



Volume XI Number 2
May 2009

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter



I would like to recognize the work of a group of SCORE committee members that developed the Code of Conduct that was published in the April Fox. During our SCORE meetings there were a number of discussions where members were concerned, or in some cases embarrassed, by the behavior of some of our members. When all of those involved in the SCORE meetings selected the top five or so items to work on, creating a Code of Conduct and sharing it with the membership was near the top of the list.

The Code of Conduct committee is made up of 2 board members (Dick Cody and Mary Law Powell) and 2 non board members. An objective of this new committee is to quickly investigate any complaints sent to the Board of Directors regarding the conduct of our members or their guests. Once an investigation is completed, the committee will make a recommendation to the President regarding any disciplinary action that might be warranted. We are expecting to complete these investigations and take any necessary action in a timely manner.

We are not asking anyone to be a cop, but we all have a responsibility to ask our fellow members to lower their voice if they are too loud or are using inappropriate language or suggest they stop any inappropriate behavior.

I want to ask all of our members to please be aware of your behavior and conduct yourselves in a manner that is appropriate and one we all can be proud of.

Our annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2009 at 7:00PM. You should have already received the notice for this meeting along with a proxy statement. Please be sure to take the time to learn about each of the candidates running for the board and exercise your right as a shareholder to vote.

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.



Two views of the tree work carried out this Winter to facilitate the improvement of #14 & #15 greens and fair ways by allowing more sun and air movement.



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Steve Solsky

Superintendent's Report



I just have a few things to update everyone. The first is the condition of the course.

As most of you know, we have four temporary greens (7,9,14,16). As I feared back in March when we cleared the snow and ice off the greens, we had significant damage. The prolonged ice cover killed the poa annua and stunted the bentgrass on our greens. The four greens that took the most damage had a decaying smell to them, indicating that the turf suffocated under the ice. My crew and I acted quickly to save what we could by aerifying the greens. We then used a verticut mower to dethatch the dead turf and create channels to seed into. Finally, we topdressed the greens and fertilized.

The covers that you see on the greens are designed to keep the greens warm and to protect the new seedlings. In order for the greens to be playable again, the weather needs to cooperate. We need warm weather and we need a little rain to help the greens to recover. The saying "April showers bring May flowers" holds true to grass as well. Warmth and showers will help the seed to germinate and the greens will come back.

While waiting for the grass to germinate on the greens, my crew and I have been busy cleaning up the course and working on the new 14th tee. We leveled the subgrade and are in the process of installing the irrigation. The next step will be topsoiling the surrounds and putting root zone mix on the top of the two tees. Once this is completed, we will order the sod and lay it all around the tee area and seed the tops. I hope to have this done in the next few weeks.

Green Committee Report

Sue Kahler

By the time you read this hopefully most of you have had a chance to come out and play. I'm sure you noticed that Steve and his crew have done an outstanding job cleaning up the winter debris.



The Green Committee met on March 25th to establish priorities for the season as well as get an update on membership and budget. Unfortunately, with the current membership level and outside tournaments booked to date we will have to be very conservative in expenditures and limit projects to only those that are necessary. On a positive note I am pleased to report that \$2,800 was received from the sale of wood from the tree thinning efforts on hole #3 and between holes #14 and #15.

A top priority is to get our problem greens back to a healthy state. As most of you know, the ice storm in December and prolonged cold temperatures led to significant ice damage to the greens on holes #7, #9, #14 and #16. Steve has aerated, fertilized and over-seeded these problem greens but with frost nearly every morning this month, cool daytime temperatures and unusually dry conditions, it's difficult to get grass to grow.

Finally, I want to thank the nearly 40 members who volunteered their time on Project Day. Projects that were completed include: the fence at the entrance got a fresh coat of paint, the deck overlooking #9 was stained, the rotted handrail on the handicap ramp was replaced, the clubhouse was power washed, electric work was done to accommodate the new air conditioner in the clubhouse, painting continued in the women's locker room, a new rock wall was built at the back of the clubhouse overlooking the 18th green, flower beds were edged and mulched, a hand rail on the #17 steps was built, the walk bridge on #17 was painted and sumac trees were removed to the right of the men's tee on #13. It was great to see such a large group of people come together and work to improve our club.

Board of Directors Candidate Letters

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The following letters are reproduced as received, with no editorial changes, in the order they were received.

My name is **Bob Miskanin**. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and ask for your support as I seek a position on the Board of Directors for BSCC.



I am retired from Niagara Mohawk after 25 years in Electric Power system operations. I also spent 15 years at General Electric in Gas Turbine Engineering and Development.

During my 9 years as a member of BSCC, I have played in the Tuesday Men's and Thursday Senior's leagues. As a member of the Green Committee for about 5 years, I have been involved with numerous Project Days as well as several individual projects like the new engraved yardage markers and helping with the recent improvements in the clubhouse.

During these very troubled economic times, my prime objective would be to insure we make sound financial decisions and that any projects we undertake will not have a negative impact our great golf course or our membership. I support the need to be responsive to members concerns and to keep members well informed of proposed projects and decisions made by the Board.

Bob Miskanin

As a member of the Board of Directors, I believe I can help improve our great golf course while maintaining the financial stability of our club. Therefore, I am asking for your support in the upcoming election. Please make sure your voice is heard and vote for the candidates of your choice by submitting your Proxy ballot in person or by mail. Thank you

Hello fellow members of Ballston Spa Country Club. I write this letter to express my interest in serving you on the Board of Directors.

First, I thought I would provide a brief overview of who I am then continue with a summary of my professional experience. I am an avid golfer and play in as many scratch tournaments as possible with varying degrees of success. I have been a member for three years and have lived in the community for over 10. I have a lovely wife and 5 year old son. Many of you may have seen my son and me on the course and I thank you for the patience you've shown. Professionally, I have over 20 years experience in leading small to medium sized companies to unparalleled successes. The business experience I've gained would certainly be put to good use by my participation in running the club. After all, fiscal responsibility is paramount to our clubs ability to thrive.



David Fizer

Secondly, and most importantly, I'd like to explain my plan to contribute, if elected. Over the past two years I've served on the Green Committee (GC) under committee chairs Dave Runyon and Sue Kahler/Carl Iovinella. My value would be in continuing and expanding this role – specifically working closely with Steve Solsky (our Course Superintendent) to ensure the course is in the best possible shape given the constraints we have to work within. More importantly, I'd ensure the membership is kept completely informed of ongoing projects as well as any planned course enhancements. Specifically, we would focus on the conditions of our greens, tees, and fairways. Bettering these areas would certainly add to the over all Ballston Spa CC experience. Building a better communication infrastructure from the GC to the membership would be a very high priority for me.

In closing, I ask for your support when voting for the next Board of Directors. Between now and the election I will be at the club house, or on the course for much of my non-working time and look forward to the opportunity to discuss any of your club related opinions or concerns. I feel strongly that I would make a positive impact, one you would be proud of. Thank you and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

Best regards –
David Fizer



Keith McNab

Fellow Member,

I am Keith McNab, an active member since 2003, and I am seeking a position on the Ballston Spa Country Club's Board of Directors.

I have worked closely with past and present Board Members, Todd Manderson and Laura McNeil, to create and implement promotional items, technical issues, develop programs and participate in strategic meetings focused on attracting new members, Club management and satisfying membership needs. **Most noticeably, I am responsible for the redesign and day-to-day maintenance of our Club's web-site www.ballstonspacc.com, and the creation of our promotional email database that currently contains over 500 people that show interest in our Club.**

The current economy presents many challenges to membership. As your Board Member, I will be committed to using the latest technologies to not only continue to move our Club into the 21st Century, but to find and implement creative ways to keep our costs down and increase revenue.

New technological ideas include:

Creating online Social Networking accounts (ie. Twitter, Facebook, etc):

- for real-time communication and information sharing;
- free promotion/advertising;

Developing new programs and grow our email database to:

- attract new members;
- increase revenue during down times at the course;

Continuing to enhance the content and features of our website to help provide better communication between the membership and Todd, Laura, Villaggio, Steve and BOD.

Please vote for Keith McNab at our Membership Meeting in May. I would greatly appreciate your support and will continue to work hard for our membership. Thank you.

I joined Ballston Spa Country Club because it was an affordable golf club that had a challenging course. It has turned out to be so much more. I have enjoyed the tournaments, league play and the member guest. Ballston Spa offers an excellent pro shop run by an knowledgeable pro and a helpful staff. I had my rehearsal dinner at Ballston Spa and appreciated the fine food and attention to detail that my family and friends received that evening. I think this list of amenities and the course that we have at Ballston Spa is the reason most of us are members. Our challenge in these difficult times will be to continue to offer these types of events and services at a price that will continue to attract new members.

I graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School. In 2000 I graduated from Western New England College with a bachelor of science in business administration degree. While in college I worked every summer at the Mohawk Club in Niskayuna. I saw first hand how a golf club operates and was part of the operation. The combination of working for a golf club and being a member gives me a unique perspective to be on the board. This perspective will help the other board members make the best decisions for the members of Ballston Spa Country Club. Please vote for me **Nels Larson** for the Board, Thank you.

Dear Fellow Member,

I would like to take this time to introduce myself and ask for your support in my bid for re-election to the Ballston Spa Country Club Board of Director's. My name is **Tom Hudy** and I have been a member of Ballston Spa Country Club (BSCC) for the past 10 years. I am your current Treasurer (2 years) & Chair of the Tournament Committee (4 ½ years). I possess an extensive background in Accounting/Finance as well as a bachelors degree from Siena College. I am the Director of Finance for The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region where I maintain the Financial Statements with assets of approximately \$40 Million. In addition to my financial responsibilities, I am also responsible for all current/changing Human Resource policies and regulations. It is my humble opinion that for the past three years, I have used my background and knowledge for the benefit of BSCC. I welcome the opportunity to continue serving you for the next three. Thank you for considering me.

Tom Hudy



Tournament Committee Report

Below is the Tournament Schedule for both the Members and Outside Events. Please note that on days of outside events (blue print) the course may be closed so please call the Pro-Shop before you decide to arrive that day.

The committee met recently to discuss the potential of moving Member Tournaments forward to provide the greens with time to recover. However after long discussions it was decide to leave them as they were scheduled. The reasoning to this was that many members make plans based on the date of a tournament and that all participants will be playing with the same conditions. The committee/Todd will discuss the use of Temporary Greens prior to the tournament and how or if it will affect the tournament rules.

2009 Ballston Spa Country Club Tournament Schedule

Day(s)	Date(s)	Tournament	Time	Start
Sat	May-02	Opening Scramble w/breakfast @ 7:30	9:00 AM	SGS
Mon	May-04	OPEN		
Mon	May-11	BHBL Ski Team	12:00 PM	SGS
Fri	May-15	Burnt Hills Little League	9:00 AM	SGS
Sat	May-16	Men's 4 person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS
		Women's 4 person		
S, S, M	May 22-25	Match Play Championship		TT
Mon	May-25	Memorial Day Mixer	1:00 PM	SGS
Fri	May-29	Wine Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS
Sat & Sun	May 30 & May 31	Men's Member/Member	8:30 AM	SGS
		Women's Member/Member	8:30 AM	
Mon	Jun-01	St Mary's	1:00 PM	SGS
Fri	Jun-05	Chamber of Southern Toga	1:00 PM	SGS
Sat or Sun	June 6 or 7	President's Cup(play with your own 4some)		TT
Mon	Jun-08	Ballston Spa Soccer Club	1:00 PM	SGS
Wed	Jun-10	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS
Mon	Jun-15	Red Cross	12:00 PM	SGS
Mon	Jun-22	Bentley's Rusty Nail	8:30 AM	SGS
Thurs	Jun 25 - 27	Men's Memb/Guest		TT
Fri				SGS
Sat				SGS

RED - Member Tournaments

BLUE - Outside Events

We have the following open dates available for tournaments. We can accommodate all Tournaments big & small (small may have other events at the same time). If you bring in a new event that has at least 50 players you will receive \$100 pro shop credit. Please contact Todd Manderson at golfshop@ballstonspacc.com or call 885-7935 for more details.

2009 Ballston Spa Country Club

Outside Tournament Open Dates

Day	Date(s)	Tournament	Day	Date(s)	Tournament	Day	Date(s)
Mon	4-May	OPEN	Mon	13-Jul	OPEN	Mon	17-Aug
Mon	29-Jun	OPEN	Mon	27-Jul	OPEN	Mon	24-Aug
Mon	6-Jul	OPEN	Mon	10-Aug	OPEN	Mon	28-Sep

May 2009

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The Fox



Todd Manderson



Local Rules

First Hole

With the new rock wall on the green side of the 1st hole, we may have a few questions that may come up for discussion. First if your ball flies into the rocks and bounces off into another part of the golf course, then the USGA rules of golf state that the ball may or may not be in the hazard. In order for the ball to be deemed into the hazard then the player must have reasonable evidence that it remained in the hazard. If there is not reasonable evidence that the ball is in the hazard, then the ball is then deemed to be lost.

Eighteenth Hole

The 18th hole now has a rock wall behind the green and is close to the clubhouse. A white line will be close to that wall and the wall is considered out of bounds. If the ball lies close to the wall and the wall impedes your golf swing, the ball must be played from where it lies. There is no relief from the wall without a penalty.

Golf Lessons

I have recently been changing my golf swing to a recent swing that has been marketed as the Stack and Tilt. This will be the method that I will be teaching this season and the future. I attended a seminar by the two instructors of the method last fall at Turning Stone Casino. The 2 instructors are Andy Plummer and Mike Bennett. It is a simple way to play the game and has helped me become much more consistent and allows me to hit more solid, crisp shots each and every time with every club. I enjoy teaching this method very much and feel it will help you also if you put the time in and be patient in learning it. There are many tour players that use this swing and have had much success in the PGA Tour with this method and it is a swing that I feel is easy to repeat.

Anyone interested in learning this can schedule a lesson with me and get started on this soon to start making the change.

Anyone interested in scheduling a lesson with Jeff Nackel can do so by logging on to www.golfnack.lattiss.com. This is a site that you can log on and schedule online.

Score Posting

We have a few temporary greens that we are playing on for now and I spoke with the USGA and the player will add 1 stroke to their score for posting purposes. The player will only add a stroke to their score if that hole is a handicap hole that they would normally receive a stroke on.

Senior News

The Senior Men's League will start play 4/30 at 8 AM. Please sign up in the Golf Shop.

The league is open to all male Members 50+.

There are no dues but \$3 is required for each day's game. Games vary from scramble to 3 club. We play 18 holes.

Bruce Kay

Women's League

Welcome ladies. Please join us for the 2009 Women's league. We play on Thursdays with tee times 4:10 - 5:30. We will accommodate working women with later tee times.

The league is divided into flights based on your handicap. We play matches. The flights play together but you compete within your flight. There is also a weekly game with a winner from each flight.

The league has 2 sessions, 5/7 - 6/25 & 7/2 - 8/27. You can sign up for 1 session for \$40 or both for \$75. Please make checks payable to Todd Manderson and pay by 5/1.

There are more details on the website, or you can contact Cindy Walkanowski with specific questions. Basically, it's a lot of fun and a great way to meet the women members while playing some golf. Please join us.

Cindy Walkanowski 587-8356 cindyski@nycap.rr.com



House Report: Bruce Kay & Dick Cody

By the time you read this issue, most members will have seen the renovations to the Dining Room, Men's restroom, and the ladies and men's locker rooms. Many members contributed their time and talents to this project. Special thanks once again to Stuy Morris, Mike Zegarelli, Tim Preston, John Caputo, Bob Miskanin, Mike Peters, Steve Monnat, Mike Farina, Dennis Crimi, Pete McNamara, Roy Williams and of course our resident painter Don Gallagher. The final product would not have looked so good without the tasteful touches of colors and drapery recommended by Rosanne Greenwood and her decorating committee of Max Tucker, Suzie Mansfield and Sue Kahler. Kate Oppedisano, Ann Jorgensen, Barbara Krause, Geri Carr, Mary Symanski, Brenda Adams, Beth Bassett, Cindy Walkanowski, Laurie Petraskie, Pam McGuire and Rayette Johnson gave a helping hand for these important projects.

Thank You! To all members who donated their time and talents on project day. Many members spent hours on various outside and inside clubhouse related projects from power washing to painting and landscaping.

Now lets all use our renovated facility. Villagio is off to a good start with our new Executive Chef David Yarinsky and manager/ bartender Jamie Hamm. An all new wait staff is on hand to offer excellent service.

To start, outside service will be available at the turn on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays after 9 AM. Your must call the restaurant from the 8th tee to have your food prepared and ready for you on 9. Please take advantage of this service. If it is supported we can expand the hours, days, etc.



The dining room including the area overlooking the 18th green will be available for lunch until 3:00 PM daily. Villagio also intends to use the deck for food and beverage. This year seating for dinner will be limited to 30 to 35 guests and will be served in the dining area overlooking the 18th.

The lunch, bistro and dinner menus vary significantly from last year. For the younger golfers there is a children's menu and those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the chef's interesting selections.

Remember that this year a 17 % gratuity on all beverages and food served at the tables will automatically be added to your bill whether you pay cash, charge to your member account or use your personal credit card. All gratuities will be given to the wait staff. Do not forget to be generous tipping the bartenders when you are served food and beverage while sitting at the bar and for take out items.

We are very optimistic that this will be a banner year for the membership and guests to enjoy our restaurant. Please use it early and often and tell your friends to visit. Share your thoughts and comments with Villagio and the Board of Directors.

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is David Yarinsky. I have the amazing opportunity of being your new Executive Chef. I have been chosen to give to you what some might say is either *long over due* or *about time*. I (along with the management team here at the Villagio Green and Home Style Caterer's) are very excited to bestow upon you a fine dining experience that will not only be aesthetically stimulating but also satiates your palate. As your chef, I am not here to merely present you with a simple meal. From my kitchen I will create for you a masterpiece that will evoke you with such nostalgia that you will return in order to sate your appetite. I look forward to constructing your dinner into a magnus opus especially designed for you. Thank you again for this unique and tremendous honor.

Chef David

I would like to extend a warm hello as the Dining Manager here at the Club. It is with great excitement that we anticipate insuring not only an excellent level of service, but also a welcoming presence in delivering to you the new menu for this season. I look forward to meeting you all. **Jamie Hamm**



A Letter to Our Membership

Ballston Spa Country Club
The Fox



John Paolucci

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank our Members for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD) for the last three years. It has been a terrific experience, which has given me an even greater appreciation for what we have at BSCC. I know Members share varying opinions of the BOD, but I can assure you after serving my term, the BOD provides a valuable and necessary service.

While I also want to formally thank all the BOD members I had the pleasure of serving with, I need to give special recognition to the BOD members I worked the most closely with during my term. Dick, Rick and Tucker, thanks for your excellent work, guidance and most importantly, your friendship.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great work of the Facility Improvement Committee, the SCORE Group members and our webmaster, Keith McNab. And last but not least, thanks to Todd, Steve and Laura for their great work and support. Best wishes!

Membership Report

Stephen Heidorn

James Fazzone

Garry Campbell

Michael Digilorama

Gary Brenenstuh

James Clark

George Mowell

Gary Jackson

John Faith

Chris/Sandra Comi

Steve/Margo Janack

Matthew McNamara

Roy Jaydeep

Chris Denisulk

Ryan Liscom

Robert Newson

Mark Sisson

Jeff Cassidy

Tony Lupo

Geoff Guido

Tony Reed

Richard Fox

Steven Stallmer

Dan Paolucci

Joseph Olbrych

Christopher Kieper

Jeff Clark

Shawn Lynch

This has been one of our toughest years for new membership recruitment due to the economic stress being felt by almost everyone.

As of 4/21 we have had 52 resignations. This up from last year's more typical 24 resignations.

On the positive side, we have 34 new Members whose names are listed on the left and below. We are in the most active part of the recruitment season as I write this and we have several more prospective new members who are looking promising.

We have not let up on our very aggressive marketing. In addition to the marketing efforts outlined in last month's Fox, we have also participated in a Saratoga Stay & Play Exhibition on April 18th (see picture, below), continued our PGA Tour broadcast ads, placed 2 30-second ads prior to the Masters telecast, and got a lengthy write-up in Bob Weiner's golf column in the Gazette.

We have also placed customized flyers in several major hotels in Saratoga and vicinity offering guests a discounted walk-on fee during Mon-Thurs (see example).

I will have more results for you at the May meeting.

Tucker

Lucas Donah

Zach Scala


Evan Cody

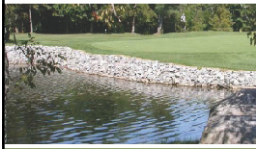
Stephen Booth

Mike Vopelak

Adam Rakoczy




Saratoga Springs
100 CANTONMENT
SARATOGA, NY 12857
www.hilton.com/hgtsar



Guests of the Hilton Garden Inn are invited to enjoy a round of golf at the historic

Ballston Spa Country Club


at a 20% reduction in green-fees Monday - Thursday.

See the reverse side for other specials, and directions.

Call (518) 885-7935 for a tee-time.

Present your hotel room key to receive your special rate.

Green fee is \$37.00 w/riding cart.
Green fee includes 20% discount and is subject to change during track season.


BALLSTON SPA COUNTRY CLUB
SINCE 1922