



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XVI Number 1

July 2014

The Fox

President's Letter

Mike Zegarelli

July 2014.

Amazing.

The golfing season is moving very rapidly, too quickly in my opinion. I really hope that the membership is enjoying the course and taking part in some of the great tournaments that are scheduled. I have been playing as much as I can, making as many memories as possible to replay in my mind during the cold and very long winter.

As you are aware, we held a members meeting on Friday June 13. Attendance was less than I had hoped for, but all the members who did attend participated in the lively discussions that followed. I want to thank those of you who did attend as well as Rick Funaro for moderating the proceedings. The Board presented some thoughts on membership for 2015 to get a sense of how the members want us to proceed. The Gazebo move, financial status and marketing were also on the agenda. A good number of members did stay after the meeting to continue the conversation. All of your comments and ideas are greatly appreciated. Working together with the members and the collective "group think" are powerful tools to "get er done" to quote a popular comedian.

We have an excellent membership with a diverse knowledge in many areas. Myself and the other Board members appreciate all thoughts and comments. Feel free to call me, talk to me on the driving range or parking lot, (but not as I line up a double boogie three putt). You have a very open Board that truly wants to improve BSCC. Don't forget to read the minutes of all the Board meetings and committee reports that are posted on our web site to get the real picture of their activities. I am very proud to be President this year and I feel confident that we can overcome any obstacles that present themselves. Swing hard and often!

Bob Miskarin

Summer is Finally Here

As many of you have noticed, the course is beginning to return to its normal fantastic condition. This is primarily due to the hard work of Steve and his crew, but this is also with the help of volunteer work, by our members.

Thank you all.

The winter damaged areas of the course are finally starting to fill in. This has taken some time. I would like to remind everyone to refrain from playing from these areas in the interest of aiding this slow process.

You have all noticed the relocation of the gazebo. The shrubs that were around the gazebo have been relocated to the area in front of the scoreboard. This has improved the appearance of this area. This was accomplished primarily with volunteer help and only a few hours of Steve's time. The patio area and fire pit will be established in the near future, all of this is at no cost to the club, but through donations.

We had a storm go through our area one or two weeks ago. It caused some severe damage to the large pine tree on the right side of the 5th fairway. Steve and his crew had the area cleaned up in less than half a day. There was some other minor tree damage that he has also taken care of. He should be commended for the prompt and efficient work.

Please note; a member has purchased divot mix containers that hook on your bag. This will be much more convenient for walkers to carry. The containers are located on a rack mounted between the office and the pro shop under the bulletin board. Please feel free to use and return them to that rack. As you know, we all should be filling as many divots as possible.

Thank you



From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop

Golf Tip

During the month of July, we are in the midst of the season. With that being said, a major component of the golf swing is the grip. This is a very important fundamental of the game of golf. For the right handed player, the left hand is a major player in the handling of the golf club. While addressing the golf ball and looking down at your grip to ensure that the hands are on the club the correct way, the player should look down and be able to see 2 knuckles on the left hand. The player needs to do this without turning his or her head to the left to look for these 2 knuckles. This is a good way to ensure that you will be able to hinge the golf club at the top of the backswing and allow you to make a complete backswing before starting the downswing. The right hand will turn underneath while resting on the grip of the club. All of these are based on a right handed player. The grip is very important and somewhat under rated to many players but in my opinion the most significant fundamental of the game of golf as it is the only thing that ties you to the golf club. I have molded grips as trainers in the golf shop if anyone is interested in exactly how your hands go on the golf club.

Year End Shootout

We will once again be doing the yearend shoot out for the top 10 leading money winners in merchandise credit for the season. There will be a date set in the fall where all the top 10 players will be able to participate in the shootout with the opportunity to win prizes on each hole and the winner of the event will win a set of irons. We will have the standings posted right after the member guest event. We did this event a few years back and have decided to bring it back once again.

Membership Drive

We are looking at many different ideas for membership drives for the 2015 season and are open to any ideas that the members may have. If you have any ideas, please write them down and bring them into the golf shop so we can put all of these ideas together to create the most beneficial program to keep this facility growing for the future.



Passing the 19th

Tucker

If you really want to get a different perspective on golf, take a Martian with you on your next round. Having trouble locating an alien for this exercise? Take a Russian instead, because when it comes to golf, they're about the same thing.

When I took some Russians to play BSCC many years ago there was only one golf course in Russia, on the outskirts of Moscow (probably designed by Petro Dyekov), and inaccessible to virtually all Russians. They know golf like we know equitable wealth disbursement.

So several years ago, when my wife, The Amazing Max (whose sanity level at any given time is often the subject of spirited speculation amongst those of us who know and love her), announced we were taking in two Russians for three weeks, I knew August would not be dull. I couldn't wait to take them out on a golf course.

Akram was a 52-year-old director of an institute dealing with the environment; Viktor was a 29-year-old economist. Akram spoke very little English, Viktor was marginally more fluent. Communication was tough, and after a few days, Max and I found ourselves talking to each other the way we talked to the Russians - in incomplete sentences comprised of monosyllabic words, accompanied with charade-like body language.

Max: "I go," (points to herself and then at the car), "rent video." (mimes the act of paying money, then winds an imaginary camera crank, apparently attached to her right ear).

Tucker: "Okey-Dokey!" (hoping she doesn't return with Dr. Strangelove).

Eventually, the day arrived. I decided to smooth the way by calling our pro, at that time Jim Hefti. When I explained my wish to have two Russians join our foursome, strictly as observers, Jim agreed, with the stipulation that they not wear trench coats and dark glasses. I explained that the Cold War was over. After getting permission for them to bring their cameras, however, Jim cautioned me not to allow any shots of the pump house. "That's new technology," he explained. He also couldn't help adding that if we did allow them to play a few shots they would have to play from the Red Tees. Ha ha, I replied.



I expected the worst as we prepared to tee off on the first hole. I would take a practice swing and they would giggle at my inability to hit the ball; they would offer to buy me a glove for my right hand, as I had obviously lost it. None of this happened, but the round did have its moments.

Hole #1: I pull a shot into an area used by our course superintendent for nurturing exotic ground covers, including the Venus Titleist Trap. Akram emerges with a golf ball after searching diligently and can't understand why I won't play the ball he's found, a Day-Glo Flying Lady.

Hole #3: Viktor stands on the green, pawing at its surface like one of those math genius horses they have at county fairs. At first, I think he's amazed at the perfection of the grass, but decide, after counting eight scuffs, that he's just tallying my score for the hole.

Hole #7: Akram peers into my bag and takes out a club. "That's an iron," I explain. "Ah, iron!" he answers. Next, he lifts my driver. "That's a wood," I say. "Wood?" he asks, caressing the steel head. "Metal wood," I respond by way of clarification.

Hole #9: The ladies are in the sand trap, flailing away, wishing the USGA would sanction backhoes as legal clubs. Akram watches them and gestures at the trap. "Special Area!" he proclaims. Next time I see an opponent's ball go onto the beach and he asks me where his ball ended up, I will sweep my arm towards the bunker and proclaim, "Special Area!"

Hole #15: I am pumping my ball up and down in the ball washer. Victor watches, spellbound. I consider my explanation carefully. Should I try to elucidate on the importance of keeping the ball clean in order to maximize its aerodynamic efficiency? "Clean ball!" I say.

We return home to watch the final round of the PGA Championship on TV. Akram asks if the pros work. I explain that they just play golf. He then inquires as to how they support themselves if all they do is play golf. I tell him that some make millions of dollars playing golf. Akram's wife is in charge of a large biological research lab in Russia. She makes \$75 a month.

Akram sees the scores on the leaderboard. Minus 11, minus 9, etc. "In golf, fewest strokes win," I tell him.

He points at the minus 11 on the screen. "Very few!" he says, not understanding the concept of strokes under par.

I start to form my explanation. "Golf," I say, "stupid game." Akram's eyes lit up and he nodded with a mile wide grin.

Finally, he understood.

For more articles on the culture of the game, see my Times Union blog

<http://blog.timesunion.com/golf/> Click on "Tucker"