

2022 GAVIN CUP WRAP UP

RON & JELLY MAKE GAVIN DELIGHT

Many know Ron Szymczak (pronounced Shim-Shack) as the excellent Geneva IT wizard behind the production of the Geneva webpage. Last month Ron proved more than a master technician. Add damn good golfer to his resume'. Scores of 75 and 71 bested BEST BALL teammate, Nick Boggess by 5 shots. His weekend accomplishments did not end there. Before heading home to Columbus, he needed find room to pack the Gavin Cup trophy earned with partner Tony McGuckin. Their net score of 430 adds up to 26 under par. That total ties the Gavin Cup record set in 2012 by Dick Plageman-Wally Maley and Jim Centorbi-Matt Mazzocco teams. So dominate was their game, second place finishers (Jim Centorbi-Tim Black) were 14 strokes behind.

About a week before the Geneva Open, the Handicap Committee received a text stressing Tony's handicap should be chopped. After extensive studies and recent past performances on the Sunday Tour and Plank's League, the Committee got it right. Jelly carried 24 strokes into the weekend and played well shooting 98 at Chardon Lakes and 92 then 85 at Geneva. Lowering Jelly's handicap a couple of shots would have made no difference in the Gavin Cup outcome. The trophy would still be sitting atop its very own dais proudly displayed for all visitors to view in the McGuckin mansion. Good golf deserves rewards. That is what I hope to achieve some day. My time is running short, but Tony is young and can be proud of this weekends performance for years to come.

The 14-stroke margin of victory was Secretariat-like as the lead continued to grow after each closing hole racing down the stretch. Szymczak and McGuckin finished eight under par on the last five holes. They began Sunday's round four shots behind the leaders Mike Pagnanelli-Tom Prunte team. Szymczak's eagle-birdie start wiped away that deficit quickly. The gallant effort of the Jim Centorbi-Tim Black partnership seemed inconsequential although Cento toured the Geneva course in 76 strokes.

A highly publicized strategy prophesized for months before the outing by Blaise Plageman earned a B- grade. The ultimate goal was successful but at a

personal cost. Blaise requested the Pairings Committee insert Craig Marshall as one of his playmates in his foursome. Not since Jeff Graessle's (known as the Ringer) Gavin Cup win in 2001 had a Gavin Cup champion been so scrutinized. Craig's victory rubbed many of his friends (?) the wrong way. To be sure Craig did not repeat Blaise set out to entice Mr. Marshall to imbibe more adult beverages during the round than his game could handle. That was not hard. Beer to Craig Marshall is like hot dogs to Joey Chestnut. The strategy worked. Craig shot 107 at Chardon Lakes. He recovered with an 89 on Saturday but the Geneva Factor got the best of him on Sunday touring the Geneva course in 100 strokes. As for Blaise, well, his team finished 19th out of 21 teams even after a 9:00 bedtime on Saturday night. I would say White Claws knocked his game down a few notches.

A few other Gavin Cup notes to pass along. Never have I been able to win possession of the trophy for myself. Makes me realize what I truly am, a golf hacker. Others face the same fate. If you study the winning plaques on the trophy, you will notice several low handicappers names are also missing. Still searching for their first Gavin Cup championship are Dagon Abdon, Nick Boggess, Blaise Plageman, Rick Jonas, and Legend Vince Gatto. These guys are often receiving envelopes for BEST BALL, Scramble, skins and pin shot wins but have yet to top the Gavin Cup field. It is a hard and elusive prize to capture. Their numerous accomplishments over the years should keep them from feeling ashamed. Still, there is that void in our Geneva experiences. A stigma follows us like a stinky plumber's butt. Many greats lived their lives with a disheartening void. Arnie never won the PGA Championship. Phil Mickelson cannot top the U.S. Open scoreboard and Rory succumbs to pressure at every Masters. Other sports have similar sob stories. Dan Marino does not have a Super Bowl ring and Charles Barkley was never NBA Champion. It is nothing to be ashamed of. Then why do I feel the way I do? Of course, if Dagon won, he would be more than proud to buy a seat for the trophy on his flight home to Texas for all to see.

Next year the names Ron Szymczak and Tony McGuckin will be forever inscribed on the trophy. They should be proud. They earned bragging rights and if they shout their achievements for the next 11 months, they have the hardware to back them up. When they tee it up to defend their title next July, they will feel extra pressure. Adult beverages will help calm the nerves and Blaise need not

encourage them. The lesson they will learn about the Gavin Cup trophy is your name may go on it, but it is not yours to keep.