

CHIP SHOTS

CRUISING TOWARDS GENEVA

“FORE PLEASE” – It will not be long before we hear those words on the Hemlock Springs Golf Course first tee. Charter members (Legend Gary Glanzman and Mini-Legend Jerry Graves) will be accompanied by 45-year veterans (Legend Vince Gatto and Mini-Legend Jack Berger) to do the honors and hit the ceremonial tee ball opening the competition for the 2024 Geneva Open. Though much of the party begins Thursday, their drives raise the curtain on golf. It is imperative at the conclusion of each round, to turn your scorecards over to Ben Lloyd and Blaise Plageman who will record them into a computer to tally results. It is an obvious responsibility. Failure to execute will result in Gavin Cup disqualification and possible loss of Skin money. I would not want to be in Jack Berger’s shoes if Gary Glanzman forfeits a skin because of negligence. Green fees for Hemlock are already paid. Show up, find your playing partners, gear up, share a celebratory drink and play. Pretty simple. Those 65 years and older may hit from the white tees at Hemlock and gold tees in Geneva. The others play the blue tees on Friday and whites on Saturday and Sunday. Green fees for Geneva are included in the \$210 I collect for the weekend. Unfortunately, Jay Green did not win his millions from Publisher’s Clearing House like he once believed because, if so, he promised to pay for everyone’s trip. The \$210 fee will cover Geneva financial obligations. As a nonprofit entity, all monies will be returned in the green fees, golf payouts, dinner, and merchandise. Due to overwhelming support and the many volunteers, this procedure continues as a long-standing policy of the outing. Only cash is accepted as your entry fee. Nobody wants paid by check or credit. It is time to clean the grooves on your wedge and wax the metal heads, we are less than a month away. “Fore Please”.

PRACTICE ROUND – Every year Shawn Dorn arranges a practice round of golf on the grounds where Friday’s play takes place. Due to the fact that Hemlock Springs has two outings on July 25 and the course will not open until 3 PM, this exercise needed tinkered. If there is one thing the Geneva Open has learned in 48 years, it is how to tinker. There will be golf on Thursday, July 25, just not at Hemlock. Instead, times have been

reserved at Little Mountain. Note the first group tees at 11:30. Der Dutchman breakfast must be scarfed like a starved caveman or moved up a half hour because Dick Plageman's Geneva trip officially begins at the restaurant. If he starts bitching the grounds would shake like a 4.8 points earthquake. Six spots are booked at the golf venue. The Geneva Open was played twice at Little Mountain. The last time was in 2021. In case you forgot, many swore this track had more sand than the beaches on Lake Erie. Even so, it is very playable for our skills or lack of, with plenty of challenges and rewards. A Skins Game will be part of the competition as well as proximity on the par 3's. Side bets are of your own doing. To be included in this extravaganza, contact Shawn Dorn.

DYNASTY BROKEN – It took the Almighty to accomplish results mortals could not achieve for the past three years. I am not talking the Almighty Boothia either but a Being with much bigger powers. He forced a split of the Best Ball Championship Team. In mid-June, I received this email from Gary Mazzocco. "Just wanted to let you know that Matt and I will not be attending the outing this July. Matt had to have surgery done on his right wrist and elbow 2 weeks ago. He will be starting PT this week and is unable to golf for several months." Matt was part of the three-time Championship Squad with teammates Ben Lloyd, Nick Boggess, and Ron Szymczak. Cold hearted Geneva hackers believe playing with three finally evens the field. That is a gutless attitude. Imagine the world if the Allies ran and hid from the German Tiger Tanks because they were the best armored tanks in the world. There is no place for that sort of thinking at the Geneva Open. Why is Takeru Kobayashi challenging Joey Chestnut in the hot dog eating contest? It is his desire and will to beat the best. Joey's record is 76 dogs in 10 minutes. As Geneva Commissioner, I will not allow such nonsensical thoughts to creep into Geneva's philosophy. Knute Rockne did not tell his team to participate for the Gipper in a showdown football game against Army. The decision has been made that Captain Ben Lloyd will receive a draft choice to replace Matt. His pick will come at the end of the third round. "D" players will draft this year. Those in line to choose include the Rutherford brothers, Jay Green, Tim Hughes, Greg Gudenkauf, Paden West, Kerry Joyce, Ray Ballard, Craig Marshall, Mini-Legend Jerry Graves, and Legend Frank Alexander. The draft order and those available to be chosen will be announced shortly.

FIELD SET? – If Geneva started tomorrow, I would feel much better about the field. At the time of this writing, we have 48 commitments. That is perfect. After 47 years of these events, I am not naïve to the fact numbers can change between now and July 26. One year Mark Johnson tore his Achilles heel skipping across a drainage ditch like a 4-year-old girl without a worry in the world during Thursday's practice round oddly enough at Little Mountain. Just last year Kerry Joyce experienced a TIA the week of Geneva and pulled out. They had legitimate excuses. On the other hand, Mike Harper just did not show. Pissed me off. As indicated above, Matt and Gary scratched for health reasons. On the Sunday Tour at Blacklick, Tony McGuckin could not finish his round because of back pain just recently. With the medicine he keeps handy, that had to be some serious discomfort. No worries, however, Jelly promised to participate in Geneva. "Wouldn't miss it for the world," he said. Tee times are set for Friday and Saturday. Scroll down on your device to the lower portion of this webpage to see with whom and when it is your turn to play. The Scramble teams will be revealed once they are composed. I will email that information. Years of Commissioner taught me that preparations are never locked in stone, but the better we prep, the easier it is to adjust on the fly. I learned "Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted."