



Volume XI Number 7
October 2009

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

The Board received the latest financial report just a week ago and the financial data looks good, not great, but we are more comfortable with how the year will end. Of course, we do have an emergent

expense getting the irrigation system repaired and working again.

We are estimating to end the year with approximately \$85,800 on hand. \$35,000 of that is in a reserve fund used only for emergencies and \$43,000 will be used to pay off shareholders waiting for share repayment. If all goes as planned, those shareholders will be paid off early in 2010. That will leave us with approximately \$18,000 to start the year and meet our early 2010 expenses before we start receiving our 2010 dues.

Over the past few years, we have been trying to buy Steve the equipment he needs to get his job done in the most efficient manner possible and provide us the best possible conditions. We have used our course improvement assessment to purchase some key pieces of used equipment.

The problem we have encountered over the past few weeks is a rash of this used equipment breaking down and needing repairs. Steve and Chad (our mechanic) do a great job of repairing many of the problems. However, the parts are still expensive and our maintenance budget is increasing each year. The used dump truck (the red one) has a broken bed frame. We use this truck to plow the parking lot and do all of our heavy hauling. Steve is trying to find a way to replace the frame since we do not want to spend any money on a replacement. There is more important equipment that we need so it will be challenging to find ways to purchase the equipment without breaking the budget. One piece of equipment that was purchased last year was a deep tiner. When I played golf today (9/20/09, Men's League outing), a number of people were commenting about how good the greens were. As we all know, we had problems with our greens in years past but the deep tiner was key to allowing our greens to weather the summer months better than in years past.

I would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the winter green covers. We ultimately sold 174 tickets and raised enough to purchase 3 or 4 covers. Look for Dick Cody's article in this issue of the Fox for more details.

With this being the last Fox of the year, I would like to take a minute to thank Todd and his entire staff for another great year. Todd and his staff are simply the best and they take care of all our pro shop needs throughout the year.

I would like to thank Steve and his staff for an outstanding job all year long. We sometimes take for granted the work that Steve does, but what Steve accomplishes on the budget he has to work with is nothing short of miraculous.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email address is tucats@nycap.rr.com or you may call me, (W) 395-6472 or (H) 371-1926.



Rick Funaro

August 2009

Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop



Golf Shop Credits

It is that time of year once again where many of you have built up your credit and it is time to spend it. All merchandise credit must be used by October 31st of 2009. All clothing will be 20% off until this date. All credit on the books must be used on IN STOCK merchandise ONLY. There will be no special orders that will be allowed to use the merchandise credit to pay for it. We have a lot of merchandise in stock at this time and we need to clear it out to make room for next years styles..... Don't wait, use it while the selection is still at its largest.

Outside Golf Events

We have had a small decrease in outside events this season. If any of the Ballston Spa Country Club members have any leads on events that you have played in this season and know of any contact information that we may get the event to switch, please get the information to me so I can try to get the event at BSCC for the 2010 season. We know that the membership has many connections with various events in the Capital District and we would like to use all of our networking possibilities to help out our Monday events.

Frost Delays

With the fall golf season upon us, we would like to make everyone aware of the frost delays that will begin once again. We all know that these are an inconvenience to everyone including our maintenance staff, so we do ask for a little more patience to allow mother nature to do her thing and we will all do our best to get everyone on the golf course as quickly as the weather allows us to. Thank you for your patience in this situation. It is worth the wait so we don't lose any turf.

House Report



Fall golf is a wonderful time of the year and the course is in great shape. Remember our restaurant mini-mums are in effect through October 31st. Continue to enjoy fine golf and of course food and beverage at the restaurant.

Dick Cody

Winter Greens Cover Raffle

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of our Winter Greens Cover Raffle.

First Prize Winner
Rich Flavin \$1740

Second Prize Winners
Betty Chiffolo \$435
Mark Rider \$435
Ed Hall \$435
Mike Radzevich \$435



Thanks to the generosity of all of our members and friends who bought one or more tickets. We will have \$5100 to purchase the covers.

Special thanks to member Mike Zegarelli and Laura McNeil of our business office for their work on the raffle.



Parrying the 19th



Tucker

In casual play, there occur many instances of a breach of the strict rules of golf, which is as it should be, as long as everyone agrees to the particular angle to which the rules are bent.

One of the more popular instances of rule warpage happens every time Bernie asks, "Whadidya hit, Ralphie?", on that 155 yard into-the-wind par three that plays downhill to a soft green with water on the backside. Most times, Ralphie will simply hold the club up so Bernie can see the sole plate number. Often, Bernie digests the information inscribed thereon and asks a follow-up question, "Didya hit it good?", before selecting his weapon based on Ralphie's game and Bernie's analysis of the quality of the stroke Ralphie administered.



All of this is strictly illegal. Asking or giving advice is a no-no, but we do it all the time. In my regular Sunday group there is always some jerk who will knock his tee shot pin high on the second green and then make some remark like, "Geez, I didn't really think the three iron would get there", all the while concealing the fact that he'd hit a five iron by slamming it into the bag before anyone can challenge him. That kind of thing is done in fun and is generally met with responses that are typical of testosterone-laden beings when left on their own.

There are those amongst us however, who actively pursue the dissemination of information in the interests of messing with our opponent's reasoning process. There is one player I know, who attempts to discombobulate his opponent by actually showing him the club he used on the tee without being asked. There is no dialogue involved, he simply hits a good shot and then sticks the club in the face of his opponent, as if to challenge him to use the same club.



There are stories of some well known players who purposely had their clubs misnumbered, or had the lofts tampered with, for the express reason that they didn't want to advertise their clubbing to anyone they were playing with. There is nothing wrong or illegal about this, in fact one could do away with the numbering system altogether and use whatever club identification they wished. If everyone did this, it could lead to some very interesting on-course conversations.

"Whadidya hit, Ralphie?"

"My Canticle."

"Yer Canticle? That means I should be lookin' at usin' my Beta X Apologue."

"Oh yeah. At least."

Often, the misinformation is given more as an ego maintenance device than anything else. Elmore's game, generally considered one of the longest at the club, is showing signs of the aging process. So, when asked to report on the club he's just swung, Elmore automatically adds one number to sustain the image. Every three or four years, as his game slowly disintegrates like carbon-14, he'll add another digit until he can't live the lie any longer and he'll start a new season based on the truth, at which point his game will look as though it lost five clubs in distance in the space of one winter.

Women of course, rarely participate in this club deception phenomenon. They toil their way through their golf life under the misconception that it doesn't really matter what one uses to put the ball in the hole. What matters is that you get the job done. They don't even have the decency to be embarrassed when they use a club six times removed from what their companion used for the same shot.



There should be some sort of rule about that.