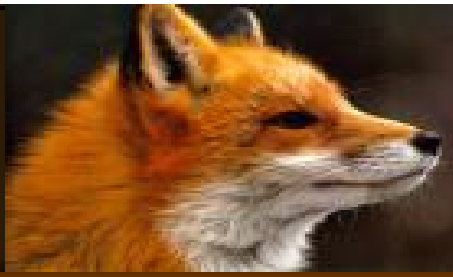


The



Fox

Volume VIII Number 3

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

May, 2006

Superintendent's Report



Steve Solsky



This past month has been very busy. Spring has come early this year. The lack of snow cover in early March has made the course dry, which is OK for an early opening.

I started up the irrigation this past week. With all the aeration being done on the course, the need for water is greater. One day of good rain would green the course up a lot faster. I finally finished up the aeration on the entire course this past week: greens, tees, and fairways. Aeration is extremely important for good turf conditions (Ballston Spa has a lot of clay soils that need to be broken up to let air and water down into the soil.) I plan on doing this all again in the fall. I borrowed a speed roller this past week to roll our greens. The

greens need a light rolling after aeration to smooth up the playing surface.

I am sure that everyone has seen the bunker on #7. If you remember, I dug the bunker out during the winter and filled it with new sand. This new sand will make this hole much more of a challenge and the white sand looks a lot better than the dirt that was in there before.

This past month I also had three trees planted behind #9 green. Two of the trees are sugar maples and the other is a red oak. Like I said, we have been very busy. We have been lucky with the weather to have gotten all this work done so early.



VILLAGIO GREEN WILL BE RUNNING A RAFFLE UNTIL MAY 7. Prizes will be a MICHELOB ULTRA GOLF BAG, a LABATT'S BLUE FLEECE and DINNER FOR TWO. **REGISTER TO WIN EVERY TIME YOU VISIT VILLAGIO GREEN!**



President's Letter

Rick Funaro

I would like to begin this letter with a very warm welcome to all of our new members. We have had a very successful membership drive this spring, with over 30 new members joining our club. I would ask all of our existing members to make them feel welcome and help them in any way possible so they can enjoy BSCC and become long term members of our great club.

Our annual shareholders' meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19th at 7PM. All members (shareholders and non shareholders) are encouraged and welcome to attend. There will be an election for 3 Board of Director seats. Only full shareholders are eligible to vote and I urge everyone to attend and cast their vote. If you are unable to attend, please sign your vote over to a friend who will be attending or send it to the business office and allow the proxy committee to vote your share. The election of officers or any official business cannot take place without at least a quorum of outstanding shares being voted. Last year, we did not have a quorum at the start and were unable to conduct any official business until we contacted some members not in attendance and had them come to the club and cast their ballot. So please attend or make sure your vote is being cast.

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for their outstanding work so far this year. Thanks to the very mild weather and their hard work, the club officially opened Friday, March 31st. In talking with members, no one can ever remember BSCC opening in March.

The members of the board continue to encourage your feedback on any issues regarding the club and its operation. If you have any comments, (good and bad), or suggestions 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.

The Bottom Line

Hopefully you have had the time to visit the new business Office. It is beautiful. If you have not visited the Business Office, it is located in the same building as the Golf Shop. Many changes have been made. There is new furniture and a new layout. The office is bright and has lots of room. Look for the Office sign over the door.

Other changes have been made with the billing and restaurant order system which will affect some members during the season. Members may now charge their tip for the restaurant staff on the receipt. Members now get a copy of the transaction to take home. These are all changes requested by members.

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
Revenue	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Cost of Goods Sold		(\$500.00)	\$500.00
Gross Profit	\$1,000.00	(\$500.00)	\$500.00
Operating Expenses		(\$200.00)	\$300.00
Net Operating Income			\$300.00

While all these changes are good, there is now opportunity for errors to enter the system, especially during the start of the season. Villagio Green has a new computer system to break in. So far, all is going well, except for an occasional error in data entry. All these procedures will be running near perfection by the time summer arrives.

When you receive your statement, you may have a question. The Business Office and Villagio Green keep very good records. Please visit your beautiful new Business Office to give us the opportunity to correctly adjust your account and statement.

Paul Bachorz

"I'm working as hard as I can to get my life and my money to run out at the same time. If I can just die after lunch Tuesday, everything will be perfect."

Doug Sanders

Chopper's Corner



Doug Young

At the outset of this paragraph, I will state that this is not a paid commercial for golf lessons available from Todd Manderson. However, if you've never had the pleasure of taking a lesson from our PGA professional, Todd is an excellent choice for a lot of reasons that I'll try to explain by the time I reach the end of this column.

The beginning of the 2006 golf season was like no other that I can remember. With a witness who boldly stated "I gotta see this," I striped my first tee shot and found my ball in the middle of the fairway with about 130 yards to the green. I just missed the green and barely missed a par putt, but actually felt pretty good walking off with a bogey. That's when the fun really began.

For the rest of the round, I didn't have much trouble getting the ball going toward my intended target, but once I got to within 100 yards of the green; my shots began to take on all sorts of shapes and sounds. I'll spare you the gory details, but will say that by the time I left the course, I was afraid of any club in my bag that ended with "wedge."

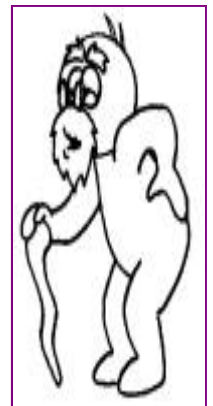
Fast forward to the driving range a few days later as I confessed my sins to Todd. After describing my fear of wedges, his first request was for me to try to hit a shot to the end of the tee box on the range...a distance of about 20 yards. After a half dozen failed attempts to hit that shot, he asked me to take some full swings that I proceeded to hit with various levels of consistency and accuracy. He asked me to try the 20-yard shot again and seeing the sod roll over my ball, pinching it out from under the weight of the turf, his only response was..."wow, that's bad.....do it again." So, I did, with almost exactly the same result. His response this time was to go back to taking full swings again.

With his trained eye, he found a flaw in my swing that was leading to the spastic move I was making on my short shots. Sparing me from further torture of taking half swings, he began to position my body, hands and club head in the various points of the swing, the way it should be done. It was almost like stopping me in snapshots of the moving picture. After a few cycles through every position, it was back to full swings, where he watched closely and coached my every move until I got it right.

Like the professional that he is, he stopped me immediately after that swing and asked me what it felt like. In my own words, I defined the swing key and feeling that was to become my drill for the next bag of balls. I'd tell you what it is, but then I'd have to kill you. I will say this: the golf swing is only as complicated as we make it. It boils down to some fundamentals that can be repeated to produce consistent results. The challenge for all of us is not to make it more complicated than that and to practice the drills that allow us to repeat what works, instead of the opposite.

So, I'm tuned up for now, until the next flaw inhabits my body. Thanks, Todd!

SENIOR MEN'S NEWS



The Men's Thursday Morning Senior League has begun play. I would like to invite any member 50 years old and over to join a fun and competitive weekly league.

Please sign up on the sheet in the pro shop each week to be assigned a foursome. We start at 8:00 a.m. and finish with lunch in the restaurant. We play quota golf, with the top three foursomes receiving prizes.

Bruce Kay 583-8864 bkay1@nycap.rr.com

Board of Directors Candidates' Letters

Carl Iovinella

I am asking for your support for another term on the board of directors. It is my belief that the board these past few years has made great strides in not only improving our financial situation but has spent your money wisely to improve our course and facility. Our aim was to attract new members, while pleasing our current members and stockholders. I would like another term to continue this work.

In my first term on the board I chaired the tournament committee, co-chaired the greens committee, and for the past year and a half, I've been house chairman. I have put forth great effort in upgrading our facility. Unfortunately we are working with an old building, but the inside now looks brighter, cleaner, and very much up to date. We also have an exciting new vendor, with a much improved menu. We have great potential to make BSCC a premier club in the region. I would like very much to continue my work and hope I'll receive your support for a second term. I will continue to make a difference if reelected. Thank you

Bruce Kay

I am Bruce Kay and I am running for the Board of Directors. I serve now as President of the Senior Men's League. I am a player in the Tuesday Night League and most club tournaments during the year. I will listen to your concerns and make myself available to all of you.

These are some of the assets that I can bring to the board; 1971 Graduate of Niagara University with a BS in Commerce, Owner of J.B. Kay Inc. a medical billing company. I have a lifetime of business experience. I am familiar with accounting, billing, taxes, budgets, balance sheets, labor issues, payroll, insurance, computers, whatever it takes to run a business. I manage three corporations with over 4 million in sales each year. I am confident that I can handle the issues related to BSCC.

I have done volunteer work all my adult life for The Church of Saint Peter in Saratoga Springs, working as a money counter and assisting with the annual budgets.

I can take the time to serve BSCC. Thank you for considering me.

John Paolucci

I would like to submit my application for consideration in the upcoming Board Member election. This is my third year as a member and share holder. Over the last 24 years I have obtained extensive operations and management experience working for New York State, which I would utilize to benefit BSCC.

I am currently a Deputy Commissioner at the Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance. I manage a staff of 315, who provide space planning and facility management for 16 locations, office automation, human resources, contracts, purchasing, training and disaster preparedness for the agency.

I negotiate with landlords and vendors, address facility operations matters, design office layouts, head major construction projects, manage recruitment, union and staffing matters and a multi-million dollar budget.

I have the experience and knowledge to not only make recommendations, but actually implement them. Here is an example. Last year I contacted Rick Funaro to suggest we have a New Members Guide. Rick asked if I would help develop one, which we did as noted in the April newsletter.

As a newer member, I promise to bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to the Board. I hope you will give me this opportunity.

Thanks!

From the Golf Shop

Bag Tags

We have ordered new bag tags for all of the 2006 Members and have just submitted the list of names to the manufacturer for engraving. We may have missed a few and if that is the case we will be able to get another list to them so all of our members will have these tags. They are very classy and have the new BS logo on them. I think everyone will be happy with the design. We should have these in the golf shop soon so look for the sign when they come in.

Name Tags

We will have name tags for all of the outside staff in the golf operation this season as we have a lot of new faces, both members and staff. This will make it easier for the membership and my staff to feel comfortable communicating with each other.

Lottery

The lottery has begun for the season and we ask once again that each lottery card is filled out correctly and completely as this makes it much easier to get all requests as close as possible to the time they are looking to play. We do our best with the lottery and ask that if you are a new member looking to pair up with someone, please come up as early as possible and we will do our best to get you into a group.

Merchandise

Most of my product should be in by the time everyone reads this but if there is anything that you are looking for that you don't see, I would be happy to order it for you and have it drop shipped to your home. Any special orders usually ship within a few days as long as the company has the item in stock.

Handicap Posting

This will begin on April 28th and we will have all new members in the computer at this time. If you are a new member and you have a GHIN card, please bring that number into the golf shop ASAP, as we will be able to use the 2005 GHIN number for 2006. If you do not have a GHIN number then you will be assigned a number for the 2006 season.



Todd Manderson

The State of Private Golf Clubs in America

According to the National Golf Foundation there are now fewer private golf clubs in America than there were in 1931, even though the total number of golf facilities has more than tripled in the same period.

The market share of private clubs has plummeted from 78% in 1931 to 24% in 2004.

Reasons cited include the emergence of upscale daily fee courses, changes in tax codes which limit corporate tax deductibility for business entertainment, decreased leisure time, less disposable income and increased importance on family centered activities.

Where there is growth, the factor present in all cases is the expansion of upscale real estate, such as we're experiencing in the Saratoga area.

There is some hope. Between 1990 and 2004 the US saw a net gain of 33,211 golf courses, although private courses declined by 447. Looking at just the last 8 years however, the private club market actually saw a net gain of 116.

Other trends are not so bright. Before 9/11, the annual turnover rate at private clubs was 10-12% nationally (BSCC saw an annual turnover rate of 7-10% during the 90's). The annual turnover rate is now higher lowering the average membership duration from 8 years to 6. This is attributed to increased housing mobility. Second generations don't stay in town and join the same club as their parents as much.

Most clubs are reacting to the membership decline with special rates, waiving initiation fees, rewarding members for bringing on new members, etc. Industry analysts say this sends the wrong message. What they suggest is to fine - tune membership categories and create what they call an in-house farm system that can include legacy memberships, more attractive junior memberships and financed dues.

Another factor is the lack of commitment to better facilities. Many clubs are doing piecemeal improvements to their clubhouses that don't adjust for the needs of new younger members who look for facilities for the entire family as well as changes in the demographics of business in which women are playing a more important role.

(Most of this article is taken from Bradley Klein's article in the March 18th edition of Golfweek.)



Project Day



2009



Parring the Nineteenth



Like disasters, fortune can come crashing down on you at the most unlikely moments.

Early in March, I had concluded some business in Syracuse and was white-knuckling it through a blizzard, driving south for some golf with the fruit of my groin (my son Chris) in Charlotte, then on to Atlanta for a conference. I considered not answering my cell phone because a) that would be illegal and b) the car in front of me had just moved laterally and involuntarily into about 3 feet of snow in the median. However, my caller ID'd as The Amazing Max, my current spouse, and putting marital survival before vehicular survival I answered.

Asking if I was sitting down, even though she knows I never remove my cell from the only place on earth where it is illegal to use (my car) and therefore was presumably not standing, she announced I would be heading back south again in early April. Why? BECAUSE WE HAD TICKETS TO THE MASTERS!

Some time ago, Max had mentioned to an old friend who was moving to the Augusta area that she had always wanted to get me (preferably us) tickets to the best tournament in the world. Coincidentally, while settling some matters with his lawyer, the lawyer offered him his family-owned Masters tickets for the Friday round. Not being a golfer, our friend re-offered them to Max.

For the reader to understand the significance of this extraordinary fortuity, it's necessary to know the reverence I've always had for The Masters.

Ever since my infection with The Bug shortly after playing my first round, I have seen every Masters televised, with the exception of the rather dull 1986 version, in which The Golden Bear apparently did something of note. I was with my 13 year old son that weekend and didn't want to spend it watching TV, as I had few opportunities to be with him. He has since rewarded my devotion by getting to the Masters two times, including the Sunday Tiger blew away the field, and relentlessly reminding me of this. But I digress.

While living in South Carolina in 1984, a friend got us a couple of corporate passes and we spent Saturday following a young stud who had just won his first tournament and was knocking the ball further than just about everybody - fellow by the name of Couples. That year we had a short rain delay due to hail (it was about 80 degrees) and Crenshaw won his first Masters.

Actually getting to The Masters only cemented my enthusiasm for the event in the ensuing years - marrying The



Tucker

Amazing Max took the viewing experience to new heights. Recognizing my obsession with the event, she would perform grand gourmet gastronomies on Sunday of The Masters and phone calls would not be answered during The Time of Worship.

In this context, you can more readily appreciate my (our) excitement as we prepared for the trip. I took painstaking trouble arranging our plane tickets to minimize the time we would miss the telecast on the days we wouldn't be at Augusta National (we didn't miss one minute). I spent a lot more time trying to find a hotel room. When I finally snagged one about 30 minutes from Augusta, I was only too happy to pay quadruple the normal rate.

Walking onto the grounds on Friday, I could only equate it with some sort of spiritual epiphany. I was at Elysium, I had entered Nirvana, I had breached the Pearly Gates. You get the whole idea, I'm sure.

Naturally, one doesn't run willy-nilly into Beulah Land without a plan, and we stuck to ours, visiting the practice range, then walking the course with various threesomes, stopping at the bleachers to the left of the 15th green where we had great views of the incoming shots as well as the action on the sixteenth. After a couple of hours here, we walked the rest of the course, stopping to pick up Couples, Woods and some others around the 10th green.

We saw Daly take a 9 on 15, saw Langer hole out from the greenside bunker on sixteen and Crenshaw's eagle on 13.

We performed the ritual of consuming the *de rigueur* pimento cheese sandwich wrapped in green wax paper for \$1.50, visited the merchandise tent where I gladly spent my son's inheritance (that'll show the little whelp!), met some wonderful people and generally had nine hours of bliss walking the hills of Augusta National in perfect weather.

It was only when I got home on Saturday that I realized we could have had the lousy luck of spending a bunch of money for a day that was rained out. But the Golf Gods recognized my bewitchment with The Masters and were kind.

On Sunday, the weather was cold, rain threatened and Max questioned my decision to forego the extra TV coverage in the morning to golf with my usual sorry bunch. It was only when I explained the importance of lording it over The Boys, sticking it in and twisting, milking the moment as much as possible without suffering actual bodily harm, that she understood.

I had been to The Masters. They hadn't.

Villaggio Green



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Call now to make your reservation! **602-9995**

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So let Mom (and Grandma!) know how much she means
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- Fresh Baked Muffins and Bagels and Danishes
- Fresh Fruit + Salad Bar
- Salmon stuffed with fire roasted red peppers
- Filet of Sole stuffed with crabmeat and scallops
- Prime Rib au jus
- Virginia Ham served w/Hawaiian glaze, ,pineapples
- Lemon Pepper Chicken

- Stuffed Rigatoni
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Italian Style Roasted Potatoes
- Roasted Grilled Vegetables
- Penne Broccoli a la Siciliana
- Kid's Menu
- Villaggio Green Dessert Station

Sunday May 14

Brunch begins at 11:00

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