



*Volume X
Number 2*

The Fox



President's Report

By the time you read this issue of The Fox, I hope most of you have had a

chance to play the course. Steve and his crew did a yeoman's job since you played last year. It is a pleasure to play our course and it is exciting to think how good it will get as the season progresses. We have all spent the last several years directing our efforts to make our club an enjoyable experience for golf and socialization. This year as in the past, we have spoken at length about our great golf course and all of staff that make Ballston an outstanding club.

We now need to devote our energies to our clubhouse. The main structure of our building was constructed in the 1920s. Over the years it has served the members well. However it is no longer adequate to meet our needs today and the needs and desires of future members. I could elaborate about the size of our dining hall, the size and condition of the men's and women's locker room facilities, the size of our kitchen and the plumbing and electrical infrastructure, but you can witness the deficiencies yourself. It is time for serious discussion about a new clubhouse.

Don't panic. This will not happen this year or even in 2009. In order for an effort of this magnitude to succeed, it must have participation from a representative cross section of our members and have maximum member support. We must all have an opportunity to weigh in and offer our ideas and comments. Ideally we must create an atmosphere for member input, a design that will meet our needs and a financial plan that all members will accept.

A new clubhouse has been on the minds of many members for years and it is our belief that now is the right time to initiate our planning and proceed.

Dick Cody

Annual Stockholders Meeting

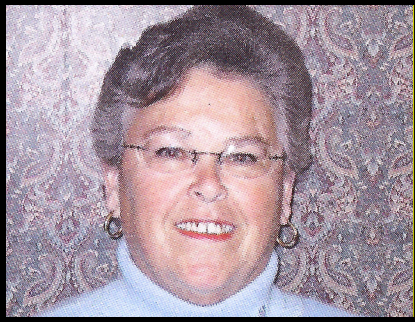
The Ballston Spa Country Club Annual Stockholders' Meeting will be held on May 16th at 7 PM in the Clubhouse.

The meeting is open to all Members, however, only those holding a fully paid share of stock will be eligible to vote for the Board of Director Candidates and any other items that may be put to the Stockholders.

Board Issues Credit Policy

The Board of Directors has approved a policy for credit and payments. A copy has been sent to the very few who are currently delinquent. Copies of the policy are available at the Business Office and will be posted on the bulletin boards. This policy will be followed without exception.

Board of Directors Candidate Letters



Mary Law Powell

Dear BSCC Shareholders:

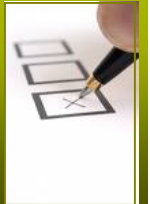
I, Mary Law Powell, am introducing myself as a candidate for the upcoming position on the BSCC Board of Directors. Many of you know me personally, as I golf regularly at the club, but few of you know me professionally. It is, in fact, my professional life and life stage that makes me the ideal candidate.

With over twenty years experience as a full time investigator and consultant for the insurance industry I am a confident, hard working and goal oriented individual. I have investigated complex Workers Compensation claims, acted as liaison between industry and consumer and created and directed the safety programs of many companies. These experiences and others will translate into an effective Board member who has an investigative mind and the ability to create programs which will benefit our golf club.

In regard to civic duties I am immediate Past president of the Ballston Spa Lions Club, President of the BSCC Women's Golf Association and current member of the Town of Malta Board of Ethics.

As a recent retiree I find my life ripe with opportunity. I realize I have many business skills and would like to use them and remain a productive member of society as I transition from the corporate world. Experience has shown me that a recent retiree can be a particularly energetic person. This position as Board member would allow me the opportunity to combine my professional skills with my passion for golf. I look forward to this opportunity and I thank you in advance for your support.

*Vote for the candidates of your choice.
But please vote!*



Dick Cody

Dear Members,

I am requesting your vote for reelection to the Board of Directors (BoD). I have been a member of Ballston Spa for 27 years and a member of the BoD for the past three. Our members have routinely supported golf course improvement projects, extension of contracts for our pro and superintendent and by the admission of members, guests and the playing public, we have a quality golf course and club.

As I wrote in this month's article of The Fox, it is time to seriously consider a new clubhouse. This will be a major effort for our club. It will only be accomplished if members feel part of the process and believe their thoughts and constructive criticism will be heard. Every member will only buy in to a new clubhouse if they are given an opportunity to weigh in.

I co-chaired the planning, design and financing process for Corpus Christi Church in Ushers, a \$4 million project, that was completed in 2005. I believe I understand how important it is to effectively engage and keep the membership informed throughout the process. If you elect me for another term, I will commit to work with the members for a clubhouse that meets our needs and continues our reputation as a quality golf club.

Thank you.

Board of Directors Candidate Letters

(continued)



Rick Funaro

Dear Fellow Member,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and ask for your support as I seek a position on our club's Board of Directors. My name is Rick Funaro and I have been a member of Ballston Spa Country Club since 1992.

As a former member of the Board of Directors, serving from May 2001 through May 2007, I was involved in many areas and chaired a number of committees. Having served as co-chair of the Green Committee, and chairperson in charge of membership, advertising, and insurance allows me to bring a great deal of club experience to the BOD. Serving as Club President for 3 years, from May 2004 to May 2007, provided me the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of club business. I know I can offer the club a great deal as a result of my experience and would continue to work hard for the benefit of our entire membership.

In my opinion, Ballston Spa County Club is at a crossroads. Saratoga County continues to experience strong growth and with the proposed AMD plant in Luther Forest moving forward, we need to be positioned to take advantage of this potential huge influx of jobs and potential golfers. It is important to start planning for that future today. It is time to discuss the future of our aging clubhouse. Some considerations could be a major renovation of our existing facility or a complete build of a new clubhouse. I believe it is very important that we start this process sooner rather than later so we understand which options are affordable and make sense to continue to pursue. Of course, the membership will be the ultimate decision makers on such a major project. It will be the Board of Directors job to provide the information. It is also important that in an effort to retain current members and attract new golfers to our club, we focus on projects that continue to improve the course and set aside the necessary funds to make those projects a reality.

I have enjoyed my past involvement in the club and working to make Ballston Spa Country Club the best it can be. The existing Board has done an outstanding job as demonstrated by the club turning a profit this past year. I would like to continue to be a part of our club's resurgence as one of the premier clubs in our area.

I would certainly appreciate your support on May 16th at our annual membership meeting. I appeal to all of our members, please make sure your voice is heard and vote for the candidates that you feel will make Ballston Spa Country Club a vibrant, respected and desirable place to join.

Membership Report

Tucker

Due to many reasons, not the least of which is the current economic downturn, many clubs, nationally and in our region, are experiencing significant decreases in membership numbers.

We began our year at 320 playing Members and subsequently lost 24 due to the usual reasons of health, personal finances, relocation, etc. We normally lose 7-10% of our active Members each year and 2008 was no exception. The good part of this statistic is that none of the departing Members had any complaints with our Club.

The Board mounted an aggressive membership drive strategy this year that involved several facets. We approached the major employers of the region with special first year rates and conditions that we felt would be attractive to their employees. The advertising budget was increased boldly because we felt our membership revenue was the most important factor in keeping our dues low and improving our course.

To date, we have signed up about 40 new Members, giving us a prodigious net gain in membership in fiscally trying times. At time of writing, we have about 340 active Members. We have extended our Spring Special until May 15th and still have advertising continuing for the next couple of weeks.

I would like to thank the other members of the Membership Committee, Dick Cody, Rick Funaro, Ed Schwenke and Bruce Kay for their help in this year's membership drive and I ask all of you to tell your friends, colleagues and family that there has never been a better time to join BSCC.

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 Two*

Last month we mentioned the initial meeting to establish the Ballston Golf Course on July 10, 1925, was held in the Utopian Rooms. Further to my request for information on this location, John Coppola has forwarded an article on the Utopian Club, a Gentlemen's Club formed in 1885 in Ballston Spa and located, at the time of BSCC's genesis, in the building now known as the Arcade Building. The Utopian Club membership was limited to 50 individuals and neither gambling nor spirituous liquors were allowed. Fortunately, they opted not to continue these policies in the formation of the new Golf Club.

The Founder of the Ballston Golf Club was DeForest Weed (a name you have to love), who served as the first President. The Club was incorporated September 16, 1925, with stock being sold at \$50 a share. The first share was issued October 28, 1925, and signed by the President and by the Treasurer Jay Weed.

Two tennis courts were also built, which were popular, located to the right of the present entrance. The courts were abandoned after 1941.

The total cost of the property and its transformation to a golf course was estimated at \$12,000 - \$15,000, of which \$6,500 was to be paid for the land, while the equipment and work would come to \$5,000. The remainder was earmarked as a contingency fund for unexpected expenses.

Shares at \$50 each were to be issued and were expected to pay a dividend. Dues were \$25/year with the first dues payable by April 1, 1926. Play started in 1926 with six holes roughly finished. The final three holes were built the following year. There were 98 original Charter Members. The other first officers were James M. Beverly, Vice President; Charles H. Grose, Jr. (who remained an active Member for over 50 years), Secretary; and Robert L. Carter, treasurer. Grose resigned his position April 13, 1934 after serving as secretary for nine years.

The original twelve members of the Board of Directors were: DeForest Weed, Floyd Shutts, Charles Grose Jr., Irving Wiswall, David Furlong, John Payne, Lamont Stroud, Robert Carter, Charles Connely, James M. Beverly, P. Gillespie Dunn and Edward S. Coon.

The first incorporation meeting was held October 5, 1925 under the chairmanship of Irving Wiswall.

Harry Wilkins was hired at \$25 per week to work for the Club. He was given the use of the upstairs portion of the house rent free and was to serve lunches to Members and fix up the building in his spare time. Electric power was installed on May 11, 1926 at a cost of \$118. Green fees for the summer of 1926 were \$1/day, \$5 for a week and \$15 for a month. Only those living outside Saratoga County were eligible to play as green fee players. A total of \$198 was collected in green fees during the season.

In 1932 the green fees were upped to \$1.50 for a weekday and \$2.00 for Sundays, while 50 cents was charged for use of the tennis courts for residents outside of Saratoga County.

Chopper's Corner

One of my first rounds of golf at our course this season was a recent Tuesday, and I joined Dave O'Connor, my playing partner on a gorgeous spring day. It was one of those days with brilliant sun, few clouds, crisp air and very little wind. Dave and I both played pretty well and there were a couple of what I call "career" shots mixed in for both of us. Dave hit a 3-wood to the green on number 1 that was a thing of beauty to watch. I managed to get the ball on the number 5 green from behind the tree with the old bell. With the exception of some brain flatulence on number 8, I walked off number 9 with one of the lower scores I've posted on the front in a while and Dave's score was pretty similar. I believe it was because our thoughts weren't on the golf, but with our friend, Terry Leahy in room 313 at Saratoga Hospital.



Doug Young

Earlier that day, I spent some time sitting at Terry's bedside. He is doing his best to deal with the surprising and aggressive onslaught of Cancer and was in amazingly good spirits. Fortunately, he is in the hands of some of the best in the industry for his treatment. Last summer, I had a standing \$3 golf wager with Terry on Tuesdays. We laughed about the week that he was playing in the group behind ours and I played so poorly, I just left \$3 in the cup on number 9. Terry retrieved it and busted on me the rest of the summer. We laughed until I had tears in my eyes.

Walking our course and playing golf with friends frequently reminds me of how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy moments and days like this past Tuesday. Seeing Terry Leahy going through what he's facing right now reminds me of how fragile life can be and how quickly it can change. During our round of golf, Dave and I talked about Terry, about his friendship; about how we were pulling for him, and how much he would have enjoyed being with us that day.

We all need to take the time to appreciate what we have, cherish those friends that are close to us, and not get caught up in all the things that seem so urgent, but aren't really that important. Time has a way of getting away from us, and we need to spend what time we can enjoying the benefits of our health, our surroundings and more importantly, the people we share our lives with. I hope to spend a lot of time with those people on the golf course this summer.

Please join me in sending your thoughts and prayers to Terry Leahy and his family as they work through this very challenging time in their lives. I look forward to walking down the first fairway with him again soon. And, the \$3 wager still stands.



Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to come out and look at all the changes on the course at this point and after the greens get their holes filled in we should be looking at some great putting surfaces. We have had a lot of new members join this year and I would like to welcome them all to our club. I am sure you all will enjoy our fine golf course that our existing members have enjoyed for many years.

Bag Tags

I have a list of all the new members and they will all be receiving a new tag with their name on it. If anyone else would like one who does not already have one, please let us know in the golf shop and we will get it on order for you.

GHIN System

If anyone ever needs a list of handicaps for the men or the women, please check with us in the golf shop and we will show you how to get this information off of GHIN.net.

Golf Shop Merchandise

Most of the merchandise has arrived in the Golf Shop for the season and look for secret sale information soon as there will be discount certificates available soon. Get your outfits now for the season while the selections are good.

Putting Tip

While at the Masters Championship last year, I watched a tour player practice his putting and the drill that he did was hit putts with his eyes closed. His caddy stood behind him and if he didn't hear the ball go in the hole, he had tell his caddy which side of the hole that the ball missed on. This drill will really help you with your distance control and create a great feel for putting. Try it and I think you will be presently surprised. Work on your putting for lower scores and a lower handicap.

Green Committee Report

The Green Committee held its first meeting of the 2008 season on April 14th, 2008. The meeting was attended by 7 Green Committee members along with Steve Solsky.

Joining the Committee for the first portion of the meeting were three members who asked to be heard on the issue of the controversial tree on the left side of hole #6, and to a lesser extent the pine tree on the right side of the same hole. The members who joined the conversation were Mr. Alexander, Mr. D'Alberto, and Mr. (Bill) Martin. The three guests made their case for the immediate removal of the aforementioned tree or trees on the grounds that they interfere with normal shot making on the hole (in particular from the blue tees), and that their removal was recommended by the USGA during the last review conducted. The GC members thanked the three for their input and informed them that the issue would be discussed.

Later in the meeting, the issue was brought to the floor and discussed among the committee members. Clearly, there is no consensus in the GC as to the best course of action regarding the trees in question with strong feelings and points made on both sides of the issue. The GC reached consensus as a recommendation to the BoD that the membership be surveyed to gain their input on this difficult issue and that we take action or choose to stand pat based on the outcome of the member survey.

The GC toured the course and reviewed all the winter work that had taken place. The GC generally expressed a positive reaction to the amount of work and at the way that the various reshaping activities were becoming apparent. We toured a suggested location for a new blue tee on #5, and also discussed moving the red tee back to allow the hole to be a more appropriate Par 5 for ladies. We discussed options for replacing the trees between the #7 green/#8 tee with something that would be lower and block less sun and were grateful to have input from new GC member Steve McCorkell (landscape architect). The group was particularly impressed with the work that has begun for the new #14 tee, and Steve reminded the group that the primary benefit from clearing will be improved conditions on #13 green and that we will begin to reap those benefits immediately. The group expressed concern and desire to execute new planting of some type between the #4 green and the #8 red tee. Consensus is that there is a potential for balls from #4 to fly too far and become a hazard to players on #8 if the area is left as is. It was also agreed that #4 would be framed better if a proper type of planting was selected.



Dave Runyon

The GC was brought up to date on the state of the projects budget for this year. They now understand that all non-essential spending is on hold pending discovery of membership counts. In the mean time, the group agreed to update the hole-by-hole project inventory so that we can prioritize and select the most highly regarded improvement opportunities when the ability to execute exists. Many expressed a strong desire to complete the bunker renovations that were started a few years ago, particularly on holes #3 and #4. The plantings on #4 were also reiterated.

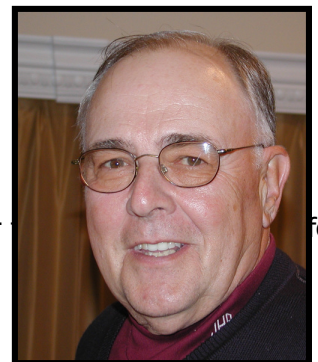
The group reviewed the greens that suffered from ice damage and are up-to-date on plans to aerate and over-seed this spring. That activity will occur as soon as sand can be acquired.

House Report

The restaurant is now open with full service and a new menu. Let me know what you think.

How about the new snack shed? More choices, better quality - again, let me know. Remember burgers or special orders. Your order will be ready when you finish #9.

Look for an announcement about Mother's Day soon.



Jan Holick

Tournament Committee Report

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

Website - Complete schedule on the Tournament tab. Upcoming events will be on the BSCC News Ticker.

Fox - Complete schedule is in each month's publication. Upcoming Events will be in each subsequent publication.

Pro Shop - They will have a list of all tournaments and chairperson(s) with sign up sheets.

Flyers - All chairpersons are responsible for creating and posting flyers. The flyers should contain all pertinent information or a way to get more information.

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.

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.

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 follows:

Date	Days	Tournament	Time	Start	Format	Last Year Fee	Chair
May 3	Sat	Opening Scramble 7:30 Breakfast	9:00	SGS	Scramble	15.00	Todd Manderson
May 10	Sat	Men/Women 4some Scramble	8:30	SGS	Scramble	20.00	Barb Ashby/Tom Hudy
May 24-26	S/S/M	Match Play Championship		TT	Match Play	20.00	Tom Hudy
May 26	Mon	Memorial Day Mixer	1:00	SGS	Waltz	N/A	Joan Taylor
May 30	Fri	Wine Tasting	5:30	SGS	9 Hole Scramble	25.00	Tom Hudy
May 31/June 1		Women/Men Member/Member	8:30	SGS	BB of Partner	25.00	Rick Funaro/Tom Hudy Max Tucker/Kate Oppedisano
June 4	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30	SGS	BB of Partner	65.00	Tom Hudy

Outside Events

Date of Event	Name of Event	Time
Monday April 28th	ENYGA	7AM -2 PM TT
Monday May 5th	Open	
Monday May 12th	Homer Lang League	9:30AM TT
Monday May 12th	BHBL Ski Team	12PM Shotgun
Monday May 19th	Ballston Spa PBA	9AM Shotgun



Tom Hudy

If you have any questions about a specific Tournament please bring 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

2008 Cart and Green Fees

Each year the Board of Directors makes every effort to control costs and limit any cost increases to the membership. We take this matter very seriously. We recently surveyed some area Clubs, and due to rising fuel and associated operational expenses, many are raising their fees. We have not raised our cart fees for the last three years, but unfortunately, our increased gas, cart lease and operational expenses have forced us to slightly raise carts and greens fees this year.

The following are the 2008 Fees:

Carts:

18 Holes cart rate will increase \$1.00 to \$17.
9 Holes cart rate will increase \$.50 to \$8.50.

Guest Greens Fees:

18 Holes with cart will increase \$2.00 to \$32
18 Holes walking will increase \$2.00 to \$27

Public Greens Fees (Apr-June):

18 Holes includes cart increases \$2.00 to \$42

*John
Paolucci*



With our increased gas prices, it is critical that cart rides are shared when possible, so we reduce our expenses. I wanted to remind cart riders that there should never be more than two carts being used within a foursome or one cart within a twosome. Those who have paid the seasonal cart fee are of course entitled to a cart ride each round; however, they are expected to share rides too. Todd and his staff will be ensuring that this protocol is followed and we thank you for anticipated cooperation.

