



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XVI Number 1

October 2014

The Fox

President's Letter

Mike Zegarelli

By the time this issue of the Fox is distributed, we will have already had our fall stockholders meeting. A new Board will be in place and the preparation for 2015 will have begun. While we still have much golf to be played in 2014, many of the events we all look forward to have come and gone.

I would like to thank all the Board members for their hard work this year. It has not been an easy year to say the least. Some of the issues this Board had to deal with include: a new restaurant vendor, changes to the course itself, a tight budget due to falling membership, keeping our aging clubhouse in operating condition.

I hope that you have been reading the minutes of all the committee meetings, Board meetings etc. Our Secretary did an excellent job and tried hard to keep the membership informed. Our Treasurer kept the Board on track of expenditures during a difficult time. Insurance issues were handled quickly. Tournaments were scheduled and conducted with professionalism.

In addition, I want to thank the membership for volunteering for work committees, helping on project day, providing financial support for the firepit/gazebo project and greens covers as well as participating in memorial tournaments honoring members of our golfing community.

It has been an honor to be on the Board of Directors and to serve as President this year. Thank you for giving me that opportunity. I believe we have a bright future and that we will persevere whatever comes our way. Peace, happiness and good health to all.



Superintendent's Report

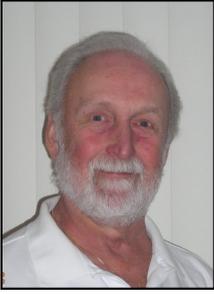
Steve Solsky

I just have a few updates for everyone. The course is now completely aerified. We started with the front 9 greens and fairways on the Tuesday after Labor Day. The weather was not perfect because of the hot humid cloudy conditions. As usual it started to rain late in the morning stopping the aerification process. We need dry conditions to get the sand into the holes and we also need dry conditions to breakup plugs on the fairways. We were able to do some work later that day but needed another day to complete the front 9. The back 9 went much smoother on Thursday. All of this work could not have been done without help from volunteers. We had at least 15 or so volunteers helping clean up plugs off of the greens in the mornings and help from the Todd and the pro shop in the afternoons cleaning off fairways. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers for your help. Getting the course aerified and fertilized all at the same time helps the course benefit from the great growing conditions for the rest of the season. Years past we would work on areas in a piecemeal fashion to accomplish everything. Weather and play dictated how fast the course got completed and it seemed like it took an entire month. This year with help from weather and volunteers we completed the process in record time. The greens and fairways were done in three days and the tees and approaches were completed around play the following week.

As I said the weather has been great the past month. The grass loves the cooler weather and lots of sunshine. The aerification holes have healed up quite nicely. We are now getting a good cut with our greens mowers. After aerification there is a period of time when we do not get a good clean cut on the greens because of all the sand. The only way to fill every hole on the green with sand is to over apply and it takes time for the grass to grow up through the sand. This takes some time and the mowers pick up some sand every time we mow which dulls the mowers. Now that the grass is grown up through, we sharpened the greens mowers and have gone back down to our original mowing height.

I want to let everyone one know what is being done on the #18 approach. We scalped out an area on both sides of the approach a few weeks ago. This was done to bring the approach back to what it was years ago. The area scalped out is mostly bentgrass and over time the people mowing the approach skip little bits every time they mow. Over time the shape can change and every so often we need to scalp it back out. You might notice this on some tees where I might straighten out a line by scalping it down to tee or approach height. The grass will eventually green up at the new height.

I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy the course while we are having this nice warm weather. I cannot say it enough, Thanks again to all the volunteers!



Greens Report

Bob Miskinin

The golf season is finally almost over. Ha Ha. It seems to go faster every year. This year, however, we all got to enjoy a fantastic golf course. This is primarily due to the never ending work of Steve and his crew. I would also like to thank all the members that volunteer their time and efforts with work like Project Days, helping with the aeration of the greens, and many other jobs that would not be completed in a timely manner.

THANKS and WELL DONE TO ALL.

As mentioned previously, the greens cover raffle is on hold until spring. We have, however, sold a small number of tickets at the men's year end event and will again at the cross country. There will be a 50/50 drawing at the cross country, awarding 5 small prizes. This should give us enough money for at least 1 additional cover for the coming winter. We have had a couple members that have contributed money specifically for a cover. Because of these donations we are hoping for a second cover. Additional raffle tickets will be sold again in the spring with another 50/50 drawing later in the year.

The aeration of the course went fairly well. We had a 1 day delay due to rain, but as of the middle of September, the entire golf course has been completed, and is recovering very nicely.

Steve is planning on lowering the left front corner of the 9th green, similar to the work done on the back right of the 1st green. This will allow better drainage and promote better growth on the green. A small number of volunteers will be needed. The date for the fall Project is tentatively set for Saturday October 25. Work will begin at 8am. Emails will be sent to confirm the date and time. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

As usual, I remind everyone to continue to fill divots on the course whenever possible.

Thank you



From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Merchandise Credit

All credit on the books is to be used on in stock merchandise only. I can special order shoes for the credit to be used on but all other credit needs to be spent on the product that is in the golf shop. I appreciate your support throughout the season and hope that you all enjoyed this season. We have a few more events left this season that credit may be won.

Golf Tip

As the season winds down, a few things to look forward to for the following season is a bit less on the golf swing side, and more on the fitness side. Anyone who is interested in trying to get their body into shape or more flexible, let me know and I will put together some stretching and other exercises to help you. This is the start of becoming to be a better player. It is what you do in the off season that can really help you to play better during the season.

Cross Country Event

Saturday November 1st will be the date of the X-Country Event this season. The most attended and most fun event of all at Ballston Spa Country Club. We will be having live music for this event this year. If you haven't attended this event before and need a team to be placed on, let us know in the golf shop and we will do our best to pair all players up for this. No Players will get shut out for this extraordinary event of golf traveling all over BSpa.

Buzz of the Season

We have had a golf course this season that has been 2nd to none. I have played in different places this season and spoken to many players all around our area, and the buzz for the season is that Ballston Spa Country Club is the place to be for exquisite conditions. I have agreed with them all along and as we continue to grow our membership, you all should be very proud of the product that we have to play on here at Ballston Spa Country Club. Our golf course has taken on many changes over the past 10 years and whether some have agreed to the changes or not agreed to them; we have some of the best turf conditions out there in the area. I would like to take the time to recognize Steven Solsky and his staff for the timeless effort that they have provided for us this season. I have heard not one negative comment about our turf conditions all season. Job Well Done.

Member Communications

Paul Steves

While the golf season is winding down, the meeting season is in full swing!! Following documents have been uploaded on the website since the publication of the last Fox for your viewing pleasure:

September Fox

Membership Committee Minutes from Aug 20th meeting

Executive Committee Minutes from Aug 20th meeting

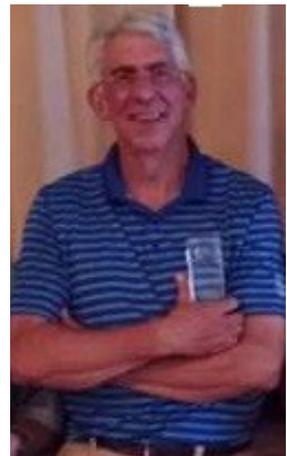
BOD Minutes from Aug 25th meeting

Finance Committee Minutes from Sep 9th meeting

BOD Minutes from Sep 15th meeting

As you are reading this our Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Elections will have taken place. Leaving the Board this year are Mike Zegarelli (President), Dave Runyon (Treasurer), and Doug Young (Restaurant). I would be remiss in not recognizing all they have done for our club and thank them for their service.

THANK YOU



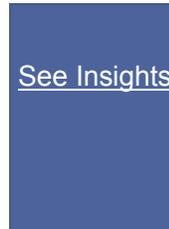
In reviewing some of the archived Fox articles on our website I noticed that the July 2012 Fox showed our Facebook page had 178 likes. Here are the latest statistics:

Week of Sep 15 - Sep 21



Ballston Spa Country Club

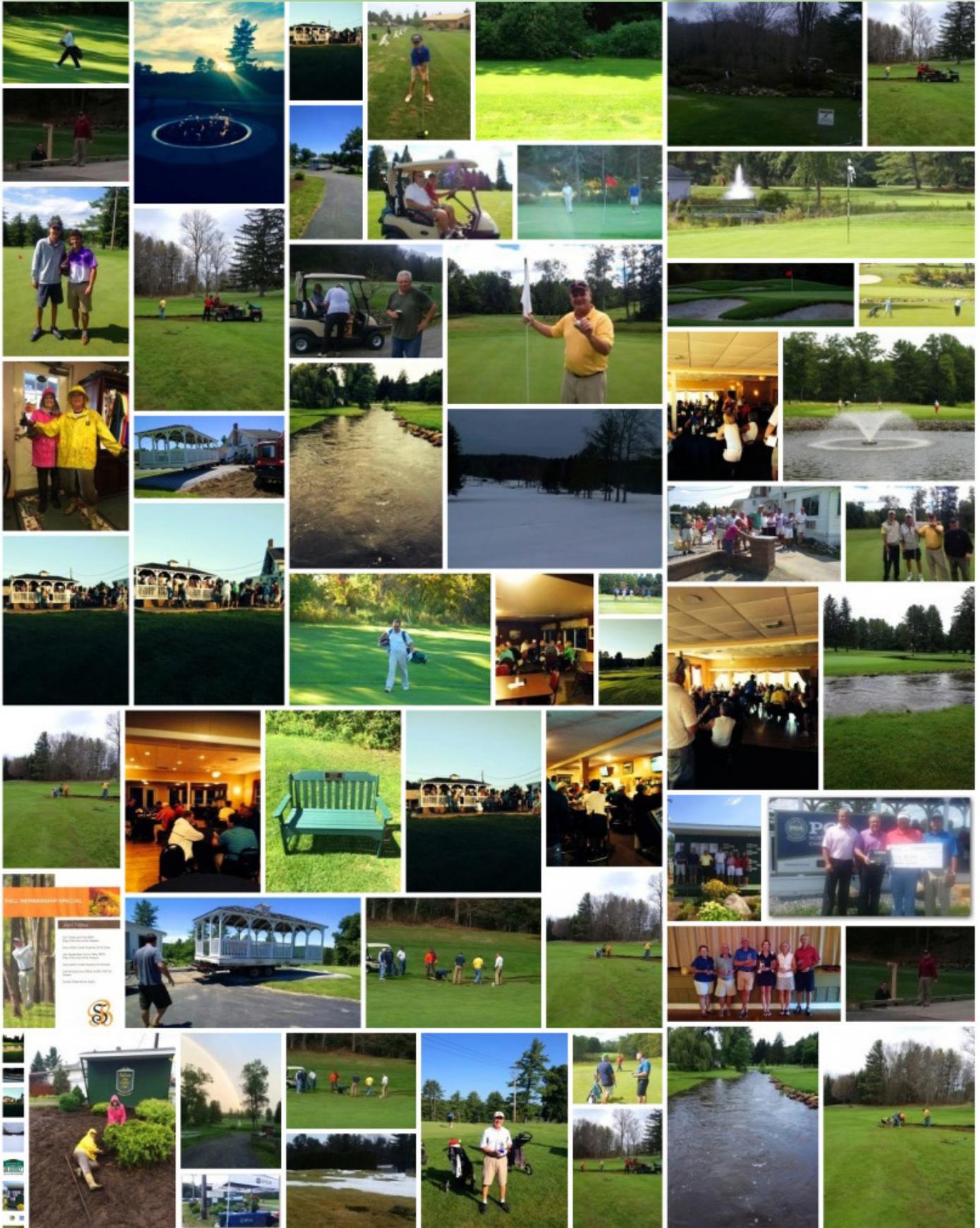
[Build Audience](#) · [Promote Page](#)



	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	TREND
Total Page Likes	512	510	0.4%
New Likes	2	1	100.0%
Weekly Total Reach	1,292	1,761	-26.6%
People Engaged	166	152	9.2%

As Tucker stated in the July 2013 article Facebook is a quick and easy way to promote your club. Like us on Facebook and ask your friends and family to like us.

Picture Collage



Thank You!

On behalf on the Ballston Spa Varsity and JV golf teams, I would like to thank all the members and staff for your continued support. We would like to thank Mike Farina for the sign on the course "Home of the Ballston Spa Scotties". We would like to thank Todd for his encouragement and the entire pro shop staff that helps us start each match. We thank Steve and his crew for keeping the course in amazing shape, and thanks to Kate and her staff for serving such great food and making all the players feel welcome. Thanks to the members for helping us raise just over \$300 from the Ballston HS raffle basket. Thanks to everyone for cheering us on and not giving us too hard a time for those 4:00 tee times during this beautiful fall season. We are very proud to be a part of this club and we appreciate all you do for us. Once again, we will be hosting the Section II HS golf tournament on October 7th and 8th. If you see the purple and gold, be sure to give us a wave.



Sincerely,

Coach Walkanowski

Passing the 19th

Tucker

Golf pundits predicting the demise of the game due to its difficulty, cost, slow play, and time required, often ignore another factor which I believe intimidates the novice: golf etiquette.

If you google bowling etiquette, you'll be told not to bother other bowlers while they're bowling and to keep up the pace by not dawdling after you've bowled. That's it. Same for tennis - keep things moving through efficient stray ball management and follow a few pointers on line calls. Golf, on the other hand has books written about appropriate behavior on the course. While much of golf etiquette serves a practical purpose, there are some dicta that are unnecessary obfuscations. That's right, I'm talking about golf hat etiquette. Before I get too far, I have to submit full disclosure: hats don't fit my head. Ever. I can get away with some visors by connecting the last half inch of velcro on each tab, but real hats are not part of my wardrobe. Hat etiquette in general is confusing, to say the least. Men wearing hats should take them off indoors, but lobbies, corridors and elevators are not considered indoor unless the elevator is in a private apartment building. Sheesh. Women can wear hats everywhere unless it's a sort of masculine hat such as a baseball (golf) hat, then they are transmogrified into men and should act accordingly. Men should also doff their chapeaus when in the company of women, even in non-public elevators, I suppose. And apparently only men are considered unpatriotic if their headgear remains intact during the playing of the national anthem. Hats in churches are taboo for men, but not women. I have no idea what popes' hat etiquette is, but they've got some doozies and they sure as hell don't take them off in church. Hats in synagogues are required for men and forbidden for young unmarried women. Some Jewish sects demand men wear hats at all times other than sleeping or bathing. Muslims require head cover for both sexes in mosques that allow women.

So why the tradition of men doffing hats in Euro-Christian society, while women get to retain their headpieces? My wife, The Amazing Max, theorizes

that it's an extension of the culture behind the Islamic burqa, an attempt by males to cover up any sexuality in their women. Or it may be as simple as allowing women to keep their "outfit" together, or even acknowledging the fact that some female hats would be unwieldy if we required women to hold them rather than wear them.

But this is a golf blog and I need to get on with it. My first question is, why must we doff the beanie at the end of the round when we shake hands with our mates? To show respect? We've just spent four hours with the blokes, following all the rules and etiquette of golf, showing them the utmost respect except for that moment on the 14th green when Ralph sunk a 40 foot putt and you called him a lower body part.

Removing the golf hat requires the arranging of ball, club, etc., in order to doff the hat and shake hands, an unnecessary, fumbling moment. I personally have never lost whatever degree of respect I had for a fellow golfer if his hat remained on his head while he shook my hand. And despite the confusing advice from etiquette experts about the same rules applying to women if they're wearing "men's hats", I don't see women taking off the cap at the end of their round.

Then we go into the clubhouse for a little Earl Grey and crumpets and again we have to doff the headpiece. This makes no sense whatsoever.

Answer this question honestly: after a man has walked 18 holes in humid, 90 degree weather, would you rather see him with a hat on or looking like his hair had recently been attacked by a large wet rodent?

Banishing golf hat etiquette is one small step for Man, one giant leap for reason, logic and the reduction of stuff that gets in the way of just enjoying the game.

I say "hats off to making the game simpler."