

2023 SCRAMBLE WRAP UP

A SPIRITED RIDE

Eleven foursomes milled around the first tee and the putting green waiting. The outing that moved us from Geneva's hallowed grounds to a rained out round at Hemlock Springs need finish before we could begin. Because it was a Shot Gun start all the golf carts became available at one time. It looked like a herd of youngsters racing to get their Dodge-Em cars as 44 grown men secured their buggies for the Scramble. After a 45 minutes delay it was finally "start your engines." The green flag was waved, and the Scramble began.

Many years the Scramble needs more than nine holes to determine a winner. With the late start, we can count our blessings that Blaise Plageman-Richie Heskett-Shawn Dorn-Craig Marshall finished the job without going into overtime. The initial tee shot came after 4 P.M. and that brought darkness into play if extra holes were needed. They finished with a 29, a score of 7 under par. One thing about Scramble victories, they are fine examples of teamwork and golf's ham and egg game, evidenced with this group of hackers because no one in this field shoots a 29 without help.

By the time the checkered flag was waved, and the last putt dropped to the bottom of the cup, Blaise Plageman-Richie Heskett-Shawn Dorn-Craig Marshall scored better than the other ten teams. I guarantee they did not celebrate with milk. I have it from reliable sources that other intoxicated products were consumed for this celebration. Even I raised my whiskey glass and toasted the champs. Win or lose, the Scramble is a great time.

The winning foursome put the peddle to the metal immediately. An eagle-birdie start had them 3 under par after two holes. As if their race car needed to make an unscheduled pit stop, they only managed par on the next three holes. Wait? What? They did have cart problems. Blaise's machine broke down. In no condition to walk and carry his clubs, they radioed the clubhouse who sent a replacement vehicle. The switch was made. One problem was solved but another created. Blaise could not leave the delivery driver stranded so far away from the clubhouse. Hustling into the fresh cart the two hurriedly headed back. Rushing

through mud puddles and bouncing hard over every rut with Grand Prix speed, at least as much speed as a golf cart can muster, they arrived at their destination drenched and shook up but gleaming from adventure. Rejoining his Scramble team, Blaise somehow regrouped, settled, returned his heartbeat and body parts to normal, and eventually played good golf. They closed with four straight birdies to reach 7 under par and capture the Scramble Championship.

The Competition Committee introduced a new game for the Scramble. Besides prize money for winning the event, a \$240 purse was set aside for Skins. One Skin was claimed. The team of Don Jander-Tom Prunte-Tom Black-Tony McGuckin collected the entire ante with an eagle 2 on the 6th hole. It was not a lucky gap wedge from 100 yards away that found the bottom of the cup. No sir! Don Jander smoked his drive 315 yards onto the green. That was not a fluke. Don is annually one of the favorites to win the Long Drive Skills Competition. It was surprising, however, that at 5:30 he was sober enough to hit the sweet spot on his driver. Need I remind you the course resembled a marsh and not the paved Indianapolis Speedway. Jander's 315 yards tee ball was damn-near all carry. He is a man who carries a big stick and delivers. Tom Prunte took over from there and calmly made the putt and the team could claim their pittance. Only one Skin worked much the way the Competition Committee figured.

The same Committee enacted a new policy for the Scramble which caused a bit of a fuss. In years past, everyone played from the same tees. Possibly affected by the waxing Maize Moon, it was decided those 65 and older could play the up tees. The Competition Committee heard arguments from both sides before making their decision. Once the finish line was crossed and the moon was replaced by bright sunshine on Sunday morning, all the rumblings ceased, and it was agreed this new policy was more than fair. Even from the up tees the old men could not hit the 6th green with their tee shots.