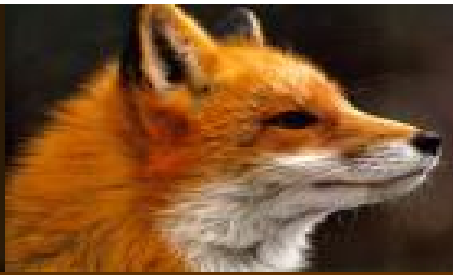


The



Fox

Volume IX Number 7

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

October, 2007

I just have a few things to update everyone on. The aeration of the course went quite smoothly. The greens, tees, approaches, and fairways have been completed. It is a slow process and is a massive job to tackle with such a small crew. So I would ask everyone to just bear with me when we have to do this. This year the weather was perfect. I want to thank the membership for their patience and understanding.



Steve Solisky

One thing that I would like everyone to do when they are out playing golf, is to look at areas that have extensive amount of shade

One example is the #11 green. You will notice that the #11 green does not get sunlight till about just before lunch time. This lack of sunlight along with a 75 year old oak tree 20 feet off the collar doesn't help either.

Areas like this are why your greens are not totally healed up from the summer. Greens in the sun all day have healed up beautifully. I want everyone to notice areas around the course like this.

As the season comes to a close the Green Committee and I are planning for the winter, making some changes that will hopefully help the condition of the course for next year.

Superintendent's Report



Understanding Aerification

It's a perfect sunny morning and you've just reached the first green in regulation. You feel great and you know you're within birdie range. Then, you see them, those little holes in the green. Arrggh! They've just aerified the course, and it's going to ruin your round, right?

Consider also that aerification is merely a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for the course. When you see them, remember that without those little holes, the greens would eventually die.

Preventative maintenance is an integral part of successful golf course management. Golfers view aerification as an inconvenience that takes the greens out of play for a day, pulling cores from the greens and leaving holes that can affect putting for many days before healing. To add insult to injury, aerification is best done in many part of the country during mid-summer, at the height of the playing season and when most greens are in prime condition.

But a golfer needs to understand how important aerification is to producing healthy turf.

Aerification achieves three important objectives. It relieves soil compaction, it provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots and it reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch.

Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than skin deep. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order for grass to grow at 3/16-inch, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles.

Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green – particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay, like BSCC. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants become weaker and will eventually wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing ½-inch cores (those plugs you sometimes see near a green or in fairways) from the compacted soil, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.

Older greens often are constructed of soils with significant amounts of silt, clay and fine organic particles that are prone to compaction. Filling aerification holes with sand improves drainage and resists compaction. The periodic introduction of sand to a green's top layer can over time, avoid or postpone expensive rebuilding or renovation of greens.

Finally, growing of turf adds to a layer of organic matter on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead stems, leaves and roots. A little organic matter makes for a resilient green, but too much invites diseases and insects. Topdressing with sand can prevent thatch buildup, and aerification is one of the best ways to reduce an existing layer and prevent an excess of thatch from becoming established.

Other aerification techniques use machines with "tines" or knives that simply poke holes through the soil profile. A new technique even uses ultra high-pressure water that's injected through the soil profile to create small holes that relieve some compaction but heal quickly.

There are many types of aerifying machines with different attachments that address different problems in the various stages of the life of a green. So the next time you're ready to scream when the aerifiers are brought on the course, remember that a little preventative maintenance produces the best greens over the long haul.

The bottom line is that aerification is a necessary practice. But before you curse the superintendent for ruining your day, just think of Tom Watson. He shot the best round of his life at his home course in Kansas - on newly aerified greens.

Green Committee Report

Work on the chemical storage facility is still in process. The building is substantially complete and work will be concluded as time permits.

We have finished substantially with the work on the 15th tee. The tee was seeded, the surround was sodded, the hill was seeded with a rustic fescue and covered with an erosion control and germination blanket material.

Some dredging on the creek was done since the last report. The material removed was hauled to the dump.

All the greens have been aerated, top dressed, fertilized, and over-seeded with bent grass. The tees will likewise be done by the time this article goes to press.

The sprayer is down for repair. The transmission and pump assembly was shipped out to a specialty repair vendor downstate. This, as you know, is a critical piece of equipment for us and we need it back in service ASAP.

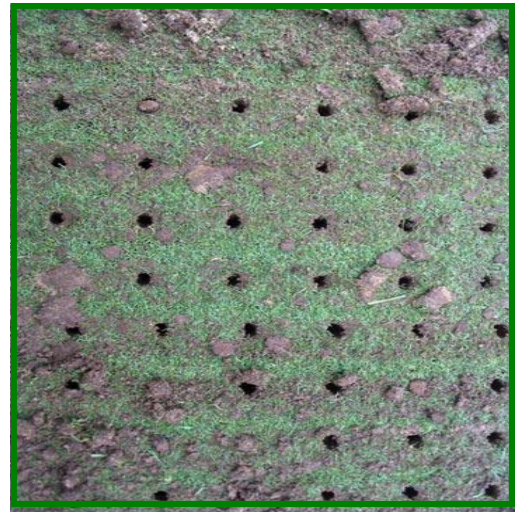
The Green Committee will be called to meet soon to plan for off-season projects. Steve and I recommended to the BoD that we concentrate on tree work this winter in an effort to improve the turf grass growing conditions of areas that are still blocked in terms of sun and air flow.

We are now in a period of reduced course labor in terms of what is budgeted. Because of this, we will not have full crews on for the remainder of the year. We will concentrate, therefore, on mowing and such as the priority items.

For the record, it should be noted that the new contract for Steve Solsky was signed and filed since the last report was submitted.



Dave Runyon



**The restaurant will remain open
throughout the month of October**

President's Letter

The experience of the past few years has indicated that golf course membership in our area has become very competitive. Ballston Spa Country Club and all but a few of the private and semi-private clubs need more members. Advertising and marketing for membership and outside events have become very common. This year we advertised on the radio, in newspapers and over the internet to attract more members. We have 330 playing adult members and have set full membership at 375 playing adults.

We did struggle this year to find ways to generate more revenue. The BoD was initially split on opening the course to the public for limited public play on the weekend that could have generated approximately \$8000 to 10,000 per month. Consensus in the 2006 club survey and informal discussions with several members this year indicated that would be a mistake. That is the foundation of who we are and we must protect our semi-private status.

Reducing the guest and public fees early in the year and now for the fall has added nicely to our revenue. (The public fees are for Monday through Thursday excluding holidays.)

Monday tournaments are a good source of revenue. We had a few tournament cancellations this year and several of the tournaments were smaller than we had projected. We are planning to adopt contracts that will protect the club from last minute cancellations. We hope to develop strategies that will increase the overall number of outside tournament participants. The BoD met with the management of Villagio Green in September and has worked out protocols that will make it easier for outside tournament chairpersons to contract for their tournaments.

We will end the year in the black thanks to sound fiscal management by all in the operation of our course and the club. Our golf course is our greatest asset. As we begin our budget preparations for 2008, the BoD will carefully examine the recommendations of the green committee regarding operational expenses and additional equipment needs.

A club house is an important part of our golfing experience. For now, we need to do our best with the limited structure that we have. Hopefully this winter some volunteers can devote time to improve the men's and women's locker rooms. I will be asking folks to work with me on that over the winter.

Our business office will remain open fall and winter for your convenience. Thanks to Laura McNeil, members and non-members alike receive professional access to our club.

Members overwhelmingly supported Todd Manderson in the 2006 survey. His present contract ends in 2008. Todd is an excellent club pro who has brought playing and teaching talent, professionalism and excellent business knowledge to our club. We hope that we will be able to renew Todd's contract for several more years as we did last month for our outstanding superintendent Steve Solsky.

Fall is a great time for golf. Enjoy your beautiful course.



Dick Cody

How Can You Help BSCC?

This winter, I will be approaching major employers in the region with membership packages for their employees. I will also be mailing a brochure to every area charitable organization, highlighting the advantages of holding a fundraiser at our Club. In the next two years, we need every BSCC Member to think about how they can help us recruit more members. If we can get to 350 playing Members by 2009, much of the economic infrastructure being planned to support the new AMD chip plant should be in place by that point and achieving full membership by 2010 is not going to be a problem. Full membership means we will have tremendous flexibility in implementing plans which should sustain us as we move into the future. Please think about what you can do - talk to friends and colleagues- post a Club brochure at your place of work. Working together we can achieve our goals. Tucker

The Winners' Circle

Labor Day Mixer

1st Gross: Charlie & Rosanne Greenwood
Bill Furman
Ron Penpraze

2nd Gross: Jack & Debbie Cottrell
John & Roxanne Andrews

1st Net: Steve & Penny Monnat
Mark and Betty Thornhill

2nd Net: Mark & Mandy Rider
Ed & Linda Lake

3rd Net: Chuck & Mabel Siler
MJ & Bob MacFarlane

Men's Club Championship

A Flight

1st: Tony Merola
2nd: Dan Vignone

B Flight

1st: Jim Breitinger
2nd: Rich Van Buskirk

C Flight

1st: Paul Dunkelbarger
2nd: Tom Grimes

D Flight

1st: Ed Rufer
2nd: Brian Bergin

E Flight:

1st: Bob Paliwodzinski
2nd: Ed Schwenke

Women's Club Championship

Championship Flight

1st: Sue Delanoy
2nd: Sue Kahler

1st Flight

1st: Roxanne Andrews
2nd: Suzie Mansfield

2nd Flight

1st: Beth Bassett
2nd : Pat Stack

3rd Flight:

1st: Barb Ashbee
2nd: Mary Law Powell

4th Flight:

1st: Lauren Petraske
2nd: Amy Upjohn

5th Flight:

1st: Rayette Johnson
2nd: Sue Pollard

Amazing Golf Anagrams

By rearranging the letters in the following phrases and names, some interesting results can be had:

United States Open Golf Championships =
Seeing men flop chips and putts is a hoot

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers =
A greater bunch of unemployed highborn fools

Eldrick Tiger Woods = Stick wielder, or god?

2008 Tournament Schedule

Date(s)	Day(s)	Tournament	Time	Start
May-03	Sat	Opening Scramble w/breakfast @ 7:30	9:00 AM	SGS
May-17	Sat	Men's 4 person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS
May-17	Sat	Women's 4 person	8:30 AM	SGS
May 24 - 26	S, S, M	Match Play Championship		TT
May-26	Mon	Memorial Day Mixer	1:00 PM	SGS
May-30	Fri	Wine Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS
May 31 or Jun 1	Sat or Sun	President's Cup(play with your own 4some)		TT
Jun-04	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS
June 7-8	S & S	M Member/Member	8:30 AM	SGS
June 7-8	S & S	W Member/Member	8:30 AM	SGS
Jun-14	Sat	Adult / Child Tournament - 9 holes	2:00 PM	SGS
Jun 26 - 28	T, F & S	Men's Member/Guest		SGS
Jul-04	Fri	4th of July Mixer	1:00 PM	SGS
Jul-09	Wed	Women's Invitational	8:30 AM	SGS
Jul-18	Fri	Martini Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS
Jul-20	Sun	2 Person Scramble	8:30 AM	SGS
July 25-26	F & S.	Women's Member Guest	8:30 AM	SGS
Aug-02	Sat	McGladrey's Cup Qualifier		TT
TBA	TBA	Men's Senior Member/Guest	8:00 AM	SGS
Aug-09	Sat	Mixed Member/Guest	1:00 PM	SGS
Aug-14	Thu	Women's mini M/G - 9 holes	4:00 PM	SGS
Aug-15	Fri	Margarita Tasting	5:30 PM	SGS
Aug. 16-17	S & S	Men's & Women's Senior Club Championship	9:00 AM	TT
Aug-20	Wed	Men's Guest Day	12:30 PM	SGS
Aug. 30-31	S & S	Men's Club Champion.	8:00 AM	TT
Aug. 30-31	S & S	Women's Club Champion	11:00 AM	TT
Aug. 30-31	S & S	Junior Club Champion.	8:00 AM	TT
Sep-01	Mon	Labor Day Mixer	1:00 PM	SGS
Sep-07	Sun	Women's League Outing	11:00 AM	TT
Sep-14	Sun	Men's League Outing	8:30 AM	SGS
Sep-27	Sat	Employee Appreciation	9:00 AM	SGS
Oct-04	Sat	Micro Beer Tasting	2:00 PM	SGS

Date Change or Addition



From

The

Golf Shop

Ball Marks continue to be a factor on many of our greens. I am personally asking each and every member to look around on the greens and fix at least 4 ball marks other than your own. It is a constant battle to keep our greens in good shape because they are so small. Ball marks damage the greens and it is very important that we look to repair them and not just walk to the ball and putt. I thank everyone for making an effort to do this.

Golf Shop Merchandise

The golf shop just received some new clothing for men in long sleeve and long sleeve pullovers. Many of you have credit and you may redeem it next year but there is still a lot of inventory and some nice selections left for the season. Use that credit on the in stock merchandise and maybe pick up a X-Mas gift for someone.

Denise Farnan

Denise has gone out on disability and for the rest of this year as she injured her shoulder and has to have surgery on it next week. I would like to thank her for all that she has done for me and the membership this year. I have had very nice feedback from the membership about her teaching and we look forward to seeing her next season on the range tee. Thank you Denise for all of your help.

Ballston Spa Juniors

Just a quick note to let everyone know how Ryan did this season. Many of you know who he is and that he is a good player. He has been traveling all over the country this summer playing in AJGA Allstar tournaments. They are 54 hole tournaments and if he finishes in the top 5, then that will give him an exemption into an actual tournament for the 2008 season. His best finish was a 3rd place finish in Petersburg, VA with a 4 under par 54 hole total. Another junior who has shown major signs of improvement this year was Brad Krohl. Brad finished 3rd in the NENY Final PGA junior tournament at Saratoga National and had a 3rd place finish in the NENY PGA Junior tour event held here at Ballston Spa. Brad is a Senior this year at Shen while Ryan is starting his Freshman year at Shen. Good luck to both of these individuals as they have a bright future in the years to come.

Golf Club Security

We have a pretty good situation at BSCC, as seldom, if ever, do we experience theft to any significant degree.

Not so in other parts of the country. According to a recent estimate from Claim Card Inc. , an insurance replacement service, golf club theft has exceeded \$100 million annually.

With the value of golf club sets approaching \$2,000 and drivers alone worth up to \$500, it has simply become much too tempting for thieves to resist. Golf courses across the country, both private and public, are issuing warnings to golfers to not leave their clubs unattended.

Clubs are taking steps to counter the problem, but it is difficult. The Golf Club environment, like the game itself, is built on trust and respect, which yields a perfect situation for thieves to take advantage of.

Thieves simply walk on a course dressed in golf attire, choose the equipment they want to steal and walk off without being bothered. It is much easier than stealing a car stereo, a bicycle, or breaking into a house.

Putting your clubs in your car after a round isn't always the solution either. With many SUV's and vans, the car's contents are readily seen and entry requires, at most, a broken window.

The cost of clubs and the ease of selling them on the internet has driven this increase of golf club theft to new heights.

Your equipment probably cost you a good deal of money, and you've become used to using it. So take the time to ensure your clubs aren't exposed to thievery.

Baskets of Cheer

The winners of the Women's Golf Association Baskets of Cheer are E. Harkens (Heidi Harkens' father) and Pat Furphy.

Many thanks to all who either donated to the baskets or purchased tickets.



The proceeds from the Baskets of Cheer are used for the beautification of the course.

MJ Crowley



Parring the 19th

Have you noticed how the complexity of our modern lives somehow increases with the acquisition of things that are touted as making our existence easier, more efficient, more enjoyable, more *simple*?



Tucker

Of course you have, especially if you're a Boomer like me. You probably get an e-mail from a friend every week with some sort of nostalgia quiz along the lines of "How many of these items do you remember?

1: Transistor radios etc., etc." The point of these messages is to underline the simplicity of times past. Transistor radios had an on/volume switch and a tuner dial and you were lucky to get 5 stations. Today's version is an i-Pod, with the ability to deliver thousands of tunes in a prescribed order, with a menu that allows customization up the yazoo. People with transistor radios didn't even have a yazoo. The thing is, the luxury of having thousands of your favorite songs on command requires a lot of up-front work and beaucoup bucks. This makes your life better?

So at this point, many of you are flipping to the front page of this publication to reassure yourselves that this is indeed a golf newsletter and not an Andy Rooney column. Well hang in there, the segue is comin' at ya!

My first set of clubs consisted of a matched set: 3 iron, 5 iron, 7 iron, 9 iron, wedge, putter, driver. Exactly one half of what the USGA allowed. They rattled around in a regular department store golf bag reinforced with cardboard, included in the \$39.95 price. But these clubs were magic. My father bought me this set of clubs from Sears when I was 13, hiding them in a neighbor's house and retrieving them after midnight for Christmas day. He claims a car pulled up next to him in the snowy night, as he walked home, golf bag over his shoulder, and asked him if he knew where the fifth hole was. Good story, but with my father, you never knew.

But I continue to digress. My point is, buying a set of golf clubs in 1961 (OK, you've done the math, you now know I'm 49) was easy. Here's a nice new shiny set for \$39.95, bag included - sold!

Fast forward to 2007. A golf neophyte walks into Golf Cosmos, a franchise with 874 locations across America, and says he's looking to buy a set of golf clubs. A sales person, rubbing his hands and salivating, suggests he start with the putter.



What length would he prefer? Belly? Standard 35-36"?, modern 33-34"?, Grip Size? What about the shaft? Center-shafted? Heel shafted? Double Bend? Offset? And what would he like that made of? Stainless Steel? Carbon Steel? Graphite? Polymer? OK, and now the all-important head. Would the gentleman prefer a blade? A mallet? In brass?, bronze, steel or aluminum? What about a face-balanced model? With an insert? Sure. Would that be a rubber, composite or aluminum insert? How about just going with a milled face? Need some alignment lines on that baby? What about the head weight? Do you need a heel-toe balanced unit? Oh yeah, and loft and lie angle - gotta get those just right, 'course it depends on the angle of your forward press and your putting posture, so why don't you just step over here to our Flatstick Fitting Foyer, attach these electrodes to various parts of your body and we'll be done shortly. Shouldn't set you back more than two or three hundred.



The next two hours are spent with terms flying through his head; *Perimeter Weighting, Moment of Inertia, Trampoline Effect, Center of Gravity, Kickpoint, Flex, Torque, Swing Weight, Swing Speed, Balance Point, Beryllium Copper, Beta-Titanium, Gear Effect, Muscle Back, Progressive Weighting*.....and on and on.

The overwhelmed neophyte realizes he should have done his homework, possibly some graduate work in physics, before embarking on such a daunting task as buying a new set of golf clubs.

Joe

Joe Kirkwood used to tour with Walter Hagan in the 1920's, performing trick shots, and hustling suckers. One of his hustles involved challenging golfers to a putting contest; the sucker used his putter, Kirkwood used a two-by-four. Kirkwood usually won. Byron Nelson's mid 1940's record season of 18 tour wins, 11 in a row, was played with clubs considered primitive by today's standards, on courses considered horse pastures compared to the manicured perfection we have today. His stroke average was about where Tiger's is, and you could, if you were lucky, get a shot-by-shot commentary of some of those tournaments on the radio.

If you get my drift.