

CHIP SHOTS

COMMITMENT TIME

IN OR OUT? – You cannot experience Geneva fun if you do not attend. There is a glow and pride when the weekend closes, the same glow and pride still burning inside a Woodstock reveler. Each participant has a story to tell and the three days in July is discussed and rehashed forever. The time to join the 2022 field is now. When noon rolls around on July 22 you will be glad to be one of the 52 standing around the first tee box at Chardon Lakes. Many have already committed. The roster thus far reads;

Dagon Abdon	Fritz Ford	Craig Marshall
Todd Abdon	Vince Gatto	Gary Mazzocco
Frank Alexander	Gary Glanzman	Matt Mazzocco
Ray Ballard	Jerry Graves	Nate McCorkle
Jack Berger	Danny Green	Tony McGuckin
Tim Black	Jay Green	Steve Miller
Tom Black	Brian Hughes	Mike Pagnanelli
Bill Boggess	Tim Hughes	Blaise Plageman
Keith Boggess	Don Jander	Dick Plageman
Nick Boggess	Tom Jech	Tom Prunte
Jared Boling	Mark Johnson	Bob Rutherford
Jim Centorbi	Kerry Joyce	Don Rutherford
Jacob Davis	Mark Kovachy	Mark Spangler
Pat Dorn	Sam Kovachy	Ron Szymczak
Shawn Dorn	Ben Lloyd	Paden West

We are converging on crunch time. Any additions and subtractions to the list need be reported as soon as possible. So many ways to reveal your plans. As always, Jay Green and yours truly consistently have our Registration Windows open. Blaise Plageman and Shawn Dorn are also reliable means of communication. The Geneva push is on.

BABY BOOMER MUSCLE – Look out boys! There is a new lease on golf life for the aged at Geneva. In the last several years many Baby Boomers crossed the 65 year threshold and according to Geneva by-laws, are eligible to play the “pitch and putt” tees. Just 5 years ago, the long ball hitters held a distinct advantage. In the 2019 BEST BALL TOURNAMENT the “Super Team” (Dagon Abdon, Nick Boggess, Matt Mazzocco, Gary Mazzocco, and Don Rutherford) set the record by a huge margin finishing 17 under par leaving many to believe this was the beginning of a dynasty. A team led by Pat Dorn upset the “Super Team” the following year and prevented the dynasty label. A member of the “Super Team”, Gary Mazzocco, was the driving force in instituting the 65 year old senior tee law (Article III, Section

32). Ten years ago Gary harped to the Commissioner enough that the Rules Committee finally passed the vote to allow senior tees play. Ten years ago, few Geneva participants qualified. The 2022 field will sport nearly 50% “pitch and putt” golfers. Notable linksters playing the up tees include Legend Fritz Ford, Jack Berger, Dick Plageman, Jim Centorbi and the list continues to grow. Legend Gary Glanzman is eligible but he insists on playing with the young dudes. I believe one cannot ride the wave unless he climbs on the surfboard. I am on board. The great thing about golf is its ability to give each player an even chance with its handicap system and different tee boxes. Many of us need the help of both. With more Baby Boomers moving to the senior tees, the competition grows stronger which adds to the fun of the weekend.

GENEVA SMACKDOWN – To the masses, the results of my legendary fall has been part of Geneva lore rehashed on a yearly basis. Room 12 looked like a Keith Moon inhabited unit. Former Homicide Detective, Pat Dorn, gathered himself after his hearty laugh to pick up his camera and photograph the crime scene. A picture of the destructive antique table is now viewable in the Geneva photo gallery. Until recently, that was as much as anyone knew of that fateful night including me. Anyone but Ralph DiCarolis that is. All these years later Ralph finally laughs about the incident but he was none too happy at the time. It was Ralph, Jim Centorbi, and the late Billy Baum who spent the night picking the drunken roommate off the floor after my numerous falls. Each trip to the bathroom and there were many, brought extra bruises as my 300 pound tub of lard body bounced off chairs and tables on my journey to the floor. It is no secret that alcohol caused this turbulence. The last I remember until the back nine on Sunday was Don Jander cheering as the last four inches of vodka found a new home from the bottle to the gut. Ralph reveals the rest of the story. Out of drink, Jander insisted they visit Jay and Danny Green for a not needed nightcap of some sorts. We stayed long enough necessitating two guys drag me home. Rubber legged and passed out they literally threw me on the bed. If only that was the end of it a Commissioner’s reputation may not be stained. One staggering return trip from the bathroom resulted in me falling on Billy Baum landing squarely on his 110 lb. frame. It must have felt like a Mt. Rushmore boulder plummeted on top of him. My constant care was so unnerving, Ralph sat outside the room stewing from 4 until tee time. Golf the next day was like playing in a Bounce House. Wandering hopelessly around I found it difficult focusing on three golf balls. Creature played in the foursome ahead and said he was afraid I would hurt myself. It did not stop Pat from laughing so hard for 18 holes that each Dorn golf shot was mustard through misty eyes. To this day I respect the Craig Marshall’s and Nick Boggess’ of the world and how they effectively function under those conditions. The lesson learned, be wary of one Don Jander.

THURSDAY OPTIONS – The Geneva Open officially commences on July 22 this year. I find it interesting the different ways Thursday is spent. Before he closed his Geneva career, Mike Yoli introduced the idea of spending Geneva Eve relaxing on Pera’s veranda. My recollection is not the greatest as you know. There has been hundreds of bottles of whiskey, hundreds of thousand golf shots and a broken table since then but I calculated 11 years since YoCat preached the Thursday check-in. Different groups spend the time their own way since there is no official Geneva activity. Many choose to make the trip on Friday as was the case for the first

35 years. Enough of the field come Thursday that Gavin Cup partners are drawn Thursday evening relieving Commissioner Pressure on Friday in hopes of helping his game. That is like believing a new hairdo will beautify Nancy Pelosi. The YoCat veranda philosophy is some cup of tea or more than likely twelve pack afternoon. Others head to the Geneva course for a round and beverages. The majority will play Chardon Lakes on Thursday to scout the course. The man in charge of this endeavor is Shawn Dorn who secured five tee times. They play a \$10 pot game with skins and pin shots. All interested in joining this Chardon Lakes Thursday group contact Shawn (614-778-9560). I should play because I need the practice. Instead I choose the veranda and beer option because the words of Bobby Bowden ring so true in my ears. "The greatest mistake is to continue to practice a mistake."