



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XIII Number 2 The Fox

President's Letter

I would like to extend a very big thank you to Steve and his staff for the incredible job they did in getting the golf course opened and in such fabulous shape. The course survived the winter very well and is probably in the best shape it has ever been in for an April opening. I hope you have noticed that there is very little that needs to be done other than wrapping up some projects.

At our Board meeting on April 18th, we received an update on our finances and membership. We have had 21 new Members join the club as of the 18th. Most of those Members have joined within the last ten days to two weeks. Because of the long winter, we are behind in memberships as compared to the past few years. However, there remains significant interest with Laura and Tucker continuing to receive inquiries and we are confident that we will attract more members in the weeks to come. Most Members join by the middle of May so we should have some more solid numbers by the May membership meeting.



Rick Funaro

The finance report highlighted that as a result of our membership numbers being fewer than in years past we are behind in our dues revenue projections. The Board agreed to put off any significant expenditures, at least for the short term, until we know exactly how much dues revenue is expected. If we can attract a similar number of new Members to what we have in the past few years, we can ultimately exceed our revenue projections for dues. A couple of new companies will be taking advantage of our corporate golf plan and we are ahead of our revenues in this area.

Another positive item reported was that we have booked more Monday outings than in years past. We have every Monday booked with at least one outside tournament and have even had to turn away a couple, for lack of availability. Todd has worked hard at attracting new outings and that is starting to pay off. Todd provided a conservative projection of tournament revenue with the current bookings and we now expect to exceed those revenue projections.

This is an early reminder about our annual membership meeting. It will be held on Friday night, May 20th at 7PM in the clubhouse. Shareholders and non-shareholders are invited, but only shareholders may vote for Board of Directors. If you are unable to attend, please make sure your vote gets counted.

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 Responsibilities

If you have any questions or comments you would like to air, your first contact should be the Board Member responsible, not employees or restaurant staff.

Rick Funaro: President

Dick Cody: Vice President, Restaurant

Bob Miskanin: Clubhouse

Mary Law Powell: Insurance

Sue Kahler: Green Chair

Bruce Kay: Finance

Keith McNab: Member Communications

David Fizer: Tournaments, Golf Shop

Tucker: Membership and Marketing

May 2011

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox



Steve Solshy

Superintendent's Report

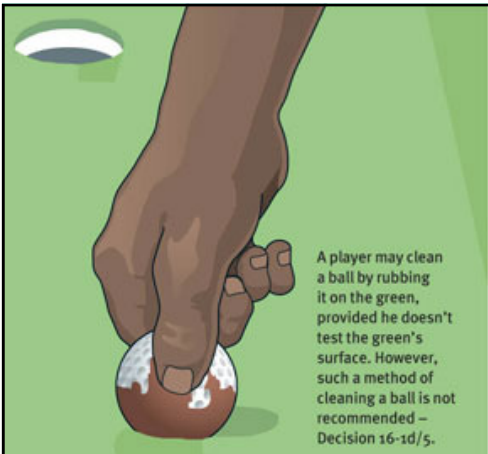
This past month has seemed to fly right on by. It seems like just yesterday I wrote my March Fox article. I am pleased, as I am sure you all are, that the course is open and in good shape.

Opening day went very well and I have heard a lot of good compliments. Thank you. It is always nice to start the season off with minimal ice and snow mold damage. Our greens covers protected the greens well this past winter. It is quite a relief not to have to struggle to bring greens back like we did two years ago. It is difficult and takes time to get seed to germinate on greens in the spring because of the cold temperatures. Because of the great success we have had with the covers, I am hopeful that we can do another fundraiser to purchase more greens covers. We have 10 covers and need another 10 to cover all 18 and the two practice greens. I believe they work great and help the greens make it through the cold, snow, and ice of winter.

My crew and I have been very busy trying to finish the spring cleanup on the course. The only areas that need attention are the winter project areas, right side of sixteen fairway and the right side of twelve green. These areas need to be raked and smoothed and then finally seeded. The wet weather of this past week has made it difficult to work on these areas. As soon as the sun comes out and the temperatures warm up, the cleanup will be completed. The area in front of the bathrooms on six tee is also being worked on. It is in the process of being prepared for sod and for landscaping work. My hope is that the sod is laid before the publication of this Fox and the flowers and shrubs will be planted on project day.

Other news: our greens mowers have arrived as well as the new sprayer. We now have three greens mowers in good working order. This will help us stay ahead of and out of the way of the early morning golfers and the early shot gun tournaments.

We will use one of our old greens mowers to hand mow the collars. The sprayer is an essential piece of equipment for a golf course and last year ours broke down several times. If it wasn't for a loaner from another course, we never would have made it through the season. We now own a reliable sprayer for applying fertilizer as well as pesticides and fungicides to the whole course (greens, tees, fairways). This will help keep the course green and lush throughout the season. With a little help from mother nature, we should have a great year!



Spike Marks - Lest We Forget

The following quote is just a reminder that we enjoy putting conditions today that are much improved over the era of metal spikes, Phil Mickelson notwithstanding.

"The average golf shoe has 12 spikes; i.e., 24 spikes per golfer. I have found golfers take an average of 26 full steps (52 paces) per green. Therefore, each golfer leaves (26 x 24) 624 spike marks on each green. On 18 greens, he leaves 11,232 spike marks. If there are 200 rounds of golf played a day, there are 2,246,400 spike marks left behind. If this goes on for 30 days, you have 67,392,000 spike marks per month. And now, you wonder why you can't sink a putt?"



From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Golf Events

As we are starting the season for 2011, the cold start has been holding many of you from coming out to enjoy the golf course. Once everyone has had a chance to enjoy the track for the first time this season, I invite all of you to take a look at the 2011 Golf Event schedule. We have these listed on the website and they are also listed on the front of every golf cart. The board out by the golf shop will also have the events listed on it also. It is important that each and every one of you as Members be aware of what is going on at your club.

There are a lot of events this season and all of the Mondays are booked this season. Some Mondays have 2 events on them as there may be a morning shotgun start and an afternoon shotgun start. The days when that happens will obviously mean that the golf course will be closed to the membership for the entire day. So PLEASE keep yourself updated on the calendar so that when you arrive at the golf course that you are aware of the schedule.

Lasers



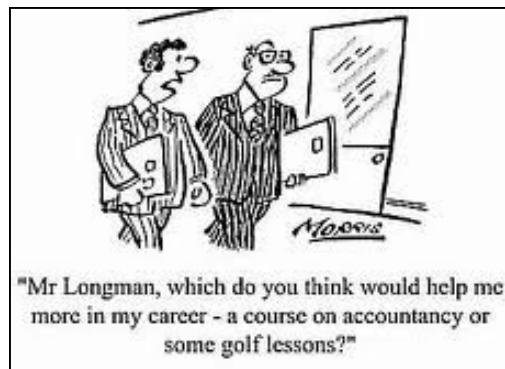
I have ordered some lasers that will be able to be used. They are the Laser Link. There will be a pyramid of prisms that will screw to the top each flagstick. You hold the laser out in front of you and it will give you a number as soon as it bounces off of the prism. The laser will also be able to measure all different targets as well as the flagstick. I will have a demo model that you will be able to take out on the course with you and give it a go. There is also a model that will be able to be used only for those with the prisms. That model will be less expensive. Give it a try.

Golf Swing Updates

Many of you are always trying to get the most out of your golf game. I always ask my students on the range "what is a good golf swing in your opinion?" When I ask that, I get many different answers that are all over the map. It is a very simple answer. It is a 3 word answer. That is "ONE THAT REPEATS."

Most people are afraid or intimidated to take lessons as they are afraid that they will get worse before they get better. That may be the case sometimes but not always. There are many fundamentals to the golf game and the golf swing. If one or two of these fundamentals are incorrect, then that would mean that you have to do something wrong to do something right. The golf swing can be a complicated thing but it can also be very simple too if it is looked at in the right perspective.

One important thing that is usually overlooked is the golf ball flies straight if the clubface is square at impact. Sounds simple doesn't it? Well it actually is. Many of us have too many negative thoughts going on in our head during a round of golf. If you have negative thoughts, then those thoughts will probably take over the swing and the ball will most likely go to spot that you are telling your mind to "Not hit it". I have many different ideas on the golf game and swing and the mental part of the game. Take advantage of it.



"Topping the ball is a problem that usually afflicts only beginning golfers and it is quickly left behind once a player has learned to master the hook, the slice, the shank and the airball." *Henry Beard, A Duffer's Dictionary*

"As soon as Bond had hit the shot, he knew it wouldn't do. The difference between a good golf shot and a bad one is the same as the difference between a beautiful woman and a plain one - a matter of millimeters." *Ian Fleming, Goldfinger*

"My playing partner couldn't hit a tiled floor with a bellyful of puke." David Feherty

"He folded her in his arms ... using the interlocking grip." P.G. Wodehouse

Green Committee Report

Although we had a later opening when compared to the past couple of years the wait was worth it. The course is in great shape and I have received a lot of feedback from members who are very happy with the condition of the course this early in the season. It's really evident that Steve and his crew spent long hours preparing the course for play.

Thanks to Keith McNab's technical expertise Steve now has a blog. Go to "Steve's Page" after logging in to the Members homepage of the BSCC website to read updates about course conditions, work being done, etc.

At last December's membership meeting there was a lengthy discussion about our greens. As everyone knows the winters of 2009 and 2010 were not kind to our greens. Last summer the prolonged heat combined with a desire to make the greens firm and fast around the time of the men's member guest contributed to some inconsistencies. In addition, the heavy rains later in the season prevented Steve from aerifying all greens at the same time.



This year the goal is to maintain smooth surfaces and consistent green speeds throughout the summer season. There are a number of ways this can be accomplished.

First, keeping the mowers at a consistent height and rolling more frequently will produce a more consistent speed. Secondly, the deep tine aerifier will be used at regular intervals to ensure good drainage and encourage root development. Lastly, more frequent top dressing will be done to make the surfaces smoother. If Mother Nature cooperates we expect to have healthy greens throughout the season.

Things to look for in the coming months around the course are completion of the beautification project around the restroom on #6, changes to the pond on #11 (removal of fabric underneath the rocks and installation of new sod), removal of trees behind #7 green and installation of new plantings (this may be done in stages because of budget limitations), and removal of the large

dead tree opposite the #6 green.

Lastly, the new sprayer and green mowers have been delivered. Steve is very pleased to be able to have a "new" piece of equipment and to not have to worry about when the next repair might be needed.

Have a great golfing season!

Thursday Night Women's League

Welcome Ballston Spa Women Association members. Please join us for the 2011 Women's League. It begins on Thursday, May 5th and runs weekly through August 25th. Tee times range from 4:10 to 5:30. We make every effort to accommodate tee times based on necessary schedules.

The league is divided into flights based on your handicap, and the game is match play. Although all the flights play together, you only compete within your flight. The league is divided into two sessions. The first session begins May 5th and runs through June 23rd. The second session begins June 30th and runs through August 25th. You can sign up for one session for \$40 or both sessions for \$75. The fee includes league prize money, weekly prizes, two "special" tournaments and the league outing. Please make checks payable to Todd Manderson, and pay by April 30th.



There are more details on the website, or you can contact Cindy Walkanowski with specific questions. It is a lot of fun, and a great way to meet the BSCC women. Please join us.

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

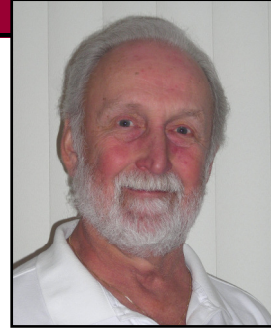
House/Restaurant Report



Dick Cody

Welcome back to all our members and hello and welcome to our new Members.

By the time you read this article the season will be in full swing. Our restaurateur Tony Panza is back and ready to serve you. If this spring you haven't already, say hello again to Tony, Chef Jim Rhoads and a new addition to the Panza team, Derrick McIntyre who will run the bar and oversee the dining room. We are looking forward to the best 19th hole in the capital region. Tony Panza, Jim and Derrick are eager to serve us and make this an even better experience than the successful year we had last season.



Bob Miskamin

The restaurant will open every day at 11:00 AM. If you are in the clubhouse before 11 the staff is usually there and will be happy to serve you a beverage of your choice. Of course, Jim and Derrick will accommodate our Thursday morning senior league who may be in the restaurant before 11. Jim promises us some tasty lunch and dinner specials and will offer drink and food specials served on the deck overlooking the ninth green. Also, keep looking at your email for specials and a repeat of last year's very popular theme nights. If you took advantage of the Italian, German, Polish and Island theme meals last year you know how delicious the food was and the price was absolutely right. If you were unable to attend these events last year, you should definitely look for the announcements this year.

The shack at the ninth green will be open on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays from 8:00 AM to noon. Breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs, coffee and other beverages will be available. The Beverage Cart will be on the course on these days beginning at 11:00. There will be coffee available before 8 AM in the clubhouse. It will be self-service at a reasonable fee.

The shack has not been utilized by Members and guests as much as we anticipated. We know that the days and hours of operation have not been consistent and this year that will be corrected. Members have suggested that we remind players that the shack is open by placing A-Frame signs on the 8th or 9th tees and even around the pro shop – "Shack is Open". Jim Rhoads will do that this year. We will monitor use of the shack with Jim through the end of June and then decide jointly if members and guests are using the shack and develop a plan for the balance of the season.

As reported in the April Fox some obvious and not so obvious but important changes have been made to our clubhouse with improved plumbing, electrical, ceiling work and painting now completed. In addition for the safety of staff and members and protection of our property, we have installed security cameras at various locations outside our buildings and upgraded security within our clubhouse.

There were some days this winter when I didn't think that the course would be open in April, but here we are and I'm looking forward to a great season, even better than last year. Welcome back! I'm also happy to say that I'll be retiring from teaching, (just 40 more days, but who's counting) which means that I will be here at the club until closing on October 31st.

We have a lot of events scheduled and hope that you will participate. We start the month of May with a tribute to Mothers – our delicious Mother's Day Buffet on May 8 from 11:00 – 3:00 is just \$19.95 and as always, reservations are appreciated.

Back by popular demand are our theme buffets – Italian (with a name like Panza's would you expect us to start any other way?) is May 13 from 6:00 to 8:00. Just three short days later we're having a Porch Opening party on May 15th from 1:00 – 4:00 with drink specials, a "porch only" menu, and door prizes.

Mark your calendars for a beer tasting with food pairings on May 26. Olde Saratoga Brewing Company, established in 1997 will be on hand to explain their award winning beers. We're still pulling this one together so ask the bartender the next time you're in to see the flyer and make your choice from the dozen varieties. We will keep the cost under \$20 per person for this one!

Just a reminder - the success of these events depends on you – we need member participation.

The Snack Shack will be open and staffed on a regular basis beginning the weekend of April 30th. Hours will be 8:00 am – Noon on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

***** June 11th theme buffet – Southern States BBQ *****

Watch for more information
We are off and running

Jim Rhoads, General Manager

Panza's

ON THE GREEN

Board Candidate Statements

Michael Zegarelli

My name is Michael Zegarelli. I have been a member of BSCC for approximately 30 years.

At last year's member meeting, a call was made for "new blood". I have chosen to answer that call. I am retired and I have the time and desire to serve the membership to the best of my abilities.

I believe my strongest attributes are that I am a hard worker and I listen to people's opinions and consider all options before making a decision. I enjoy hearing various viewpoints on an issue and as a Board member I would welcome people's input. No person has the answers to all problems but collectively the membership and the Board can make intelligent and informed decisions to ensure the best possible outcome.

Money is very tight and maintaining members is critical to our continued success. The membership and current Board have worked hard to keep our course alive and moving forward. I will do my best to continue this work. I promise always to keep the membership and what is best for the golf course paramount in any decision I would make.

Your support would be appreciated at our annual spring meeting.



Randy Alexander

Over the course of the 41 years that I have been a member of the club, I have witnessed and, at times, been a party to vast changes and improvements to the overall facilities, conditions as well as policy. My service, 9 years as a member of the BOD, includes Green Chair, House Chair and President.

Those of you that know me, know that I am an active member who has volunteered many hours for improvements to the course, clubhouse and maintenance facilities. The things I have accomplished have been done for one reason – I love this course and want to see it steadily improve.

My background (a physical education teacher for 33 years) includes management experience as President of the Capital District Assn. for Health, Phys. Ed. and Recreation as well as serving on the board of both the Capital District Basketball and Soccer Referees' Associations.

I have several ideas concerning new membership as well as low-cost course improvements which I will share with the membership at the Annual Meeting. I am deeply concerned with the direction that the current BOD seems to be taking our course, and as a result, I have committed to running with Dave Runyon and Carl Jahn. I believe we three can have a positive influence on making common sense changes for the benefit of BSCC.

We would appreciate your support .

Dave Runyon



Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Dave Runyon, and I ask for your consideration for a position on the Board of Directors at the Ballston Spa Country Club. My motivation for seeking this office is simple. For the club to thrive, the members must do their part. We do not have a large staff, or a full time manager. The hard decisions are made by shareholders and members.

I've been a member of the club for a couple of decades. In that time, I've witnessed the good work of many people who have taken part in committees, or served on the board. I've been thankful for the things that people have done and I'm willing to do my share once again. As for myself, I've served on the Board for six years, participated in several committees, including finance, golf pro search, greens, restaurant, and tournament.

I bring a professional background to these endeavors that include aspects of management, finance, and technology. I truly believe that I can be a valuable contributor to the health and prosperity of the club, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve again.

Warmest regards,
Dave

Carl Jahn

Carl Jahn was born and raised in the Long Island area, graduating from Archbishop Molloy HS and Fordham University. He came to this area in 1974 and worked as an IRS agent until 2003 and, after his retirement, as a tax consultant. He is seeking a position on the board of BSCC in order to use his financial expertise to improve the financial position of the club. Carl believes that it is time for BSCC to stop existing "paycheck to paycheck" and establish a healthier cash flow and a detailed plan for the future. He has served on a number of committees for the club, among them the Greens Committee and the Committee to Investigate Club Improvement. He intends to propose a larger reserve fund to help the club weather any difficult times such as those that occurred after the parking lot/assessment disaster of 2002. Since becoming a member he has recruited a significant number of new members and will use his interpersonal and recruitment skills to assist Tucker in the recruiting process. He promises to represent all the members of the club and will be readily available to address their issues and concerns.



Rick Funaro

I would like to ask for your support as I seek re-election to our Board of Directors.

As a member of the Board for nine years, I have experienced every facet of Club management, including most Chair responsibilities. I can offer the Club a great deal as a result of my experience and I would continue to work hard for our entire membership.



During my six years as President, we have accomplished some worthy achievements. We have not incurred any new debt other than the usual leasing of golf carts. This shows the discipline the Board has exercised for the past eight years. We have paid for all purchases in cash, including many equipment upgrades. I would continue to expect that same level of discipline from the Board.

We have also reduced our debt by over \$320,000 during this period.

Because of fiscal conservatism, BSCC has survived the worst economic downturn in recent history and is ready to grow as the economy rebounds. While other local clubs have declared bankruptcy, taken on onerous loans or simply opened their courses to weekend public play, we are still the best value semi public course in the region with a 2011 dues increases of 2%, besting every club in the area, while turning a profit last year.

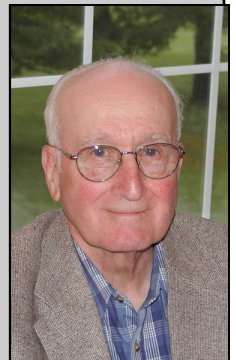
The Controller's Corner

While the old saying "Money can't buy happiness," may be true, it sure as the dickens requires money for almost anything else.

Since its start in 1925 when \$12,000 (just over \$150,000 in today's dollars) was raised by the sale of 240 shares of its stock, enough to purchase the original property and construct a nine hole course, the Club has grown to its present condition. This growth has increased the operating costs and to cover these costs, the dues and fees that provide the money to meet the expense of operation - staff salaries, insurance, taxes, fuel, equipment maintenance and the myriad of other financial obligations that have to be met.

BSCC Inc. is a corporation that owns and operates the course and its shares are owned, for the most part, by you the Members. Each year you elect three directors who manage your corporation and, together with the other six directors, set policies for the management of your Club. They are responsible for the management of over \$900,000 it takes to operate the Club this year, to assure that each dollar is spent wisely and that the Club will provide the best value for your dues.

Directors are blamed for anything a Member dislikes but seldom praised and spend many, many hours working to resolve problems, prepare plans and attend meetings. To paraphrase Gilbert & Sullivan "A director's lot is not a happy one." Perhaps it's time to recognize what they have done for your Club.



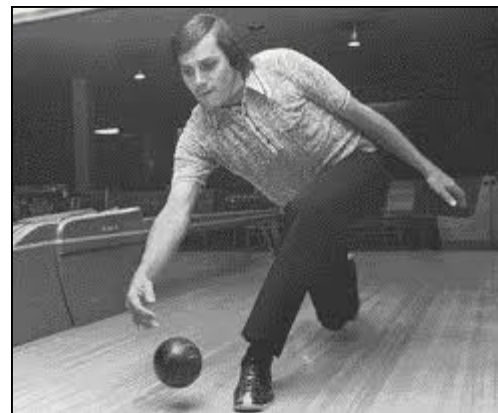
Al Squire



Passing the 19th

Over the years, I have written derisively of bowling. I have compared it to golf in several ways, often in jest but more commonly in earnest. There are two reasons for this: I grew up loving bowling in Canada when I was a youth, but it was five pin bowling. I substituted in my father's league when I was about twelve years old and was pretty good. After my emigration to "The States" I could only bowl ten pin and that was an entirely different game. I sucked at ten pin and left the game.

The other reason I write with scorn about bowling is that it's boring as hell and one of my best golfing friends is really good at it. It's a guy thing.



Tucker

I've mentioned the fact that it's like playing the same hole over and over, in a windowless warehouse wearing cheap shoes, like death without the messy part, etc. But then I got all granola and challenged myself to find something good about it. I'm a writer, so I searched out literature about both sports, hoping to find a reason to once again love the game of bowling.

There **is** no literature about bowling. There are hundreds of literary books about golf.

So next I searched for quotations about bowling, hoping there would be some life changing insights from the masters of the game that would once again lift it onto the pedestal it once occupied in my life. I have over two hundred books on golf in my library, four of which are dedicated to witty and insightful quotes about golf. There are no books devoted to bowling quotes, but I managed to garner a few from the web. What does that tell you?

Ignoring the thousands of golf quotes from the books dedicated to golf one liners, I scoured golf classics looking for quotes that voiced the class and worldliness of the game. Such as...

"A golf hole, humanly speaking, is like life, inasmuch as one cannot judge justly of any person's character the first time one meets him."

"We feel, dressed for golf, knightly. . . . The green, when it receives us is soft, fine, gently undulating, maidenly. The bliss of the swing. The one that feels effortless and produces a shot of miraculous straightness and soar. 'I'll take it,' we say modestly, searching about with a demure blush for the spun-away tee."

"The links were sweet with the scent of wild orchids and thyme, commingling with the brackish breath of the ocean and the sweat of a golfer trying to conquer himself."

"Golf is the loneliest of all games, not excluding postal chess."

Then we have the best bowling quotes I could find on the internet.

"So you'd go to the bowling alley. We bowled and you could be in the back and you could make out. And you know how hot it was to make out." *Stephen Tyler*

"I haven't had sex in eight months. To be honest, I now prefer to go bowling." *Li'l Wayne*

"Ah, the alleys...It's really a sensory experience, you know. The scent of Aqua Net on a beehive hairdo. The roar of polyester rubbing against old Naugahyde. The sight of a cigarette stubbed out on a patty melt. All this plus the anticipation of placing your feet in shoes only 7,000 others have worn before you." *Diane in Cheers*

Any further comment at this point would be akin to thrashing a lifeless equine

