



Volume X Number 4

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

Some of us on the Board of Directors (BOD) have heard rumors and speculation about a new clubhouse from the membership, so I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the facts.

As Dick Cody and I both stated in our BOD election letters to the membership and the entire BOD agrees, we believe the time has come for us to address our aging clubhouse facility. However, I want to be very clear: the ultimate decision on whether we move forward with a new or significantly renovated clubhouse belongs to the membership. Nothing will be done without the approval of the membership. I can assure you all that we will keep everyone informed and provide all of the information we have as we move through the process.

I know many have been asking, "How much money we have spent so far?" While we have worked with an architect, who has developed some very preliminary designs, **we have spent no money to date**. There may be some future expenditures that will be required as we gather info, further develop a design and prepare for a presentation to the membership, which of course would then ultimately require a vote and your approval before we move forward.

As you have seen, either via emails or in some of the letters posted around the club, we have solicited volunteers from the membership to work on various clubhouse committees. The goal of these committees is to ensure we have done our due diligence, considered all viable options and most importantly, developed a fiscally responsible plan that would allow us to pay for a new or renovated clubhouse. Once we have completed all of this, presentations to the membership will occur.

As progress is made by these committees, it will be communicated to the membership. We will use the Fox, emails and any other appropriate communication channels to keep everyone informed.

Dick Cody and John Paolucci are co-chairs for this effort, so if you have questions, please ask us. Don't assume something you heard is true. That is how false rumors get started.

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.



Cody



Paolucci

Rick Fumaro



July 2008

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox



Superintendent's Report

month. The course is in pretty good condition and I hope everyone has been able to get out and play as much as possible.

My crew and I have been busy with the day to day jobs of setting up the course and mowing. We have also been able to tackle some smaller projects. We planted some trees behind the fourth green and have been putting topsoil over tree roots throughout the course and planting grass.

The rough mower that we purchased has been great this spring. This machine is not new but performs perfectly and has made it a lot easier to tackle the 40 acres of rough that we mow twice a week.

The last thing that I want to comment on is the issue of the fairway mowing. The fairways get mowed three to four times a week. I try to cut the fairways later in the morning to ensure the best quality of cut and minimize grass clippings clumping up. It takes the two fairway mowers about four to four and a half hours to mow all 20 acres. That is without stopping for play. We mow the fairways in reverse order to ensure that you only see the fairway mowers once in your round. We have ordered covers for the mowers to protect the employees from getting hit. The fairways have never been better. I get a lot of compliments on our fairways. My crew and I work very hard to give you the best possible conditions day in and day out. I ask the members to please, work with the people on the fairway mowers. You only have to deal with them on one hole out of eighteen. Thank you for your help in this issue.



Green Committee Report



Carl Iovinella



Even though the course has had a tremendous amount of play these past few weeks, it has held up extremely well, thanks to Steve and his employees. I and other members have heard excellent comments on the condition of the course.

Here are some interesting facts concerning our expenditures for some relatively minor items. Stone: a 20 ton load costs us \$230.00. So far this year we used 8 loads. We will probably have to purchase two additional loads. Sand: each load will cost us about \$3,000.00. We will need two loads to do the traps on 3 & 4. Yardage markers: We are ordering 84 yardage markers for our new sprinkler heads. The cost of each marker is \$3.50+. As we purchase new sprinkler heads we will order new markers. Each new head cost approximately \$140.00. New trees and shrubs: three new trees have been planted on #4. The cost of these are \$2000.00, which we paid for with the money we received by selling the trees we cut down. Four more shrubs have been added to number 4. The shrubs were donated to the club by an anonymous donor. On behalf of the club, thank you very much.

June 2008

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Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop



Nobody likes Slow Play

How many of you like a ranger checking your pace of play? It makes you uncomfortable and it makes me uncomfortable because this is the biggest complaint that we listen to every weekend. This is a very touchy subject with everyone and I would like to make everyone aware of some of the issues that I see with this.

We now have more members than we have had in the 9 years that I have been here and slow play is frustrating to everyone who comes across it. Each and every player has come across this at some point. The way to think of the process is to make sure that you stay up with the group in front of you and not to just stay ahead of the group behind you.

Each and every player should be taking care of their shot before it is their time to play. Don't try to set up for your shot when it your time to play. Do it before hand.

The last thing I would like to say on this matter is that each and every person complains about the slow play but no one individual is the reason why it happens. So let's all try a little bit harder and be aware of it. Remember: it is also ok to let a group go through.

PGA McGladrey Cup

This year's McGladrey Cup local qualifier will be July 12th. The event consists of 3 person teams and is a net event. It was a success last year at the sectional level and this year we are hosting the sectional round here at Ballston Spa Country Club. Check in with the Golf Shop for further details and the specifics on the event. The basic format is 1 ball of 3 net. Look for future details posted around the club.

Fescue Grass

We now have some new fescue grass on holes 13 and 16. It was originally marked in white paint. This was for mowing purposes only and now that it's established, it is now long grass where you have to play it as it lies. Unfortunately I was in it the other day but it is not a bad shot.



Fescue

Basket of Cheer



Once again this year, because of the generosity of many, the BSCC Women's Golf Association is selling raffle tickets for two Baskets of Cheer. The baskets are on display in the clubhouse bar area, and tickets may be purchased either at the bar, or from a WGA Member. Tickets are 1-\$1.00, 6-\$5.00, 13-\$10.00. The drawing will be held Club Championship weekend. As in the past, the money received goes back to the club for various gardening/planting needs etc. We appreciate your support of this fundraiser!

M. J. Crowley

Please Remember the Local Businesses who are supporting the Ballston Spa High School Golf Team

B95.5 fm

Homemade Theater

Enterprise Rental,

Friends Lake Inn

Saratoga Auto Museum

Northway 8 Golf

OfficialBrettFavre.com website

Malone Golf Club

C. Veeder, CV Golf

Cobleskill Golf & Country Club

The Empire State Building

Denise Farnan LPGA

Howe Cavern

Robert Schnebel

Lake George Steamboat Co

Albany Aqua Ducks

Iroquois Indian Museum

Airway Meadows Golf Club

Eagle Crest Golf Club , Clifton Park NY

Warren & Patti Shaw , FOIT-ALBERT ASSOCIATES P.C.

Fifty South Restaurant and Bar

Curtis Lumber, Ballston Spa

Jimapco

Excellent Adventures

Talk 1300 am

Giffy's BBQ

Lakeside Farm @ Cider Mill

Nancy Lopez

Greg Norman

Borders Book Store of Clifton Park

Clifton Plaza Barber Shop

DunkinDonuts

Buffalo Bills

JAG Entertainment

Jeff Gordon and Laurie Tambasco from Inglenook Realty

Southern Saratoga YMCA

Calvey & Morris-Calvey, LLC Lincoln building

Wells College

Siena College

Fort Ticonderoga

Glenville Mini Sportplex

Primo Pizzeria & Italian Specialties

Ben & Jerry's

Tri-City Valley Cats.

Salty's

Clifton Park Center Mall

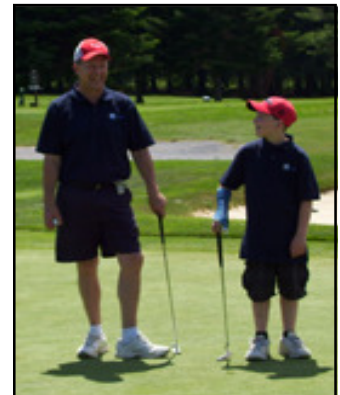
St. Andrews Links Golf Shops

Adult / Child Tournament

It was a very busy day with the Saratoga County Amateur being played at our golf course and the Adult/Child event. Both tournaments gave us the chance to showcase our Club to many amateurs as well as many local families.

The food Villagio Green provided was wonderful and plentiful.

We had over 45 businesses, both local and international, donate \$3,600 in prizes to raise money for the Ballston Spa High School Golf Team. With their help, and the kids and adults who played, we raised over \$200 for the Ballston High School Golf Team.



Big/Little Schwenke

BSCC: Our Story

Our club history to date has never been written in one document. It is our intent to remedy this situation to the best of our abilities, starting with this year's first issue. We will be dedicating a page in the Fox every month or so until we have as much of the history on record as possible. The full history will be posted on our website and eventually published. If any of you, your family or friends have any documents, pictures or anecdotal material that might be of interest to this endeavor, please submit them to the Fox by contacting: Tucker

wtucker2@nycap.rr.com

or

893-7646.

Thank you.

In the Beginning *Part 3*

The first sign identifying the Club was erected June 4, 1928 and the piano and stool were purchases at a cost of \$50 on April 8, 1932.

In 1930, the Club gained 45 new Members, of which 16 were resident, 22 non-resident and three juniors, bringing the total golfing memberships to 156. Four new tennis Members were also accepted.

The first mention of a Pro was in October, 1932, when the name Dan DePalma was proposed, but it was not until November, 1933 that Tim O'Connell was hired at \$500 and golf shop concession. On May 4, 1934 Mr. O'Connell was given authority to operate the store and taproom with the Club to buy the license. He was directed to order score cards and draw up golfing rules June 1, 1934.

The Club applied for membership into the USGA and to the Women's Northeast Golf Association on June 1, 1934.

During the first season under Mr. O'Connell as Pro Superintendent, the condition of the greens and fairways improved, resulting in favorable comments and a large increase in green fees playing the course. Green fees totaled \$3,572 during the year and the Green Committee reported that Tom Cochran and Gene Sarazen, and other top State amateurs who played the course this year stated the course had the best greens and was in the best condition of any in the Capital District.



Pictured during a social time held at a Manchester VT club when they accompanied their husbands for a day of golf are old time members Mrs. Duane Fuller, second row right, and Mrs. Arthur Garbrecht, middle, top row.

The other ladies are the late Mrs. Larry Smith, first row right, her guest from NY City and another guest from Schenectady, whose names are not known.

Besides Mrs. Fuller, are: Mrs. John Mosher, now of Connecticut; Mrs. Thomas Morrissey of Greenwich and Mrs. Clarence Slade of Ballston Spa.

Next to Mrs. Garbrecht is Mrs. George Stack of Ballston Spa.

The men were invited to play a 36 hole tournament and the ladies would play 18 holes and go on a picnic to make a full day of it.



Fun tournaments, such as these costumed ones, were highly popular in 1937 and ensuing years for both the men and women.

Front row, left to right are: DeForest Weed, Tom LaClair, Arthur Garbrecht and Duane Fuller.

Rear: Philip Currier Sr., Larry Smith, John Mosher, Norm Baker and Tom Morrissey.



Relaxing after a match. Taken June 22, 1937 in the storage club room, then the bar, are Elizabeth Theilemann, Helen Wallace Mosher and Miriam Wallace.



Not to be outdone by the men are Barbara Welch and Muriel Decker, in a costume tourney for the ladies



Cat Cops Cushy Conditions

The stray cat wandering around our golf course has been adopted. Here is "Bogey" as he has been named, enjoying one of his favorite resting spots.

The Winners' Circle

**Friday
July 4th**

4th of July Mixer

1PM Shotgun

Waltz

**Friday
July 18th**

Martini Tasting

**5:30
9 hole Shotgun**

Scramble

**Fri-Sat
July 25-26**

**Women's
Member/Guest**

Saturday Shotgun

8:30

**Thursday
August 7th**

**Men's Senior
Member/Guest**

8:00 Shotgun

BB Partners

Women's Member/Member 5/31/08

Gross: 1st: Roxanne Andrews and Suzie Mansfield

2nd: Claudia Mahoney and Sue Kahler

Net: 1st: Cindy Walkonowski and Anne Jorgenson

2nd: Brenda Adams and Rayette Johnson

3rd: Mary Assey and Joan Taylor

4th: Penny Monnat and Betty Thornhill

5th: Sharon Nevins and Sharon Naftzger

6th: Mary Law Powell and Pat Stack

**Wednesday
July 9th**

**Women's
Invitational**

**8:30
Shotgun**

**Sunday
July 20th**

**2 Person
Scramble**

8:30 Shotgun

Men's Member/Member 5/31/08

A Flight: 1st: Jim Tedesco and Pat Morin

2nd: Dave Fizer and Larry D'Alberto

3rd: Hal Van Earden and Brad Krohl

B Flight: 1st: Matt Riggins and Peter Kanches

C Flight: Net 1st: Josh Cottrell and Jack Cottrell

2nd: Chuck Griswold and John Gill

D Flight: Gross 1st: John Monahan and Dan Piazza

Net: 1st: Bob Charbonneau and Mark Thornhill

2nd: Bob DeMarco and Tim Provost

E Flight: Gross: 1st: John Naftzger and Tom Highfield

Net: 1st: Brian Bergin and John Caputo

2nd: Steve McCorkell and Dan Desjardins

F Flight: Gross: 1st: Mike Wettlaufer and Ryan Scholl

Net: 1st: Don Gallagher and Jim Furphy

2nd: Steve Monnat and Jim Stephanik

**Saturday
August 2nd**

**McGladrey
Cup Qualifier**

Tee Times

BB of 3

**Saturday
August 9th**

**Mixed
Member/Guest**

1:00 Shotgun

BB Partners



Parring the 19th



Tucker

Parring the Nineteenth has been missing for the first three newsletters of the year and some of you have been asking about it. Few of you have made it clear why you're curious about the column's absence, and I have to humbly assume it's in the same vein as why meteorologists questioned the decrease last year in the frequency of hurricanes. They didn't necessarily want to see more hurricanes, they were just inquisitive.

I suppose I could say my work schedule has cranked up a tad, but then again I spent many hours over the winter in leisure activities when I could have been tapping out more columns for the upcoming season.

I suppose I could say I had writer's block, but Steve Martin says this is just a fancy term made up by whiners so they can have an excuse to drink alcohol.

The real reason, I believed, was that I had pretty much depleted the range of golf related subjects that would make an interesting read. After all, I have written scores of 600-word essays on things such as divots, parking habits of golfers, lost golf balls, ... I could go on and on.

But I was wrong.

There are obviously many more subjects that need to be tackled. The reason I know this is because I was strolling down the twelfth fairway a few weeks ago, talking to Mike Martin about writing, when he casually announced (Mike does everything casually. If he were engulfed in flames he would offhandedly request a fire extinguisher) ... when he casually announced he had once written an essay about the golf pencil.



Now that got me going, I have to admit. For the rest of the round, I was trying to come up with

A) Some interesting points about golf pencils. Eraser. Color. Sharp? More than one? Left handed?

B) Some additional minutiae in the culture of golf that would warrant 600 words. Caps vs. visors? Shoes? Velcro vs. laces? Ball markers? Tees?

What it ended up doing was to re-invigorate my writing challenge for the *Fox*.

In future editions look for my treatise on the absolute perfect number of spikes in a golf shoe, how your haircut affects your ball flight, and a fashion analysis of Bob Charbonneau's knickers wardrobe.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that not only have I solved my issue regarding subject matter for future columns, I have also achieved the ultimate answer to the problem: I have, with this article, written an article about not being able to write an article.

Facility Improvement Exploration Committee

As Rick has mentioned in his monthly update, it is our intention to provide regular communication involving all planning activities of the newly established Clubhouse Committees. We are very pleased with your response for volunteers, so our first communication action will be to thank and recognize those who have graciously done so.

Those volunteering to participate include:

Ginny Charbonneau	Ed Schwencke	Tim Provost
Chuck Griswald	Bob Miskanin	Carl Jahn
Roger Liame	Bill Swietnicki	
Pete McNamara	Max Tucker	
Paul Miles	Keith Atlas	
Dave Runyon	Mike Zegarelli	

We held our first meeting on June 20th, and the primary focus was only to share ideas and establish goals and objectives. We had a great dialogue and the participants made some excellent recommendations. It is clear that we have a significant amount of research and planning to undertake before we make any recommendation to the membership. Can our existing facility be renovated to meet our needs or should we build a new facility?

Some of our action items include obtaining input from members through small group discussions, develop a mechanism to gather membership opinion to ensure our facility meets the membership's needs, refine the project scope and objectives, gathering additional facility/banquet information from our competitors, and develop a fiscal plan. As you can see, there is much to be done, but we are confident that the Committee members we will be up to this important task.

We fully understand and support the need for open communication with the membership, and will make this our highest priority. As we gather information and develop options, we will be adding a link to our homepage, so members can always access the latest information.

We welcome your input and feedback.

Our contact information is:

Dick Cody: jcody4@nycap.rr.com 584-4912
John Paolucci: jmpaolucci@nycap.rr.com 885-0552