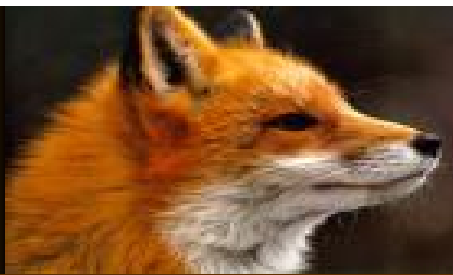


The



Fox

Volume IX Number 2

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

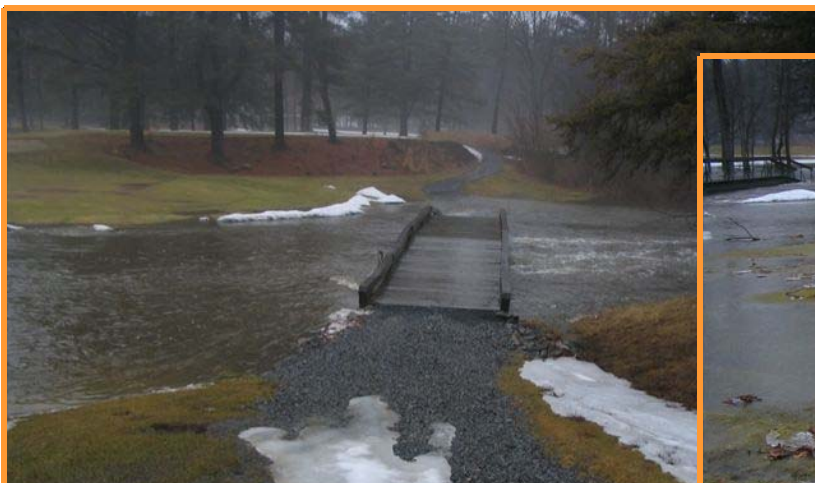
May, 2007

Superintendent's Report

I just have a few things for this month's Fox. I first want to welcome everyone back and to say hello to our new members. I know you and I want to get the season underway just as soon as possible. If the weather would just cooperate we could open up. The snow and rain this past week has made a huge mess down around the creek. The greens around the creek have been under water for most of the weekend and into Monday of this past week. Due to the enormous amount of water on the course, Dave Runyon and I have agreed to keep carts off until next week. Please understand that we are trying to think of the course as well as getting the course open.



Steve Solsky



What a Difference a Week Makes

Seven days after these photos were taken, we were playing a course that was in excellent shape, considering the circumstances.

Almost all of #1, and all of #'s 2 and 10 greens were completely submerged. Major flood damage was incurred elsewhere. See page 8 for more photos.



Rick Funaro

President's Letter

While the opening of the golf course is within our grasp, the weather has certainly not cooperated. When I went to the course for our April 16th board meeting, #1, 2 and 10 greens were completely under water as a result of the weekend storm. I am hoping by the time you read this issue of the FOX, we will be playing golf and you will see the many changes and improvements that have been made to our club. I would once again ask for your patience as Steve puts the finishing touches on the work he has started this winter. That finishing work can only be done when the weather cooperates and so far it has not.

You will continue to hear our radio ads throughout much of May. While our membership drive has been very successful with 16 new memberships (at the time of going to press), we continue to advertise and seek additional new members. Because of our late opening, the Board has authorized a May membership special that we will be advertising soon. Individuals can join for the month of May (for \$350) and then decide whether or not they wish to continue their membership. We have also extended our discounted guest and public play rates through the end of May. They originally were planned to end on May 15th.

I would like to encourage anyone who desires to play a larger role in Ballston Spa Country Club to consider running for the Board of Directors. The annual meeting is scheduled for Friday May 18th at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse. All 3 Board seats need to be filled this year. Paul Bachorz and I have served 2 consecutive terms and must step down. In addition, Kate Oppedisano has decided not to run again.

We do have a couple of tee signs still available for sponsorship. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Kate Oppedisano or me and we can provide you with all of the details on becoming a sponsor.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is tucats@nycap.rr.com or you may call me, (W) 395-6472 or (H) 371-1926.

Board of Directors Candidate Letters

Larry D'Alberto

My name is Larry D'Alberto and I am expressing my willingness to serve as a member of the board of directors for the next three years. From 2002 to 2004 I was a member of the Board of Directors. In 2002 I held the positions of House Committee Co-Chairman and in 2003-2004 was the co-chairman of the Green Committee. While on the board of Directors, I worked to secure the services of Steve Solsky as our course superintendent and had the pleasure of working closely with Steve to improve our club. In my first year on the Board of Directors, many difficult decisions needed to be made to secure a solid financial framework to guide the club for the future. Since 2005, I have remained on the Green committee with limited participation.

I stepped away from the Ballston Spa Country Club Board to serve as a member of the Stillwater Central Facilities Committee, Budget Committee and the Administration Negotiating Committee.

I pledge to serve the shareholders and membership of our club with an open mind, enthusiasm, a common sense approach, and a deep regard for your wishes and concerns. I am proud of what I helped accomplished at our club and ask for your support in the May elections.

William Tucker

I have been a BSCC Member for 16 years, serving one term on the BOD from 1997-99, the last year as Club President, when we hired Todd as our PGA Professional. I have also been responsible for the publication of The Fox for the past 8 years. On the side, I own a successful automotive wholesale distribution company.

We have a lot going for us at BSCC: A hard working, talented Superintendent, one of the region's top PGA Club Pros and a wonderful course. Like other area courses, we lack one thing - a healthy membership count. My background is in marketing, and I believe I can bring some fresh and inexpensive promotional ideas to raise our Membership to a fiscally comfortable 375 playing Members from the current level of 320-odd. At this level, we can continue to dramatically improve our course without having significant dues increases. Keeping our dues low will, in turn, sustain our Membership count.

Please consider my candidacy and return the self-addressed stamped proxy I have mailed to you. If you have any questions regarding my stance on any given BSCC policy please feel free to call me @ 857-8855 or e-mail me wtucker2@nycap.rr.com

We have a new tournament this year for Junior Golfers.

This is a new **Adult/Child Team** format.

- Saturday June 16th at 2pm
 - Adult/ Child team event
 - Alternate shot for 9 holes
 - We have room for 30 teams
 - o Member teams get seated first
 - o Non-member teams are welcome
 - The Approximate cost per team is:
 - o \$50 for Member teams
 - o \$60 for Non-member teams
- This will cover
- Golf
 - Cart
 - A gift for the junior golfer
 - Pizza and drinks

Let me know if you want to enter a team. We would like to send a letter to the Child inviting them to bring their team to BSCC to play. If you know an Adult/Child team who are not members of the club and would like to play, we would love to invite them also.

For more information contact:

- Edward Schwenke 518-348-1008 (edwardschwenke@yahoo.com)
- Cindy Walkanowski



John Paolucci

Notes From the Board

Please sign in!

We are implementing a new procedure this year that requires members to sign in at the Pro Shop before we tee off. This accomplishes two important goals. It lets Todd and his staff know who is on the course in case there is an emergency and it will provide us valuable course play data.

Todd will maintain daily course play log sheets, which he will submit to the Board of Directors (BOD) on a monthly basis. It is important to include the time of day. The course play data will be entered into a spreadsheet or database that will allow us to analyze course play. The BOD will use the data to identify peak and slow periods, average rounds per day, average round per member, etc.

We thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

New Bulletin Board

To improve our communication with the members we have purchased a new glass enclosed, exterior bulletin board. This will provide a central location to advertise and publish BOD, Tournament, Office, Pro Shop, Restaurant and Event information.

Tournament Committee Report

The Tournament Committee would like to remind everyone how we are going to advertise for all our member tournaments.

1. **Website** - Complete schedule on the Tournament tab. Upcoming events will be on the BSCC News Ticker.
2. **Fox** - Complete schedule is in the April publication. Upcoming Events will be in each subsequent publication.
3. **Pro Shop** - They will have a list of all tournaments and chairperson(s) with sign up sheets.
4. **Flyers** - All chairpersons are responsible for creating and posting flyers. The flyers should contain all pertinent information or a way to get more information.
5. **Place mats** - They will have Upcoming Events and we will be taking off Tournaments that have already taken place to keep the place mats current.
6. **Cart Card Holders** - In the new carts a card holder is in the top middle of the windshield. In that holder all outside & member upcoming events will be displayed.
7. **E-Mail** - If both the chair & Todd think it is appropriate an email may be sent as a reminder to bolster participation.

The upcoming Member Tournaments are as followed:

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Time	Start	Format	Chairperson(s)	Last Years Fee
May-05	Sat	Opening Scramble w/breakfast @ 7:30	9:00 AM	SGS	Scramble	Todd Mander-son	\$15
May-19	Sat	Men's 4 person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS	Scramble	Tom Hudy	\$20
May-19	Sat	Women's 4 person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS	Scramble		\$20
May 26 - 28	S, S, M	Match Play Championship		TT	Match play	Tom Hudy / Todd Mander-son	
Jun-01	Fri	Wine Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS	Nine Hole Scramble	Tom Hudy / Todd Mander-son	\$23
June 2&3	Sat or Sun	President's Cup (play with your own 4some)		TT	Stroke Play (NET Only)	Todd Mander-son	\$20

Outside Events		Time
Date of Event	Name of Event	
Monday April 30th	ENYGA	7AM -2 PM TT
Monday May 7th	Searle Golf league	9 - 9:30AM TT
Monday May 14th	Macboston 18 Truck	12PM Shotgun
Monday May 21st	Burnt Hills Ski Team	1PM Shotgun

If you have any questions about a specific Tournament please communicate them to the chairperson (s) or Todd. If you have any concerns that should be brought to the Board of Directors please email me at tomhudy76@yahoo.com I will be sure to address all issues forwarded to me. Please do not bring your concerns or issues to our Pro-shop or Restaurant staff as for the most part it is not their responsibility.

Tom Hudy



Parrying the 19th

As much as I love golf, I'm not blind to its imperfections. I see a sport that, at the professional level, has been pablumized. I listen to post-round interviews and wait in vain for the great quotes of yesterday to fly from the lips of today's stars. But no. What I hear is white bread platitudes of programmed bromides laced with clichés and prosaic blah-blah.

Hagan, Hogan, Trevino, Demaret, Rodriguez and a bunch of other professionals from the past were always ready to speak their mind, and often what they said was not polite, but it sure as hell was interesting. The money, the endorsements and the trend toward political correctness have all contributed to today's homogenization of the golf pro. Call it Promogenization.

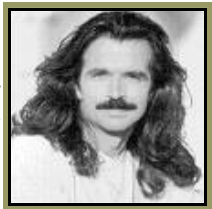
Today's pros are afraid of appearing too egotistical, too hopeful, too opinionated, and as such they come across as being too dull. Even John Daley has become predictably boring. We liked you better when you were really bad, John. At least you were different. Now you're one of the herd.

I need to hear a golf interview, a golf commentary, that is full of spice and life. I'm tired of the *"I just played it one shot at a time, playing within myself, hoping I can hold it together, give it my best shot,"* crap that I hear every week. What I need is variety. The spice of life.

But the players will never go back to the days of candid, colorful quotes unless the money disappears. This leaves us with the commentators. Maybe there's a chance we can revive the pleasure of watching a golf telecast by recruiting more eccentricity.

I need characters. Instead of Lanny Wadkins, I need Yanni Wadkins in the broadcast tower.

"You know, it seems like Lumpy has formed a Karmic bond with his sand wedge. His negative energy has been transmogrified into a sort of retrocognition that has allowed him to exploit his Chakra and as a result his sand game is cosmic! He's actually Shirley MacLained his Piscean reality into a plenary revelation of Propositional Truth, while opening his stance and quieting his hands, and the result is just a paradigm shift worthy of Carlos Castaneda."



OK. This might be a tad radical, but really, don't you still get the whole idea? It beats the heck out of saying *"He seems to have regained his former strength as a sand player."*

I need color. Instead of the monochromatic mouthings of Ian Baker-Finch, I need a real Aussie talkin' to me.



"Lumpy's got a bit of an awning over the toy shop, probably from hoisting too much amber fluid, but he's a fair dinkum family man with 2 ankle biters, a boy and a girl, and a wife who's so thin she has to run around in the shower to get wet. He's been practicing a lot lately, busier than a one legged bloke in an arse-kicking contest, and it shows in his short game. He used to feel like a pork chop in a synagogue with the flatstick, but he's got nothing to winge about now, with a 1.57 rating in putting."

Ian would probably mention that the player has happily settled down into family life and rededicated himself to working on the short game. Yawn.

I need good ol' boy down-to-earth honesty. Johnny Miller gets a lot of bad press because he says what he thinks, but he never attacks anybody personally. That's his only flaw. We need Bubba Miller in the tower at 18.



"Lumpy don't practice so much ennymor. Use ta be bizzier'n a Wess Virginny Tooth Fairy. But he's sho' nuff dropped in the ratin's since he ranched 'is back two munts ago changin' the all in his pickup. He seems a mite tard and ain't gettin' 'is rat hand oar fastenuf. Haze fattin' the urge to thank too much. Needs to guzzle more bare if'n ya ask me."

Jim Nantz would have said that due to an earlier back problem, the player has suffered in the ratings and still needs to overcome some swing flaws to get back to his

game.



Back in 42 BC, Publius Syrus said that no pleasure endures, unseasoned by variety. He was probably watching a golf telecast at the time.

Tucker

Green Committee Report

The golf course is opening quite late this year. For that reason, the BOD has agreed with the recommendation from Steve and me that we cancel Spring Project day this year. We want to give everyone the opportunity to get out and play golf so closing the course on a Saturday is not what we want to do.

That said, we still have several projects that we can use member help with. Flower/plant bed maintenance, mulch spreading, and other tasks like these are best performed using the adage "more hands make lighter work". The Green Committee will get the word out about when we will attempt to work on projects and all are welcome to join in.

The Green Committee is very thankful to the Tuesday Night Men's League for their generous donation to the project fund. The money has gone to good use for new trees and bedding plants. The Green Committee would like to thank Al Squire for his generous contribution toward shrubs to help beautify our course.



Dave Runyon

Suggestions to the Green Committee are always welcome. You can speak to me or any member of the committee, or can drop us an e-mail to: GC@ballstonspacc.com At each meeting of the green committee, we will discuss all the submissions.

A Mini Project day is scheduled for May 12th 8:30 - 11:00. Volunteers should contact Dave Runyon or Max Tucker.

From the Golf Shop

We hope to have the golf course open by the time everyone receives this. It has been a rough start to the season but we are hoping for a nicer June than last year. Now is the time to get your grips redone to get that fresh feeling on your clubs. We have new grips in stock at this time and can get them done for you overnight if you so desire.

Golf Instruction

Now is the time to think about improving your golfing skills for the 2007 Season. We have the most up to date technology to help you with all of your fundamentals for the upcoming year so you will be able to enjoy all of golfing experiences. The rates will be \$55 for a 45 minute lesson.



Todd Manderson

Golf Carts

Our new carts have arrived for the year. It is going to be nice to add that much more class to our facility as we have 48 New Club Cars to rent all season long. These carts are very nice and we are asking all the members to help take care of these and they have divot bottles on every one of these to fill in divots after you make one. This will help make our fairways as nice as they were last year.

Merchandise

We have received a lot of new merchandise for 2007 already and there is more to follow. If there is anything that you are looking for and do not see; I will be able to order it and it will usually arrive in 2 to 7 days. We will be carrying the Callaway Optifit driver system that will allow us to fit you with the proper head and shaft for you before we order it. This is really the only true way to get the driver that is right for you.

We also have the Sky Caddie in stock that has the ability to be used at over 10,000 courses nation wide. The unit will give you distances to various points on the holes. It will give you distances front, middle, and backs of greens. It is a great tool to learn how far players really hit the ball.

The USGA Turf Advisory Service Report

Excerpts From the Survey Requested by BSCC, June 12th, 1992

Greens

Winter damage was limited to the 4th and 16th greens. Shaded turf also suffered more extensive damage as compared to turf in the full sun.

The damage occurs when the plants absorb water from melted ice snow and rain. A severe temperature fluctuation will then occur in which temperatures drop below freezing, causing the water within the plant to rupture cell walls and other vital plant organs.

It is important to eliminate shaded conditions wherever possible. Short term practices include pruning and removing trees and underbrush which surround greens and shade turf. Recommendations were made to prune and remove trees located adjacent to the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th greens.

Tees

One of the major weaknesses with Ballston Spa Country club is the tees. The majority of tees are very undulated.

The tees which suffered worst from uneven playing surfaces were found on the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 10th 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th.

The 17th tee was recently renovated. Unfortunately, the contour of the tee is such that the green cannot be seen from the center of the tee back to the end of the tee. The front portion of the tee should be lowered to eliminate the blind shot to the tee. The front section of the tee should be also be pushed forward to provide a front tee that will make it easier for short hitters to clear the water hazard.

The first and second tees are also being negatively affected from traffic patterns caused by people entering and exiting the tees.

The scope of the tee renovation work at Ballston Spa Country Club is very large and would require many years to finish if the job was completed in house.

Trees also affect turf quality on the tees. The 2nd, 4th, 6th, 15th and 17th tees are examples where trees are affecting turf quality.

The trees located on the left side of the 4th fairway force play to the extreme right side of the tee. The concentrated play inflicts wear damage and heavy devoting on this tee. Removing several trees on the dogleg would encourage golfers to use the entire tee, but might have adverse effects on the hole..

Another option would be to try to enlarge the tee to the right to make up for the portion of the tee lost due to the trees.

Fairways

Drainage is a concern in several fairways on the golf course. The lower lying fairways adjacent to a creek which runs through the golf course suffer most from poor drainage. Fairway and rough areas around the 2nd, 10th, 11th and 18th holes can remain wet for some period in the Spring, disrupting both maintenance and play.

The severe contours of the 10th fairway make this area very difficult to drain.

The Politics of Tree Removal

Tree removal on private courses has always been a political football. Many members hate to see a tree removed, but unless they've never griped about green, fairway and tee conditions, they have little support from the experts.

The first two photos below show the difference made by discretionary tree removal along the side of a fairway.

The last picture shows Oakmont's tree removal program near the famed "Church Pew" bunkers. All tree removal and stump grinding was done at night to minimize member angst. After removing 4,500 trees, the membership agreed it was for the best.





Flood Debris on #12



Clubhouse Improvements



Left of #12 green



Bridge Washout on #1



New Wider Bridge From 17 to 18



Left of #13 Blue Tee