

# CHIP SHOTS

## REGISTRATION CLOSED

FIELD IS SET – The number of players planning to hack around Geneva is 48. That is a nice even total making team events all foursomes and twosomes. Rookie Bryan Shoemaker committed in mid-May, and he is the final entrant in this year's field. Barring any unforeseen adventures, the Commissioner closed registration. He will pass the list to the Handicap and Pairings Committees. Once handicaps are established, the Scramble Committee will exercise their duty. The hope is to publish Friday and Saturday tee times with the July newsletter. Teams for the Scramble will more than likely come later in a separate document. Best Ballers will be chasing Ben Lloyd-Nick Boggess-Matt Mazzocco-Ron Szymczak who have won the event back-to-back and are one victory away from considered a dynasty. "D" players pick their opponent at the Commissioner's Dinner. Gavin Cup partners will be randomly drawn by Assistant Commissioner Blaise Plageman on Thursday night in front of a ruckus crowd. Twenty-three teams of two take aim at defending champs Pat Dorn and Craig Marshall for the honor of engraving their name on the coveted trophy, an honor that will immortalize golfing accomplishments for generations. Perhaps this is the time to heed the words of Marshall Matt Dillon who said, "There has never been a horse that can't be rode and there's never been a man that can't be thrown." Look out defending champs. Geneva stallions are kicking like wild broncos to unseat you. Geneva will be here before you know it. Bring it on.

MEET THE NEW BOSS – Same as the old boss. We won't get fooled again. Per usual, there is a new sheriff running Geneva-on-the-Lake Golf Course. Unlike years past, this one need not be trained. Amy is very familiar with the Geneva Open. She was part of the clubhouse staff last year. Her exuberant personality blended quite nicely with our alcoholic and fun temperament, sort of like Buffalo Trace Bourbon and Sweet Vermouth. The elegance and charm paid dividends for her career. The Village of Geneva-on-the-Lake pocketed the most money ever at the Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing last October. Those results elevated Amy to

Operations Manager. Although Brian is still employed, his major concerns are the conditions of the course or, as we called it in the old days, greens keeper. Amy gleamed with the improvements she had administered. Among the upgrades are brand new carts. The patio has working lights hanging around its borders allowing for longer 19<sup>th</sup> holes. She promised to have all new grills by July for better barbecuing, propane included. It sounded like she had more changes in mind although she did not reveal her plans to me. Put the Village Entertainment Budget in the hands of a woman and I guarantee the money will be spent. Maxed out. She is very excited to show off these upgrades. I recommend we give her some love and tell her what a fine job she is doing. Compliments, especially towards women, is a much easier way to live.

OLD TRADITION RETURNS – I spent the first five months writing about new procedures for this year's Geneva Open. One tradition returns after a year hiatus. Because of juggling venues last year, everyone was responsible for their own green fees at each day's play. This was a break from the 30-year practice of Saturday and Sunday green fees collected by the Commissioner along with other financial responsibilities. After discussions with Amy, she preferred the ritual of one payment for the entire group. As hinted in the previous paragraph, that gal has a way of pushing her agenda to reality. The price of golf remains the same as last year. In reality, we will benefit by playing all 27 holes on Saturday at the Geneva course. The Scramble round will cost \$10. We paid the nine-hole rate in 2023. The total for the 2024 Geneva Open is set at \$210. That is it. Remember, those returning from last year have golf at Hemlock paid by virtue of rain checks. The \$210 includes Geneva green fees for Saturday and Sunday, Best Ball, Gavin Cup, Scramble, and Skill Shot payouts as well as the Commissioner's Dinner, and other commodities. Cash is accepted. Wait! Cash is required. Nobody wants to collect their winnings with credit. Thank you for your cooperation.

PRACTICE? – Is it worth it? You be your own judge. We heard Allan Iverson rant about practice being overrated, but recent results may question his philosophy. The last three Gavin Cup winners played a Thursday practice round. Three of the Best Ball teammates sharpened their game on Thursday as well. Some unload their wears at the Summertime Inn then tackle the Geneva course. Others join Shawn Dorn for a Skins

Game. This year's track is Hemlock Springs, the same course as Geneva's opening round on July 26. The remaining players either arrive on Friday or sit around Lumpy's Hideaway mentally preparing for the weekend. I cannot explain it but those hanging at Lumpy's, in the loving care of Doctor Hate and consuming his magic potion, have had trouble winning recently. Those interested in playing Hemlock on Thursday, contact Shawn Dorn by text, phone, or e-mail. He will be more than happy to slot you in. I enjoy all the narratives as the boys come together later that evening. Some are whoppers. I have come to appreciate the words of Ulysses S. Grant. Substituting golf for wars, President Grant said, "(Golf) produces many stories of fiction, some of which are told until they are believed to be true."