CHIP SHOTS

CALL TO THE TEE

 REGISTRATION TIME – It is time for all Geneva golfers to commit. Speculation is this year’s participants will surpass the numbers from any Geneva Open from the past. The earlier we know the field the better we can proceed. The Merchandise Committee can guarantee no golfer is left without. Beef prices are at a premium and the sooner we can get a count then the steaks and sides can be purchased and prepared for the Commissioner’s Dinner with minimal waste and economic efficiency. The sooner we know who is coming, the Pairings Committee and Scramble Committee can get to work. Is it too much to ask to reply by July 4? We have several options to register. Contact Jay Green by phone, text, or in person or register with Frank Alexander by phone, text, in person, or e-mail at calexander1@sbcglobal.net. Jay’s number is 614-237-5703. Phone correspondence with Frank is 216-702-0110. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Help us make the Geneva Open the best party of the year.

 PERA’S UPDATE – Most reservations for Pera’s luxurious motel rooms have been booked for the Geneva Open. As of Mother’s Day, only three rooms remain available, unit #35 on the south end and two efficiency rooms that will house one individual apiece. Also vacant is a space Squid booked last July. He indicated he is not returning this year. I asked him to hold the room until sure we do not need the spot. To secure Squid’s accommodations for outing weekend call Mike Weilbacher at 614-205-6308 before the 4th of July. We learned last year several of Pera’s rooms have been remodeled. It is recommended to contact Sherry at Pera’s office (440-466-8675) to see if your unit has been affected. She indicated to me rooms 9-10-11-12 remain the same as they have been for the past 125 years, just the way we like it. I am not sure of the bed space in the other spots.

 GOLF BALL HISTORY – I discovered a nugget about the golf ball that few people know and I thought I would pass this bit of history to my readers. The golf ball of today was developed by a Clevelander. Do not believe me? Look it up. The early years of the sport was played with wooden balls. I can only guess it took two enormous size wooden balls to hit the wooden golf ball 250 yards. The breakthrough came during the last years of the nineteenth century. In 1898, a fellow named Coburn Haskell from Cleveland waited inside the B.F. Goodrich plant for his golf partner to finish his Board meeting. As time passed, Mr. Haskell wound rubber threads around a liquid or solid core into a bouncy ball. More needed done to keep the ball together and an outer shell made of balata sap was used. This, my friends, was the golf ball until the mid-1960. I put more smiles from mishits on those thin covered balata balls than the number of tablets and capsules consumed from Jimi Hendrix’ pill box. Thank goodness DuPont developed a new synthetic resin, surlyn, that replaced the balata covers or I would be in the poor house today from buying golf balls. Add that to Northeast Ohio bragging rights, pro football, rock and roll, and the golf ball.

 NEW GENEVA WEBSITE – If you are reading this piece, then you successfully found the new website address. Call me Captain Obvious. The reason for the change came about because our previous web provider was geared for corporate America and not the peons of the world. Web Master, Ron Szymczak, searched for better service and lower cost. He docked on this GoDaddy site. I find the new format as pleasing to the eye as watching Carrie Underwood open Sunday Night Football. Like Miss Underwood, the Geneva site has plenty to feast upon and the moving parts should keep your attention. The Geneva 2021 tab features the latest news and plenty of Frank’s nonsense. Each time the site is updated, a notification will be sent. The Geneva Events Schedule marks dates, places, and times of this year’s Geneva calendar. The pdf at page bottom is a detailed agenda. Eventually, more photos will be added from Geneva’s past as we slowly fill that tab. Thus far, three articles about Geneva History can be read. More to come. If you have any historical, humorous, and interesting anecdotes, feel free to pass them along. Your Geneva experiences make the Geneva Open the best party of the year.

 I REPEAT – I reemphasize the importance of early registration. The decision to cut off entries at 52 golfers has been made policy this year. At this time, that number appears easily attainable. Three rookies committed already, all sponsored by Geneva worthy members. The bigger the field, the bigger the challenges both on the course and in preparation. The better prepared we are, the smoother and stress free the organizers can accomplish their duties. We appreciate your cooperation. We want all moving the same direction. One thing we learned throughout the years, when everything is coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.