roger Laime did not have the opportunity to visit area clubs yet, but Roger did develop the attached outline of questions and items to be addressed, when speaking with other clubs in the area. We can gain critical planning information by conducting research on banquet facilities and the revenue they generate to offset operational expenses. What size banquets can they accommodate, how far out are they booked/scheduled, etc?

Pete McNamara noted that it was his understanding that Mohawk CC recently spent \$3 million dollars on renovations that were primarily for infrastructure improvements. Although infrastructure improvements are critical, they are often not tangible things that are obvious to the membership and therefore, Mohawk members may be questioning what they got for their investment. This is a good example of the need for the FIC to be open and share critical info with the members.

Dick Cody mentioned that Villiagio had informed him that Pinehaven is currently booked 70% of the time for banquet events.

What did VanPatten spend for their new facility?

We need to define what our potential market/niche is.

Carl Jahn and Bob Miskanin offered to assist with this info gathering effort.

Finance:

Pete McNamara is going to work with Keith Atlas, Al Squire and Chuck Griswold to research what our net worth is currently valued at, and therefore, how much money BSCC could borrow, in the event we needed to. At some point, they will discuss with Ballston Spa National Bank, since they hold our current mortgage.

Chuck Griswold mentioned that he was on a church committee in Houston, where they actually raised construction funds by offering bonds to the members. This is just another alternative that the committee will look into among many alternatives that will be pursued for financing a new / renovated clubhouse.

The next FIC meeting was scheduled for July 14th at 7:00 pm, however, due to a tournament conflict this been rescheduled for Weds, July 16th.

Facility Improvement Committee

July 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Prepared by John Paolucci & Dick Cody

Meeting Attendees:

Keith Atlas, Tony Reed, Dennis Crimi, Roger Laime, Chuck Griswold, Bill Tucker, Max Tucker, Bob Miskanin, Pete McNamara, Ginny Charbonneau, Mike Zigarelli, Carl Jahn, Dick Cody and John Paolucci

Meeting Summary:

Bill Tucker made a motion to accept the June 30th meeting minutes and Pete McNarmara seconded the motion.

Dick Cody distributed the meeting agenda.

Members were asked to express their opinion on need for facility improvement. Consensus among the majority of members-we need a new facility, but we must examine the feasibility of renovating the existing building. Member support and affordability are paramount.

FIC member comments included:

Ginny Charbonneau: We need a new clubhouse, which must include addressing the sewer odor problem.

John Paolucci: We need to renovate and expand, or replace the clubhouse. However, this is not something we should rush into. Only after completing a detailed analysis, which includes an independent expert's assessment of the existing structure, which should provide a recommendation as to whether renovation or new construction is the best option. It should also be contingent upon our fiscal situation, what we can afford and borrow; so the Finance Sub-Committee's research and recommendations are critical.

Pete McNamara: We need to build a new clubhouse, but only if we can afford it. This will be a substantial investment, and we need to ensure we have the revenue to support the necessary loan payment.

Bob Miskanin: Believes we need to do something, but not leaning one way or the other as to renovation or new construction. Agrees that we should not rush into this and to make sure we can afford this.

Max Tucker: Her opinion is not if, but when we build a new clubhouse. The future health of our club depends on this. Concerned with existing structure and meeting building codes, and believes putting any more funds into repairs or renovation is not cost effective.

Bill Tucker: Open to all ideas. Expected continued growth in Saratoga County, including the proposed AMD chip-factory, and a great potential for increasing our membership to meet our goals and projections. If we don't improve, the club will die. Although we may lose some members who don't support a new clubhouse, we will gain many more to offset that number. We need to be able to increase our banquet capabilities, so we can generate more revenue.

Chuck Griswold: Reserve judgment until all the facts are in.

Roger Laime: As a new member this year, believes we need to take a logical approach and look at the full spectrum. We do need to make improvements, such as improving the poor locker conditions. Rehab will be very costly, so perhaps a phased new construction approach is appropriate. Once we define our requirements, we need to bring in the experts.

Dick Cody: Played many clubs in the area and our course continues to improve and be the best value in the area. In addition, we have the best Superintendent and Pro in the area. This is a defining moment for our club for the next 25 years. We need to build a new facility, within reason because the existing has served its purpose.

Tony Reed: Wants to build a new clubhouse, so he can entertain clients. He believes that most working members, whose job includes entertaining clients, will not bring them to our existing clubhouse. A new clubhouse would attract new members for this purpose.

Keith Atlas. As a new member he likes the homey/family environment, but also recognizes we need a new facility. As a banker, he has seen many businesses/clients make poor fiscal decisions, so he strongly suggests we be careful and conservative.

Carl Jahn: We definitely need a new clubhouse, but we need to be conservative. We should not renovate because it would be a waste of money. Banquet projections have to be conservative because we are competing with Saratoga events.

Dennis Crimi: Likes the style here. If what we do meets a need, the members will support it. If we determine what the members really want, then paying for it should not be an issue.

Mike Zigarelli: Can we really afford not to do something? We can not stand still.

Sub-Committees:

Dick Cody and John Paolucci addressed the FIC and stated that while we are pleased with the progress the FIC has made during our first two meeting, it is now time to break out into the Sub-Committees. It will not be necessary or productive to have FIC meetings as often, but much more critical to have the smaller Sub-Committees meet and develop goals and objectives, which they will report back to the FIC through Dick and John.

When defining the groups it was suggested and agreed upon that member input and survey/info gathering were really components of a needs assessment, so we have now established.

Below are the Sub-Committees and member breakdown.

Needs Assessment

Member Input -- Mike Zegarelli (Acting Chair), Carl Jahn, Dick Cody
Survey --- Max Tucker (Acting Chair), Ed Schwencke, John Paolucci

Facility Status and Experience at other clubs – Roger Laime (Acting Chair),
Bill Swietnicki, Bob Miskanin, John Paolucci

Finance – Peter McNamara (Acting Chair), Keith Atlas, Tony Reed,
Chuck Griswold, Dennis Crimi, Dick Cody

Marketing – Bill Tucker, Ed Schwencke, Ginny Charbonneau

The committee's objective is for a thorough feasibility study and each functional group should establish its goals and a plan as soon as possible.

Although ambitious, the committee agreed that we should prepare recommendations for the membership by October 2208.

The next FIC meeting was not scheduled yet, but we expect that the Sub-Committees meet soon, and the Sub-Committee Chairs will coordinate those activities and report back through Dick and John.

Tournament Committee Report

We have been having a great year for Tournaments (below is the participation). We have had well over 1,000 players through the end of July. My hope is that we continue this great trend. A special Thanks to Todd & his staff and Steve & the maintenance crew for the great work they have been doing. At a point in early June BSCC had huge tournaments on 6 of the 8 days including the NYS Men's Qualifier & the Saratoga County AM which we received excellent comments from participants on their whole experience at BSCC.



Tom Hudy

2008 BSCC Completed Tournaments

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Format	Chairperson(s)	Participation 2008
May-03	Sat	Opening Scramble w/breakfast	Scramble	Todd M / Tom H	48
May-10	Sat	Men & Women's 4 per Scramble	Scramble	Tom H / Sue D	124
May 24 - 26	S, S, M	Match Play Championship	Match play	Tom H / Todd M	32
May-30	Fri	Wine Tasting	Nine Hole Scramble	Tom H / Todd M	68
May 31 & Jun 1	S & S	Men & Women's Men/Member	BB of Partners	Tom H / Max T	132
May-26	Mon	Memorial Day Mixer	Waltz	Joan T / Stan Z	52
Jun-11	Wed	Men's Guest Day	BB of Partners	Tom H	76
Jun 6 or 7	Sat or Sun	President's Cup	Stroke Play (NET)	Tom H / Todd M	68
Jun-14	Sat	Adult / Child Tournament	9 holes alternate shot	Ed S / Cindy W	40
Jun 26 - 28	T, F & S	Men's Member/Guest	BB of Partners	Steve L	94
Jul-04	Fri	4th of July Mixer	Waltz	Sue M / Joan T	60
Jul-12	Sat	McGladrey's Cup Qualifier	BB of 3	Todd M	33
Jul-18	Fri	Martini Tasting	Nine Hole Scramble	Tom H / Todd M	46
Jul-20	Sun	2 Person Scramble	Scramble	Tom H / Joan T	98
July 25-26	F & S.	Women's Member Guest	2BB of 4	Mary A, Joan T, Brenda A	80

Our upcoming events are below. We anticipate a great turnout for the Margarita Tasting Aug 15th as Villagio Green has done a remarkable job with these events (Thanks Richie and your staff)!

Upcoming 2008 BSCC Tournament Schedule

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Time	Start	Format	Chairperson(s)
Aug-07	Thu	Men's Senior Member/Guest	8:00 AM	SGS	BB of Partners (Gross/Net)	Bruce Kay
Aug-09	Sat	Mixed Member/Guest	1:00 PM	SGS	BB of partners	Joan Taylor, Max Tucker
Aug-14	Thu	Women's mini M/G – 9 holes	4:00 PM	SGS	2 BB of 4	M Law Powell
Aug-15	Fri	Margarita Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS	Nine Hole Scramble	Tom Hudy
Aug 16 - 17	S & S	Men's Senior Club Championship	9:00 AM	TT	Match play	Stan Ziobrowski
		Women's Senior Club Champ				Roseanne Greenwood
Aug-20	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS	BB of Partners	Tom Hudy
		Men's Club Champion.	8:00 AM	TT	Stroke play	Tom Hudy
Aug 30 - 31	S & S	Women's Club Champion	11:00 AM	TT	Match play	A Jorgensen
		Junior Club Champion.	8:00 AM	TT	Stroke play	Tom Hudy
Sep-01	Mon	Labor Day Mixer	1:00 PM	SGS	Waltz	Joan Taylor/Stan Z.

Please remember to sign up early as it makes everyone's job much easier when we have time to prepare!

The Golf Club

The life of a golf club is a complicated one at best. It has a closed society of as many as 13 other neighbors depending on what is the golfer's preference. With 14 clubs maximum in a golfer's bag there is definitely a number of issues that go on every time the ball is teed up.

Mike Martin

The conversation that goes on must be brutal. Look at the driver! He is being pulled out again to hit the ball. He doesn't even hit the ball straight but the golfer keeps pulling him out. This could come from the 3 wood or even 4 or 5 iron. There is a potential for a lot of dissension among the clubs.

Also the need to for one club to be better than the other always makes for a more interesting back and forth. There is a 140 yard shot over water to get to the green and the clubs know that there is a number of different clubs that could be hit. The chatter starts right away. The 7 iron is saying to hit me and take a little off. While the 9 iron sits there and says you can get there with me if you lean on it a little. The 8 iron is rather smug because it knows that with a good swing it is the club that is going to be swung.



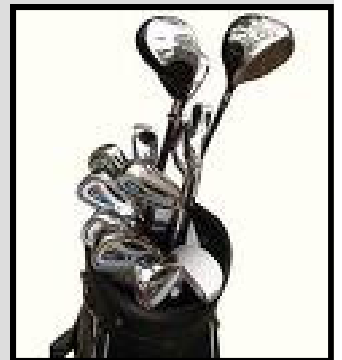
When the club has been pulled then there is a lot of problems within the bag. All of the other clubs saying that they should have been the one chosen. If the swing is good and the desired result accomplished then the club is returned to the bag and it stands there saying I did my thing!! The other clubs are grumbling about what happened and saying wait till next time.

But suppose the desired result is not accomplished. Then the problems start. With the 7 iron saying I could have done better than that and the 9 iron saying what was the problem. Couldn't make the grade?? It is a cruel confined world of the golf club to be sure.

Imagine the problems caused by the popular addition to long putters among the golfers. The Driver had always been a head higher than all of the other clubs and the putter had always predominately the shorter one. When the long putters became popular all of a sudden, the Driver is not the tallest club in the bag anymore. This had to bring along some baggage for the Putter.

The other clubs looking at the Putter and saying who does he think he is?? Being so long you have changed the whole make up of the society. Plus the putter is a club that is used on almost every hole and sometimes twice or three times. The golfer doesn't seem to get mad at the putter when the ball doesn't go in the hole because he keeps going back to the Putter on every hole. The other clubs find this very intimidating and still don't understand what or why the Putter keeps being used.

The Driver especially finds this a problem because when the golfer goes to the range to warm up he hits Driver after Driver making it feel like it is the club of choice. But when the golfer gets to the course the putter is used more than any other club and it is probably practiced the least. Then with the additional length being given the putter the whole neighborhood of the golf bag is totally disrupted.



Think about the clubs that are only pulled from the bag when there is a trouble shot and the ridicule they get if the shot is missed or hit to far. The 3 iron in particular is a club like this. Hard to hit and it is being replaced by the hybrid clubs and this is causing all kinds of problems in the golf bag society. The 3 iron was always used to keep the ball low when coming out of trouble and now it is being shelved for another type of club that can be hit from the fairway or even off the tee. This hybrid is having a difficult time being accepted in the society of the golf bag because it is not only replacing one of the older clubs but it is taking the swing time away from another club's.

As a golfer have you wondered if it was the swing you made that was bad or is the golf club paying you back for not making its life a little better. Not buying a new bag to give the clubs more room or even the new cart. Rather than being slung over your shoulder and bouncing up and down while going down the fairway, a new cart could provide a nice ride for the clubs and possibly bring a better outcome of each shot.

(continued on next page)

I am sure you're thinking that this theory doesn't hold true because the pros don't have carts for their clubs and play well and most of the shots are good ones. But the pros have given the clubs probably the most room of any golfer going. The bags are large and the society of the club has much more space to think about what they have to do. Plus they are being carried by a caddie that will talk to the pro and try to gain acceptance for each club. I am sure you heard the conversations on TV between the pro and the caddie. The caddie going to bat for a hard 6 or a smooth 5. Possibly even a 4 if the wind is blowing. He is giving the pro all of the options and the clubs stand up and say this guy is great. Look what he is doing. This usually results in a happier society within the bag and thus better shots. This is how the pro gets to where he is. All of the clubs seem to be getting a better chance with the pro than with the average golfer. Plus when a bad shot is hit while the golfer (Pro) is blaming the club. The club being put back into the bag is saying it wasn't my fault and all of the other clubs are there to support the club. It is a complicated set up to be sure but the clubs of a pro are different breed.

Every year if the golfer lives in the part of the country that only plays golf 6 or 7 months out of the year the clubs are given a rest. They are usually put in cellar or the worst is being left in the garage. The sensitivity to cold is something the clubs don't like and this may have an outcome on your next years scoring. Clubs have a long memory and when you least expect it and you need that one swing to make the round, it could be when the club remembers how it was treated during its off time. Another reason the clubs of a pro are a little more forgiving is that they usually live in warm places and play all year round. When the clubs aren't being used they are enjoying the warmth and saying this guys is great. We have a big bag with a lot of space and he plays with a caddie that tries to get us as many swings as he can and the weather is warm and comfortable.

The theory of golf is well written and the need to practice and practice, take lessons and practice more could be a thing of the past if you follow the above theory. The golf club, the striker of the ball, is the most important part of the game. It is sensitive and lives in a society that is very competitive. While each golfer can only have 14 in the bag at most this provides a great deal of competition among the clubs. Hard feelings from those clubs not used as often as others are a major issue that has to be addressed by the golfer to ensure that his scores stay low. If you, as a golfer, have not addressed this issue it is of little wonder that your scores are in the 90's or worse.

So the next time, you as a golfer chose a club, remember that how you have treated that club in the past might have a distinct possibility of how your shots turn out and also of the scores you shoot.

Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

I just have a few things to address this month. The first thing is the condition of the course. This past month has seen a lot of hot humid wet weather. This hot humid weather has caused some poa annual grass to have died. The poa that died is in the usual spots. Collars and high traffic areas are the first to see the stress of summer. I took our aerator into some of these areas to help eliminate the compaction and to fill the holes with some bentgrass seed. Hopefully this will help us get through the rest of the summer. \

I plan on aerifying everything in September (greens, tees, fairways). The hot humid weather has also caused a lot of fungal diseases to pop up all over the course. Dollar spot, brown patch, pythium are all diseases that can be found on the entire course right now. I have been trying to keep up with the spraying of these diseases. The increased amount of play and the increased price of the chemicals makes it tough to keep up.

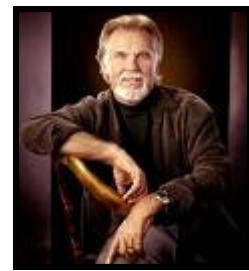
All in all I think the course is in great shape and I've never heard so many compliments. The amount of play has definitely increased because it is a challenge to get anything done out on the course during the day. I am sure you have noticed this as well because the tees and greens seem to be full on every hole.

Some of the questions that I have been getting are: What is the project list? When are you going to finish #14 tee? When are you going to change the sand in the bunkers on #3 and #4? My goal this summer was to give you the best conditions every day. I wanted to keep the grass mowed everyday if possible. This increased maintenance takes myself and my crew all day everyday. This does not leave much time for projects. Funding is also needed for these projects. Root zone mix, topsoil, sod, and irrigation are needed for the new tees on #14. White sand is needed for the bunkers on #3 and #4.

Hopefully we'll have a good financial year so we can do these projects in the fall. It would also be nicer to do these project without disrupting play.



Parrying the 19th



Tucker

"Air Press!" Those of you who have membership in the Order of Omniscient Golf Cognoscenti are aware that this exclamation is neither a hawkker selling a daily rag devoted to aviation, nor an atmospheric solution for that crease in your plus fours.

What it is, is a means of allowing a losing opponent the chance to regain a portion of the money he currently owes on the wager he made on the round. The air press is a simple press bet that is placed while a tee shot is in transit, but before it actually hits the turf. Or any element other than air. The bet is often a sure thing, as the devious bettor will invoke the press only when your ball has filed a flight plan for Misfortune.

Golf and wagering are as inseparable as John Daly and Jack Daniels. Golfers gamble more than any other mass participant sport and 'way more than fly fishermen. But fly fishers might wager plenty if they ever found a way to level the playing stream, as it were, with a reliable handicapping system. Golf has one of these, and it is the main reason why golfers gamble. On any given day, any given golfer can beat any other golfer as long as he gets strokes.

For most golfers, especially the male variety, wagering on a match brings another edge to the round, as well as intensifying the ball busting banter and allowing the group to avoid intelligent, constructive conversation.

While enjoying the gambling side of golf, I try never to be the actual accountant in charge of recording the results of each hole and computing what this means in the context of the bet. I take the chance that the Designated Bean Counter knows what he is doing and will give me an accurate accounting of my losses at the conclusion of the match. Call me trusting, call me naive, call me stupid, but I just find scorekeeping and wager maintenance too distracting, aside from the fact that I'm ashamed to admit that I don't understand most of the bets. When an opponent walks up to me on the first tee and says something like, "How's about we play a \$2 better ball Nassau, Hi-Lo with garbage, double on birds, mandatory par on greenies, with side skins of 50 cents per hole, no carryovers?", I just adopt a smug sneer and respond with something like, "Sure, Mickey, wanna just write me a check now?" This faux macho stance does a good job of masking my ignorance, but I still don't know what the hell the bet is.



Once in the gazebo, the post-mortems begin while the Wager Administrator hunches over the scorecard, murmuring, grunting, notating. A glance at the card shows rows of figures, check marks, dots and other codified information that can only be interpreted by the tallyman. The rest of us feign disinterest, acknowledging the scorer's presence only when it's his turn to buy the next pitcher.

When he finally sits back in his chair however, a hush comes over the table. He normally plays the moment for all it's worth, harrumphing and pretending to double-check a couple of the hieroglyphics on the card before saying something like, "Okay, here's what it is: Mickey and Terry won the gross adjusted blind draw bingo bango bongo, but lost the better ball net and split the gross skins. Kurt and Jimmy came out on top of the garbage heap with a total of 4 and 3 respectively when you count the greenies, sandies, polies, barkies and whalies, and the presses on 9 and 17 cancel and the 16 presswell, I don't know about the sixteen press."

At this point, we all reach for our wallets, throw five bucks on the table, look around for the beer porter and begin debating the legitimacy of Bernie's air press on 16.

The true essence of my concept of gambling on the golf course however, was demonstrated in this year's Men's Member/Guest practice round. On the first tee, we decided to play a game of Wolf because we had severely different handicaps in the foursome. One of us volunteered to keep track of the Wolf points while the other Member kept track of the actual scores.

Much gonad busting and guy-type comments were made during the round about who was choosing whom for the Wolf Thing and a lot of laughs were had. On the 18th tee I asked my fellow Member, who I thought (wrongly) was keeping the Wolf Tally, what the standings were. He replied that he thought I was keeping those stats, which, of course, I wasn't.

Hilarity ensued. But the telling comment was "If we had declared at the beginning that we were only playing for fun, with no reward for the victors, it wouldn't have been any fun at all."

Gambling definitely makes a difference.

Eastern New York Senior League

The Eastern New York Senior League consists of thirteen members from each of thirteen private country clubs in Eastern New York. The group is a traveling league and plays four different member courses each year. Ballston Spa hosted the League on July 14, 2008. The League plays one course each month. The remaining events this year are Columbia Country Club in August and Wolferts Roost in September. The courses for next year will be announced in September.

Membership is open to Senior golfers who are members of the thirteen clubs only.

There is a waiting list, but if you are interested and wish either more information or a spot on the waiting list, contact Jan Holick (877-5344).



Jan Holick

The 1st Annual Mixed Member/Guest

Sign Up Now For The
1st Annual
Mixed Member/Guest



Cost Includes
Carts
Guest Green Fees
Appetizers and a 4 Course Plated Dinner
Gross & Net Prizes

This is a great opportunity to show off our course
to your friends.
\$110/Couple

Call Joan Taylor or Tucker for Details



Green Committee Report

Sue Kahler

Our golf course superintendent, Steve Solsky, is a key player in our enjoyment of the game. He has done a fantastic job since he joined the BSCC family but he can't do it alone. In addition to his wealth of knowledge he depends on Mother Nature and the membership to help keep the golf course in the best condition possible. Many people don't realize what a tremendous impact he or she can have on course conditions. So what can you do to help Steve keep the course in top shape?

Around the greens / tees:

From what direction do you approach the 13th green? What route do you take after finishing the 1st hole? By 10:0am on a Saturday morning it's clear to see that over 50 push/electric carts have been taken around the ropes in front of the 6th tee (where they were put to ask people not to walk because of wear and tear). Over time, constant traffic tends to compact the soil. Soil compaction leaves the roots essentially gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants will wither and die. So pick a new route next time you walk off the tee or onto the green.

Cart paths:

Please follow all cart path signs. Unless you're handicapped and have trouble walking short distances, please keep the carts on the path on **all** par 3's, off all approaches and the fairways on holes #11 and #12. Our fairways have improved dramatically and will continue to thrive with your help. These signs apply to everyone and Steve's hard work deserves your respect by following them.

Divots:

Everyone has made a divot. When you make one you should repair it. If your divot is deep enough, replace it in the same direction that it came out and firmly tamp it down. If you feel replacing the divot won't lead to turf repair then fill the hole with the sand and seed mixture in bottles on all carts. Be sure to tamp it down so it is level with the surrounding area.

If at any time you have suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, Steve or Carl Iovinella. Thanks in advance for your help to maintain and improve our golf course.





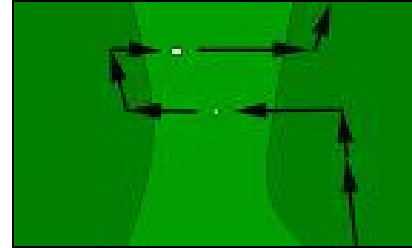
From the Golf Shop

Ghost Written

By Kyle

Course Condition

Everyone who has played the course this year knows that it is in the best shape ever, thanks to Steve and his crew. However we all need to follow a few guidelines to keep our course in tip top shape. With all of the recent rain that we have had it is extremely important to follow the rules of the cart path. We ask that everyone please check the sign on the first tee to see if it is cart path only. Even if it is not cart path only we should always be using the 90 degree rule to keep the fairways as pure as possible



You may have noticed the new rack of divot bottles next to the water coolers at the 11th tee. You're encouraged to leave your empty bottles from the front nine and grab a freshly filled one for the back nine. A good rule of thumb is to not only fill your divot but any others near yours. Remember it is your course!!!!

Track Season

Track season is finally here and with it comes an increase in outside play. To make it fair for all, it is important to remember that tee times can be made only one week in advance. The course has been receiving quite a bit of play this summer and I have noticed quite a few ball marks on the greens. To keep our greens healthy and rolling smoothly, it is important not only to repair your ball mark, but look for others to fix as well.

Monday Outings

We are now taking reservations for Monday outings for the 2009 season. If you know of a group or organization looking to have an outing, feel free to have them contact me, and I will be glad to provide any details and answer all of their