

The



Fox

Volume VIII Number 7

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

September, 2006

BSCC From the Air



*July, 2006 Ballston Spa Country Club
Establisher 1925*



The "Hub"



Golf Shop and Clubhouse



The 17th hole

This high quality photo collage will be available for purchase the first week of September in the Golf Shop.

It is printed on a stiff 100 pound cover stock and was photographed with a 10 mega-pixel camera for maximum resolution and clarity on a perfect sunny Monday in July when there were very few golfers on the course.

You may purchase the photograph unframed for \$65.00, or choose from a variety of frames and mattes for \$175.00. The framing option is a bargain as we have negotiated a wholesale framing price.

Proceeds from the sale of this photograph will be earmarked for course improvement equipment and projects. Order now for Holiday Presents, Birthdays, Member/Guest Partners, Office and Home. And don't forget, you'll be contributing to the beautification of our great Golf Course with every purchase.

President's Letter

It seems hard to believe that Labor Day is already upon us. Let's hope the rain and heat of

the summer are behind us and we can look forward to some great fall golf. The first item of business for this month's President letter is to inform you that our green fees and cart revenue is well behind our projections and certainly our expectations. The shortfall is due to a number of factors. First, June was a real washout and our member play (guest fees and cart revenue) and our public play revenue were well below June of 2005. July was better but still below July 2005. At the time of this writing, August is also behind 2005. Our Corporate memberships are also lower than previous years and we recently had a few tournaments cancel because they did not have enough players. Put it all together and it can add up pretty quickly. The BOD's are meeting in early September to go over the August revenue numbers and to discuss options to close the revenue gap. One option might be a fall special for public play on Monday through Thursday. However, as you can read in the Treasurer's report, our overall revenue is only down approximately 1% from 2005.



Rick Funaro

We recently approved a fall membership special. There is nothing that drives our success more than our membership. Our membership has been very successful in recruiting new members so if you are aware of anyone interested in joining, this is a great time. The special is \$800 (this money is payment 1 of the stock purchase) and you play for the rest of the year for free. For more details, check the flyers that are posted outside of the Pro Shop and on the web site.

I also want to let the membership know about the opportunity to purchase aerial photos of Ballston Spa Country Club. The photos are beautiful and are of extremely high quality. We have also made arrangements with a wholesale framer and will offer framing if members are interested. All of the proceeds from the sale of these photos will go into a special fund that will be used to purchase equipment or go to fund a course project. We will work with the Green Committee to decide how to best use these funds. We are unsure of how many we will sell so

it is premature to determine what we can purchase. This would be a great Christmas present or a gift for your Member/Guest partner. We will have the photo available for viewing along with the various frame choices the first week in September. So please, get a great photo and also support our club at the same time.

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.

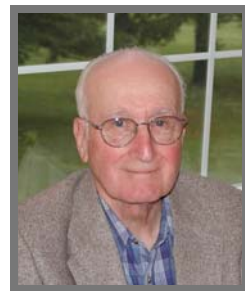
Treasurer's Report

The weather has been very unfavorable with regard to our budget. June was excessively wet, July very hot and so far in August, receipts from green fees and carts have been less than expected.

The good news is that the overall income on August 17th was within one percent of the 2005 income for that time, year to date. It is very probable that we will not meet our budget for the year for income, but we will be able to meet the bank requirements for earnings, and will have a small reduction in the cash on hand at year end.



There is a **Membership Special**, and every new member recruited helps this year and in future years. For payment of the first installment of their stock (\$800) a new Member can play for free for the rest of the season. Please let your friends, neighbors relatives and work colleagues know what a great Club we have, tell them the course has never been better and let them know how great the food and drinks are at Ballston Spa Country Club.



Al Squire



John Paolucci

Notes From the Board

Slow Play

We continue to receive complaints from members regarding slow play. As Todd mentioned in last month's Fox, we all need to make every effort to keep play moving. To measure the actual weekend play, the Board of Directors has asked Todd to begin logging in the start and finish times of foursomes. This will give us a benchmark to determine the average time per round, as well as identify chronically slow players. Todd and his staff will speak to slow playing members, and or foursomes to encourage them to increase their speed of play. Hopefully, this will help eliminate the problem, but if it continues we may need to consider further action.



It should be noted that we need to have reasonable expectations for what the appropriate time interval should be for a weekend round of golf. I have discussed this with Todd several times and although some members have expressed a desire to have a 3.5 hour round, we believe that an expectation of a less than 4 hour round is really not reasonable. If fast play is desired, we suggest you reserve the earliest tee time possible.

Member Satisfaction Survey

To obtain member feedback, we are developing a member satisfaction survey. I will be leading this effort and analyzing the information I receive, part of which will be used as a long range planning tool. The survey will be segmented into specific functional areas including the Pro Shop, Golf Course and Maintenance, Restaurant, Business Office, and much more.

I hope you will take the time to complete the survey, which will be sent to you in the next few weeks.

Season Pass Golf Carts

We have received reports that some season pass golf cart members sometime drive alone in carts, instead of sharing a cart with other cart riders within their own foursome. A member reported an instance where one foursome was using four carts. No foursome should ever have more than two golf carts within it. This practice creates unnecessary wear on the course as well as wastes gas, which is an expense to the club.

The Pro Shop is responsible for monitoring this activity and has the complete support of the Board of Directors to enforce proper usage.



The Proper Way to Repair a Ball Mark

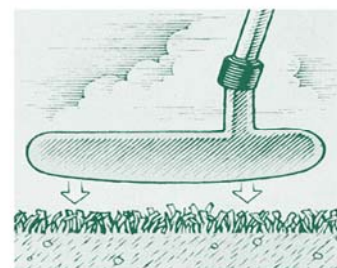
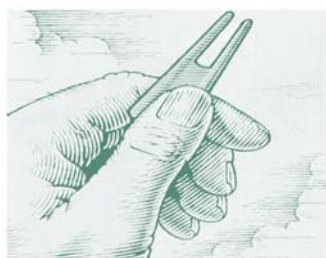


1 Use a prolonged ball mark repair tool (preferably), knife, key or tee.

2 Insert at the edges of the mark—not the middle of the depression.

3 Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but don't lift the center. Try not to tear the grass.

4 Smooth the surface with a club or foot. You're done when it's a surface that you would putt over.



Source: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

House Report



Carl Iovinella

Id like to share with you three letters the restaurant received concerning the food and service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ballston Spa Country Club and the staff at Villagio Green for their excellent preparation and service at my daughter's recent college graduation party on June 26th. The party could not have gone

any better. Anthony met with my wife and he put together a menu that was specific for our needs and budget. Mike, Amber, and Kayla did an outstanding job making sure that the food was served in a timely manner and that any of my guests' requests were taken care of immediately in a pleasant manner. Their attention to detail was excellent. The food was more than enough and all raved about how great it was. After the party, the staff actually wrapped up what was left for us to take home.

Regards, **Mike Couch**

Rick - Wanted to give some positive feedback. Villagio green did a great job on the Women's Member Guest. The food was delicious and plentiful. I heard many positive comments.

Thanks, **Mary Jane Crowley**

Keith: Thank you so very much for the absolutely delicious food you prepared for my daughter's birthday party. We couldn't have been more pleased with the quality, taste and presentation. Everyone raved all day on how sumptuous the breads, wings and lasagna tasted. The Chicken Marsala was truly fantastic. We had enough food for the entire neighborhood. It was satisfying knowing our guests enjoyed every bite. We thank you so much for doing such a great job. We look forward to having you serve us again in the near future.

Sincerely, **Allyson Ostrander**



Thank You



Matt Riggins

As we all know, September is rapidly approaching which in turn means that within a few months another golf season at BSCC will soon be recorded. Along with this, I would like to take the time to announce that this will be my last season as assistant golf pro here at BSCC.

Words can't come close to explaining how enjoyable it's been to work for such an incredible membership over the past four years. Unfortunately my position here at BSCC only lasts for 6 months out of the year which has been the cause for my traveling south in the winter months.

Over the past four years I have been able to gain great knowledge and experience working for several prestigious golf clubs in Florida. Through our head pro Todd Manderson, along with several other mentors I have not only learned the golf business to a "tee," but also have tweaked my skills in marketing/HR/management and sales.

Currently I am attempting to use my four year degree in business management from Ithaca college along with my experience here at BSCC to begin a job search in the career paths of sales/management and human resources. I am analyzing any options that are available and would like to expand my job search as wide as possible. With this in mind, I ask that if anyone has any leads in any of these job categories that I just described, it would be greatly appreciated if you could give me any form of information. My resume is readily available and I am accepting any type of advice that I can be given.

Hopefully all of you as our members here at BSCC have been able to point out that I strive on great member relations and a strict work ethic. I once again must mention that my experience here at BSCC has been phenomenal and working for members such as yourselves has made coming to work every-day extremely fun.

I wish everyone an enjoyable end to the 2006 golf season and hopefully we will still be putting the tee in the ground well into the fall months.

Thank you for taking the time to review this brief statement and if anyone has and leads, you can reach me in the shop or at any of the following contacts.

Thanks again and keep it in the short grass!

Matt Riggins
Asst. Golf Pro BSCC
Email: mrkr2424@yahoo.com Phone: 281-0423

Chopper's Corner

Why do you play golf? Recently, I heard that question asked by a sports psychologist of a Big Break winner on The Golf Channel. His coaching was for her to think about that question and her answer whenever she was faced with a particularly nerve-wracking or competitive moment on the golf course. Her real reason for playing golf should keep her focused and grounded when the nerves of competition kicked in. I don't know if it will work for that player or not, but that question got me thinking about my own answer and prompted me to ask some of my playing partners the same. The results are worth sharing.

I take a trip in the fall and spring with my high school buddies and occasionally our paths cross in the summer months so I thought they would provide some good insights. Almost unanimously, and as expected, the first answer was that golf was an excuse to get together and drink beer. My further probing was met with "No, really, that's why." Explaining that this was a research project to advance my humble literary hobby, I finally got answers more related to the game itself.

"I like to test myself with some of the same challenges faced by all golfers to see how I fare on my own. It's really satisfying to pull off a great shot, knowing that it was from my own individual effort. Of course, those chunks, blades and ugly shots are from my own efforts as well but in either case, I know who to blame or who gets the credit."

Or from another: "I love being outside on a beautiful day taking in the sights, sounds and beauty of a golf course. My golf game sometimes spoils that beauty, but I'd rather be out there than anywhere else." "I love the competition of a really close match" said another. "Going head-to-head with someone always brings my game to another level and each hole is a new match."

And from the last: "I like the camaraderie that only golf provides. We're all out there, playing our own games, making great shots and bad shots, but we're in it together and usually have a lot to laugh about and cheer about. And, there are those shots that fly perfectly that keep you coming back for more. After a round, it's nice to discuss the highs and lows over a couple of beers and laugh all over again."

Several years ago, I got the chance to see Arnold Palmer play in a charity skins game. The crowds were of a size that allowed us to get really close to the players and actually hear the conversations with their caddies about strategy, wind direction and ultimately club selection. The moment I remember most was when Arnold selected a two-iron for his second shot on a par-5 hole. He caught the ball perfectly and we all watched as it sailed long and true, right on line to the flag stick, about 230-yards away. As the ball started its descent, Arnold yelled "Oh, be what I think you are!" The ball ended up about 8 feet left of the hole and he easily made the putt for eagle. When the ball was in flight, I think Arnold would have answered that he played golf for the thrill of pulling off shots like that one on that day. Why do you play golf?



Doug Young

Environmental Update

The Seniors in the Thursday morning league have contributed to the beauty of our course by identifying more than 40 different trees along the 18 holes. The seniors hope this will enhance everyone's appreciation of the environment we are privileged to use, even if we accidentally hit some of these same trees!



Perhaps a few potential new members will be impressed even more by our outstanding layout.

The eccentric seniors who are responsible for this project are Ed Albrecht and Dick Haner, who also bounce balls off the trees.

Ed Albrecht

Winners' Circle

Relative Tournament August 6th

1st: Pat Joseph, Miles Joseph
2nd: Jeri Carr, Chris Beeman
3rd: Terry Dwyer, Taylor Dwyer
4th: Gary Lyons, Jason Lyons
Tim Krohl, Brad Krohl
Chuck Keens, Joe Heslin

Margarita Scramble August 18th

1st: Kathy Funaro, Rick Funaro,
Kathy Flavin, Rich Flavin
2nd: Tim Fabozzi, B. Fabozzi,
Roger Bubel, Becky Bubel
3rd: Betsy Drambour, Pat
Joseph, Laura Blanche,
C. Youmans

Women's Senior Club Championship August 19-20

50-55 Flight: M.J. Crowley

56-60 Flight: Kate Oppedisano

61-65 Flight: Sharon Naftzger

66-over Flight: Joyce Blau

Overall Gross Winner:
Kate Oppedisano

Overall Net Winner:
Max Tucker

Men's Senior Club Championship August 19-20

Championship Flight: John Keyzer

1st Flight: Stan Ziobrowski

2nd Flight: Tom Grimes

3rd Flight: Jim Bryant

4th Flight: Ed Lake

5th Flight: Ken Bowler

6th Flight: Jim Stefanik

7th Flight: Bob MacFarlane

8th Flight: Jim Orkins

9th Flight: Gary Lyons

10th Flight: Jan Holick

Senior News

I would like to invite any male Member 50 or over, to join us Thursday mornings for 18 holes and camaraderie. Just sign the list on the Golf Shop counter before 3PM Tuesday and I will put you in a foursome. You can play dues free until the end of the year. We generally play until November.

We are having an outing 9/12 at pioneer Hills, in Galway. Tee times start at 8AM followed by a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and salad. The cost is \$38 and includes green fees, cart and lunch. Please join us. Call or e-mail me if you want to play.

I would like to thank Stan Ziobrowski for the great Senior Club Championship he put together for us. Everyone had a great time.

Bruce Kay

From the Golf Shop

Pace of Play

We will be trying to control the pace of play on the weekends for our membership. There have been some complaints about this to our board of directors. We will be writing down your tee times at the start of play and a member of your group will be responsible for letting someone in the golf shop know the time of completion of play. This will identify the slow players and we will make an attempt to speed them up. In the earlier issue in the fox I made mention that nobody wants to take responsibility for so we have decided to find another way to keep the pace moving. My reason for letting everyone know about this is to go easy on the golf shop staff and myself when your group is asked to keep up with the group in front of you. We are only doing our job and trying to allow all the members to enjoy their round of golf.

Golf Carts

We have had some demo golf carts here the past couple of months and the board of directors is looking at replacing our existing carts with some newer ones. Please let a board member or myself know what your feelings are on the demos that we have had here and I hope that everyone has had a chance to take one of them out to try. If not, they are still here and take an opportunity to try them out and give us your feedback. Thank you.

Home and Home

We had to cancel our home and home with Skenandoa this past month due to lack of participation from our membership. Please let me know if you think it is easier to go there during july and to have them come here during the month of August or if you are just not interested in doing it any longer. We had 16 players signed up and they had 50 for their place that is why we canceled it. Please give me some feedback on what you as members would like me to try and do for the future of the Home and Home with Skenandoa Club.

Todd Manderson



Parrying the 19th

Ben Hogan once said, "There is no such thing as a born golfer." This was easy for Ben to say, since he started out as a lefty, switched to golfing as a righty but with a lefty grip, then switched to an overlapping right-handed grip from the left-handed baseball grip, eventually settling on the interlocking grip.



Tucker

This is, of course, the grip that virtually every other golfer in the world was using. One wonders what took the Iceman so long to discover it.

My theory on the evolution of Hogan's grip is that he probably read too much. The Golfing Infomaniac has a plethora of advice and how-to's delivered in numbing numbers, packaged in a multitude of media, such as books, videos, TV, the internet and one's regular Sunday morning partners. It's a wonder we can choose any particular swing thought from the choices offered.

If we examine the Secret of Golf as revealed by the great players and golf writers, we get a rough idea of what I mean.

Champagne Tony Lema's advice for success on the tour skipped the mechanics of the game, but is noteworthy: "The first rule usually is: no women chasing after Wednesday."

Others offered more sweeping generalizations as the answer to all our needs. Willie Park said, "The man who can putt is a match for anyone." I think we can see his point, although here comes J.H. Taylor writing, "A man who can approach does not require to putt." Well, that's true too, come to think of it.

Then the fun begins, as we get into the physiology of the swing. Tommy Armour reveals all as he offers, "How well you play golf depends on how well you control that left hand of yours." Dai Rees, the Welshman, disagrees, claiming, "One point is common to all golfers - the legs are vital." Henry Cotton puts the matter to rest by disclosing, "It is the control of the tension of the grip in the fingers which counts. This is *the* golf secret, if there is one."

Okay, let me get it straight. All we have to do is worry about That Left Hand, The Vital Legs and Finger Tension. Other body parts are cited by other experts, such as The Head, The Shoulders, The Right Elbow and The Left Side. No one thinks Aligning The Gall Bladder With The Swing Plane is of any consequence, although I personally believe this is the only swing thought that requires our undivided attention.

Tommy Armour offers a second, more practical hint when he advises golfers to "Walk up to the ball and hit it hard." James Agate also comes up with a winner when he contends, "All golf books are useless."

The ultimate answer to understanding The Secret of Golf is that there is none. All these gurus are writing about what is important to their own game, and their "secret" is not a panacea for all golfers. So why even bother reading them? These guys spent most of their waking hours playing the game, but as Sir W.G. Simpson once wrote, "Excessive golfing dwarfs the intellect."

No wonder Hogan took so long to figure things out.

Hoganisms

A young pro, eager to improve his game, asked Ben Hogan if he could give him any advice. "Do you have any practice balls?" Hogan asked. Expecting to be led to the practice range for a lesson, the young man assured him he did indeed have practice balls. Hogan said, "Then use them."

Another young pro came to Hogan for help, saying he was having trouble with thirty- and forty-foot putts. Could Hogan give him any advice? Hogan offered the young man the same advice his wife Valerie had given him years earlier: "Hit it closer to the hole."

Growing weary of questions from reporters about how he played a round at the Masters, Hogan snapped, "Some day a deaf mute will win this thing and you guys won't be able to write a word."

Superintendent's Report

August has been a challenge to keep the course in the shape it was in late June and early July. We had that few weeks of hot humid weather in July that made controlling fungal diseases a difficult challenge. Any turf that was under stress from compaction or poor air circulation took a real beating.

The bent grass in the greens, tees, and fairways seemed to handle the hot humid weather better than the poa annua. The 16th greens was predominately poa and took a massive decline a month ago. As soon as the weather broke a few weeks ago I borrowed a seeder and seeded the green three times with a good variety of bent grass. The germination on the greens was great and the green is getting better. I apologize for the condition of this green. I plan on creating a better growing environment for the 16th green this coming fall/winter. A number of trees need to be removed around the green to help the green handle tough conditions.



Steve Solsky

This past week I have been irrigating everyday to keep things somewhat green. Some poa annua was lost in the tees and fairways, but this may be good because we want to aerate and overseed with bent grass this fall. Without the compotation of the poa annua, I would imagine that we will have better luck germinating bent grass in the greens, tees, and fairways after aerification next month.

The work done on the bottom of #1 was drainage being installed to deal with the wet conditions that occur in the spring or a rainy June.



Things are never perfect: While we were draining #1 we had dry problems on #14 approach and elsewhere.

