

Parring the 19th...

“Good luck!” Every time we tee it up for an important match we feel obligated to wish the best of luck to our opponents. If we fail to express this to the opposition, they will grasp the advantage of taking the ethical high road, and force the issue by wishing us good luck first, thus giving us the choice of not responding in kind and thereby stigmatizing ourselves with the stain of unsportsmanlike behavior, or lamely repeating the phrase, and coming across as me-too hypocrites. So you should always wish your opponents, “Good luck”, before they do, if for no other reason than to piss them off.



Tucker

Whether you are first to do this or not, you’re still a hypocrite. Do you really want them to experience the kind of luck that spits errant woodland-bound drives back into the fairway? Are we to believe that our opponents want us to experience the good fortune of humiliating them in this contest? If so, why don’t they simply write us a check for our winnings and let us get on with our lives? Do bowlers do this sort of rubbish? Has John McEnroe, or any other tennis player, ever expressed a hope for the best possible outcome for his opponent? Has the document been found wherein Churchill wrote Adolph and said, “Hear we’re going to have a go at it, Old Boy. Best of luck, and all that!”

Golf has, over the course of its half a millennium history, developed, nurtured and been quietly proud of its reputation as The Honest Man’s Sport. If this were true, the first tee rituals that include the obsequious wish that our opponent be granted 18 holes of horseshoe karma, would not happen.

If Speaking The Truth were Article 1 Subsection A of the Rules of Golf, then we would most likely walk up to him or her and say something like, “I hope the next four hours are the worst you have ever experienced in your long but unrelentingly inglorious golf life.” Or some such verbalization of what’s really rattling around in our bitter brains.

There are moments of Truth that appear disguised as butt busting among the lads I whack it around with.. On occasion, as a ball soars toward a possible resting place in the Hell that’s just to the right of the sixteenth fairway, shouts of encouragement to, “Get right! Jump on in there!”, are offered up by the striker’s opponents. Everyone laughs, but the mirth may disguise the fact that we really do want to see the little white bugger disappear forever, ‘cause we’re two down with three to play and neither of us has a great drive out there.

The question remains: why do golfers, who call penalty shots on themselves for rules violations that only they are aware of, become fawning liars when it comes to the First Tee Toady Ritual? Possibly, we’re attempting to take the Gentleman’s Game too far, mistaking chivalry for honesty.

Honesty. Can you imagine what we’d hear if, for one round, everyone’s thoughts were actually spoken? For example, I’ve often thought, as my opponent’s ball rolled inexorably towards the cup at the end of an eighteen foot putt with a five foot break, “Ohmigod, it’s breaking right into the

hole, this guy’s not that good a putter, what rotten luck I’m having today!”. But as the putt slingshots off the rim of the cup, leaving a tricky sidehiller, I hear myself saying something like, “You were robbed on that one!”

I’m not proud of this, but I ‘m not alone. At least I’ve removed myself marginally from the multitude by admitting it right here before your very eyes “I lie like a rug when I golf!”

And the next time we tee it up and I look you in the eye and wish you good luck, you’ll know what I really mean.



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BALLSTON SPA COUNTRY CLUB’S
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE FOX



This Issue

President’s Letter	P.1
Superintendent Report	P.2
Greens Comm. Report	P.3
Clubhouse/Restaurant	P.4
Golf Shop Report	P.5
Tournament / Events	P.6
Communications	P.7
Parring the 19th	P.8

President’s Letter - Bill Tucker

This is the time of year when things really start to “hot up” as the Brits say. The big tournaments start, the social calendar starts getting ridiculous, the track season is just around the corner, which means friends and relatives start booking their visits and the heat and humidity start taking their toll on golf courses.

All of the above are as sure as death and taxes - except for the last part. Everyone I have talked to over the past two months, some of whom have been here for many years, have said the same thing. “This course is in the best shape it’s ever been in.” The greens are consistent and disease free, the fairways are impeccable and the new tees are a great step towards reaching perfection in this area as well. All of this means our walk-ons, outside tournament players and guests will be seeing our course in the best conditions possible. Two weeks ago, Bill Parcels and his regular foursome visited us for a round and left saying they loved the course. This from a foursome that belongs to Saratoga National.

That being said, we all need to start selling our course and our club to everyone we know who is an avid golfer. We are all owners and we should all be working in whatever way we can to increase our membership. A huge majority of our new Members come from word of mouth, often from existing Members.

A good start on this can be had by bringing more

guests to play our track and we’re making that even easier than usual for you by bringing back our Discounted Guest Pass Program. Purchase as many guest passes as you think you’ll need for the rest of the year for only \$30 each, which includes cart.

We need to remember the importance of new members to the fiscal health of the Club and do everything we can to bring some into the fold. In part to this end I have been taken on as a blogger by the Times Union. I will be writing twice a week or so on the culture of the weekend foursome, and you will be seeing a lot of the Parring the 19th stuff you’ve seen over the years with some new articles thrown in from time to time. I will be trying to mention BSCC in every blog and have scheduled a round with the TU’s sports editor Pete Dougherty and another editor to encourage mention by them in their blogs and columns. Go to www.timesunion.com then click on BLOGS and then scroll down to the SPORTS section, where you’ll find the GOLF section.

In the meantime, I hope you all are enjoying our wonderful course and our excellent conditions. If you see Steve on your rounds, pause to thank him and his hard working staff for giving us such a great course.

Sincerely,

William Tucker
893-7646 -ph.
wtucker2@nycap.rr.com -email



Since 1925

Superintendent's Report



Steve Solsky
Visit Steve's Blog from
the BSCC Member's
website.

I just have a few updates for everyone. As we make our way into the summer months, the course seems to be shaping up very nicely. The greens are full and firm. The tee's are handling traffic quiet well. The fairways are green and lush. All in all, I think we are in good shape.

Let's focus on the greens. We have changed many things with the greens this year to improve them and help keep them more consistent. First, the USGA suggested spring aerification has aided the greens' rooting deeper then they have in years. I believe that if we had not aerified the greens this spring, we would not have the root system that we have now and need to make it through the summer months.

Second, this year we started using different bed-knives for our greens mowers. We have always used tournament size bed-knives for our Toro mowers, but would never get a great cut on our greens. The turf formula is: the thinner the bed-knife, the cleaner the cut. The objective is to get every blade of grass standing up and cut at the same height. This year we are using a smaller size bed-knife to get this much cleaner cut. The only down side is that you have to sharpen the mowers more often.

Third is our new top dressing program which seems to be working to keep the greens smooth and consistent. The greens are much healthier and have good rooting. About every two weeks or so, we have been using the big top dresser to spread the USGA recommended bulk sand and then use a drag mat to work in the sand. Once we get into some hot weather, we will use the bag kiln dried sand. This will be better for the turf during hot, stressful weather because machines do not have to go on the greens. Just a walk behind spreader can spread the sand and the sand is so dry it falls down into the turf. The bulk sand is damp and has to be spread, dried, and then dragged down into the turf, a tough process for already stressed greens.

We will continue everyday to try and get you the smoothest, most consistent greens. Other ideas that we will implement are very light verti-cutting and brush the greens with a mat. This will stand up the grass and a second cut of the greens mowers will clean the greens up very well. The ultimate goal of all these implementations is to get every blade of grass on the green to stand straight up and cut at the same height while maintaining a good root system.

As we make our way into the summer months, we will be syringing (watering) greens during the day. I apologize for this inconvenience but the poa grass on the greens does not like hot weather and needs to be cooled during the day. This is only the start of summer and I am sure we will be watering a lot. Let's hope that mother nature is kind to us and gives us some great weather.



Greens Committee Report



*The following
article was taken
from a USGA pub-
lication, submitted
by a member club.*

PRACTICE LIKE A PRO

The driving range is a high priority area due to logistics and the amount of use it receives from all classes of memberships, guests and clients. The crew has made improvements to the range tee by increasing

the tee size along with a special mist system that waters seeded areas. We developed an irons only area and reshaped the main tee by taking the tier out of upper and lower tees, combining the two areas to increase square footage.

BIG IS GOOD and we need more square footage for today's needs. It would be nice to increase the tee size two-fold but real estate issues limit us in this aspect. So to accommodate high priority practice days on grass throughout the golfing season, on certain days play is restricted to mats only. As a group the Green Committee has scheduled mat's only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Irons only Sunday afternoons. Mats will also be used during periods of inclement weather.

The members have asked how to use the range in regards to divot pattern removal. It is similar to managing a forest. Clear cutting leads to erosion issues, comparable to a golfer taking all of his/her divots in one area. Large patches of seed and soil are moved or misplaced from mowing. Removal of practice divots with rakes or blowers occurs and the areas that are cleared get washed away with rain which leads to a longer recovery period. Leaving strips or clumps of grass, as suggested in the video, will help stabilize the soil and seeded areas from being moved mechanically or washing away. Here is a thought from the Director of Grounds (and MSU Alumni) of The Philadelphia Cricket Club and if his methods are implemented, we hope to see positive results this season. However, the real problem is still not enough square footage and a larger tee would be ideal.

Read the entire article here:
<http://www.bsccmembers.com/2012/06/25/practice-like-a-pro/>



Clubhouse / Restaurant Report



Bob Miskanin / Mike Zegarelli
House / Restaurant Chairs
Panza's on the Green
(518) 602-9995



The season and the restaurant are in full swing, and hopefully people's handicaps are dropping from good rounds on the outstanding golf course we have. Now for some business items:

We have created a logbook of all the action items we have taken care of in the clubhouse in 2012. This book is kept in the business office. If any member wants to view this, please feel free to take a look. If you were kind enough to help out and there

is no entry in the logbook, please add the information so we have a good record of activities. This was done so that the membership can be aware of the expenses (both anticipated or not), which occurred in 2012.

Everyone that attended the first "Theme Night" (Italian buffet) said they enjoyed it. At a cost of \$13.95, it can't be beat. Jim will be doing more in the future. The announcements will be posted on the "neon" board in the bar room and a notice will be sent via email. He is also doing dinner specials Friday nights. These will be available for anyone that comes for dinner on Friday and for the Friday couples league.

We continue working with Panza's to modify the hours of the Shack/Cart. The cart will be on the course for more hours than in the past and will have available sandwiches and snacks along with the normal selection of beverages. There will also be a menu board on the cart to inform you of what foods are available. If you do not see what you want, please ask the cart person and they may be able to get it for you. This is being done to provide our members with better service.

The menu committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. Carl Jahn, a member of this group, has worked with Sam to improve the wines available and he is pleased with the progress made. Any new menu selections you may want added can be addressed to either Bob or Mike or a menu committee member. We are committed to make things as good as possible for the membership.

The new awning should be installed on the deck soon. We will notify everyone when the Deck Opening Party will be held. Thank you for your patience.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Fox the men's and ladies rooms now have card tables for the members use. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help out and make your experience better.



Panza's on the Green

Win a Heineken Golf Bag.

Enter in the restaurant!



From the Golf Shop



Todd Manderson
Pro Shop
PGA Golf Professional
(518) 885-7935
golfshop@ballstonspac.com



Lesson Tip

The short game is one of the most over looked part of the game of golf. Many players are usually working on the full swing trying to perfect the movement. It is a process that takes time and patience. While giving golf instruction to many of the members here, I learn things about them that unique to each and every one of them. I explain to the students how and why things work the way that they do in the golf swing and the game of golf. This allows them to get a better understanding of the game and to potentially do some self assessment in their own

game when things go wrong. The videos that we show each student of their swing are beneficial to them as the swings that they feel like are not exactly what they look like.

The game of golf is a test of patience to the student. The golf ball is still and has to be put in motion by the golf swing to get it to move. Other sports are action sports that are played with balls and some people can be successful at these sports by just reacting to a ball that is already in motion. So the meaning of all of this is to have some patience with golf and enjoy the game that we all love to play as it is difficult to repeat hitting a golf ball in the same direction 2 or 3 time in a row. It is ok to have this happen.

Course Condition

I would like to make mention that our golf course in the best condition from tee to green that it is has ever been in the 13 years that I have been your golf professional. Steve and his crew have done a fabulous job with the budget that they have to work with.

The changes to the greens this season have been significant with a top dressing program that we are using this year which has allowed our greens to become consistent on a daily basis this season. The greens are probably the most important part of any golf course as that is the area of the course where people score. I hear lots of opinions when it comes to greens from our membership, good and bad over the past few years, but this season, I have heard nothing but good things about our putting surfaces. The word is starting to get out once again that our course is in fabulous shape and people are beginning to take advantage of it. Kudos to Steve and his dedication to always trying to give the membership the best condition golf course he can with the funds that are available to him to do so.

2012 Junior Inter-Club Championship

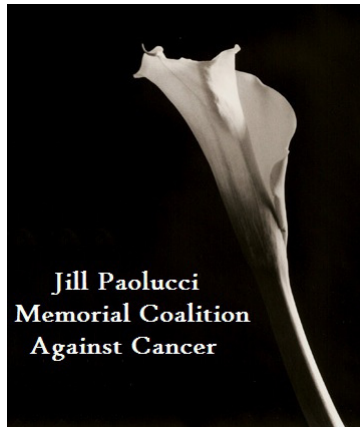
The member clubs of the Capital District Golf Club Association is holding its annual Junior Championship Tournament this year on Wednesday August 1st at the Pinehaven Country Club. The tournament will be an 8am shotgun start. Ballston Spa, as a member club has been invited to send a 3-person team to represent us in the competition against the 10 other member clubs (Colonie CC, Columbia CC, Edison, Glens Falls CC, Mohawk CC, Pinehaven, Saratoga GPC, Schuyler Meadows, Shaker Ridge, and Van Schaick).

All Juniors (age up to those who graduated from high school in 2012) who are interested in the tournament should notify Todd, so that the team to represent the club can be selected from those folks.



Tournaments & Events

Communications



THE JILL PAOLUCCI MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

As many of you know, my wife Jill lost her courageous battle with lung cancer last year. My sons and I so greatly appreciated the kindness and support we received from our BSCC friends. With her passing, our son Dan established the Jill Paolucci Memorial Coalition Against Cancer, where we have raised funds and made donations to help local families and organizations battle this terrible disease. Please visit our home page at www.jillpaolucci.org to see our mission, donations we have made to date and much more.

In an effort to continue raising funds we are holding a golf tournament, scramble format (1pm shotgun) on Monday July 30th. We hope this will be the first of many years we hold this at BSCC, so your support would be greatly appreciated. The cost is \$125 which includes golf, cart, lunch and an Italian buffet dinner. If anyone wants to just join us for only dinner the cost is \$45. Since many of you own businesses, and may want to help by sponsoring or offering any services as a prize, the cost for a tee sign is \$100. This information is also available on the BSCC member's page.

Please make checks payable to: **The Jill Paolucci Memorial Coalition Against Cancer**

For your convenience, you can give your check to Laura in the BSCC Office or if you would prefer, mail it to me at 36 Dublin Drive, Ballston Spa NY 12020. If you have any questions please call me 813-8295 or email me at jmpaolucci@nycap.rr.com. **Thanks! John.**

Below is the tournament calendar of member and outside events at the Club. For more information on these tournaments, please visit the Member's Area of our website.

2012 BSCC Tournaments/Events

Date of Event	Name of Event	Time
Monday July 9th	ESPN Golf Challenge	1:00 Gun
Wednesday July 11th	NENY Junior PGA	7:30 TT
Saturday July 21st	Women's Member/Guest	8:30 Gun
Saturday July 28th	Senior Club Champ.	TT
Sunday July 29th	Senior Club Champ.	TT
Monday July 30th	Jill Paolucci Memorial	1:00 Gun
Thursday August 2nd	Senior Member Guest	8:30 Gun
Saturday August 4th	Couples Member/Guest	12:00 Gun
Saturday August 18th	Club Championship	9:00 TT
Sunday August 19th	Club Championship	9:00 TT
Saturday September 1st	Mixed Member/Member	12:00 Gun
Monday September 3rd	Labor Day	
Saturday September 8th	Women's League Outing	11:00 TT
Sunday September 16th	Men's League Outing	9:00 Gun
Sunday October 28th	Cross Country	12:00 Gun

Tournament Registration Procedures:
Tournaments that have a Tee Time (TT) start require participants to register by 5:30pm of the Wednesday before. Tournaments having a Shotgun Start (Gun) require participants to register by 12:00 (noon) on the Friday before. Official registration is only complete once payment has been received.



If you have any questions, issues or suggestions on how to improve the Club's communication, please contact the Business Office or the newly assigned Communications director at: webmaster@ballstonspacc.com.

Promote Your Club!

BSCC needs to attract new members. A quick, easy way to promote the Club is through Facebook.

The course is in fantastic shape...If you haven't already, 'Like' BSCC's Facebook page and suggest it to your friends and family.

