

# CHIP SHOTS

## NEW FRIDAY VENUE

# CHARDON LAKES

HIGH NOON AT NEW COURSE – For the first time since Little Mountain was originally booked eleven years ago, a different golf course joined the rotation of hosting round one of the Geneva Open. Chardon Lakes Golf Course was chosen after the Booking Committee discussed the pluses and minuses. The other finalist was Madison Country Club, a favorite of many in the field. Commissioner Frank Alexander presented a strong endorsement for the Chardon Lakes tract. The remaining Committee Members embraced the idea of playing a new challenge and the decision was quickly ratified. Geneva Legends Gary Glanzman and Vince Gatto playing with Mini-Legends Jack Berger and Jerry Graves will tee it up at noon on July 22. More aesthetically in tune with Madison Country Club's 100 year old design than the newer layout and trap happy architect of Little Mountain, Chardon Lakes has withstood the test of time. Jack Nicklaus holds the course record of 67 set back in his hey-day during the 1970's. The silver tees play 6,210 yards long and to a 126 slope. Senior tees cover 5,514 of those yards and given a 119 slope. Besides beauty and tree lined fairways, most of the greens are small but plenty tough to putt. A piece of advice, keep your approach short of the hole. I believes this course will receive high grades from the Geneva field.

DESTINATION GENEVA – With Friday's round booked the Geneva Express left the station on the tracks to Geneva-on-the-Lake. Fueled by beer, whiskey, and wine on a mission of fun, frolic, and golf this resort village has proved a perfect playground for our interests. The bright lights of Geneva-on-the-Lake is not quite as glamorous as Las Vegas. Instead of slots Geneva has pinball. There are no roulette wheels but plenty billiard tables. Like Vegas, the music is loud and entertaining. Geneva lacks the brothels and wedding chapels but is well stocked of tattoo parlors. All establishments close by 2:30 which is good so everyone makes tee times the following morning. Two teams will defend their BEST BALL Championship from 2021. Tim Hughes, Blaise Plageman, Nate McCorkle, Tom

Prunte, and Legend Vince Gatto comprise one squad. The other winner consists of Ben Lloyd, Nick Boggess, Matt Mazzocco, and Ron Szymczak. Both teams finished with -11 scores good enough to earn each winning group \$500. The remaining players in the field will be drafted at the Commissioner's Dinner on Saturday night. "B" and "C" players will pick. Craig Marshall points out LOUD and CLEAR that he and Nate McCorkle won the Gavin Cup last year. The picture of Craig hugging the trophy as tight as he would a plaque of gold can still be seen on the Geneva webpage. A fact of interest is Craig, displaying he is a responsible Geneva participant, has already engraved the Gavin Cup trophy and is proudly showing friends and family to prove he is not the golf hack some perceived. Earning that trophy stuffed his pockets with \$100 of the team's \$200 payday. Nate and Craig shot a net of 409, nineteen under par.

FLEXING A COMMISSIONER'S MUSCLE – The irritation of Craig Marshall's Gavin Cup victory is very real. On a personal note, I am happy for Craig's success. Since his win, several of his close friends have demonstrated an obvious envy. Assistant Commissioner Blaize Plageman plans to petition the Pairings Committee to place Craig in his foursome for Friday's round at Chardon Lakes. Blaize makes it clear his intention is to get Craig drunk (a pledge Craig will willfully oblige) to push his score to unwinnable numbers. I attempted this course of action a few times myself but most often it backfired and it was I who staggered off the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Blaize is more intimidating. His bark, his growl, his stature causes many to obey his directions. Just last year during the BEST BALL CHAMPIONSHIP, Blaize managed to persuade Legend Vince Gatto to remain sober, a chore once declared impossible by Greek gods and Geneva Legends alike. His intimidation is so monstrous I believe Blaize has the wherewithal to keep Trump from sprouting off. Overlooked with Blaize's plan is how Craig's partner, Nate McCorkle will take it. His Que sera, sera attitude will surely be tested. If Blaize and Nate tangled in a cage match, the event would be WrestleMania worthy.

ALL ABOARD – The potential for the biggest field to date is very likely. Early prognostications have Legend Gary Glanzman and Mark Johnson returning after both needed to cancel because of injuries last season. Call it a Commissioner's psychic or a vision from a hallucinatory elixir but he sees Don Jander, Brian Hughes, Dagon Abdon, Paden West and the Badea brothers (Michael and Andrew) back in the field. We are still waiting on word from the Almighty

Shannon Boothe. Rumors have it a few more surprises from the past may bless us with their presence. Heaven knows I am not one to hear rumors and preach it as gospel. What I do know, the Geneva caps are in the hands of the Merchandise Committee. They are sharp. The 2022 lid is a different cap with a different look. One difference is they are of the fitted variety. Those with a bigger hat size need place their order with Fritz Ford. The first ten will be reserved. The hope is we figured the number correctly so everyone can properly display their new Geneva bonnets. I have come to appreciate Yogi Berra's wisdom when he said, "It is hard to make predictions especially about the future."