

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

August 2013

Presidents note

Summer is in full swing and here's hoping that your golf game is also. The course remains in excellent shape as it has been since it opened a few months ago. There has been a flurry of activity, which is noted in this issue of the FOX. There also has been a flurry of no activity, which is the basis for this month's message.

In the July Fox, produced by our outgoing President Bill Tucker, the membership was asked to volunteer for one of the various important committees needed to run the club efficiently. Unfortunately, very few people volunteered, which has made all of our jobs much more difficult. One of the main points of the by laws was to involve members in the decision making needed to operate BSCC and give control to the membership. I am somewhat at a loss as to why members have not volunteered. As I'm sure you have noted by now this issue of the Fox does not have the polish of past issues. That is because I am technically challenged and this issue is a Micro Soft Word document, not a "Publisher" software document. Rather than take three months to learn a new software package, I felt the need to get the Fox out, (in any shape), to avoid the lateness of the last issue. My apologies for that, it was my responsibility.

One of the committees that need volunteers is the Social committee, which will have responsibility for publishing the Fox. Boy do we, (me) need help with is one! Not to belabor the point, please read last months Fox and volunteer for a committee.

We need member involvement to run efficiently.

On a much happier note, there are many great things happening, which the other Board members will tell you about in their section of this newsletter. Thank all of you for your patience during this time of transition.

From the golf shop

Todd Manderson

Merchandise Sale

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.

All merchandise credit on the books is too be used for in stock merchandise only. I will special order for members but the credit on the books can't be used for payment of that merchandise.

Tournament Results

The Results for the following events are as follows:

Women's Member Guest

1st Gross A Flight

Suzie Mansfield

Flo Liberatore

Sue Kahler

Julie Paolino

2nd Gross A Flight

Brenda Adams

Beth Bassett

Suzanne Harnden

Pat Mayne

1st Net A Flight

Kathy Harkins

Donna Nevulis

Maryellen Trumbull

Carol Burke

2nd Net A Flight

Kate Oppedisano

Diana Ramos

Cindy Walkanowski

Peg Squazzo

1st Gross B Flight	2nd Gross B Flight
MaryJane Crowley	Paula Laime
Jean Goldsmith	Janet Higley
Judy Pena	Krista Fabian
Barbara Bishop-Ward	Patty Smith

1st Net B Flight	2nd Net B Flight
Pat Joseph	Rayette Johnson
Judy Ingraham	Pam Mantis
Tina Koehler	Cess Foley
Susan Lundberg	Diane Schwager

Congratulations to all of the winners.

Night Golf Event

We had a successful Night Golf Event this year as we played 1,2,3,4,8 and 9 and all that participated. We are thinking of doing it again before the end of the season as all enjoyed themselves. All the bridges were lit and the laughter and fun that everyone had was great to see. Look for the future date to participate in the next night golf event.

Treasurers Report

Dave Runyon

Members,

With August now upon us, the club is in the transition period, paying shareholders who are leaving us, and collecting funds from our newest members who are on time-payment stock plans. To make this transition as seamless as possible, we ask that all who owe stock payments in August please remit those timely. That will enable us to pay our

departing members for their shares.

The Board has undertaken some additional action to make the stock transitions less impacting on annual cash flow. After careful consultation with our primary lender, we have increased the term of our mortgage. This action will lower the annual mortgage payment amount and therefore provide some headroom for stock repayments in years where there are deficits. We have had several difficult years in this regard in the recent past that have resulted in cash shortfalls. Working with our partners at BSNB, we are confident that our new loan structure is supportable and appropriate, and will put the club on sound footing for the years to come.

Greens Committee

Bob Miskanin

I will be taking over the Greens job from Sue Kahler. I would like to thank Sue for all of the great work she did for the past years. I'm looking forward to working with Steve and his crew to ensure our great golf course continues to improve. They have done an amazing job in the past and I'm sure it will continue.

I will continue working on the project that Sue and Steve started. That is the possibility of leasing new equipment for mowing the fairways, greens and rough. Our current equipment is very old, was purchased used, and is costing a great deal of money and time to maintain.

The lease of new equipment would cost less than we are currently spending on repairs and would all be under manufactures warranties, so if any repairs were required it would be of minimal cost to us.

We will keep you posted on the progress of this work.

If you have any ideas or suggestion for the improvement of our golf course, please contact me.

(Editors note, since the writing of this article a lease HAS been signed for new equipment! We will very shortly have the best greens mower available on the market today. We all expect great things from this)

Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

As we make are way through the summer months, the course is in good condition. The summer months make it a challenge to keep everything green because of heat and humidity. The torrential rains we have recently suffered have made keeping the course consistent a real challenge. Some greens can be mowed after a heavy rain and some cannot. One fairway may too wet to drive on and others are fine. Add the humidity and heat into the mix and now you have prime conditions for turf diseases and the need to spray. Every day we deal with a different set of challenges from weather to a broken piece of equipment. It is hard to stick to any sort of plan when there are so many different variables to deal with on any given day. All in all, I think we are doing well and with a little help from Mother Nature, I think we will make it through these summer months just fine.

I wanted to answer a few questions that I have been asked lately. We have been getting a lot of rain lately and the "lake" on #13 has killed the grass on the fairway. I don't really know why this area has started to collect water so much. Two years ago this same thing happened and the grass died under the consistent saturated conditions. To eliminate the dead spot, we use the sod from the old tee on #14 to re-sod the area that died. This year before we sod the fairway again, we need to fix the low area first. Raising the entire area, running a drain line, or installing a dry-well are all possibilities to solve the problem. I will work with the greens committee to find a solution to this problem so we can solve the drainage problem before we sod or seed the fairway. The other question that I have been getting asked concerns the water coming out of the hill on #14 fairway. This is not an irrigation leak. Two years ago when we had a lot of rain this same thing happened and this area of the fairway was wet for a long time. I believe the problem is ground water pushing out of the hill. The solution is to run drain lines through the fairway to run the water down to the swamp on the right side of the

fairway. These two projects are not anything major in size and can be completed in just a few days.

I want to thank the membership for their efforts during this wet spell. I did not really notice a hug amount of ball marks on the greens and the ruts on the course from golf carts were minor. I also want to thank the volunteers who have been clearing brush, weeding flowerbeds, and filling divots. Your efforts are very valuable to the club. Thanks again.

Membership Committee

Beth Todd

We are always looking at new ways to increase our membership and in turn to insure the continued successful operation of our club. Therefore, we will be offering a late summer membership special which will run through the fall closing of the course. If you have any friends or family thinking of joining, this would be a good time for them to play through the end of the year and enjoy all that Ballston has to offer. We are also working on revising our membership schedule for 2014 and create several new membership categories. If anyone is interested in joining this committee please let Laura know in the office.

Communications

Paul Steves

Suggestion Box by the office door and the email address suggestionbox@ballstonspacc.com are operational. To date six members have used this venue to communicate with their club.

I have attempted to learn how to navigate around the web site and to post information to the News Blog. In my zest I have posted some

entries not realizing that they could be viewed by anyone accessing our website. As I have learned the "Latest News" listing appearing on the bottom left of our homepage is visible to the general public. Once you are logged onto our site you will see "Members Only Content" and "BSCC News and Updates" on the right. By clicking on "News" you see all the posts. The posts marked Private are only for members viewing and are not visible to the general public. .

Minutes of the June 23rd meeting have been posted to the website under Board Minutes and the June 2013 (2). Please take a moment to read the minutes and become informed on what is happening at your club.

If you are interested in being on the Communications Committee, have an idea, suggestion or anything you feel the Board should know use the suggestion box described above or drop me an email at psteves1@nycap.rr.com.

House Committee

Doug Young

As you may have seen, Panza's has developed a new menu for the remaining summer months. It's also been posted on the BSCC website under the Restaurant tab. Jose, Derrick and Shannon continue to listen to the members and the new menu reflects several suggestions for improvement. Please keep those suggestions coming, as Panza's will also revise the menu in the fall.

Please contact any member of the Panza's staff or me if you have questions or comments about Panza's on the Green.

Thanks,
Doug

Closing Notes

In order to balance this year's budget, the Board has agreed to impose a Fairway tax on all members. The Tax would apply to all members who

can hit 60% of the fairways with their tee shots. It costs more to maintain a fairway verses a rough so it makes dollars and sense to us... A fee of \$1 per fairway hit will be added to the members account and appear on their monthly bill... Also, a 50-cent ball mark fee is being considered..... (It may not be April 1, but I added this to see how many people actually read the entire Fox.... Just an attempt at humor folks, nothing more...)