



Ballston Spa Country Club

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The Fox

President's Letter

Mike Zegarelli

Finally!

Mother Nature has blessed us with spring temperatures and warm happy days. As all golfers can tell, the weather has allowed the course to repair itself and the leagues and tournaments are running smoothly.

2014 is turning out to be the year we have all hoped for. After hearing about the damage that our neighboring golf courses suffered this winter, we should all be thankful that we survived relatively unscathed.

My message this month, however is about the upcoming member meeting and reception. It was considered by all, that a members meeting would be an informative and fun event to start the season. As you know, the by laws now call for the annual shareholders meeting to be moved until October of each year. This meeting, (as it is NOT the annual shareholders meeting) is open to all members, shareholders and non shareholders alike. The purpose is to bring the membership up to date on all the issues and to hear and discuss any member's issues. In addition, it will be a fun gathering where new and old members can raise a glass of their favorite beverage and talk about the putter, (or some other club), which has lost it's magic over the winter. Please attend and join in the fun.

Communication / Secretary Tidbits

Paul Steves

Looks like the weather has finally started to cooperate. Hard work by Steve and staff has the course in excellent shape. Below are a few reminders that I would like to share with the membership:

We currently have 10 reciprocal courses available to our members. The newest addition is Radisson Greens located in Baldwinsville, NY. Listing of all reciprocals can be found on the website. Go to home page, then the drop down box under golf, follow the reciprocals link. All arrangements are made through the Pro Shop. A Membership Meeting has been scheduled for June 13th commencing at 7:00 PM. As the bylaws have changed the Annual Meeting to October the BOD thought it would be a good idea to get together with the membership for information sharing and feedback. See you there.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, the exact date for the meeting will be determined shortly but will be between October 1st and October 15th. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect three (3) members to the Board of Directors. Are you interested???

Back by popular demand!!! Based on feedback from the membership the BOD has approved offering the popular guest passes to the membership once again. Passes are \$30 and include cart and may be purchased from June 12 (Start of the Men's US Open) to June 22 (end of Women's US Open). Available in the Pro Shop.

Are you on Facebook?? Have you visited the Ballston Spa County Club page and "liked" the page?? How about inviting your friend to like our page. Currently our page has 281 likes and the total reach last week was 1517 people. When will we top 300 likes???

Have a good idea. See something around your club that needs attention. Use the suggestion box located to the left of the office door or email suggestionbox@ballstonspacc.com. Suggestions and ideas will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel for resolution and shared with the BOD.



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

This past month has been very busy at the golf course. Along with the typical mowing and setting up the course, we have been trying to recover areas of the course that were damaged over the winter. The greens were aerified, top-dressed and seeded a few weeks ago and have been filling in more and more every day. Some of the larger areas have been a little slow to recover due to some cooler weather this past month. We will continue with seeding and topdressing until all the greens are completely filled in. It will take some time but they will recover. Other areas like the tees and a few areas of the fairways have also been seeded and should start to fill in soon. The more bentgrass we get to germinate now will make for a hardier grass that can handle the summer and winter better. It is difficult to have only bentgrass germinate because of all the poa seeds that are around during the spring. Our goal is to have only bentgrass on all the playing surfaces but poa annual grass is a weedy grass that always seems to make its way into a stand of turf. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped with the aerification of the greens. I could not have done it so quickly without your help. Thank you.

Lastly I wanted to also thank all the volunteers for a very successful project day. We completed a tremendous amount of work. All the flower beds were edged, weeded, and mulched - which would have taken my crew weeks. We also finally raised the sod on the #7th fairway. Drain lines have settled over time and the sod needed to be removed and dirt added to level the surface. The sod was then reinstalled to give us a smooth level surface. Thank you everyone.



From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

From the Golf Shop

Men's Member Guest Event

The 2014 Men's Member Guest Event will be held June 26th, 27th, and 28th this year. It will be here in a blink so start looking for your teammate or partner for the premier event of the summer at Ballston Spa Country Club. The event will be a 5 Nine hole matches with the practice round being on the Thursday. Look for the flyer soon as it will be on a first come or first 48 paid teams for the event will be in the event.

Friendly Reminder

I am asking for your help and respect. I realize that in this crazy world that we live in now that everyone would like to get an instant answer on various topics. But with that being said I am asking for all to show some respect and restraint when you see me giving a lesson on the driving range tee that you PLEASE not interrupt me as that individual is paying for my time and expertise in learning the game of golf. It happens far to often and I feel that it is not appropriate for this to continue happening. If my staff can't answer the question for you then I will be happy to do so after my lesson is over. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Membership

We have quite a few new members this season and we would like to welcome all of them to our Ballston Spa Country Club family. We have new single and many new corporate members also. There will be many faces that you may not recognize, ask us in the golf shop if you are unaware of a name as we would be happy to tell you his or her name so you will know in the future. We are always striving to increase our membership so getting to know all of our members is a great thing. Always trying to include the new members and introduce them to new people and involve them in the events or your groups is very beneficial to retaining our members and allowing our facility to grow and prosper in the coming years. Lets all come together and keep this facility growing.

Rules Question

Lateral Hazards. One question that continues to be confusing to many is where to drop a ball after it enters into a hazard. There are a few options. For example, Our 16th hole with the red hazard on the right side. If a ball enters the hazard there, the option is to go back to the tee and play from that point, or take 2 club lengths no closer to the hole and drop and play from that point. The option of going back as far as you want keeping the point between the entry point and the flagstick may not make sense for this scenario as it will take you over to the 15th hole. The myth that confuses people is they think they can go back as far as they want on the point of entry into the hazard. That is not accurate for any hazard. It is once again going back as far as they want keeping the points of the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between the flagstick and that point of ENTRY. If you are still confused, ask us in the golf shop for the clarification.

Tournaments

Memorial Day Match Play Champs

Jim Tedesco defeated Ed Lenart for the championship flight while Tom Hudy defeated John Rossi in the 1st Flight and round out the match play was Pat Hefferon defeating Joe Kerbelis in the 2nd Flight.

The Men's 4 Person Scramble was contested and the Gross Champions went to Dan Markiewicz, Don McCollum, Tom Shannon, Mark Yale, while the Net winners went to Joe Olbrych, Joe Kerbelis, Rich Flavin, and Keith McNab.

We have already had 3 member tournaments including the mixed scramble, match play championships and the Cocktail tasting night. Kate at Dozer's supplied great food, wine, beer, margaritas and music, which helped make the later a great success with 64 players..There is already another tasting night scheduled for July 25th, so be sure not to miss it. The next big tournament scheduled in June is the member/member on the 7th and 8th, so don't forget to sign up in the pro-shop Please be sure to check the schedule of upcoming events at the pro-shop, including outside events, Todd has been working hard to balance outside play tournaments with member play, which is helping to keep our dues

Restaurant Report



Doug Young

So Far So Good

We are about 1 month into the operation of the Restaurant and "So Far So Good" Thanks for your understanding as we train new staff, schedule properly to meet peak demand, and learn what you our customers desire. If you have any issues please bring them to my attention as soon as possible so I can resolve.

It appears the weather may finally start cooperating. The terrible weather forecast for the 4 Man Scramble looked right on as the golfers started out in light drizzle on a cloudy grey day. By the time all had finished it had warmed up and the sun was shining making the deck an inviting gathering spot.

Our next club event was the 9 hole Cocktail Tasting Event. Again the weather report was not favorable and again the weatherman was wrong. Sixty four golfers participated and then partied the night away in the club house. Live entertainment was provided by Vivid playing all your favorite songs. I am working with Todd to come up with a date in July for another Tasting Event. Watch the calendar and email for further details.

I am looking forward to all of our June activities. Friday night June 6th, prior to member member weekend, we will have live entertainment by Vinyl Revolution featuring member Stan Walkanowski. Come join us in the Restaurant from 5 to 8. Look for Happy Hour special pricing.

Any Yankee fans at BSCC?? I would like to schedule a bus trip to Yankee Stadium to see Derek Jeter in his farewell season. If you are interested please contact me (phone 810-3869) for further information.

Kate





Passing the 19th

Tucker

Excuse My #@)?! Language

Tucker

Golf is a reflection of the ego. One has expectations. And when these expectations are not satisfactorily realized, one takes, shall we say, ego-reinforcing compensatory actions to rationalize the shortfall. Often, these explanations are manifest by the simple means of an expletive, softly muttered, after witnessing the pitiful results of a truly ugly swing.

“Golly Gumdrops!” one might remark, after watching a \$3 ball disappear from the civilized world.

Expletives are a traditional part of golf and are often directed against the various components of the game that cannot respond, such as the wind, the ball, the lie, the bounce, Mother Nature and the guys in front of you who are slower than a tax refund.

Other golfers will actually place the blame on a specific body part and will punish the organ or appendage as though it were a thing totally apart from himself, like kicking your dog when your football team loses.

Professionals have been known to smack their delinquent hands or bonk their heads with a club, to teach the offending body component a lesson they hope will not soon be forgotten.

In George Plimpton’s book *Bogey Man*, he describes playing in a pro-am with a professional who, after a particularly bad shot, would disappear into the woods, stand in front of a tree and hit his head against it.

The compensatory action may also take the form of launching the invidious club into an orbit meant to demonstrate to the rest of the foursome that this particular shot did not meet with your wholehearted approval. If one chooses to employ this particular means of expressing a degree of disappointment, it is important to keep the throwing arm rigid and follow through on the desired flight plan's trajectory and direction. It's also wise to throw it ahead of you in the interests of quick play.

Legend has it that Tommy Bolt, the John Daly of golf in the 1950's, once asked his caddie what club he should use on an approach shot of about 160 yards. When the caddie suggested he hit either a wedge or a two iron, Bolt questioned the caddie's sanity. The caddie then pointed out that these were the only clubs left in the bag after a series of club trashings and throws that Bolt had gone through in the previous holes.

The PGA is quite specific on the act of destroying one's errant club. If you grasp each end of the club while rendering it useless, you are within their guidelines. Seriously.

A.J. Balfour, in an essay on the subject in 1890, suggests, "holding the club upright, the head resting on the ground, then placing one foot on it and kicking it with the other, just at the point where the head and shaft are bound together."

Anger can only fulfill the prophecy it laments, especially in golf. I once played a round in a club championship with an opponent known for his temper. On the first hole, he was distracted by a golfer on an adjacent hole and lost the hole in a humiliating manner. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the match was decided then and there.

Golfers with intemperate tempers are compensating for their inconsistency; for their inability to make the shot they know in their hearts they can make. But their club throwing, their expletives and their ill temper are lost on those who know the golfer's game. The temper tantrum is a desperate means of explaining that the golfer can do better than the shot he just displayed. But in the end, a golfer who denies the reality of his ability will never have fun, because he will never achieve the expectations that his ego has set for him.

Golf is a game. Games are supposed to be fun.

For more articles on the culture of The Game, check out my golf blog on line at <http://blog.timesunion.com/golf/>