



Volume XVI Number 3
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Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter



Mike Zegarelli

The annual membership meeting was held on May 17, 2013 at 7:00. At that meeting three new Board members were elected to replace the three members whose terms had expired. Sue Kalher, Bill Tucker and Bruce Kay served the Board for six years and gave their all to the betterment of the Club. Please thank them for their service when you see them.

The three newly elected members are Beth Todd, Mike Farina, and Paul Steves. I believe they also should be thanked for stepping forward to carry out the work of the Club. We should also thank Brian Foster and Steve Heidorn for running for the Board. I believe I speak for all the carry-over Board members when I say that we would have been happy to work with any of the five candidates vying for office.

At the subsequent Board meeting held that night, the following officers of the Club were elected: President, Mike Zegarelli, Vice President, Harry Talmon, Treasurer, Dave Runyon, Secretary, Paul Steves. As this is my first article for the Fox as President, I would like to thank all the past Board members, and the playing Members, our Superintendant and PGA Golf Professional for their dedication in making BSCC the great Club that it is today. It has taken a strong group effort to get where we are today and it will take that same effort by all to continue to progress.

The By Laws

As everyone is aware, at the May meeting a new set of by laws was brought before the membership for vote to replace the old by laws. All stock holding Members of BSCC were sent a letter announcing the meeting and the by laws vote. The ability to vote by proxy was offered for those who could not attend the May meeting.

At the meeting the vote including proxies was 153 yes and 2 votes no. This, in anyone's estimation is an overwhelming call for replacing the old by laws. Unfortunately, the margin needed to pass the by laws is 75% of the current stockholders, (164 votes were needed to pass this test). The newly elected Board discussed this situation and agreed that it was in the best interest of the Club and within the guidelines of the old by laws to survey the remaining stockholders to allow them to cast a vote either for or against passage of the proposition.

Laura McNeil prepared a listing of as many stockholders as we could determine had not voted and with the Board's approval I contacted as many as possible to include their vote on the proposition. In contacting these Members I did NOT request a yes or no vote, I just wanted to give them the ability to vote on this important issue. The result of this contact was an additional 12 yes votes and 1 no. The final tally therefore met the standard set by the original by laws of 75% approval for passage.

Bottom line, we have an overwhelming vote to replace the by laws by a final count of 165 to 3. It is clear from this margin that the membership is in favor of the new by laws. It is my opinion and that of the Board that it should be considered that the new by laws have passed and should now be the rules by which business is conducted at BSCC.

President's Agenda

(continued on page 2)

Below is a summary of a note I sent to all Board members discussing a Presidents Agenda for the upcoming year. I want to share this with the membership.

...As I may have mentioned to you, I want to have a President's agenda this year. I have drafted the concepts I want to emphasize this year. We can discuss them at our meeting. Based on our discussion they are subject to change based on the input received. I don't want to get into a discussion about Are they objectives, concepts or something else?, but I see them as principles I want to be part of everything we do and work towards this year. In reality, they are most likely a hodgepodge of all of the above.

In general order of importance:

-Membership

Everyone's job #1 is membership. Beth Todd has been kind enough to head this job and be the Membership Chair. Everyone is at her disposal to help with membership. I would greatly appreciate any help you can give Beth, and I fully expect that you will help her out when she asks. This objective/priority extends to the general membership also. I will continue to carry this part of the message.

-Revenue

In the absence of Members, revenue is the second most important item we all need to focus on. We all have to work towards increasing revenue so we do not have a shortfall. In whatever job you are assigned, think of ways to increase revenue throughout this year.

-Member Involvement

I want the general membership to be involved with the golf course. As you select individuals to work on committees, choose people who have shown an interest in helping out. We have a great deal of expertise within our Members. Draw upon this and get people involved

-A Sense of Community

We all need to think about the BSCC community and how we can improve the sense of Community. How can we get people to spend more time at the course? More special events? Advertise the Couples League more? Other ideas?

-Innovation and Continuous Improvement

With all due respect to Dr. Demming, I believe this needs to part of any organization. If things are working well, can they still be improved? Generally speaking, yes. Can we do a better job of selling the course to prospective new Members? Can we improve an already great course? Can we make improvements to the Clubhouse at low costs? Can we secure more tournaments, better tournaments with higher participation? I want all of us to be innovative in thinking about the problems that we have been talking about for years...

After review by the Board, there was general agreement with this agenda. I invite the membership to also constructively comment on these points. Send any comments to the BSCC Office and I will do my best to review and respond.

Committees Required by the By Laws

As the new by laws are now considered in effect there are a number of Standing Committes that are required to be established. As it is stated in the by laws " On an annual basis the President will solicit from the membership, volunteers to serve on the following Standing Committees. The members of these will be selected based on their qualifications and interests by the Board after the application deadline for solicitations as passed." The duties of each committee are spelled out in the by laws and I will not repeat them here for brevity's sake.

In order as they appear in the by laws:

Executive Committee

As allowed, I have asked the most current past president Bill Tucker to participate. He accepted my invitation. Also, the by laws in this section require that I seek from the general membership an attorney to serve as a full member of this committee. I therefore ask any attorney willing to participate in this committee to please submit their name and qualifications to the Business Office.

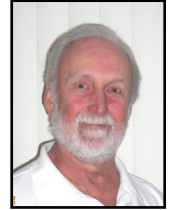
Finance Committee

As required by the by laws I hereby seek a CPA or a person with a strong financial background to serve as a member of this committee.



Golf Committee

I have asked Tom Hudy to Chair this committee during our transition to the new by laws. Please note, that the president or vice president of each club league is required to be a member of this committee.



Grounds and Green Committee

I have asked Bob Miskanin to Chair this committee during our transition to the new by laws.



House Committee

I have asked Mike Farina to Chair this committee during our transition to the new by laws.



Membership Committee

I have asked Beth Todd to Chair this committee during our transition to the new by laws.

Social Committee

I have not asked any Member to Chair this committee. One of the most important functions of this committee is the publication of the Fox, our Club newsletter. As previously noted, Bill Tucker is no longer going to perform this function. He did an excellent job for the past 15 years and it is time for another Member to step forward to take on this task.

Section 6.1 calls for the President to designate a Parliamentarian. Anyone interested in this position, please submit your qualifications to the BSCC Business Office.

Ad Hoc Committees

As allowed by the by laws I want to establish a number of ad hoc committees I feel are needed this year. They are as follows:

Volunteer Committee

I have asked Mike Farina to chair this committee to coordinate the many volunteers we have. Volunteers are a very important part of our Club and I want to ensure that they are recognized for their efforts. Additionally, there are special events in which we can use volunteers to ensure they are successful. Clearly, this helps one of the objectives of community building.

Communications Committee

I have asked Paul Steves to chair this committee. I want to improve the communications between the Board and the membership and visa versa.



There are a few committees that I feel would be helpful to the membership committee. As such I would like to establish them under the direction of the membership committee. These are:

Member Retention Committee

Its task is obvious.

Global Foundry's committee

Its task is to assist in recruiting new Members from this employer.

Advertising and Course Promotion Committee

This task is obvious also.



If you have an interest in working on any of these committees, please submit your name, qualifications where required etc, to the BSCC Business Office by June 30, 2013.

I want to make 2013 the best year ever here at BSCC, and with everyone's help we can achieve this goal. Thank you in advance!



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

As we make our way into the beginning of summer, the course seems to be shaping up quite nicely. The course continues to get greener every day. Temperature and moisture help to dictate how green the course is and how fast the grass grows. This is the main reason we waited until May before we aerified the greens. Warmer temperatures make for a quicker recovery time for the greens. As most of you already know, we aerified the greens on the 14th and 15th of May. The process went well except for some clouds on Tuesday and an early downpour before we were done on Wednesday. All in all, I am happy with the results. I could not have done it without the help from volunteers. This year we had a great turnout and I thank those who could help out for a few hours. Thanks again.

In the week following aerification, the weather changed from dry conditions to humidity and heavy rain each day. The course is now soaked and cannot handle any more water. It has been a real challenge to keep up with all the mowing this week. We tried to mow everything (greens, tees, approaches, fairways, first cut, and rough) every day because the grass was growing that fast. We never really knew when the course would be too wet or the rain too heavy to cut, so we cut as much as we could when we could.

The greens are very soft and are growing extremely fast with the humidity and the moisture. The aerification holes have filled in great but the greens actually need to be topdressed again with more sand. As soon as it stops raining and the greens firm up, we will begin topdressing the greens with sand and then use a borrowed top dressing green's brush to brush the sand into any depressions. The greens will also be sprayed with a plant growth regulator. This product has been used here for years and will help to regulate the amount the grass grows each day. For you, the golfer, this means the greens will play more consistently throughout the day. We apply fertilizer after aeration to get the grass to grow and fill in the holes. But after the holes are filled in, you do not want too much growth because the greens will play slow.

So, as soon as the rain stops and we can get onto the course without rutting it up, we will be doing a lot of work on the greens to get them smoother and more consistent. A few weeks ago, we were praying for rain. Now we are praying for it to stop. It always seems to rain too much when it does finally rain. This course does much better when rain is scarce. If you remember, we had a good year last year condition wise with very little rainfall. A lot of that was due to moisture control. I could control how much water was applied to the course and keep it from becoming soggy. Having the course flooded is not good for the turf or for play. I am sure you all would rather play on a faster firmer course than a softer and slower course. Hopefully the rain will slow and we can dry out a little after Memorial Day.

Restaurant Report



Doug Young

Panza's on the Green is fully operational and I've gotten some good feedback from our members. Jose, Derrick and Shannon are eager to hear your feedback and welcome your suggestions for menu or drink items that you would like to see. So, if you'd like something that currently isn't on the menu, please just ask.

The Martini Tasting event is scheduled for June 7 and a Margarita Tasting Event will be held on August 9. Jose and I are currently discussing other options for networking or theme nights. More to come on social activity in the restaurant.

The dining room is open for dining unless it's already been set up for a scheduled event. If you want to be served in the dining room, please just ask a member of the wait staff to seat you and serve you there.

A popcorn machine was installed by the Women's Association as a fund raising mechanism. Panza's allowed the machine to be set up and Jose and Derrick can pop the corn. My understanding is that bowls of popcorn are available for \$2.00 per bowl. Like there are no free lunches, there is no free popcorn as this is not part of the restaurant's menu. If you have questions about the fund raising goals, please see one of the Women's Association members.



Communications

I would like to start my first attempt at an article for the Fox with a thank you for the support I received at the recent Annual Meeting. I welcome the opportunity to serve you during the next three years and am confident that by working together as a team we can continue to move forward in a positive manner.

As many of you heard at the Annual Meeting I feel very strongly about the need to improve two way communications between the board and the Members. As I am digging into my duties and responsibilities I am discovering many good things the previous Board(s) have developed and initiated for the good of our club on my behalf. The fact that as a concerned Member I was not aware of these initiatives is what I believe needs to be addressed. I believe the entire Board is committed to this endeavor.

President Mike Zegarelli has discussed forming an ad-hoc Communications Committee whose job will be to work on communication from the Board to the membership and from the membership to the Board. Board member Beth Todd would like to see a suggestion box which does not require a ladder. Look for the new suggestion box to be installed shortly along with instructions on electronic suggestions. We need to post more information on our web site. We need to keep the bulletin board by the office current and relevant. Oops I started to get on a rant there but you get the idea.



Paul Steves



Passing the 19th



Tucker

Despite an overwhelming dearth of emails requesting I deal with the nomenclature of golf clubs, I hereby bravely jump into the subject, knowing full well that having read said discourse, you'll be kicking yourself for having ignored the issue these many years.

No other sport names their equipment after the material it's made from. Tennis players have never boasted they had just bought a new laminate or carbon fiber, nor have bowlers said they are changing to a 15 pound urethane from their current 14 pound reactive resin. Golfers do the exact opposite. Not only do they name their clubs after a substance, they name them after the wrong substance.

A three wood isn't made of wood and an iron isn't made of iron.

Now we really get silly. Irons used to be made of iron and woods were made from trees, so for a while we were technically correct. Once club manufacturers began using alloys, we stayed with "iron" to describe a club, rather than "I hit a 6 alloy to the middle of the green." Once woods ceased to be carved from wood however, we ran into trouble. For the past two decades or so we call them "metals" or "woods" or even the idiotic "metal wood".

Even persimmon woods were made of more than just wood in their latter lives. When you said (and I still say, although not as often as I'd like) you hit a shot "right on the screws" you were referring to the screws used to anchor a hard plastic insert on the face of your wood. There was also a metal sole plate. If you made contact with the ball with a wooden part of your club, it was a fizzle.

Back in the salad days of golf, clubs were given names rather than numbers. Often these names referred to the club's function, much as a putter or a driver is today, although a driver was originally called a "play club" and when I was a youngster it was often called a "1 wood" and had a big number 1 on the sole plate. A rutting iron, for example, was used to escape from the wheel ruts often found on early courses.

The etymology of other clubs, such as mashie, niblick and cleek is lost, although often the club name, such as the pitching niblick, gave us an idea of what their modern day equivalent might be. Other clubs had some semblance of logic to their names. The brassie was a 2 wood which was used without a tee and therefore had a protective brass sole plate. Spoons (3 woods) were so named because they had a concave face.

It wasn't until the early 1930's that Spalding began putting numbers on their clubs and all of a sudden we lost the romance of the "baffing spoon" and the "rake club".

I have suggested in another post that we be allowed to customize our club nomenclature, omitting any numeric system of labeling and ascribing an identity that only we personally know. This has several advantages. For one, each time you hear a golf announcer say Tiger hit a 7 iron 200 yards, you can feel safe in responding "That's nothing. I can hit my canticle further than that!" This is much better than griping that it would take you two 7 irons to do the same distance. If Ralph has the habit of asking what club you hit after every shot, you can honestly and mysteriously answer "That was my eeyore." Each year as you lose distance you won't be confronted with a numerical rot rate. Instead of hitting a 7 iron on the par three 15th, you suddenly need a 6 iron, a measured decay. Not anymore. Now, you simply switch from your chugger to your bleeper or possibly your proton plus.

Ridiculous? I think "metal wood" is exceedingly sillier.

