

The



Fox

Volume IX Number 4

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

July, 2007

Superintendent's Report

This past month, as you know, has been great. The weather has been mild and the course is in great shape. Myself and my crew have been busy keeping up with the daily mowing and setting the course up for everyday play. We have also managed to complete a couple of projects this past month. Probably the largest project was the drainage in #7 fairway. As most of you know, the top of the fairway has been very wet almost all the time. This was due to old drainage that was plugged up and was incapable of flowing. This new drainage should keep this area much dryer. The same type was used at the bottom of #1 fairway and has made a huge improvement to that fairway. We installed double that amount of drainage in half the time with the help of our new excavator. This machine has been invaluable for construction projects. Another project that we have been working on is our new pesticide building. This new build has been coming along very quickly and should be completed in a couple weeks.

A few questions that I have been getting are about the #15 tee. First of all, we need a lot more fill before we can think about sodding this new tee. We need to add 50 to 70 dump truck loads to the left side. I hope that we are able to afford to sod this entire area this fall so you can start playing on it next spring. Another question was about the irrigation. Our irrigation system is old, but works pretty well. There are some fairway heads on the back nine that don't work as well as they should. I think that just replacing the heads entirely is the best way. The only problem is they cost about \$170 a head and there are a lot of them, so I would ask everyone to please be patient because we are replacing the heads as fast as we can afford to.



Steve Solsky



Randy Alexander, Bill Martin and Steve Ludwin donated their time and skills in the construction of the pesticide building.



The #7 drainage project was completed in just two days.

President's Letter

The condition of our golf course has never been better. Steve Solsky and his staff are doing an excellent job. I hope you are as pleased as I am with the staff Todd Manderson has hired. Jim, Denise, and all the staff are very professional and are providing the membership with excellent services.

We are keeping close watch on our revenue and expenditures. As you have often heard, membership dues are the primary source of our revenue. Bill Tucker, our membership chair, has put together a very interesting membership special to entice new memberships this summer. The particulars are on the bulletin board, the club website, on leaflets all around town, and in the July 22nd edition of Saratoga Today.

There is much competition among the many golf courses in our area. We have to be one step ahead. Whenever the opportunity arises put in a plug for Ballston Spa Country Club. As you know, we are open to the public Monday (restrictions, if tournament) through Thursday and your guests are welcome even on the weekend with limitations. Todd has specifics.

We have received many compliments regarding our restaurant food and service. Please compliment Keith, Richie and the wait staff of Villagio Green on a good job. The more we use the restaurant, the more the club benefits. Jan Holick, the house chair, is available to listen to your input.

If you haven't played in the Friday evening tasting tournaments, I strongly recommend you give it a shot in July. I played in my first one in June and a good time was had by all - friendship, golf, food and beverage. It doesn't get much better. Our tournament chair, Tom Hudy, and his committee are doing a fine job.

Enjoy your golf club.



Dick Cody



Baskets of Cheer

This year, because of the generosity of many, the BSCC Women's Golf Association is selling raffle tickets for two baskets of cheer. One basket geared for men and the other for women. They will be displayed in the bar area and in the Pro-Shop, and you can purchase tickets from either spot or ask one of the ladies.

These baskets are full of some great items such as Pro V golf balls, gift certificates for Down Town Saratoga, cigars, chocolate, games, Pat Stack art, Lottery tickets, golf shirt, and many bottles of spirits !!

Tickets are 6 for \$5.00, 12 for \$10. The drawing will be Club Championship weekend. Remember, the money received goes back to our club for various garden/planting needs and upgrades. We appreciate your support of this fundraiser!



Mary Jane Crowley

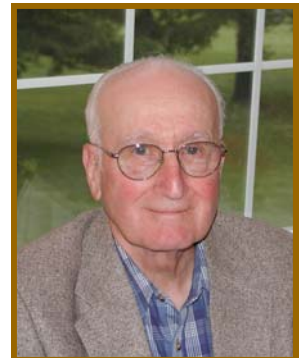
A Word From the Controller

As we reach the end of June, the benefits of the investments made during the past years are becoming more apparent each day. The course is in the best condition that we have ever seen, the result of the excellent use Steve and his crew have made of the equipment purchased in December and with the course improvement funds this year.

Although the membership dues have not met budget, the financial forecast for this year remains positive. If each Member will make at least one golfing friend aware of the outstanding condition of our course and the fact that we are welcoming new Members, the membership numbers can meet or exceed the budget.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for appointing me Controller, and am pleased to be able to serve as the financial whether man. Yes, whether man, the person who predicts whether or not money is or will be available.

Al Squire



Do you have something you'd like to see in the Fox every month? Do you have something you'd like to contribute? Contact Tucker at 893-7646 or wtucker2@nycap.rr.com

From the Golf Shop

We would like to thank all the competitors that played in the member events in June. The participation in the Member/Member and the Parent/Child was the largest on record and it was great to see all the activity around the club.

Outside Event

The outside tournament schedule will be busy for the month of July. The NEWGA and the Capital District Women's Open are looking for volunteers to be forecaddies for their respective events on July 2 and July 23 and 24. Please contact the Golf Shop if you would like to help out. Additionally, Ballston Spa Country Club is always looking to fill in our weekdays with more public play. If any member has any leads in regards to booking an outside group, please let us know.

Golf Carts

With the hot weather arriving more players are using golf carts. This is just a reminder to please have two players per cart and a limit of two golf carts per group.

Golf Lessons

The Junior Golf Program will be taking place on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 for the month of July and continuing through August 8th. The cost per week is \$15.

Ballston Spa Country Club has the benefit of having two PGA members and an LPGA member on staff to help you with your game, anyone interested in scheduling a golf lesson please contact Todd, Jim or Denise.

Holes in One!

Congratulations to the most recent Ace makers!

Gary Armstrong #6 on May 29th

Sue Delanoy #17 on June 16th

Todd Manderson



Course Management

Want to learn course management and knock 5 to 10 strokes off your score?

Sign - up for an "on course" lesson with
Denise Farnan

LEARN HOW TO MASTER:

Uneven lies

Up and down around the green, bunkers

Hit that scoring shot, the approach from 100 - 150 yards.

Junior Camp
All Levels Welcome

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9am – 10am ages 6 - 11
10:30am – 11:30am ages 12 - 17
July & August

Maximum 5 Junior's per Session
Members & Non – Members Welcome
Bring a Friend
\$15 per Session

Call Golf shop to
Sign – up
885- 7935

Green Committee Report

Water, water, everywhere and then again nowhere.

Growing grass can seem so easy but then again not so. When it rains, it pours. When it does not rain, it can get very dry very fast in late Spring and Summer. We're able to keep the course in good condition this time of year thanks to the irrigation system and the pond that holds our water supply. We're lucky to have the second pond near the 2nd green for backup. I'll bet we need to tap that resource before long.

Since it is dry, you'll notice the focus on drainage projects now. This may seem to be counter intuitive, but the time to work on the wet areas is when it is dry (huh?). Really, it is better to dig and repair the ground when there is the minimum of mud to deal with. The bulk of the project on the 7th hole is finished and new drainage between 11 and 12 is a project we are starting. The same can be said for drainage work to the left of the 5th green.

Back to the ponds and the irrigation, connecting the new and old ponds and fixing the wet area behind #2 green is on the list to tackle when we can too.

There is one thing for sure, according to the green committee: We are constantly amazed at what Steve has accomplished and can accomplish when we give him the support and resources necessary to be successful. Rest assured that we will strive to continue that practice.

The green committee extends special thanks to Randy Alexander for continuing to be our go-to guy on special projects, specifically the new chemical storage outbuilding. Randy, you are the best.

Suggestions to the Green Committee are always welcome. You can speak to me or any member of the committee, or can drop us an e-mail to:

GC@ballstonspacc.com

Dave Runyon



At each meeting of the green committee, we will discuss all

Restaurant News

Villagio will have the following Tuesday night meal specials available on the dates indicated. Member response will determine additional specials. Let's support our restaurant.

July 10: Foursome Special - a large cheese pizza with two toppings and a bucket of domestic beer for \$21.95 (compare with menu price of \$28.95)

July 17: Ciabatta Special - your choice of ciabatta plus a domestic draft beer for \$7.99 - add \$1.00 for imported beer (compare with menu price of \$9.99)

July 24: Villagio pannini plus a domestic draft beer for \$7.99 (compare with menu price of \$9.99)

July 31: Hamburger and Hot Dog prepared on the outside grill with a side of fries and a domestic draft beer for \$6.99 (compare with menu price of \$8.50)

Gelato will be available every Tuesday night for \$1.99 (compare with menu price of \$2.99)

We look forward to your feedback.



Jan Holick

Summer Membership Special

Tell your friends, relatives and colleagues

BSCC has a one time only summer membership available

Play from June 25th until Labor Day

\$895 Single

\$1,295 Married Couple

A \$40/month/person restaurant Minimum will be required for the months of July and August

Call Laura 885-1603

The Child/Parent Tournament

Please Thank and Support our Community Businesses who supported our 1st Annual Adult/Child Tournament!!

Price Chopper Angels Ice Cream Dunkin Donuts Country
Drive Inn Exit 8 Golf Clifton Park Driving Range Rite Aid
Drug Store Borders Books Enterprise Rental Car C.A.
North Realty Debbie Schwencke Sales Agent Stewarts
McDonalds

Ed Schwencke



Tournament News

Tournament Schedule

- July 11:** Home and Home BSCC @ Skenendoa
12:30 SGS, BB of Partners \$60.00
- July 13-14:** Women's Member/Guest 8:30 2BB of 4 \$60.00
- July 20:** Martini Tasting 5:30 SGS 9 hole scramble \$25.00
- July 22:** 2 Person Scramble 8:30 SGS \$20.00

Outside Events

- July 2:** NEWGA 8:30 SGS
- July 9:** Ripe Tomato 1:00 SGS
- July 16:** CFMA 1:00 SGS
- July 23-24:** Capital District Women's Open 8:30 SGS
- July 30:** Ballston Spa Pop Warner 12:00 SGS

Club Match Play Championship

Championship Flight: 1st: Dan Vignone
2nd: Dave Wellington

First Flight: 1st: Ron Symanski
2nd: Tom Hudy

2nd Flight: 1st: John Monahan
2nd: John Caputo

Wine Tasting Scramble

1st: Kris Youman, Betsy Drambour, John White, John Fiore

2nd: Dave Runyon, Mrs. Runyon, Dave Fizer, Jannie Fizer

Beth Bassett, Sue Delanoy, Rayette Johnson, Lori Petraske

Beth Todd, Gerald Todd, Paolo Grandjaquet, Liz Grandjaquet

Mary Law Powell, Dick Cody, Al Squire, Bob Charbonneau, Ginny Charbonneau

President's Cup

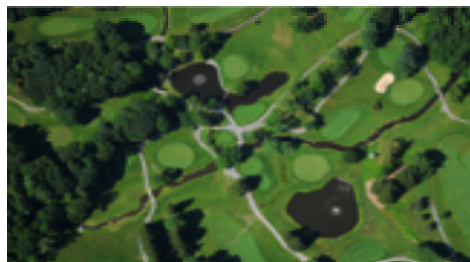
1st Place: George Mahoney

2nd Place: Steve Ludwin

3rd Place: Sty Morris, Jim Furphy, Jim Breitinger

6th Place: Win Wachtel, Pete Kanches, Paul Davies

9th Place: Rick Funaro, Bill Glindmyer, Bob MacFarlane,
Jack Cottrell, Mark Rider, Josh Cottrell



Tournament Results

Men's Guest Day

1st Gross: Bill Frank, Pete Denagel, Tim Bethel, John Barcz

2nd Gross: Tom Hudy, David Malicki, Rich Sniffen, Chris Brady

1st Net: Tim Krohl, Dave Cerutti, Len Blonde, Mike Papa

2nd Net: Halbert Van Earden, Hal Van Earden Jr., Jim \ Smith, John Dannison

Men's Senior Member/Member

1st Gross: Jim Breitingner, Tony Riservato

2nd Gross: Tony Lupino, Larry Ulrich

3rd Gross: David Bell, Scott Bell

1st Net: Al Squire, Jim Holmblad

2nd Net: Norm Van Wormer, Art Soulerie

3rd Net: Charles Fricano, Frank Parisi

Women's Member/Member

1st Gross: Sue Delanoy, Heidi Harkins

2nd Gross: Sue Kahler, Claudia Mahoney

1st Net: Rayette Johnson, Lauri Petraski

2nd Net: Penny Monnat, Betty Thornhill

3rd Net: Max Tucker, Gail Wayand

4th Net: Jan Federice, Pat Joseph

5th Net: Anne Jorgenson, Cindy Walkanowski

6th Net: Beth Bassett, Brenda Adams

Would you like a high-def aerial view of BSCC?

Ask about our 2006 aerial photo, 18x24 with close-ups of the "Hub" and other views of the Club

See Laura or the Golf Shop for details
Available framed or unframed

Men's Member/Member

Championship Flight: 1st: Jon Tedesco, Mike Beson
2nd: Dave Fizer, Larry D'Alberto
3rd: Rich Vanbuskirk, Tim Bethel

B Flight: 1st Gross: Tony Merola, Jim Bryant
2nd Gross: Hal Van Earden, Pete Kanches
3rd Gross: Jim Smith, Ed Rufer

1st Net: Hal Van Earden, Pete Kanches
2nd Net: Jim Smith, Ed Rufer
3rd Net: Sty Morris, Paul Steves

C Flight: 1st Gross: Charlie Greenwood, Ron Penpraze
2nd Gross: Bill Martin, Mike Martin
3rd Gross: Steve Ludwin, Dave O'Connor

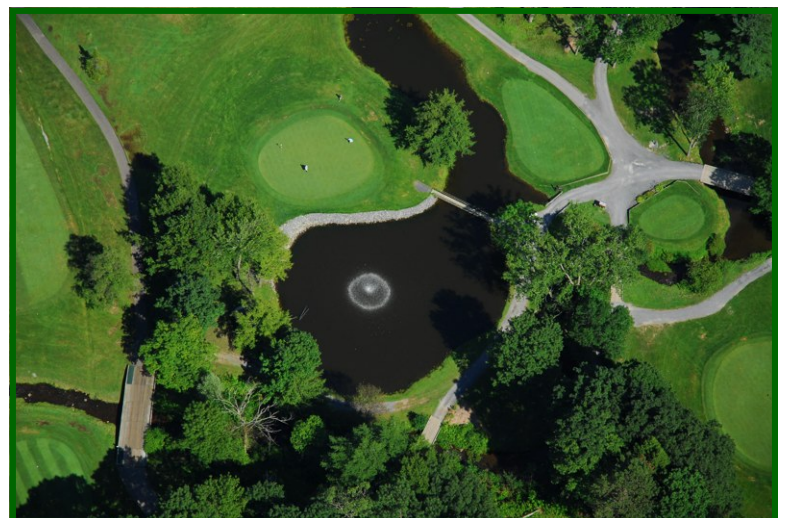
1st Net: Bill Martin, Mike Martin
2nd Net: George Mahoney, Tim Ball
3rd Net: Bob Charbonneau, Mark Thornhill

D Flight: 1st Gross: Jerry Todd, Ed Schwenke
2nd Gross: Bruce Kay, Ken Stevens
3rd Gross: Fred Decelle, Gary Lyons

1st Net: Bruce Kay, Ken Stevens
2nd Net: Fred Decelle, Gary Lyons
3rd Net: Brian Bergin, John Caputo

E Flight: 1st Gross: Larry Tamul, Tony Reed
2nd Gross: Josh Cottrell, Paul Davies
3rd Gross: Jim Furphy, Don Gallagher

1st Net: Jim Furphy, Don Gallagher
2nd Net: Bob MacFarlane, Norm Vanwormer
3rd Net: Josh Cottrell, Paul Davies



Tournament Committee Report

I would first like to acknowledge the recent overwhelmingly successful tournaments.

The "Wine Tasting" had 72 participants for the 9-hole event. A special thanks to Villaggio Greens for the wonderful food & wines.

The "Member-Member" had 132 participants, which was the most in recent history. The weather cooperated and the gazebo was full of drinks, food & stories.

The Adult/Child Tournament had 22 teams or 44 participants. Thanks to Cindy Walkski, Deb Schwencke & Ed Schwencke for their help in securing some donations from local businesses. They were able to give out over \$1,000 in gifts and prizes.



Tom Hudy

As always these successes would not have been possible without Todd Manderson and his great staff!!!!

In other news, we heard from members that wanted to have a "Mixer" so we added a "4th of July Mixer". If you want more information, check in the pro-shop or ask the chairs Joan Taylor & Suzie Mansfield.

Lastly we would like to go over some of the "Tournament Procedures" just as reminders

Sign-Up cut off dates are usually the Wednesday prior to the weekend event. Please sign up as early as possible, this will allow the Pro-shop and chairs adequate time to communicate event particulars with Villaggio for a smoother run tournament.

The determination to have a shotgun is based on past and current participation numbers. If we have 80 participants a shotgun start can be used by the tournament. We would then fill the course up to its capacity with non participants.

When a Tournament has 124 or more participants (which is 2 groups on each hole except for the par 3's) it is considered full with the course being closed to non participants.

We will try to communicate as early as possible to the members that events are at or near their capacity. However, we need your help by signing up early. This will allow non participating members time to make other arrangements to golf later in the day or at one of our reciprocals. As always if you have any feedback or concerns send them to me at tom-hudy76@yahoo.com. I will always listen and/or try to address your input as it is very important to us.

A reminder: Please note the cart signs and do not drive your cart within 30 yards of the green. Also, if you have a golf trolley or push cart, please stay away from the greens, as we are seeing wear marks near the greens, especially on holes # 8 and 13. Do not take your carts onto the fringe of any green. Common sense needs to replace laziness for the good of our course. The course is in the best shape it has ever been and we need to keep it that way. Thank you.





Parring the 19th

I was bemused by the recent article in one of the major golf publications that polled famous athletes who play golf. The question was: Is Golf a Sport? I generally don't regard this sort of triviality as worth my time, preferring instead to debate more weighty issues such as the viability of economic sanctions and their effect on the Palestinian political evolution, why anyone would even consider drinking Michelob Ultra, why anyone would even consider bowling, or why anyone would even consider having a Michelob Ultra while bowling. But I digress.

Even though many famous athletes who stood out as icons of their sport declared golf a more difficult endeavor (including Michael Jordan and Wayne Gretzky), many of the athletes interviewed for this article derided golf as less of a sport and more of a game or a pastime. They cited certain out-of-shape PGA Professionals who shall remain nameless (Lumpy, John Daly), mentioned the lack of stamina required, even stooping so low as to bring golf attire into the question, as if that makes a difference.



So is golf a game or a sport? A pastime or an athletic event? The American Heritage Dictionary calls it a game, but *Wikipedia* calls it a sport. O bother!

The Random House Word Menu doesn't mention golf in its list of outdoor games (it does cite miniature golf), but includes such arcane activities as bandy, pall-mall and tipcat. And we all know how physically trying they can be. On the other hand, golf is included in its list of sports, although so is bandy, bolo ball and something called sambo wrestling. And we all know how somnambulistic they can be.

OK. So we're no closer to our answer. Is a sport a sport simply because it uses major muscle groups and causes major perspiration? Are finesse and intelligence a consideration? Let's consider the ultimate example of a sport and a game and work towards an understanding of just what the hell golf really is.

Rugby and chess.



Rugby is essentially the exclusive use of major muscle groups in the attempt to inflict debilitating injuries on the opposing team, while incidentally scoring the odd try. While mental acuity and physical finesse are a minor bonus, these are minimal in their importance to the sport.



With chess, on the other hand, no physicality is required whatsoever; a computer is all that's necessary. But mental stamina and finesse are everything. That's a game.

Golf is obviously then, an amalgam of sport and game. On the one hand, you have to walk 6 miles up and down hills. Stamina is required. You must marry a tiny point on a clubhead, six feet from your eyes, traveling at about 100 miles per hour, with a precise point on a ball. You must do this on a perfect swing plane using 22 muscle groups. Physical finesse is required. You must determine the routing of the ball according to the hole layout, your lie, the wind and other factors such as that nasty tree on #6. You must ignore the head games of your opponents, especially if you play with the miscreants I am burdened with on a regular basis. So golf requires mental sharpness, strength and stamina, and the ability to take a number of factors, process them and make the wrong decision. Ergo, golf is a mental/physical game/sport.



Tucker

No other pastime/sport/game requires the total integration of strength, finesse and mental discipline as does golf.

With the possible exception of bandy.

PS: In the June 18th edition of *Newsweek*, Morgan Freeman supports the notion that golf is life, a concept I have extolled for many years. He makes no mention of bowling, a pastime I have compared to exactly the opposite of life, i.e. death without the messy part.