



Volume XI Number 7
September 2009

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox

President's Letter

Rick Funaro

With another month behind us, the financial data continues to indicate that we will end the year with enough cash on hand to preserve an emergency cash reserve and have funds available to meet our expenses in the early part of the new year.

To ensure an adequate cash reserve, BSCC has suspended any stock repurchases or refund of partial payments until 2010. The Board had significant discussion on this issue and it was decided that given the current economic conditions, this is what is best for BSCC. These payments will be included in our 2010 budget.

I have highlighted in previous letters what actions the Board has taken to ensure we are in a position to meet our critical obligations.

A few of the contributors to our financial situation include, dues down nearly 10% from last year, income from carts and green fees being down just over 10% and maintenance costs for our equipment and irrigation system increasing as both are getting more expensive to maintain as they get older.



We have started our fall membership special. Pay \$500 and play for the rest of the year with 2010 dues reduced by the \$500 paid. If you know of anyone interested, I encourage you to make them aware of this great membership opportunity.

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.

Some Things to Think About

Anyone contemplating a Lifetime Membership should understand the remaining 2 available will be offered at 10X the current dues. If you want to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime offer, it would be a good idea to do it before January 1st.

A good percentage of our new Members each year come from our current Members. It's in your best interest to think about who you know that might be a candidate for membership at our Club and make them aware of the benefits of belonging to a Golf Club

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Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

As we make our way into August, we start to have warmer temperatures that stress the course. It is a constant battle to keep everything looking good. As you might have noticed, in some of the fairways the poa annua has burned out. You would be surprised to see how dry the course can get after several days of no rain and 90 degree heat. Having a very wet month in July has weakened the turf. When the ground is always wet, the plant needs to push its roots ever deeper and consequently the turf dries out very quickly because of the lack of roots. (See photos on page 8)

My crew and I do our best to keep everything mowed. With equipment breakdowns occurring almost daily, keeping up with the mowing becomes a challenge. The irrigation system is also showing its age and has continuing problems.

All in all, I think the course is in great shape. For the next few weeks, I just want to concentrate on not losing any grass. Hopefully, this hot weather will subside once we get into September. The course will get aerated after Labor Day. The greens, tees, approaches and fairways will need this cultural practice to continue to be in good shape. This year we will close a 9 down to aerify the greens and fairways. It is impossible to do these jobs during play. I would ask the membership to have some patience. This is the schedule for Fall aeration: 9/8 - 9/9 fairways aerification. 9/10 - 9/11 fairways aerification rain dates.

9/29 - 30 greens aerification This will be a large core aerification, filling the holes with sand and seed.

Green Committee Report

Now that the hot weather is upon us Steve and crew have been focusing on preserving the quality of our turf – fairways and greens – as much as possible. Steve has consistently sprayed for fungus and other hot weather conditions that can crop up with little warning. Most of you may remember the inordinate amount of rainfall we had last summer in late July. After that a lot of black algae developed on the greens due to poor drainage. This year we aren't seeing that despite the abnormal rainfall because of the repeated deep tine aerification Steve has done. It's nice to see the investment in that valuable piece of equipment has really paid off.



Sue Kahler

Perhaps the most visible change over the last month is the tree to the right of the 6th fairway has been removed. The clean up was outstanding so many of you may not have noticed it's absence. The Green Committee came to the unanimous decision, with the Board's approval, that the tree was impacting the playability of the hole. The committee also decided that there will be no other changes to that hole without adequate study, consultation with a golf course architect and sufficient funds to make any such recommended changes.

Due to budget limitations, no other projects or major changes will be made to the course before the end of the playing season. At their next meeting the Green Committee will be reviewing the cost of green covers and the available funding from the sale of raffle tickets. At this time it doesn't appear we will have sufficient funds to purchase the 6 green covers we need. To date less than 50% of our membership has purchased a raffle ticket. Hopefully those who have not done so will purchase a ticket in the coming weeks so that we can start the next season with healthy greens. The Green Committee will also be discussing possible tree work to be done during winter months, equipment needs as well as the 2010 budget.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other Green Committee member if you have any questions or concerns.

Committee Members: Bob Miskanian, Mike Peters, Maxine Tucker, Tony Merola, Bob DeMarco, Carl Jahn, Steve McCorkell, David Fizer, Rick Moran, Dave Runyon

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From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Merchandise Credit

All credit must be used by October 31st this season. Start using up what you have while there is still a large selection to choose from. We still have a great selection of Men's and Women's clothing and some fall items have arrived. Looking for ideas? Then purchase something for X-mas.

Golf Tip

Ball position is a very important part of the golf swing and as I play with various members on the course, I notice most players are coming up short on the downhill lies. There are 2 important parts to playing this shot. The first is to get the ball position more off of the right foot (for a right handed player) and the second is to get all of your weight moving toward your target. That would be moving your weight toward your left foot.

These 2 things are essential to playing the downhill lie shot on any golf course. If you have any questions about this, please ask me in the golf shop and I will be more than happy to show you exactly how to play the shot.



Club Championship

The Club Championship weekend is approaching quickly and we would like to let everyone know that we will be having 10 minute tee times for that weekend and will be pairing the players in groups of 3 to help the pace of play. We will be keeping a tight watch on the pace of play and are looking for all players to stay in pace with the group in front of them. We are doing this to ensure that all players in the event and not in the event can still enjoy their round without any issues. Let's all please be aware of this and help everyone with this event.

The Practice Range - New Thoughts

Dick Elwell submitted a piece by Bill Pennington of the NY Times, which gives one pause before pounding out 3 bags of balls prior to starting your round. I've actually tried this suggestion and, whether it's all in my head or not, I'm playing better. Maybe a practice range is just that - a place to work out your glitches, not a place to warm up before a round.

Tucker

Jerry Moulds, selected as one of the top 100 teachers in the US, told me that one of the worst things golfers could do before a round was hit golf balls on the practice range. "Going to the practice range usually messes the average golfer up for the whole day," Moulds says. "If they hit well on the range, it's pretty common that a bout of nerves combined with high expectations, will make them hit a few bad shots as soon as they get on the course. That frustrates them to no end and they start wondering why they couldn't bring their range swing to the course. And if they hit it poorly on the range, they start changing everything in their normal swing, get more frustrated and head to the first tee a wreck.

"They should start by just swinging several different clubs without hitting anything. Warm up for maybe 10 minutes, at most just hit a few 50 yard shots to get a feel for ball contact and control, then walk to the tee with a clear mind. Most PGA pros practice after a round, not before."



Bruce Kay

Treasurer's Report

I switched hats from house chair to treasurer this year. I want to assure the membership and shareholders I am watching the assets and operations of our club. I review business procedures with Laura and Al on a weekly basis. Our office runs efficiently, as all of you know. I have looked at procedures associated with club business. Al and I visited our bank, Ballston Spa National Bank, and were well received. If I may assist you in your monetary dealings with the club please contact me.

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Green Covers Raffle

The raffle tickets are not selling as rapidly as we had anticipated.

As of August 20th we sold 115 out of 200 tickets. Thanks to 98 members who purchased the 115 tickets. Remember if

we sell all the tickets, \$6000 will go toward purchase of the covers and \$4000 for prizes.

We are sure there are still many members who intend but haven't yet purchased their ticket. Please see any of the BOD members, Mike Zegarelli or Laura in the office for your ticket.



Dick Cody

House Report

A few days ago several Ballston Spa Seniors played at a local course and shared the days round after golf over drinks and dinner. It was one of our hot humid days of August and the clubhouse has no air conditioning. One of the very important improvements to our clubhouse this year was new air conditioning units. We can certainly appreciate the work of Sty Morris and Tim Preston who prepared our clubhouse's electrical system for the new AC units. Thanks also to Bruce Kay for spearheading this effort.

Members have expressed their satisfaction with the current restaurant menu and the service has been consistently good. Please continue to give Rosanne Greenwood, Bob or Dick any comments.

We are planning for next year. It is very important that you share your thoughts and suggestions with us during the next four to six weeks.

Handicap Committee Report

Good news!!! A newly-formed Handicap Committee has started to take shape. The Board of Directors has requested a Handicap Committee be formed to assist with and oversee the activities of the GHIN system.

For some the first thought that comes to mind is that we don't need a committee and all the committee will do is harass the members. I can tell you emphatically that this will not happen. For some the first logical thought would be that this will lead to a "police state" for our golfing. This couldn't be farther from reality. Handicaps are there to level the playing field, not to give an undue advantage to the very few who abuse it. It is true that when (if) an egregious violation occurs the Handicap Committee will get involved however that is in no means the goal of the committee. The committee's goal is to educate all the club's members as to how the GHIN system is designed to be used. Since it has its roots in the USGA there are many publications and education aids whose primary purpose is to adequately educate the membership on its use. Each month in the Fox there will be a snip-it on an important aspect of the handicap system.



David Fizer

If you remember nothing else about the Handicap Committee please remember this - we are here to help.

The committee members so far are Ken Stevens, Roy Williams and me (David Fizer). We are looking for a female member since much of our job will be to assist with the different sub-organizations (women's association, men's league etc) as well as tournaments when it comes to the administration of the handicaps and we would like one of our members to be available whenever necessary.

Please notice the new section of our website titled Handicap Committee. There you will find useful information about the administration of the GHIN system. Also, I'd like to introduce the members of the tournament committee - Ken Stevens, Roy Williams, Nels Larson and me currently make up the committee. As you may have noticed - there are no women on the committee - this is not by design, in fact, quite the contrary, we are actively looking for a member of the fairer sex to join our team. If you are interested please let me know.

Posting Scores

There are two basic principles behind the practice of posting scores. You must try to make the best score at each hole in every round, and you are required to post every acceptable score. Many golfers believe scores cannot be posted if an entire 9- or 18-hole round is not completed. That is not the case. All of the following are acceptable scores:

- When at least seven holes are played (7-12 holes are posted as a 9-hole score; 13 or more are posted as an 18-hole score).
- Scores on all courses with a Course Rating and Slope Rating.
- Scores in all forms of competition: match play, stroke play, and team competitions where each player plays his own ball.
- Scores made under the Rules of Golf.
- Scores played under the local rule of "preferred lies".
- Scores made in an area observing an active season.

Adjusted Scores

If you skip a hole or don't play it according to the Rules of Golf, you must post a score of par plus any handicap strokes you would receive. In other words: Your Course Handicap is 6. You cannot play the par 5 15th hole because it is under construction. The 15th is rated the third handicap-stroke hole on the golf course. For recording purposes, your score on the 15th hole is x-6. The 'x' indicates that you did not actually play the hole, and the '6' is your adjusted score from par (5), plus 1 for your handicap. (If your Course Handicap is 2, the adjusted score would be a par (5). You would not get the '1' for the handicap adjustment.)

If you play a mulligan, you should post par plus any strokes you would receive on the hole as your score, not the score that you made with the mulligan.

If you start, but do not complete a hole or are conceded a stroke, you must record the score *you most likely would have made* had you finished out the hole.

The Winners' Circle

Women's Member/Guest

A Flight Gross: **1st:** Betsy Drambour, Sue Delanoy, Anne Poulin Rosebud Digesare
2nd: Suzie Mansfield, Flo Liberatore, Sue Kahler, Cheryl Potter
3rd: Heidi Harkins, Kathy Harkins, Donna Nevulis, Lauren Petraske

Net: **1st:** Roxanne Andrews, Ann Twyman, Joan Taylor, Chris Denew
2nd: Brenda Adams, Susan harden, Pat Mayne, Jane Balander
3rd: Anne Jorgenson, Kim Lloyd, Cindy Walkanowski, Sue Landauer

B Flight: Gross: **1st:** Rayette Johnson, Beth Sciurba, Pam McGuire, Rosemary Martuscello
2nd: Peggy O'Day, Kris Youmanns, Stacey Hughes, Karen Haag
3rd: Pat Joseph, Judy Ingraham, Barb Krause, Margaret Kuss

Net: **1st:** Jeri Carr, Pat Furphy, Kathy Gill, Noreen Ravish
2nd: Barbara Ashbee, Jane Journeay, Linda Lake, Paula Barclay
3rd: Tina Koehler, Sue Lundberg, Ginny Charbonneau, Marcia Smith

Women's Senior Club Championship

1st Flight: 1st Gross: Kate Oppedisano
1st Net: Rosanne Greenwood

2nd Flight: 1st Gross: Barb Krause
1st Net: Paulette Martin

The tournament schedule is set for the rest of the year. Also we are looking for tournament chair people for next year's tournaments.

If you have been a chair person in years past and you'd still like to continue, please contact me so that we can get the responsible tournament chair people set. David Fizer

Women's Mini Member/Guest

1st Gross: Suzie Mansfield, Sue Kahler, Betty Chifolo, Teddy Engela

1st Net: Rosanne Greenwood, Cindy Levernois, Gail Wayand, Karen Mantis

2nd: Pat Joseph, Joanne Lampman, Jan Federice, Pat Reynolds

Senior News

Congratulations to Don Gallagher and Chuck Harris low gross and Steve Heidorn and Dave Robertson low net in the Senior Member Guest Tournament. Congratulations to Jim Oppedisano for an eagle on 18. A fine day was had by all. There were pins, skins, gifts, food and fun.

Senior league play continues Thursdays starting at 8 am. We play 18 holes with tee times. I invite all male members 50 and over to give it a try. There are no dues. The Senior League Outing will be held on October 8 this year please try to attend!

Men's Senior Club Championship

Championship Flight: 1st: Bob Baran
2nd: Jim Oppedisano

1st Flight: 1st: Jim Breitingier
2nd: Stan Ziobrowski

2nd Flight: 1st: Jim Bryant
2nd: Tim Krohl

3rd Flight 1st: Paul Miles
2nd: Gary Lyons

4th Flight: 1st: Rich Flavin
2nd: Bob Charbonneau

5th Flight: 1st: Bruce Kay
2nd: Mitch Johnson

6th Flight: 1st: Steve Heidorn,
2nd: Stan Walkanowski



Parrying the 19th

Tucker



Every time I see John Daly haul off and launch one into an orbit that threatens the International Space Station, I have to remind myself that golf is actually a game of seemingly inconsequential weight shifts, the inter-coordination of small and large muscle groups, coupled with something called "feel" and the ever-undefined role of the cerebellum in conjunction with the fairy dust of left brain imagination and creativity.

I mean, he just hauls off and whacks it as hard as he can.

Despite John Daly, golf, for most of us, really is a game of subtleties. One area where the nuances of the game are most manifest, is the body language of fellow ball strikers. Who has not heard Gary McCord or Johnny Miller predict a ball's flight, based on which way the golfer is leaning after a shot, or the position of the club after follow through? Lately, it seems as though they're taking the body language analysis to new levels (notice I didn't say heights), as they study each golfer's mannerisms in increasing detail. Don't be surprised to hear an exchange like the following, in the near future:



McCord: The Walrus is scratching his cheek with his right hand, David. That probably means he under-clubbed and hit the fairway bunker left and short.

Feherty: You may be right, Gary. It depends on which cheek he's scratching.

McCord: I believe it's his right cheek, David.

Feherty: That's not what I meant, Gary.

As golfers, we learn to identify and discriminate between the swings of the golfers we watch. To a neophyte, there would be no noticeable difference between the swings of Arnold Palmer and Freddy Couples, but to a golfer, it's like watching two different sports, in galaxies far removed from one another. As my cohorts and I wend our way toward geezerhood, our ability to identify golfers huffing up the eighteenth fairway depends more and more on their golf swing, rather than facial or body features. As we sit in the comfort of the trophy room overlooking the 18th green and fairway, we can almost take this reading of a golfer's swing and other body language indicators, to the level of DNA or fingerprint analysis. A typical conversation would go something like this:

Geezer One: Who the hell's that making his approach shot?

Geezer Two: Can't tell yet, haven't seen his swing.

Geezer One, after watching the swing: It's Ralph, no doubt about it.

Geezer Two: Yup, and by the way he's walking, I'd say he's about six over his handicap already.

Geezer One: At least. I can tell by his follow through that he's got that lower back problem again.

There are some at the club who make life analysis statements based on a golfer's on-course performance:

Hortense: How's Louise handling the divorce?

Mabel: Not so well. She's missing every putt within three feet. I would say, based on her short game, that she didn't get the house, but probably got a more than fair cash settlement.

Hortense: But that approach shot on sixteen...

Mabel: Yeah, you're right. She probably got both cars as well.

There are those of you out there who are slowly shaking your heads, thinking I've gone too far by implying that a golfer's swing can reflect his or her lifestyle, but think again.

Think about John Daly and his swing. I mean, he just hauls off and whacks it as hard as he can.





Photos 1 and 2 illustrate the poa annua problem due to the intense heat.

Photos 3 and 4 show the fairway aerification process and clean up.

Photo 5: We used the blower on number 11 green earlier this year to dry it out and prevent deterioration of the putting surface due to extreme moisture.