



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XII Number 5

August 2010

# The Fox

## President's Letter

As we reach the midpoint of the golf season, I hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy this stretch of good weather and has been able to get out and play our fabulous golf course. The course is in great shape, thanks to Steve and his staff and he has accomplished this with the challenge of the hot and humid weather.

One question that I have been getting most recently is "how are we doing"? That generally leads into a discussion about the club finances. Overall, the numbers look very good but are something we continue to watch very closely. We are slightly ahead in our overall revenue for 2010 vs. last year and we have exceeded our budgeted membership revenue by a small amount. We are under running our expenses for 2010 vs. last year in a number of areas so at this time things are looking good for a positive year financially.



*Rick Funaro*

Bruce and Al watch our numbers closely and this allows us to make any necessary adjustments if it appears that revenue is not meeting expectations or if expenses appear they might exceed our projections. We are very encouraged by our August and September outside tournament schedule. We have a number of tournaments scheduled and have attracted back a couple of tournaments that had left BSCC, so we are optimistic about these two months helping our revenue numbers.

I would like to make an appeal to all of our members and especially those new members to bring your friends to BSCC. Membership really drives the overall success of our club and we have been able to remain successful over the past few years because our membership numbers have remained constant. That has been no small accomplishment over the past few years and I would like to thank Tucker for his tireless effort and creativity to attract new members. We have 51 new memberships (63 new members) so far this year. Look for our fall specials which will be coming in mid to late August and make anyone who might be interested in becoming a Member aware of them. Thank you in advance for your support in making BSCC the best it can be.

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

## Free Family Golf!

Here's an opportunity to bring your immediate family out to BSCC for some free golf. All Single A and B, and Family A and B Members can bring their spouses/children/grandchildren to play at no charge on July 31/August 1 and August 28/29 after 12 noon (carts not included).

It's a great chance to show your family why you spend so much time at BSCC. Who knows, maybe they'll get the bug!

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Steve Solsky

## Superintendent's Report

This past month has been a real challenge for myself and my crew. Many hours were spent to get the course into top condition for the Men's Member Guest Tournament, which went great. I heard a lot of good comments about the condition of the course. Pushing the greens during this tournament came at a cost to some of the collars and parts of the greens. Lowering the green's mower heights and rolling several days in a row pushed our old pushup greens to the breaking point.

After the tournament, we raised the mowing height to relieve some of the stress on the greens. We then did our deep-tine aerification /verti-cut system to the greens in order to loosen the clay soils. Lastly we added sand to the surface of the green. Our goal is to have both good drainage and a smooth playing surface.

The week following the tournament is when the nasty summer weather arrived. The hot dry heat makes it almost impossible to keep everything alive. Every day, I had to irrigate as much as we could to keep everything green. The new pumps were put to good use and the ultimate test. We averaged about 140,000 gallons of water pumped each day. Sometimes this is not enough. Some isolated spots dried out on some fairways. Once the clay soil dries out, it is very difficult to get water down in to the grass roots. You might have notice that the brown spots in the fairways have been aerified to loosen the soil up. Overall, I think we came through the dry spell quite well. The creek that feeds our irrigation pond had just about stopped flowing but luckily we finally got some rain. The rain once again came in the nick of time.

The weather over the past couple weeks has switched to hot humid weather. We switched our focus from irrigating a lot to spraying fungicides a lot. Fungal diseases thrive on heat and moisture. Chemicals need to be applied on a regular basis to keep the greens, tees, and fairways from being killed by a fungus. I am sure you have noticed disease all over the rough on some holes.

The humid weather also burdens us with black algae on our wet greens. Poor drainage, poor air flow, and lack of sunlight are all contributing factors to the black algae problem. Chemicals and sand need to be applied to these problem greens more frequently than greens that are in full sun all year long. Continued drainage work and tree work need to be done to problem areas. A good growing environment for your turf is extremely important. The better the environment, the more able the turf is to make it through stressful times and also makes it so the greens can recover quicker if there is damage.

Again, I ask for your patience during these stressful grass growing times.



Deep tining, verticutting and watering allowed us to keep the turf healthy during a period of high stress and hot weather



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*From the Golf Shop*

*Todd Manderson*

### **Merchandise Sale**

For the first time ever, I am offering all hard goods or golf clubs in stock to be sold at my invoice cost plus the shipping. Golf club sales have been horrible this season and I am forced to sell the in stock golf equipment at wholesale. These products will be available to all of the members and must be purchased via cash, credit card, or checks only. I cannot allow merchandise credit to be used on these products at my cost as I am trying to cut my losses now. The internet has finally taken its toll and the changing economy has put me in a position that I hope will never happen again. I am forced to unload this product at cost and am offering it up to the members first. Tell your friends if you like, but take advantage of this one time offer until the product is gone. Again, payment must be cash, check, or credit card only for this offer.



### **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



*Hot Off the Press!*

The team from Ballston Spa Country Club took first place in the Northeastern New York Section PGA Pro & 3 Lady Amateur at Wyantenuck Country Club with a Two Best Balls of Four score of 62-62-124.

The team was represented by PGA Professional Todd Manderson and women's amateurs Sue Delanoy, Anne Jorgensen, and Betsy Drambour, a former member of the Duramed Futures Tour.

Manderson indicated they only had to take two scores of bogey as one of the scores to count all day.

# Green Committee Report



*Sue Kahler*

We have definitely hit the hot days of summer. There are definitely a few places on the course that have unavoidably suffered, but without question Steve and his crew have done an outstanding job keeping the golf course in superb condition. The course demands constant attention from watering at different hours of the day and night, spraying insecticides and fungicides as well as aerifying and top dressing distressed areas. This is a 24/7 job so please extend your thanks to Steve and his crew the next time you see them on the course.

The Green Committee met earlier this month to discuss a variety of topics including the areas of fescue on the course. The committee has received a lot of comments, both positive and negative about this grass. While the majority of our members have expressed their pleasure about the esthetics of the fescue and an understanding of the cost savings, others are concerned about speed of play and the presence of ticks.

Fescue was planted in a few areas around the course after trees were removed to improve airflow and sunlight, all with an effort toward improving turf conditions. It is more than evident that tree removal has dramatically helped our fairways and greens. The relatively low height of fescue as compared to pine trees not only helps our turf it also serves to define the holes such as the area between # 4 and #8 fairways and between #3 green and #10 fairway. Because fescue requires very little or no attention during the season there is also considerable savings in both labor and maintenance costs in terms of not having to mow.

After considerable discussion the Committee unanimously agreed in light of the majority of positive member opinions, the cost savings involved and the fact that these areas are not in play for good golf shots, that these areas will remain. It should be noted that this fall the fescue will be cut down as is typically done every year. The clippings will be left as a ground cover over the winter which will help reduce the thickness of the fescue when it grows again next year. This will reduce the time players spend searching for golf balls next season. You can see the change this brought to the thickness of the fescue on hole #16. The fescue in that area was much denser last season.

Because wooded and grassy areas can be a home to deer ticks, players are encouraged to take steps to prevent tick bites. If you choose to enter these areas consider special precautions such as applying repellents, wearing light-colored clothing and long pants. Be sure to brush off any ticks on clothing before skin attachment occurs and check for ticks on body surfaces at the end of the day. For more information about deer ticks and Lyme disease see the NYS Department of Health website at [http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/fact\\_sheet.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/fact_sheet.htm).

As always, please see me or any Green Committee member if you have special concerns or questions as they relate to the course. Thank you



Applying the appropriate anti-fungus chemicals



The areas not reached by the irrigation system turned brown

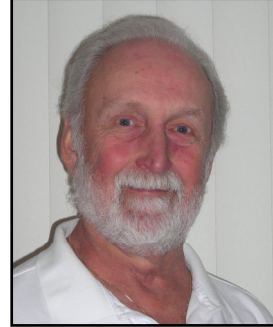
# House/Restaurant Report



*Dick Cody*

By the time you receive this issue of the Fox, many of you will have enjoyed the pork roast on July 30th. Chef Jim Rhoads was excited about preparing special foods for this event as he was for the Italian and German dinners earlier in the year. The revised menu has a good variety of selections at reasonable prices and Jim also has introduced a few dinner entree specials each evening. The snack shack and the beverage cart are in full operation to serve members. We have had many favorable comments about the folks that operate these services and the wait staff in general. Please continue to give us or Rosanne Greenwood your feedback on your dining experience at the club.

Now is a good time to start thinking about Fall projects to maintain and improve our clubhouse. We are always very cost conscious when it comes to clubhouse projects. With that in mind if you have any suggestions please let us know.



*Bob Miskamin*

We are discussing use of the clubhouse during the fall and early winter for holiday parties, any other events and maybe open on the weekends. If we have enough members interested, Tony Panza is more than willing to accommodate our members and friends.

Are any guys and gals interested in NFL Sunday at the club during the fall? Ed Schwencke and others brought this up in the past. It can only work if we have enough folks interested. Maybe we can have our own version of Fantasy Football. Let us know if you are interested and if someone wants to honcho this.



Letters to the Editor continue to pour in. This one poured in last week. This is the second letter to the editor that's poured in for the last 12 years that I've been publishing the Fox.

Please feel free to let us know your thoughts, opinions, ideas, complaints and kudos. Please include your name for verification.

wtucker2@nycap.rr.com

We casually leave a dollar tip after having the bartender grab a can of beer, pop open the top and place it on the bar.

We often throw our change (feeling guilty if it's too little) into a cup for the Dunkin Donut staff.

But how often do you leave a tip for the staff of young men who clean your clubs, return them to storage, wash your riding cart and make sure it is ready for the next rental? ALWAYS in a pleasant manner!

*R. Alexander*

## Think Membership!

In the middle of August, we'll be advertising our Fall Special. For \$500 (\$750 for a family) prospective Members can play BSCC from the day after Labor Day until the end of the season. They can then apply this money to their membership dues in 2011 should they decide to join.

Think about who you know and whether they might be interested in this special. You own this Club. Help make it a success!

# The Winners' Circle



## Men's Member/Guest

### Woods Flight

**1st:** Mark Thornhill, Brett Bushinger  
**2nd:** Matt Riggins, Greg Ronca

### Mickelson Flight

**1st:** Doug Calvey, Greg Calvey  
**2nd:** Tucker, Jim Fisher

### Cink Flight

**1st:** Chris Valentine, Brad Levigne  
**2nd:** Tim Krohl, Mark Fina

### Mediate Flight

**1st:** Mike Paine, Jay Latulippe  
**T2nd:** Gary Lyons, Jeff Mazone  
 Tom Shannon, John McLure

### Els Flight

**1st:** Doug Young, Pat Shannon  
**2nd:** Tony Lupino, Larry Ulrich

### Perry Flight

**1st:** Tony Reed, Mike Lesniak  
**2nd:** Joe Kerbelis, David Rosebrook

## Women's Scramble

**1st:** Anne Jorgenson, Rosanne Greenwood,  
 Gail Wayand, Sue Pollard

**2nd:** Sue Delanoy, Tina Koehler,  
 Debbie Cottrell, Pam McGuire

**3rd:** Joan Taylor, Marylaw Powell,  
 Fran Wayand, Sharon Nevins

## Men's Scramble

### Gross:

**1st:** Mike Ray, Graham Valentine,  
 David lane, Ed Hall

**2nd:** Tom Highfield, Randy Alexander,  
 Rick Moran, Kevin O'Toole

**3rd:** Tucker, Rick Funaro, Keith McNab,  
 Dan Lowenstein

### Net:

**1st:** Mark Yale, Al Squire, Winston Wachtel,  
 Rich Flavin

**2nd:** Mike Radzevich, Roy Williams,  
 Roy Knutson, Pat Hefferon

## Men's Sr. Club Championship

### Championship Flight

**1st:** Jim Breitingner  
**2nd:** Bill Frank

### 1st Flight:

**1st:** Jack Cottrell  
**2nd:** Bob Baron

### 2nd Flight

**1st:** Ed Lake  
**2nd:** Tim Krohl

### 3rd Flight

**1st:** Stan Ziobrowski  
**2nd:** Jud Sabey

### 4th Flight

**1st:** Tom Grimes  
**2nd:** Mark Sisson

### 5th Flight

**1st:** Brian Bergin  
**2nd:** Ron Symanski

### 6th Flight

**1st:** Jim Stefanik  
**T2nd:** Mitch Johnson,  
 Bob Charbonneau

### 7th Flight

**1st:** Bruce Kay  
**2nd:** Tim Preston



## Women's Senior Club Championship

### 1st Flight

**Gross:** Sue Kahler  
**Net:** Mary Assey

### 2nd Flight

**Gross:** Marylaw Powell  
**Net:** Joan Taylor

The Mixed Member/Guest is just a few days away. This is your chance to reciprocate with people from other clubs who may have had you as guests, or just a good opportunity to show off our course to some friends, family or colleagues who may some day join as Members!

Get a twosome or foursome together for the Mixed Member/Guest on August 7th. Lunch, Dinner, Cart, Prizes—Only \$65



Ballston Spa Country Club  
*The Fox*



*Tucker*



## *Parrying the 19<sup>th</sup>*

Most foot soldiers in the Golf Wars believe that inferior *materiel* can mean the difference between victory and defeat in the Sunday Morning Battle. So, like Third World generals, they scour the pages of the various war zines, looking for weapons that will keep them on the cutting edge of preparedness, searching out ads by arms dealers who can equip them with means of destruction developed from technology used in the Strategic Defense Initiative.



It might be a berryllium-argon-kryptonite alloy, table-rolled, with a stiff flex, low kick, light weight shaft, mounted in an offset cavity-backed, perimeter-weighted, u-grooved head, milled from aluminum developed for the Space Shuttle, featuring a graphite-lined hollow interior, a vibration reducing medallion and a sweet spot which is touted as somehow being larger than the oversized head itself.

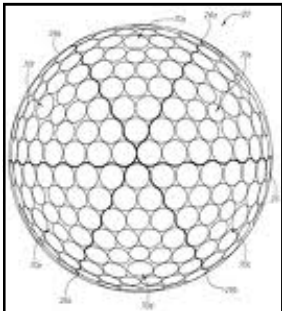
It could be shoes made of Space Age materials, all of which end in "ex", like Gortex, Spandex, Playtex and Nynex, with lightweight waterproof construction, and pyramid/spider spike configurations that resemble aerial maps of ancient Mayan villages.

And then there are the balls. We've come a long way from the featheries and gutta perchas of old. Today it's a reverse-wound, pigeon blood center, four piece deal, covered with a surface infused with radio-active kinetic anti-matter, a high inertia mantle and sporting a dimple count that somebody actually counted, thinking that somebody else actually cared. The dimples themselves are manufactured in unpronounceable geometric shapes like decamecahexadrons, and pentaseptic holograms, or whatever.



And now there are Space Balls. A few years ago, I was reading one of the obscure journals I am famous for subscribing to, when a small piece about atomic golf balls caught my eye. The article gave a number to call for more information, and I couldn't resist.

It turned out to be the number of the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada, located in Manitoba. The Public Relations Director explained that they would irradiate your golf balls, causing the molecules to cross-link. This results in increased distance and bounce. The USGA has investigated the concept and ruled it to be legal. I forgot to ask him if the balls glowed in the dark.



Having considered all this technology, there is always the sobering memory of Nigel. Nigel was my favorite caddie at Constant Spring Golf Club in Kingston Jamaica during a two year stay in that country. Caddies were allowed to play only on Friday mornings, but Nigel always threw his five clubs in my bag every afternoon, when no one else was stupid enough to be out in the 95 degree heat, and would play holes 2 through 17 so he couldn't be seen from the clubhouse. Nigel was barefoot, gloveless, played old scuffed up balls and was totally ignorant of graphite and what it could do for his game. Nigel shot in the low 60's for 16 holes. He would always refuse my 50 cent tip (on top of the \$2 caddy fee) when he played with me. Hey, I was only making \$2,900 a year, don't give me a hard time.

So next time you shell over the major portion of your 401K stash to buy the latest driver featuring endothermic, isotopical, reverse-oriented face inlays, think about Nigel. He may not have known that you can't win a war without an intelligent strategy but Nigel did know you can't buy a game without talent.

I really do not know why we should allow the Haskell (ball) to come in. It should be slaughtered at the ports The discovery of a ball that flies considerably further would be a menace to the game of golf. It would immediately make all our holes the wrong length. **Manchester Guardian 1901. Some things never change.**

# Tournament Committee Report



*David Fizer*



The tournaments this year have lived up to the ones in years past. All this is to be attributed to the participants and the people who have assisted in their organization. The rest of the years tournaments are listed below and from what I've heard there are several of you looking forward to many of the remaining ones.

Currently, we are looking to identify the chair people for next year's tournaments. Many of you have "chaired" tournaments either this year or in years past therefore the expectation is that this can continue in the future. Please email me or let me know if you'd like to continue chairing existing tournaments – or would like to be considered for chairing an existing tournament next year.

On behalf of the tournament committee – I'd like to thank all that have participated and given that we are about half way through the year I'd like to think that the rest of the tournaments can be equally as successful. Thank you all!

## Tournaments in the Month of August:

Jul 23-24	F & S.	Women's Member Guest	9:00 AM	TT/SG S	2BB of 4	Brenda Adams, Tina Koehler, Max Tucker, Anne Jorgensen
5-Aug	Thu	Men's Senior Member/Guest	8:00 AM	SG S	BB of Partners (Gross/Net)	Bruce Kay
7-Aug	Sat	Mixed Member/Guest	1:00 PM	SG S	BB of partners	Joan Taylor / Tucker
13-Aug	Fri	Margarita Tasting	5:30 PM	SG S	Nine Hole Scramble	Todd Manderson / David Fizer
19-Aug	Thu	Women's mini M/G – 9 holes	5:00 PM	SG S	TBD	Pat Stack / MJ Crowley / Sue Pollard / Beth Todd
Aug 21/22	S & S	Men's/ Women's/ Junior's <b>Club Championship</b>	9:00 AM	TT	Women's - Match Play Men's /Junior's - Stroke Play	M. Tucker / K. Oppedisano / B. Krause / A. Jorgensen
25-Aug	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SG S	BB of Partners	Todd Manderson / David Fizer

## *In Appreciation*

The committee for the Womens' Member-Guest 2010 would like to thank Jim Rhoades and all of the staff at Panza'a On The Green for their outstanding cooperation and service. Jim treated our requests with professional input and went out of his way to add services and help that we were not specifically requesting. It was a true pleasure to deal with a caring and involved restaurant manager who seemed delighted to become involved in the spirit of the day.

Tina Koehler, Brenda Adams, Ann Jorgensen & Max Tucker