



Volume XI Number 5
August 2009

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

As we reach August and the halfway point of the golf season, our finances continue to be something the Board is focused on. As I mentioned in the July Fox, we updated our budget projections and reduced our projected yearly revenue by 10% (approximately \$90K) and we reduced our projected expenses by 5% (approximately \$50K). Those expense cuts were made mostly in the course expense budget category. We are reluctant to cut more from the course expense budget so we are planning on using some of our cash reserves to make up any shortfall for this season. We continue to monitor our revenue and expenses closely and will continue to make adjustments as needed.

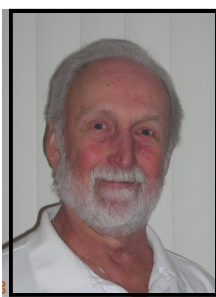
One of the adjustments we made was offering reduced green fees in an attempt to increase our outside play revenue and were mildly successful. With racing season here, we have ended those reduced fees but expect to start them up again in the fall.

We are working very hard at all aspects of our financial situation with the goal of using the minimum amount of our cash reserves. I will continue to update you on our progress in upcoming newsletters.

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 Funaro



Dick Cody Bob Miskinin

House Report

Effective July 19th Villagio has provided a revised menu. We now have one menu that available all day every day. As you will experience, it is more pub food with appetizers, sandwiches, salads and a few entrees. The highest price on the menu is \$14. In addition to the menu Chef Bret will offer daily specials.

The change comes in response to requests from many members who asked for food that they can typically receive at local pubs in town and at several of the area golf course restaurants.

After golf Sunday evening, John Paolucci and I and four guests had dinner in our renovated dinning area overlooking the 18th green. We had appetizers, sandwiches or entrée a few pitchers of beer and well drinks. Everyone enjoyed the food and the new room environment. Total cost of the meal including tip was \$140 for six hungry thirsty golfers.

We know that many of you have been frustrated this year but I believe we now have the menu you have been asking for. Please try the new menu and give Rosanne Greenwood, Bob Miskinin or Dick Cody your feedback.



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

As most of you have heard, I was down on Long Island working the US Open. I had been planning to work this Open since the USGA announced its return to the Black in 2009.

After the massive cleanup after the last US Open there, the plans were set for the addition of some new projects for the next Open in 2009. I took part in some of those projects before joining you in 2005. The new tee on #9, #14 green expansion and side bunker, new #5 tee and also various collection areas. We always kept ourselves very busy at Bethpage. A 50-60 man crew working year round can help with completing projects quickly. What also helps to maintain a course of US Open caliber is an unlimited budget and machines to help with completing projects quickly. All in all, I had a great experience at Bethpage and learned a great deal there. The people I met and the things I've been a part of have had a great impact on my life.

Back in 2005, when I told my boss, Craig Currier, that I was going to take the superintendent's position at Ballston Spa, he first congratulated me and then quickly added "and you better be here in 2009 to work the next US Open!" You need some of the best people to work these tournaments. Anyone can be a marshal, but to work on the grounds crew you need to have a head on your shoulders and a solid understanding of golf course management. Craig wanted the best, most experienced crew he could muster.

I rolled greens this Open like I did for the last Open at Bethpage. The speed rollers are a blast to operate on any ordinary day, but the experience of rolling when you have a TV camera on you and the gallery is cheering for you, makes it one of the best US Open jobs. On TV, rolling may look easy, but there is a process and a right way to roll, especially when the USGA officials are watching your every move.

Even though the greens at this year's Open were very wet, we still had them rolling 13.5 on the stimp meter. We rolled morning and night. We also had to roll greens in between rounds. This meant that as the last group went through, we mowed, rolled and changed pins before the next round caught us. We also had to work with the weather. When play was suspended, we spent the rest of the day clearing as much water off the course as possible. Squeegees, water hogs and pumps were in use constantly. While I was using the water hog on #2 green on Saturday, Phil Mickelson approached me (see photo). He wanted to know what the water hog was and to thank me and the crew for working tirelessly to keep the course playable.

As I am sure you saw, the continued rain took its toll on the course. The greens were so wet that our speed rollers pushed the water out of the greens (can you say "compaction"?). The rough areas where the gallery walked were completely destroyed. The crew at Bethpage will have to re-sod all the bluegrass and seed the fescue rough, not to mention aerifying all the greens



on Bethpage Black multiple times this summer to get them back in shape. I don't envy working down on the island this summer. Getting everything cleaned up and running five golf courses is going to make for a long summer.

The experience at the US Open was one of nostalgia and hard work. It was fun, but I'm glad to be back at Ballston Spa.

August 2009

Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop



McGladrey Qualifier

The local qualifier for the PGA McGladrey Cup will be on Sunday August 2nd. Tee times will begin at 10am thru 12 noon. All interested parties will need to sign up in the golf shop in advance for the event. The format is 1 ball of 3 Net and each players score must be used at least 3 times during the round. Each participant will receive a tee gift for playing in the event and the winning team will move on to the Sectional Round at Massena Country Club with the winning team there moving on to the National Championship at Pinehurst, NC.



Merchandise Sale



All members will receive a 20% discount off all clothing for the remainder of the season. Many of you are beginning to accumulate some credit and you should start to spend it while the selections are still very good. All credit will have to be used by October 31st. We have a large selection of quality products on hand and many sizes to choose from.

Golf Tip

As many of you have noticed, the long fescue grass has grown in quite nicely on many of our holes. I have seen many players try to hit a shot out of the grass that will not allow the golf ball to advance or to even get out of the grass.

My recommendation for this shot is to take a wedge or sand wedge and just get it back into play. Don't try to advance the ball too far as this will lead to a larger number on your scorecard. You will want to come into the ball on a steeper angle of attack and not a shallow angle as the grass will wrap around the hosel of the club and turn it to the left. That is for a right handed player.

Remember, it is easier to make up for a bogey on the next hole with a birdie while it will take 3 holes to make up for a triple bogey. Be patient and do the right thing.



Tuscarora Country Club

I recently visited this new reciprocal club on Board business, but didn't have time to play the course.

Located a few miles south and west of Syracuse in the Camillus area, it seemed very similar to BSCC, with a "traditional" clubhouse, a large practice green and a practice range limited to 175 yard shots.

The condition of the course, from the couple of holes I saw seemed to be excellent and the greens, according to John White, who played there recently, are lightning fast.

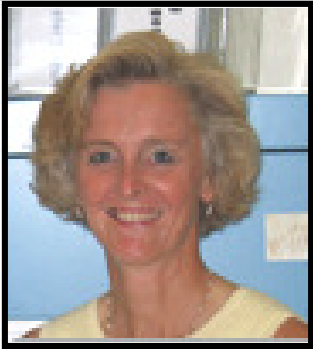
And don't forget our other reciprocals. To see the full list, go to our website, log in to the Members' page and click on "reciprocals".

Todd or one of his staff need to call the club you wish to play to get a tee time, usually no sooner than 48 hours before you want to tee it up.

Tucker



Green Committee Report



Sue Kahler

Given the weather during the past 2 months it's hard to believe we're almost through July. According to the Albany office of the National Weather Service, rainfall during June was 1.2 inches above normal. July has shown a continuation of that pattern with 0.6 inches above the norm so far. In addition to the unusual rainfall, the temperatures for July have been 4.8 degrees below average. Mother Nature continues to throw us curve balls but Steve and his crew have done a yeoman's job keeping our golf course in top shape.

The deep tine aerifier has been put to good use three times so far this season and the four greens badly damaged last winter are returning to health beautifully. This has helped improve the drainage and reduce or eliminate the black algae that appeared on the greens in past years due to heavy rains. Another significant improvement in dealing with heavy rain was the dredging of the creek bed around holes #1, #2 and #17. In

past years the creek would have overrun its bank requiring many hours of labor and materials to repair the damage.

Most of you have probably noticed we changed the divot mix from dirt and seed to sand and seed. This change saves us money while still protecting the playing surface and encouraging new growth. Please continue to be conscious of divots on both the tees and fairways and fill them whenever possible.

During the past two weeks we've experienced a few equipment failures and are working hard to get them back in working order. The fairway mower, fountain on #17 and electrical system that controls the irrigation system have all needed attention.

Lastly, please remember to buy a raffle ticket to help with the cost of green covers. A little bit from every member will help to avoid the problems we had last year. Raffle tickets are \$50 each and the grand prize is \$2,000 provided we sell 200 tickets. As always, if anyone has any suggestions related to the golf course please let me know.



Raffle for Winter Green Covers

To date we have sold 115 tickets out of 200 for the club raffle for Winter Greens Covers.

Some members have purchased more than one ticket and this means many members who I am sure intend to purchase a ticket have not yet done so. Mike Zegarelli, BOD members and Laura in the business office have tickets for sale.

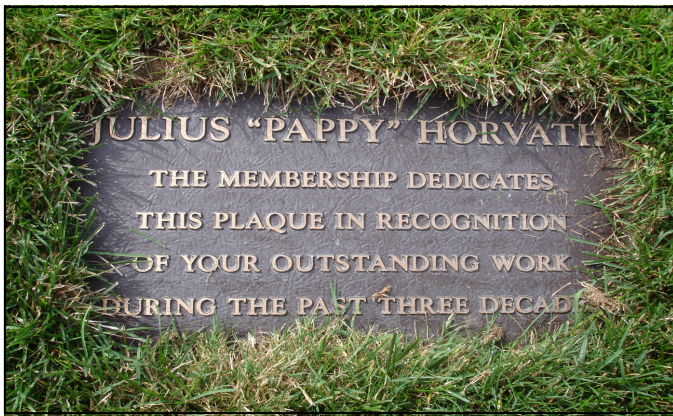
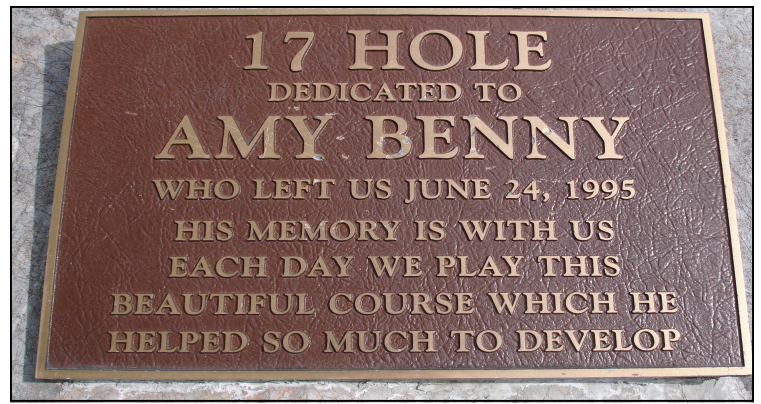
We will hold the raffle as soon as the 200 tickets are sold. **PLEASE DO YOUR PART AND BUY A TICKET.** Remember first prize is \$2000 and there are four second place prizes of \$500 each. Thanks.

Join Us Tuesday, August 4th

Join your fellow members and come to the club to meet Professional Golf Caddy Greg "Piddler" Martin.

Greg, The Piddler, has caddied for Dan Forsman for 21 years. Dan is 7th in money earned this year on the Sr. tour with one victory and five top ten finishes. Greg will offer us some interesting and very humorous stories about the pros and their main men – the caddies. He will bring autographed caps, towels and golf balls from the likes of Davis Love III, Forsman, maybe Nicklaus and Mickelson, and other top pros.

Come and join us at 6:30 for a few beers and an hour of laughter with one of the top personalities on the tour. Find out why Greg has the label "Piddler".



As Members, we see the plaques, pictured above, frequently throughout the golfing season. But do we even know who these people are? I received an email from James Dowling, whose league played here a few weeks ago, and he was asking me about the plaques - seems some of his mates were curious about the story behind the plaques. I had the pleasure of knowing Amy Benny and Pappy, but the other names were part of the Club's history I had to research.

Bailey "Duke" Tiel was a Member and the Treasurer of Schenectady Savings Bank, who negotiated a \$75,000 10 year loan at 6% interest rate to allow us to build the back nine.

Amy Benny was a wonderful man who worked on the Green Committee and treated the course as though it were his own back yard, over many years.

William Gormley Jr. was the son of Dorothy and Wm. Gormley (Ass't Pro in 1975) who won the 1969 NY State Jr. Championship and many other awards.

Duane Fuller was a prominent Board member in the 1930's and influenced the growth of the Club significantly.

Pappy was a sort of utility man who did everything that had to be done to maintain our course over a 30 – odd year period. He was a character everybody loved.

Samuel Baker... I need some help with Samuel. Anybody out there have some info on Sam?

Tucker



Winners' Circle



Men's Member/Guest

- 1st Flight:** **1st:** Bill Frank, John Barscz
2nd: Rich Vanbuskirk, Matt Dufort
- 2nd Flight:** **1st:** Ed Schwenke, Jim Swift
2nd: Stan Ziobrowski, Norm Korniak
- 3rd Flight:** **1st:** Bill Furman, Mickey Levernois
2nd: Tom Shannon, John McClure
- 4th Flight:** **1st:** Tony Lupino, Larry Ulrich
2nd: Rick Funaro, Don Funaro
- 5th Flight:** **1st:** Doug Young, Pat Shannon
2nd: Pete McNamara, Jack Ryan
- 6th Flight:** **1st:** Bob DeMarco, Jim Daviero
2nd: Steve Monnat, Bill Monnat
- 7th Flight:** **1st:** Steve Heidorn, Jim Cox
2nd: Nels Larsen, John Larsen



John Barscz plays it as it lies on the second hole of the Men's Member/Guest shootout. Thanks to Ed Hall for the photo.

Two Person Scramble

Men's Championship:

- 1st:** Keith McNab, Todd Szwetkowski
2nd: Dave Wellington, Dave Wellington Jr.
Net: Tim Bethel, Jim Oppedisano

First Flight:

- 1st:** Dean Herrick, Ed Lake
Net 1st: Dave Myers, Brad Clark
2nd: Bob Lavigne, Bob Palumbo

2nd Flight:

- 1st:** Pete McNamara, Gerry Todd
Net 1st: Ron Penpraze, Charlie Greenwood
2nd: Stan Ziobrowski, Jim Bryant

3rd Flight:

- 1st:** Tim Ball, George Mahoney
Net 1st: Paul Steves, Tim Preston
2nd: Mike Zegarelli, Steve Monnat

4th Flight:

- 1st:** Ed Schwenke, Bruce Kay
Net 1st: Scott Kephart, Jaydeep Roy
2nd: Carl Jahn, Steve Heidorn
3rd: Doug Young, Larry Rodgers
4th: Don Gallagher, Jim Murphy

Women

- 1st:** Betsy Drambour, Kris Youmans
2nd: Tina Koehler, Rosanne Greenwood
3rd: Kate Oppedisano, Debbie Cottrell
Net: Sue Delanoy, Barb Krause

August Tournaments

- 8/2 McGladery's Cup Qualifier
- 8/6 Men's Senior Member/Guest
- 8/8 Mixed Member/Guest
- 8/13 Women's Mini Member/Guest
- 8/14 Margarita Tasting
- 8/15-16 Men/Women Club Championship
- 8/26 Men's Guest Day



Parrring the 19th



Tucker

It has lately and begrudgingly dawned on me that I may be the wrong sex. Before you start looking around furtively, to ensure the grandkids aren't looking over your shoulder, let me explain.

As a teenager, I was forced to view a musical (it was a date and the girl chose the movie.) West Side Story remains one of the few musicals I enjoy, but there was one song that really stumped me - the one where Maria sings about how she enjoys being a girl. I didn't get it. How could anyone want to be anything other than a guy? Good musical, stupid song.

I have since come to realize that when it comes to Golf, the distaff side may have it figured out better than the guys. Take, for example, the way women turn a round of golf into a social event. Guys are basically antisocial golfers. Guys play to beat other guys. They struggle to attain the Silver-Backed Alpha Male status in the foursome. Nothing else matters.

To illustrate this attitudinal diversity, let's listen in on a typical conversation I have with my wife, a woman.

The Amazing Max: "I met Hortense Smith today. Played with her in the Thursday Night Women's League. She and her husband just joined BSCC. They used to belong to Waggawaggatouchee Country Club - well, it's her second husband, actually. Her first husband was a black Jewish dwarf she met in Tierra Del Fuego on a Shirley Maclain Find Your Aura Cruise."

Me: "Wagga?"

Max: "Nice lady, three kids, one of each, 6, 8, and 31. Works for a cat hair recycling outfit, sister's in detox and her brother's currently fighting for his life. Terminal hangnail, or something. You've played with her husband. Norbert, right?"

Me: "Something like that."

Max: "What's he like?"

Me: "About a 7 handicap, interlocking grip. Interesting guy."

Max: "Oh really? How so?"

Me: "Plays a Noodle. Seven handicap. Go figure."

Max: (Glaring at me as though deeply regretting something, but knowing lawyers are expensive), "That's it?"

Me: "Uh, yeah."

(Exit Max, harrumphing.)

"Good short game!" I call out to her retreating form, in a desperate attempt to prove I have even more in-depth information about what's-his-name.

Women use golf as a vehicle to create bonds, learn about one another, strengthen existing friendships and get substantial dirt on each other. Good stuff. Guys use the four hours to try and win their \$2 Nassau, with perfunctory, sporadic bursts of conversation about sports news. Boring.

And here's another example of how women make golf a better game. Every year, Max hosts a tournament and après golf party for a couple of dozen girls (their term), during the Men's Member/Guest. When I return to the house after the M/G festivities at the Club, I find 24 girls dancing their collective butts off to 130 decibel non-stop tunes, waving cigars and bright, colorful drinks in my face, festooned with fruit, swizzle sticks and tiny umbrellas (the drinks, not my face), laughing, giggling and making mischief.



In September, while Max is off to the Adirondacks with her buddettes, I host an outing/dinner (we dare not call it a party - guys don't have parties) for my Sunday Jerks group. We have 8 guys huddled around the bar, scarfing appetizers, talking about their game and collecting bets, with another 4 guys watching the ball game on TV. All are drinking a variation of an amber liquid. The height of the wake occurs when one of us manages to cleverly insult or otherwise disparage a Fellow Jerk, resulting in appreciative chuckles and grunts of encouragement from the rest of the herd.

So yeah, I need to transmogrify into a woman, but just for golf related events. I still can't abandon my gender altogether, just for a heightened enjoyment of golf. I want it both ways without going well, you get my drift.

I want to leave a golf party like women do, singing along with Cyndi Lauper "...they just wanna, they just wanna, girls just wanna have fun..."

Preaching to the Choir

Communicating the intangible benefits of belonging to a (semi) private Club has always been the toughest part of recruiting new Members. So just in case you've forgotten why you joined BSCC, here are a few possible reasons.

- 1: **Unlimited Access to Your Home Course.** Being a member gives you the opportunity to play when you like and as often as you like.
- 2: **Play Competitive Golf.** Only by being a Member of a golf club can you play regular official club competitions.
- 3: **Choose How Much You Play:** You could choose to play 9 holes or a smaller loop of 5 or 6 holes.
- 4: **Value for Money:** If you're a frequent golfer, joining a golf club is a no brainer. Also, we offer many membership categories to suit your particular needs/pocketbook.
- 5: **A Sport for Life.** Unlike some sports, like tennis, you can play competitive golf for most of your life. Just ask Tom Watson.
- 6: **A Great Clubhouse Environment.** Your clubhouse is a great place for dining and socializing with your friends, often without having to make plans.
- 7: **Meet New People.** A chance to meet like-minded people, often forming lifelong relationships.
- 8: **A Sense of Belonging:** Membership at a golf club is a great way to be a part of the local community and network with other people from the area.
- 9: **Use of the Practice Facilities and Your PGA Golf Professional:** Unlimited use of the Club's practice facilities and access to the Pro will help improve your game.
- 10: **Reciprocal Rates at Other Private Clubs:** Being a Member at BSCC doesn't restrict you from playing at other great courses - for the price of a cart.
- 11: **Get an Official USGA Handicap:** Your membership dues include a GHIN membership which means you can play in competitive rounds at other clubs with an established, official handicap.
- 12: **Get Your Handicap Down:** Playing in regular tournaments at your club helps you perform better in the pressures of competition and in turn reduces your handicap.
- 13: **Get Your Kids Involved:** Golf is a great way for kids to spend their leisure time and the Junior programs we offer are great ways to develop their interest. Golfing with your family is a great way to strengthen your bonds.
- 14: **Invite Your Friends:** We offer reduced guest rates that encourage you to bring friends, colleagues and family to the course.
- 15: **Play National Championships:** Tournaments such as the McGladery's and others, allow you to play your own course to qualify for national and regional events.
- 16: **Play in Matches With Other Clubs:** Private clubs often organize matches with other comparable courses.
- 17: **Expand Your Business Networking:** Many members are in a position to help you in your business, whether it be with contacts or simply patronizing your business. Members like to help Members.
- 18: **Stay Healthy:** Playing regularly means exercising regularly. Walking 18 holes, up and down hills is a great 5 mile walk.

We'll once again be asking our Members to help us recruit this coming year. When you talk to prospective new Members, don't forget the little things that make being a golf club member so special.

Tucker