



*Volume XV Number 2*  
*May 2013*

*Ballston Spa Country Club*

# *The Fox*

## *President's Letter*

*William Tucker*

It's theoretically been Spring for over a month now, but who knew? Coming off one of the best golf seasons in memory last year, we were spoiled I suppose, but the course is in great shape and there's no reason why we shouldn't be out there embedding our swing flaws into our muscle memories.

Spring is the busiest time of the year for the Board of Directors. Among many other start-up issues, we have the May Stockholders' Meeting to prepare for, including proxies for the election of new Board Members. This year we have an extra issue to vote on, as our Bylaw Review Committee has worked hard at updating our existing bylaws. The new bylaws can be viewed on our website or copies can be picked up at the Office. It is extremely important that everyone either return the proxies or better still, show up for the meeting on May 18th at 7 PM.

While some major changes include the elimination of two Board seats, and the moving of the Stockholders' Meeting to a Fall date, there are also provisions for the establishment of several operating sub committees to help in the running of the Club. The purpose is to engage the membership more fully in the operation of the Club, something we will need if we are going to ask fewer Board members to run the Club. **Please see the Old/New Bylaw comparison on page 6. This document compares the more important changes. If you would like to read the detailed version, it is available in the Office.**

Central to these changes is the underlying goal of returning our Club to the sense of being a family of devoted owners who willingly volunteer to help out however they can. Weed some gardens, fill some divots, join a committee. We have several Members who just assume it's their duty to do something, whether it be cutting trees, making new tee markers or helping repair and renovate our aging Clubhouse. We need more of you to adopt that attitude because this allows us to be the best golf club value in the area, offering a premium track for the dues paid. Get involved.

This will be my last letter to you as President of BSCC. I would like to take the opportunity to say I am privileged to have had the chance to serve this wonderful golf club and its Members over the past 22 years.

My nine years on the Board of Directors, as well as on committees and as editor of the Fox newsletter have certainly made my life richer through the experiences I have had, the people I have worked with and the progress I have witnessed in the development of Ballston Spa Country Club into the great Golf Club it is today.

I thank you all and look forward to seeing you on the short grass.

## BSCC Annual Stockholders' Meeting

Friday, May 18, 7:00 PM

Please attend this important meeting, or send us your proxies.



## *Superintendent's Report*

*Steve Solsky*



I just have a few updates for this month's Fox. The first is the condition of the course. I have received a lot of questions about the greens. You can really see a difference in the kinds of grass on the greens. The darker grass that is growing is the bentgrass. This grass can handle stress better than poa and is doing well this spring. The areas of the greens that look thin or dormant are the poa type grass. This grass does not like the temperature fluctuation this spring and has nestled down in around the topdressing sand. Warm temperatures are needed to get this grass to start growing like the bentgrass. Once the ground temperature warms up, the poa will fill in and the surface of the greens will become much smoother. We will also start to topdress the greens when the grass begins to grow more vigorously. This will also help to smooth the surface out and give you a better ball roll. Mother Nature just needs to give us some more consistently warmer weather.

We have been working on the irrigation this past week. After several breaks throughout the course, we finally have the system up and running. We have some different irrigation heads to install in some fairways and then we can keep the system on for the rest of the summer. The irrigation system is showing its age and we had a record number of breaks this year. Most of the breaks were due to rusty pipes. Let's hope that we can make it through the season without having too many more breaks. If this year is anything like last year, this system will be vital to keep the course alive. It has to be up and running every day throughout the season.

Between rain storms, we have been able to get a few things aerified. The goal is to aerify the tees, approaches, and some of the small fairways that did not get done last fall. As you already know, this is a very important cultural practice that is done to relieve compaction and promote root growth. We will continue working on this project whenever we can or whenever the weather dictates that we can. The greens will be done this spring also. I would like to wait until the ground temperature warms up enough so the holes from the aeration will fill in quickly. If we aerify now, the holes will not fill in quickly because the grass is not growing very fast. Last year we aerified right after the USGA recommended doing a spring aerification, which was the first week in May. There will be an e-mail message sent out when we know the exact days we will aerify greens. As always the entire course will not be closed, you will have nine holes open to play.

The course has been wet ever since we opened. This is why we are still cart path only. These past few rain storms have really soaked the course. Cooler temperatures don't really help with the drying of the fairways. So I ask everyone to please stay off the fairways with your golf carts. Please also fix your ball marks. The rains made the greens soft and there were a large amount of ball marks this past weekend. Use the plus one rule. Fix your ball mark plus one and fix your divot plus one and your course will stay in good shape.

### **Former BSCC Employee Chosen By Wolfert's Roost**

Aaron Madison, a former employee of BSCC working under Steve Solsky, has been chosen for Wolfert's Roost new Superintendent.

Madison, a Saratoga Springs native, replaces Bill Stevens, who held the position for 42 years. Like Steve, Aaron worked under Craig Currier at Bethpage and like Steve, was responsible for the Black Course. He has also worked for the Edison Club.

Aaron Madison grew up in Saratoga Springs in a family with a long tradition of green management. His father was superintendent of Battenkill Country Club for 20 years and his brother currently oversees the course at the Edison Club.

# green committee



*Sue Kahler*

Happy Spring everyone. Over the past few weeks the weather hasn't necessarily felt like spring but despite that the course is in fabulous condition. As with every spring, periods of rain dampen the conditions but overall this is the cleanest I've ever seen the course in the spring. I commend the crew for their efforts in clearing out all the winter debris and preparing the course for the season.

By now hopefully everyone has seen the improvements that were made over the winter. Since the USGA Turf Advisory visit one year ago we have followed many of their recommendations for course improvements. Further progress was made this past week to the newly cleared out areas on #11, #12 and #16. Those areas have been raked and seeded and we will soon show signs of new growth once the temperatures get consistently warmer.

As stated in past Fox articles and at member meetings, our maintenance equipment has seen better days. Unfortunately our limited budget has always inhibited us from buying brand new equipment. Thankfully over the past few years Steve has been resourceful and we have been able to acquire a few good pieces of used equipment. When we initially acquire these machines they are in good condition but our experience has shown that after a short time too many hours are spent on repairs, costing us money and taking time away from actual course work.

One possible solution to the problem is to lease new equipment. Over the next few weeks a committee will be investigating this option. The committee will determine whether or not we can lease new equipment at a cost within our current budget. If affordable, new equipment will undoubtedly improve course conditions and better direct the money we spend on maintenance and labor.

I'm happy to report that last fall Steve agreed to another 5 year contract with Ballston Spa. I'm grateful as a Member for Steve's commitment to our club. As I leave the Board and service as Green Chair I couldn't be more confident that Steve is doing all he can to make Ballston a great golf course. During the last 6 years, serving as the club Secretary and Green Chair, I have learned a tremendous amount about myself and what it takes to run our golf course.

I encourage all members to get involved, even if in a small way. The pay off from the collective efforts of many is far greater than that from just a few.

## Thursday Morning Senior League News

This year our two oldest members decided to leave. Frank Darling and Lincoln Dietz, Young 90 year olds who walked every hole. We also lost Ken Bowler friend to all who played our course.

This year Todd and his staff will be assigning tee times for the Senior League play. Please sign up in the pro shop.

I will be retiring this year as your treasurer. I have tried to use our money in the most prudent way. I've been fortunate to work for you. This year we have fewer members and the same or increasing costs. We do have a strong golf community here and we all need to promote it. As always financial reports are available to shareholders thru the office.



*Bruce Kay*



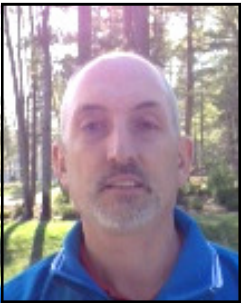
# Meet the 2013 Board Candidates



*Beth  
Todd*

My name is Beth Todd, and I'd like to introduce myself as a candidate for the Board of Directors of Ballston Spa Country Club. My husband Gerry and I have been members of the club for the past 7 years and prior to that, members of McGregor Links Country Club for 6 years. I presently work as an Associate Broker with Roohan Realty in Saratoga Springs and have been in Real Estate Sales in Saratoga County for the past 10 years. Before beginning my career in real estate, I was employed by both Brookhaven Golf Club and Saratoga Golf and Polo Club as both assistant pro-shop manager and account manager from 1989 through 2001. I have also been a past president and member of the Board of Directors of Saratoga Ladies of Charity for the past 20 years. As a board member of the Ladies, I have been involved with all fund raising activities and have chaired our annual gala for several years. I am also a member of the Ballston Spa Ladies Association and Northeast Women's Golf Association. Based on my past experience in all aspects of golf course management, and my many years of fundraising experience with the Ladies of Charity, I believe I would be an asset to the board. I'm committed to working to improve our club, and would like to count on your vote.

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*Michael  
Farina*

Open letter to the membership of Ballston Spa Country Club:

Hello my name is Michael Farina and I am asking for your support in my candidacy for the Ballston Spa Country Club Board of Directors. My professional and personal experiences have prepared me to assume this position. I am a licensed pharmacist and also hold a MBA degree with a focus on health care management. I am currently employed as the Associate Director of Clinical Reporting at MVP Health Care. The skills I utilize in my professional work include:

- Analyzing data with consideration of multiple variables and benchmarks.

- Working collaboratively with health care providers to implement practice changes with a focus on improving quality outcomes.

- Supervising staff located in multiple offices throughout New York State.

- Managing multiple priorities while maintaining a proven record of on-time project completion.

- Creating a yearly budget and managing resources in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Presenting complex information in a format that is easily comprehended by diverse audiences.

My wife, Mary Lee and I are both active members of BSCC. I participate in project day and am a member of the greens and revenue committees and the Tuesday Night Men's League. I have built the tee catchers and new tee markers for the club over the last two off -seasons.

I hope you will consider me for this position. Should you wish to discuss my qualifications feel free to contact me at 885-5512 or at mfarina@nycap.rr.com.

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*Paul  
Steves*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and ask for your support in my bid for Election to the Ballston Spa Country Club Board of Directors. My name is Paul Steves and I have been a member of BSCC for over 23 years. I have witnessed the transformation of the golf course over the years from a "good" course to a "great" course.

I retired in 2007 after a 37 year career as a full time soldier with the Army National Guard. My assignments included command and staff assignments at all levels of command in both Personnel and Operations/Training areas of concentration. I have served on and chaired numerous committees and working groups at the state and national level throughout my career and believe every opinion is important. Since retirement I have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Central Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) and have served on the Industries Committee, Audit Committee and Finance Committee.

I play in the Tuesday night and Thursday morning leagues and have been involved with the By Law revision committee and the Revenue committee.

We continue to face challenges in the operation of our club and I believe working as a team and communicating/listening to the members/owners we can move forward in a positive manner. I am committed to continuous improvement in the most economically feasible manner.

I welcome the opportunity to serve you for the next three years. Thank you for your consideration.

# Meet the 2013 Board Candidates



*Brian  
Foster*

My name is Brian Foster and would appreciate your support for election to the Board of Directors. I live in Glenville and have been a member of Ballston Spa Country Club since 2005. Our beloved BSCC is a gem in this area. But in order to survive difficult economic times, grow membership, and maintain our beautiful golf track, I believe that the club requires responsible leadership.

My entire life and career has been about leadership. I have been Vice President at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital for 13 years. I am responsible for development and oversight of programs, 150 therapists and support staff, and successfully manage a multi-million dollar annual revenue budget while effectively containing costs in a very difficult healthcare environment. I served 23 years in the US Army Reserve as Section Chief and Operations Officer of a 1,000 bed hospital. I am a Desert Storm Veteran, and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I am past Chair of the New York State Board for Occupational Therapy and serve on a number of healthcare Boards and Committees. I am a current member of the Town of Glenville Zoning Board of Appeals.

Keeping membership dues at an affordable level and providing a fun, friendly, welcoming atmosphere is the best way to retain current membership, recruit new members, and keep BSCC competitive with other clubs in the area experiencing the same challenges.

Leadership requires vision, planning, communication, direction and execution. I believe that I possess those attributes and would be an asset to the development of the club as a member of the BOD. I appreciate your consideration, and if elected I pledge to do my best for you and for Ballston Spa Country Club.

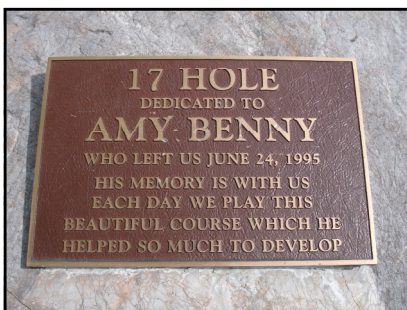


*Steve  
Heidorn*

My name is Steve Heidorn I have been a member since 2009 and I have participated in many events over the last few years. I believe I have the experience needed that would be an asset on the Board of Directors. Once you review my qualifications I would hope that you would consider voting for me at the annual Membership Meeting. I am currently the owner of Broadway Title Agency, a title insurance agency that I founded nine years ago in Saratoga Springs. Being self-employed, I have the flexibility needed to assist the Board.

Currently I am on the Board of Directors of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce serving my second three year term. I served as treasurer for two years during my tenure. I have also served as President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Saratoga Springs Rotary Club. I was also the Chairman of the Annual Home Show where we raised over \$125,000 for a three day event; an amount not reached since. I am also a graduate of the Saratoga Leadership program having graduated in 1989.

Prior to my work in the title insurance field I spent many years as a mortgage officer for several banks in the Capital Region. With my background in Finance along with my many years working on numerous boards I believe I have the right qualifications to be an asset to the Board of Directors especially in these tough economic times. Thank you for your consideration, I would humbly ask for your vote during the membership meeting.





# *From the Golf Shop*

*Todd Manderson*

## **Checking in at the golf shop**

We are asking that all players check in at the Golf Shop prior to going out on the course so we know who is here and who is not here. Occasionally, we get phone calls from people looking for Members and they are out on the golf course and we do not even know that they are here. So please check in during the week with the Golf Shop so we are aware of your presence on the course should something happen. We are also tracking rounds of golf this season and in the future and this will help us with future budgeting and forecasting.

## **Online Tee Times**



As most of you know by this point, we do have an updated Point of Sale system for the facility. You will have the ability to make tee times online by logging into your account and reserving the times 7 days in advance, with the exception of the weekend lottery times. Those will still be submitted the same way as in the past. You can do it on the website by filling out the request form on our site.

Please put the names of the players that you plan on playing with, as this will make it easier for the Golf Shop to pair players that are looking to play. If anyone is having difficulty in trying to make the times other than the lottery, it may be because you need to update the browser that you are using to get onto the site with (example: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). Once your browser is updated and you are still having difficulty with this, please let us know in the Golf Shop and we can make the software company aware of the issue.

It is easy to book online and only takes a few minutes however it is important that the email address that we have in our system for you is the one that you are trying to use. You can check that either with us in the Golf Shop or with Laura in the Office. To log onto your account to see your balance, you can use either your email address or your last name (all lower case) and Member number for the password.

## **Website**

I feel like I have turned into a computer geek but I am trying to gain control of the communication so that everyone is aware of what is going on here at Ballston Spa Country Club. The website will have the most up to date information on it. If there is a frost delay, we will post it, if the leagues are rained out, we will post it here. We want this to be the main source of information for the membership from here on and in the future. All the tournaments are under the calendar for the season and as we get new information, we will update as needed. Try making tee times online as well and if you have any issues, ask us in the Golf Shop and we will explain to you how to do it. Any new information will be posted under the news.



## **GHIN System**

The look of the system is different but it works the same. You can still post on Ghin.com as well. We can help with the posting of scores if needed. The best way is to post a score using Member Name and not by number as the local number is not your Member number as many have tried. Unfortunately, that is out of our control to make the numbers match as it is a GHIN thing. Please be patient, it is an easy thing to learn and works very well.



# BSCC Proposed/Existing Bylaw Comparison

Item	New Bylaws	Old Bylaws
Format	In-line with bylaws format of modern corporations	Was a restatement of NYS Corporate Law for the most part
Board	7 total - 4 officers and 3 directors, duties defined	9 total - 4 officers and 5 directors, duties not well defined
Expenditures	Establishes strict rules for approvals of all expenditures over \$5K. Also implements a rule where a shareholder vote is needed before new debt in excess of 75K is incurred.	The directors have complete discretion.
Absence of Directors	Automatic resignation from the Board for excessive absence from BoD meetings	No rules exist
Assessments	Establishes rules for one year budget shortfall type, and stricter rules for assessments to fund capital improvements. The latter requires shareholder vote	
New Member Applications	Will be reviewed by membership committee before new members are accepted	The office manager has discretion.
Dues Amounts	Will be decided and published to members promptly during budget process, including the dues amount for the BoD members	The directors have complete discretion.
Annual Meeting	Moved to October to allow new BoD to be seated before budget is adopted	Is in May.
Quorum	Reduced to 35% of shareholders	Is 50% of shareholders
Election of Officers	Shall be done within 5 days of annual meeting	No rules exist
Publication of Minutes for Board and Committee Meetings	Shall be final and published within 30 days of meeting	No rules exist
Rules for Directors and Officers to hold office	Shall be a member in good standing for at least 3 years before eligible to run for BoD. Must have 1 year as a BoD member to be elected President or VP	Must be a shareholder.
BoD Vacancies	May be filled, but not mandatory	Must be filled
Standing Committees	Establishes many standing committees what will substantially run the club; Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Golf Committee, the Grounds and Greens Committee, the House Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Social Committee	Calls for the existence of an Audit Committee
Amendments to Bylaws	Requires affirmative vote of 60% of shareholders	Requires affirmative vote of 66% of shareholders





*Panza's on the Green at  
Ballston Spa Country Club  
Mother's Day Brunch Buffet  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

**One Complimentary Glass of Mimosa\***

**Assorted Fresh Baked Muffins**

**Fresh Cut Fruit Salad**

**Panza's Signature Bryant Salad**

**Chilled Vegetable Bar with Grilled Zucchini, Pickled Onions, Carrot Chips,  
Mushroom Relish and Grilled Asparagus**

**Chef Manned Omelet Station**

**Pineapple Glazed Ham Carving Station**

**Baked Salmon with Frangelico Cream**

**Country Potato Hash with Bacon, Peppers and Onions**

**Tri Color Tortellini in Roasted Tomato Vodka Cream Sauce**

**Maple Candied Pork Sausage**

**Baked French Toast Sundae Bar with Whipped Cream, Macerated Berries, and  
Variety of Syrups**

**Strawberry Shortcake Trifle Display**

*Adults - 29.99 (Tax and Tip included)*

*Children Under Ten - 19.99 (Tax and Tip included)*

*For reservation call 518 602 9995*

*First Seating Available 11am*

*\*Alcohol not available until after 12pm on Sunday*





# House & Restaurant Report



*Doug Young*

Panza's on the Green is fully open for business and we hope you're enjoying the new menu. Shannon and Jose are eager to hear your feedback and welcome your suggestions for menu or drink items that you would like to see.

As they did last year, Panza's will have sandwiches and other food on the beverage cart all day. The snack shack will not be open this year.

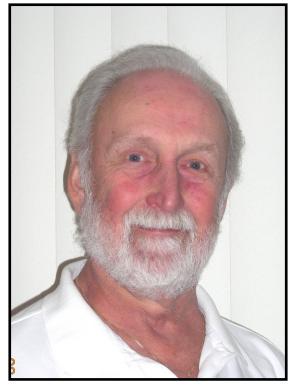
There are plans underway for a barbecue event on May 3 and a traditional Mother's Day buffet on May 12. You'll see more about those events elsewhere in The Fox.

You may have noticed that new flat screen TVs were purchased and installed in the bar area.

We've recently added HD cable service to the new TVs and we hope you enjoy the new entertainment. Thank you to Mike Zegarelli for helping us get them mounted and to Todd and Jerry in the pro-shop for getting the final cable connections made.

By the time you read this, the awning should be up and tables set up on the deck in front of the building.

Again, by working as a team on the Clubhouse and Restaurant, we feel we can provide a better service to the membership and respond more quickly to any concerns that might arise. We are both connected to Jose and the Panza's staff and are looking forward to a great 2013 golf season. Please feel free to reach out to either one of us at your convenience.



*Bob Miskamin*



## Jose's "Welcome Members!" Barbecue Bash

### Join Us For a Delicious Barbecue Dinner

(On the Deck, Weather Permitting)

**Friday, May 3rd, 7 PM**

**Coleslaw**

**Bobby's Potato salad**

**Maple Brown Sugar Baked Beans**

**Jalapeno Cheddar Corn Bread**

**Potato Rolls**

**Memphis Style Spare Ribs**

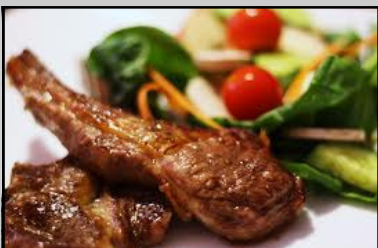
**BBQ Roasted Chicken Thighs**

**Hour Roasted Pulled Pork**

**Grilled Vegetable Spread**

**Grilled Corn**

**Fresh Cut Watermelon**



**Feel Free to Bring Your Friends for this BBQ Bargain - Only \$19.95/Person**



**Since 1925**

## Get Ready for Project Day!

Check Your Email for More Details Soon



*Mike*

*Zegaelli*

Hard to believe the golf season is now in full swing. If you had the chance to play, I'm sure you will agree that the course is in great shape. The membership committee is doing everything we can think of to attract new members. The course condition is a big help.

The wine tasting we held in early April was a great success. Members had a great time. When I left the party at 10:00 there were still two tables having a very good time. We did in fact pick up new members from the event. Perhaps this is an event we have every year.

We are beginning to have some success contacting Global Foundries. Dave R. put up signs at the entryway, which have worked. Great work Dave! More to come on this front in the coming months.

We are in the process of putting together a Barbeque, which we hope will be equally successful. Please attend. It will be a very nice season opening event, and a chance to catch up with other members as well as snowbirds that were fortunate enough to escape to warmer climates.

As I stated in the letter I sent to all members earlier this year, we need your assistance in attracting new members. I also said in the December member meeting, I would take responsibility if our membership numbers drop, as I did not do enough to motivate you to help out. One of my favorite jokes, which seems appropriate to this point goes like this. "If a person is drowning 20 feet off shore don't throw them an 11 foot rope and point out that you are meeting them MORE than half way..." Obviously the 11-foot rope is meaningless. As this related to membership, have you done everything you can to help attract new members or thrown an 11 foot rope?

If you have anyone who might be considering joining, but is afraid to commit, let them know that we have a special this year that allows a potential Member to play the course for the month of May for \$300 - \$400 with cart. If, at the end of the month they're ready to join, the \$300 is applied to their membership dues.

I think it's rather obvious that dues directly relates to the number of members we have. Think about how you can help out. Don't assume "others" are taking care of this most important issue. As always, if you would like to get more involved or have ideas that you wish to share please contact Tucker, Dave R. or me. Keep the faith... great success takes great effort and dedication.



# *Gleanings From Past Foxes/Tee to Greens*

**7/96** - Members are reminded to thank "Pappy" for all the work he does for the Club. Pappy lived in a trailer behind the maintenance shed and was a fixture at BSCC for many years.

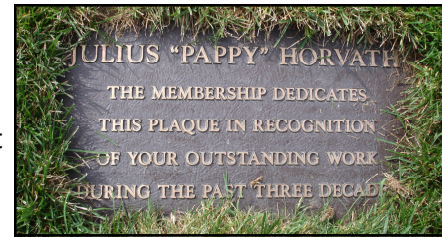
**10/96** - A hostile takeover attempt by Beman Park Associates is announced. Preparations for a Member owned Club begin. Jim Hefti was the Club pro and his assistant was Mike Porter.

**4/97** - Neil Hodsell quits after 68 year membership. Neil lived in the house to the right of the #7 150 yard marker.

**5/97** - The annual single range fee was \$85

**9/97** - The Board announces we will be using soft spikes only for 1998.  
- The Troy Record rates our 14th hole as the toughest par 4 in the Capital District

**10/97** - We have 384 playing Members



**4/98** - Outside Tournament Green Fees were \$50/player. Income from outside tournaments was \$72,000

**8/98** - Course expenses - \$257,000. Labor - \$140,000. Turf/Fertilizer \$45,000. Equipment/Supplies \$56,000. Capital Expense \$114,000 House Exp. \$25,000 for gas/electricity. \$45,000 for County & School Taxes. \$37,000 for liability and health insurance, \$12,000 FICA, \$16,000 mortgage principal, \$40,000 mortgage interest, \$80,000 debt reduction.

**8/99** - The road across #1 was filled in because the new bridge between #18 & #11 was built to carry heavy equipment.

**1/2000** - Todd Manderson is hired as our PGA professional

**6/2000** - The gazebo is installed and funded through a raffle.

**9/2000** - Our website was started. It was reported that someone in the restaurant was using cable to order pornography



**4/03** - The front deck was built.

**9/2003** - It was pointed out that the flags used in the July 4th tournament touched the ground when used - this violates the US Flag Code. It was decided not to continue the practice.

**4/2006** - The Office is relocated from the basement of the Clubhouse to the Cart Barn/pro Shop building.

**10/2006** - The men win the Ryder Cup. Women won in 98, 99, 00, 02 and 03. men have won in 01, 04, 05 & 06.

## Help Wanted

The Board is seeking assistance from the membership to help us make the web site better for everyone. If there are any members who are familiar with the Word Press system, and are willing to pitch-in and help on an occasional basis, please contact Dave Runyon ( [drunyon1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:drunyon1@nycap.rr.com) ) .

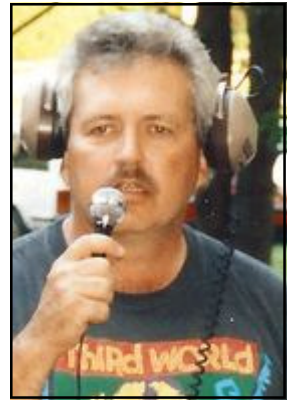
For everything we do with the help of members, we are able to avoid the expense of hiring outside entities.

Thank You!





## *Passing the 19<sup>th</sup>*



*Tucker*

I began my quest for the Holy Grail at the age of 13. I immersed myself in The Game immediately, practicing endlessly as only a youngster can, making a game out of the endless hours of ball striking. I read Dr. Cary Middlecoff's column, printed daily in the London Free Press, and sent for and studied his free instructional pamphlets each time they were offered.

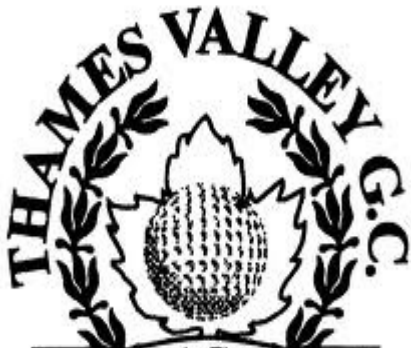
By my second year, I was playing 36 holes a day during summer vacation at Thames Valley Golf Course, a local muni of above average quality. Each evening, at dusk, I would hit a couple of dozen balls to one of the vacant starting holes until I couldn't see them land, then walk the half mile to my home. Everyone assumed I was a member, because I was always at the course, and I never had to buy golf balls because the head greenkeeper, a jovial, red-faced, perpetually inebriated Irishman, was my next door neighbor and he was always giving me some of the balls he hawked every day on the course.

Free golf, free golf balls. It was Junior Golf Heaven.

By my third year, I shot my first par round and began playing with guys twice my age for two bits a hole, a lot of money when you were working for well under a buck an hour at a weekend job. Strangers would come up to me and tell me I had a perfect swing. Being a teenager, I already knew that. People would ask me to watch their swing and tell them what they were doing wrong, and I never had a problem analyzing their faults, confident that I knew what I was talking about, but who knows?



Things change. Today, my practice consists mainly of hitting a few balls on the range and practice green before starting a round. Mostly, it's not practice at all, but a means of loosening up my non-teen muscles. Today, I buy balls two dozen at a time, and wouldn't think of hitting practice shots to a green for fear of catching hell from the Course Superintendent. Today, there are no head greenkeepers, there are only Course Superintendents and they have no time to search for balls for the kid next door.



Today, I pay ten times the \$15 1962 Thames Valley Annual Junior Membership dues just for the privilege of using the practice tee for the season. I shun all instructional articles these days, and just try to work out the solutions to the many swing quirks that occur. Today, I avoid analyzing other golfer's swing faults and giving advice, even when asked to do so, for I have found there is seldom any glory and much potential grief in the practice.

Today, I could still play 36 holes but would need a cart for the second 18 holes and immediate medical attention and psychological counseling upon completion.

Today, nobody tells me I have a pretty swing.

Am I lamenting the passage of time and the ways it has pillaged my little Golf Heaven? No, because today I still have wonderful rounds of golf on beautiful courses. Because today I take the game less seriously, and appreciate the culture and history of the sport while enjoying the social aspect of the game much more than any adolescent could. Because today I make lifelong friends while playing the sport I love, knowing I will be able to play it until the day I die with my best friend, who happens to be my wife.

Because today, I still feel the rush while standing over a 12 foot putt that will win the \$2 Nassau.



# *A Conversation With Harold & Bill*

*The following is a reprise of an article I wrote in **June 2005**. I thought it would be of interest to the many new Members who have joined since then as well as long time Members, as some very interesting points about the changes in our Club are highlighted by these two gentlemen.*

Bill Eldridge and Harold Arff are two of our oldest current Members, so I thought I'd sit down and chat with them about their BSCC experiences.

Bill is 85 years old, legally blind and an avid golfer. When he joined in the early 1950's he worked locally for the Federal Government and remained a stockholder for 30 years after being transferred to Pennsylvania, returning every month in the summer to play the course. He held several positions on the Board, including President.

Harold Arff, 90 years old, is still a player and a Member since the early 1930's. Harold was also a Board member and was Secretary-Treasurer when the Club bought the land to expand to 18 holes in 1967.

Harold joined out of high school in 1933, although he had caddied here while still in school. One Member who he frequently caddied for was A.J. Schultz, owner of one of Ballston Spa's knitting mills. In 1933 it was difficult to find decent employment, but Harold went down to the mill to apply for a job.

"I saw all these men with families waiting in line to get a job and I felt bad - I just didn't have the heart to possibly take a job from them. But Mr. Schultz arrived just as I was about to leave and he saw me. The next day he called and gave me a job, because he recognized me as his caddie. I worked there for 14 years."

Doug Welch was the caddie Master and "Towel Man", handing out towels to Members for their showers and getting tips. Both Harold and Bill caddied at BSCC - there were no carts or trolleys in those days, and they recalled the summer jockeys were great gamblers and tipsters.

One fellow who stood out in their memory was Marty Madden, brother of a beer czar in NYC. Marty used to smoke Egyptian cigars and special cigarettes and would tip \$3-\$5 for 9 holes, much higher than the regular 50 cents. One day, Marty ran out of cigarettes and Doug Welch jumped on his bicycle and pedaled to Saratoga to get him some more, as no store in Ballston Spa carried his brand. Doug got a hefty tip for that service.

"Doug was a hell of a golfer and taught us to play cards", Bill recalls. "We used to play cards over in the maintenance shed and if Doug was winning he ignored his caddie duties."

During WWII a few Members kept the course alive. People like Neil Hodsell and then President Tom Curly, along with Dean Fuller and the Greenkeeper who lived across the street from the 7th green and worked on the course with his sons.

Prior to the Club's expansion to 18 holes, the 9 hole layout was: #'s 1 & 2 were the same as today, although #1 was a par 5 with the tee near the maintenance shed. Today's #18 was #3, today's #10 was #4, and to play #5 you walked up steps to the current #17 tee and played to today's #5 green. Holes 6-9 were the same as today's holes.

The Pro Shop was a small room with a desk and a cash register where the kitchen is today and the locker room was today's barroom. The Members used to move all the lockers to one side every month to hold their dances and other parties. There was a porch where the trophy room is now.

There was a small bar and kitchen with 6 small tables run by Andy Herenson. He would buy a cooked ham or roast beef and some liquor and beer. There was no concern about liquor licenses and DWI in those days.

Bill was on the Board when it was decided to raise the price of beer from 35 to 55 cents. "I told them to keep it to 50 cents, because at 55 cents they get 45 cents change and won't want to break another dollar for a second beer." Mixed drinks were 75 cents.

Harold recalls the purchase of the land to expand to 18 holes. "I was Treasurer and our President was George McDonough. We invited the fellows from Schenectady Savings Bank for a round and beat them, then went to Ecobelli's Restaurant for a drink, showed them our statements and got the loan on the spot for \$100,000."

Bill recalls an incident in the 1950's when everything changed at BSCC. Men and women paid the same \$45 annual dues but women weren't allowed to tee off before 11 AM on weekdays and 1 PM on weekends. "One Saturday morning I was getting ready to go golfing and my wife had her golf shoes on. I ran a few errands and when I got to the club at 10, there were about 20 women on the first tee.

There was a big to-do, but after a couple of weeks the Board changed the rules so that women could play whenever they wanted. We were well ahead of the rest of the courses in the area and the BSCC women have been a very strong element in the Club ever since."

The biggest change noted by Bill and Harold is how the Club is used. In the heyday of country club life, things were different. Members used the Club as the hub of their social life. There were monthly dances with local bands and volunteer work was much more evident - there was a sense of Family at the Club.

*Tucker*

## Seaside Golf

How straight it flew, how long it flew,  
It clear'd the rutty track  
And soaring, disappeared from view  
Beyond the bunker's back—  
A glorious, sailing, bounding drive  
That made me glad I was alive.

And down the fairway, far along  
It glowed a lonely white;  
I played an iron sure and strong  
And clipp'd it out of sight,  
And spite of grassy banks between  
I knew I'd find it on the green.

And so I did. It lay content  
Two paces from the pin;  
A steady putt and then it went  
Oh, most securely in.  
The very turf rejoiced to see  
That quite unprecedented three.

Ah! seaweed smells from sandy caves  
And thyme and mist in whiffs,  
In-coming tide, Atlantic waves  
Slapping the sunny cliffs,  
Lark song and sea sounds in the air  
And splendor, splendor everywhere.



### Golf Widows

"Did you notice who those 2 men were who passed up the path and bowed just now? They were going towards the links."

"I couldn't tell exactly, It seemed to me they were your husband and mine, but I'm not sure."

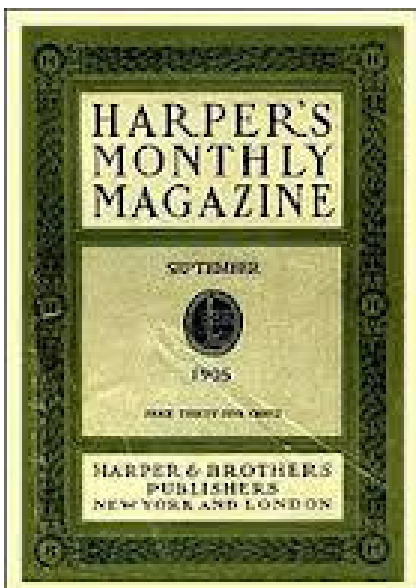
"That's what I thought; the man on the right looked like George as I remember him."

"And the other had James's walk, anyhow."

"Yes he did. I wonder if they've changed much?"

## Harper's Magazine

Harper's is one of my favorite magazines. As a subscriber, I have access to the almost two centuries of content. Recently I did a search for "golf" and these are some of the rare references to the game.



*Tucker*

The duties of the caddie are manifold, including the responsibilities of preceptor, doctor, and lawyer. He will be called upon to devise means of escape from soul-trying bunkers, administer to the wounded pride of the unsuccessful, and turn legislator at a crowded teeing-ground; he must even at times serve as a foil to the wrath of the disconsolate player who has "foozled" a drive that was confidently expected to carry him safely beyond a formidable hazard. There are caddies and caddies, to be sure, but when of the right sort, no servants, I fancy, receive such marked evidence of their master's regard. Most of them are Scotch, and some of them the most picturesque figures on the golfing-green.

fallacy. On looking it up carefully, I found that the average player will loft his ball from 120 to 140 yards, a thoroughly good player from 140 to 160, and an exceptional driver 170 to 180. Men have driven farther, of course, but the everyday average is about what I give it. Seventy to 100 yards represents the average drive of a good golfer of the gentle sex.





## May 2013 - 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.

*Tom Hudy*

### Early 2013 Ballston Spa Country Club Tournaments

Date of Event	Name of Event	Time
Mon, May 06	Open	
Sat, May 11	Men/Women 4 Person Scr.	9 Gun
Mon, May 13	SEARL Golf League	
Mon, May 20	Open	
Sat, May 25	Match Play Champ.	TT
Sun, May 26	Match Play Champ.	TT
Mon, May 27	Match Play Champ.	TT
Sat, Jun 01	Men's/Women's Mem Mem	8:30 Gun
Sun, Jun 02	Men's/Women's Mem Mem	8:30 Gun
Mon, Jun 03	St. Mary's	
Fri, Jun 07	Martini Tasting	5:30 gun
Mon, Jun 10	NYSERDA	12:00 Gun
Sat, Jun 15	Men's/Women's Presidents Cup	TT
Sun, Jun 16	Men's/Women's Presidents Cup	TT
Mon, Jun 17	Open	
Sun, Jun 23	2013 Men's NYS Amateur Qualif.	11AM TT
Thu, Jun 27	Men's Member Guest	TT
Fri, Jun 28	Men's Member Guest	8:00 Gun
Sat, Jun 29	Men's Member Guest	8:00 Gun

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](mailto:golfshop@ballstonspacc.com) or call 985-7935 for more details.

### 2013 Ballston Spa Country Club Outside Tournament Open Dates

Mon, May 06	Mon, Jun 17	Mon, Jul 22	Mon, Aug 26
Mon, May 20	Mon, Jul 01	Mon, Aug 19	Mon, Sep 23

Thank You,  
Tom Hudy  
Tournament Chair