

CHIP SHOTS

NEW FRIDAY VENUE

CHARDON LAKES

HIGH NOON AT NEW COURSE – For the first time since Little Mountain was originally booked eleven years ago, a different golf course joined the rotation of hosting round one of the Geneva Open. Chardon Lakes Golf Course was chosen after the Booking Committee discussed the plusses and minuses. The other finalist was Madison Country Club, a favorite of many in the field. Commissioner Frank Alexander presented a strong endorsement for the Chardon Lakes tract. The remaining Committee Members embraced the idea of playing a new challenge and the decision was quickly ratified. Geneva Legends Gary Glanzman and Vince Gatto playing with Mini-Legends Jack Berger and Jerry Graves will tee it up at noon on July 22. More aesthetically in tune with Madison Country Club's 100 year old design than the newer layout and trap happy architect of Little Mountain, Chardon Lakes has withstood the test of time. Jack Nicklaus holds the course record of 67 set back in his hey-day during the 1970's. The silver tees play 6,210 yards long and to a 126 slope. Senior tees cover 5,514 of those yards and given a 119 slope. Besides beauty and tree lined fairways, most of the greens are small but plenty tough to putt. A piece of advice, keep your approach short of the hole. I believes this course will receive high grades from the Geneva field.

DESTINATION GENEVA – With Friday's round booked the Geneva Express left the station on the tracks to Geneva-on-the-Lake. Fueled by beer, whiskey, and wine on a mission of fun, frolic, and golf this resort village has proved a perfect playground for our interests. The bright lights of Geneva-on-the-Lake is not quite as glamorous as Las Vegas. Instead of slots Geneva has pinball. There are no roulette wheels but plenty billiard tables. Like Vegas, the music is loud and entertaining. Geneva lacks the brothels and wedding chapels but is well stocked of tattoo parlors. All establishments close by 2:30 which is good so everyone makes tee times the following morning. Two teams will defend their BEST BALL Championship from 2021. Tim Hughes, Blaise Plageman, Nate McCorkle, Tom

Prunte, and Legend Vince Gatto comprise one squad. The other winner consists of Ben Lloyd, Nick Boggess, Matt Mazzocco, and Ron Szymczak. Both teams finished with -11 scores good enough to earn each winning group \$500. The remaining players in the field will be drafted at the Commissioner's Dinner on Saturday night. "B" and "C" players will pick. Craig Marshall points out LOUD and CLEAR that he and Nate McCorkle won the Gavin Cup last year. The picture of Craig hugging the trophy as tight as he would a plaque of gold can still be seen on the Geneva webpage. A fact of interest is Craig, displaying he is a responsible Geneva participant, has already engraved the Gavin Cup trophy and is proudly showing friends and family to prove he is not the golf hack some perceived. Earning that trophy stuffed his pockets with \$100 of the team's \$200 payday. Nate and Craig shot a net of 409, nineteen under par.

FLEXING A COMMISSIONER'S MUSCLE – The irritation of Craig Marshall's Gavin Cup victory is very real. On a personal note, I am happy for Craig's success. Since his win, several of his close friends have demonstrated an obvious envy. Assistant Commissioner Blaize Plageman plans to petition the Pairings Committee to place Craig in his foursome for Friday's round at Chardon Lakes. Blaize makes it clear his intention is to get Craig drunk (a pledge Craig will willfully oblige) to push his score to unwinnable numbers. I attempted this course of action a few times myself but most often it backfired and it was I who staggered off the 18th green. Blaize is more intimidating. His bark, his growl, his stature causes many to obey his directions. Just last year during the BEST BALL CHAMPIONSHIP, Blaize managed to persuade Legend Vince Gatto to remain sober, a chore once declared impossible by Greek gods and Geneva Legends alike. His intimidation is so monstrous I believe Blaize has the wherewithal to keep Trump from sprouting off. Overlooked with Blaize's plan is how Craig's partner, Nate McCorkle will take it. His Que sera, sera attitude will surely be tested. If Blaize and Nate tangled in a cage match, the event would be WrestleMania worthy.

ALL ABOARD – The potential for the biggest field to date is very likely. Early prognostications have Legend Gary Glanzman and Mark Johnson returning after both needed to cancel because of injuries last season. Call it a Commissioner's psychic or a vision from a hallucinatory elixir but he sees Don Jander, Brian Hughes, Dagon Abdon, Paden West and the Badea brothers (Michael and Andrew) back in the field. We are still waiting on word from the Almighty

Shannon Boothe. Rumors have it a few more surprises from the past may bless us with their presence. Heaven knows I am not one to hear rumors and preach it as gospel. What I do know, the Geneva caps are in the hands of the Merchandise Committee. They are sharp. The 2022 lid is a different cap with a different look. One difference is they are of the fitted variety. Those with a bigger hat size need place their order with Fritz Ford. The first ten will be reserved. The hope is we figured the number correctly so everyone can properly display their new Geneva bonnets. I have come to appreciate Yogi Berra's wisdom when he said, "It is hard to make predictions especially about the future."

CHIP SHOTS

PERA'S BRIEFS

POOL IS OPEN – Expecting a field of 50 for the 2022 Geneva Open, I thought it necessary to contact Pera's Motel and check on availability. For any reason a room is needed, the "VACANCY" light is still glaring, but just barely. Sherry, the motel manager, has yet to report for duty this year. Her assistant, Patty, handles motel reservation until Sherry time. These women and their staff as well as the golf course crew are spellbound by our visits every year as if our presence keep them in business. The Merchandise Committee has a lot to do with those feelings. I'm just saying, the gifts we shower on both venues earned us class and respect others fail to receive. Patty indicated there are three regular units, two on the South side and one on the North end, yet to be reserved. Two Efficiencies are also available. I am reminding Mel Voll to pack his speedos. Pera's will feature a brand new swimming pool with a long wooden deck and plenty of space for sun bathing. A reopened pool increases odds we need not scour the Strip in search of Mell when time for him to grill our steaks. Most likely he will be sitting poolside next to his bucket of beer telling Mel stories to all and everyone within earshot.

BLUEGRASS GOLF – Entering the arena of ourgolfleagues.com we see an array of choices including our own Geneva sight. One option is labeled "Kentucky Trip". It is so intriguing, I am often asked "what is the Kentucky trip?" Hell! I did not know so I investigated. It is 4 days of golf down Kentucky way usually taking place near the end of April. Sixteen hacks grab their sticks from winter storage and embark in Ryder Cup style play. Over half the field are Geneva fraternity brothers. Notable participants are Shawn and Pat Dorn, Mini-Legend Jack Berger, Ron Szymczak, the Plageman brothers Dick, Huck, Jim as well as Mark Spangler, Tony (Jelly) McGuckin, Mike Pagnanelli, and Tim Black. Usually you could count Tom Jech and Don Jander in the field but serious circumstances prevented their participation this year. That list reads like a little Geneva less the tattoo parlors and go-kart tracks. They play 27 holes a day, so much golf it would cost me two dozen Titleist and three quarts of whiskey. An anonymous source revealed one constant every year is Pat Dorn bitching about handicaps. He ragged on Dick Plageman for playing the up tees and insisted if he played those "pitch and Putt" tees, then his handicap should drop. Dick is not an introvert by any means and is not ashamed to stand for his rights and take all his strokes. Come to find out by investigated work from Tim Black that the up tees were set on the ladies tees and played 1,000 yards shorter than the regular tees, Instead of giving up strokes, maybe Dick should have played in a skirt. Then there was the Pagnanelli scatterbrain incident. Having finished the first hole, Pags discovered his phone was missing. Without a phone today is like Dean Martin without his bourbon. Panic set. The music blaring inside the cart ceased. He searched his bag, no luck. He demanded Creature, his cart partner, backtrack the way they came down No.1, still no luck. All hope was lost. For 17 holes he was miserable and miserable to be around. Poor Creature. His prayers to St. Anthony

proved effective because lo and behold, after 5 cranky hours, there was his phone lodged deep in the pocket of his rain gear. Pags huge gasp of relief sent a wind gale so strong the gust was reported on the 6:00 news. All is well that ends well except Creatures patience and Pags pride

THE ALMIGHTY BOOTHA – I reached out to Shannon Boothe last month to get a read on his health and Geneva intentions. To my disappointment, circumstances will more than likely keep him away this year. Trouble booking suitable flights and their subsequent costs play a major role. He resides in Utah only 15 miles from Arizona and flight patterns to Cleveland or Columbus look like the scribble in a Ryan Day playbook. Fortunately, Booththa feels good for a 71 year old man. Sure, he has some aches and pains, who doesn't at that age. The worst is a bulging disc in his back but shots every three months and tequila every hour remedies that discomfort. After 30 years of open road racing he finally retired. He was well known behind the wheel on the Baja trail wearing his Ohio State helmet with as many Buckeye leaves as Justin Fields and more wins than a Justin Fields Chicago Bears team. With the pressure and stress of racing a thing of the past, Shannon is more relaxed if you call vacationing in a Covered Wagon relaxing. He says these Conestoga Wagons sleep two and has running water and nearly as many amenities as Pera's. That stuff may be suitable for Shannon, Gil Favor, and Rowdy Yates but I still prefer a Holiday Inn. A suggestion to hook up a team of horses and travel to Geneva in one of these Covered Wagons was immediately dismissed by a man who made a career driving over 100 MPH on the Bonneville Salt Flats. He promised to start now to make plans for the 2023 Geneva Open.

EARLY COMMITMENTS – The season turned to golf. I suppose most of us played a round or two by now. If the golf bug runs through your veins then it is time to commit to this year's Geneva Open. These next two months will fly bye like a Jon Rahm tee shot. Zippiddy-do-dah and we will be gathered on the first tee at Chardon Lakes. If not organized that scene can be chaotic. None of us like stress especially the Commissioner. The different committees have been established to help alleviate this pressure and the heavy burden associated with poor preparation. Entries need be received by the 4th of July. Even that date scurries the Geneva Committees to finalize their jobs. The Pairings, Handicap, and Scramble Committees need to know the field before they can finish. All Committees appreciate the early registration. If things run smooth, then our gathering on the first tee will be jovial for the 50 enthusiastic golfers. There will be beer and wine aplenty and the philosophical words of Ben Franklin will reign true. "Wine is constant proof God loves us and loves to see us happy."

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."

CHIP SHOTS

MY APPRECIATION

THANK YOU IS IN ORDER – It has been three months since Geneva and someways it feels like a lifetime. I spent much of those three months rehashing the 2022 outing giving credit to the winning teams and several individuals who bested the field both team wise and skills wise. They certainly deserve the accolades. But I wish to take this opportunity to thank those who make Geneva such a success. Pat yourselves on the back. Don't be humble. Geneva would not be Geneva without your contributions and personalities. Any efforts from the different committees would be insignificant if you do not have fun. That aspect of Geneva you bring with your golf clubs.

HAVING SAID THAT – I still wish to give a shout out to a few who help me put together this event. For over 20 years, Jay Green has been my Columbus contact. His ability to find and attend many gatherings be it parties, reunions, weddings, funerals, etc., keeps Geneva contacts up to date. Maybe some of these get togethers he crashes but once inside he is always welcomed. The field and Friday pairings are the creation of Mr. Green. Geneva Merchandise is sponsored by Legend Fritz Ford. Years of experience in fashion and small item goods has created connections which benefitted Geneva throughout the years and still is spot on with today's participants. Hats, towels, coolers, chairs, whatever we receive, credit Fritz Ford and that is the reason he is a Legend. Another who deserves mention for his contribution is Co-Commissioner and Sargent of Arms, Blaise Plageman supported by his band of faithful servants. Working with Blaise is Ben Lloyd who programs Geneva's high tech scoring program. Their computerized scoring practices eliminate hours of paperwork and frees time for many of us to indulge in more "Geneva Worthy" activities. The Thursday practice round is put together by Shawn Dorn who also devises the Scramble teams. Another innovation that became an instant hit was the brainchild of Bob Rutherford. Lumpy, Fritz, and Mike Sachs open their rental to the Geneva masses as a sort of social gathering club. Many stop on their way to the Strip as if it was an alcohol kiosk. On their way back most stumble in for a nightcap. Others park their butts for hours just as they would in the Stagg Room at their Country Club. Why not? It

is a great place to hang out and enjoy the excellent Manhattans and Old Fashions concocted by their superb garcon, Doctor Hate. I salute all of you and the many I failed to mention.

A COUPLE HUMOROUS TAKES - "If you are afraid to offend you cannot be honest." Thomas Paine is credited with that quote. I often dispatch humorous moments at others expense. When these moments happen to me, I am obligated to take my medicine also. It took rookie Mark Kovachy seven holes to catch the Geneva spirit. Standing on the 8th green at Chardon Lakes, Mark asked me, "How much does that pin weigh?" I got it. He did not need to tell me I have an obligation to pick up a pin once in awhile and fit it back in the hole. Funny thing, that moment keeps me conscientious to this day to perform my share of pin duties. Later that night, it was Shawn Dorn's turn to take a shot at me. "Frank, call the police," he said. I asked if something was wrong. "Someone stole your ass," he replied. I try so hard not to sag. I worry too many farts may expose brown streaks in my briefs. I spend much more energy pulling up my pants all day than I do picking up golf pins. I say, maybe suspenders are in my future. Never-the-less, the Handicap Committee has Mark and Shawn's numbers under consideration and lower handicaps for next year are being discussed. One final story I want to pass along. I roomed with Jay Green this year. The first bag out of his car carried his exercise equipment. The next fifteen minutes he spent demonstrating and explaining their purposes. He had pulleys for arm and chest movement, pulleys to perform squats, pulleys to climb walls, pulleys for any and all stretching a human body can take. Hell, if I did all that in the morning, I would be so tired I would have to go back to bed. I will let you judge how well these calisthenics improved his game. He shot 108, 101, and 90.

COMING ATTRACTIONS – Just days after the closing of the 2022 outing, I had a list of brothers who missed this year but earmarked a return next July. Mel Voll was a late scratch because of illness but promises to come back in 2023. His tongs and spatula skills at the Commissioner's Dinner are always valuable but he is so missed by those who do not know they miss him. As the field hits the links for Friday's round, Mel stays in the clubhouse entertaining a pretty bartender. He performs like a lounge comedian delivering joke after joke with Jerry Seinfeld precision and humor, amidst real life experiences, often in short story form. The following day he performs a whole new act at Pera's pool for a different class of

women. If you scroll down to the photo gallery, you will see a picture of Blaise in an empty pool. That is not the case when Mel is present. There is a host of swimmers on hand taking part in Mel's impromptu performance. I suggest take a seat on Pera's veranda around midnight when Mel finally entertains the Geneva field. Others planning to return next year include Tom Jech and Shannon Boothe. I received a phone call from Charter Member Dick Barrett. He already secured a room at Pera's for next July. Dick was one of the original eight in Geneva's initial year in 1977. With Dick on board, my sights are set on coaxing Jim Nogawick and Adrian Skunza, more Chartered Members, to join us. Word in Carolina is Nogs is playing the best golf of his life. Adrian does not play anymore but he would make a perfect straight man for Mel.

LOOKING AHEAD – We close the treasure chest of 2022 filled with fond memories. It is time to focus on next year. The dates for 2023 is July 28, 29, & 30. I consider Geneva a gathering of good friends and in the last month, I realized how valuable good friends are. I am going to finish with a quote from Ben Franklin who said, "Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late."

BEST BALL WRAP 2022

PLAYING IT BACK

As each group puttied out on the 18th green, it became more obvious no team would reach the magic number of 16 under par. That score was posted early by the Ben Lloyd-Nick Boggess-Matt Mazzocco-Ron Szymczak team. If that squad sounds familiar, they were co-champions in the BEST BALL TOURNAMENT in 2021. So dominating was their game they finished four strokes clear of the closest competitor. The huge margin of victory creates a goliath challenge to make this recap entertainingly informative. I will attempt to keep your attention other ways.

“No matter how often I tell people I’m thirty-nine some of them refuse to believe I’m that old.”

Finishing in 2nd place posting a minus 12 score was the good buddy foursome of Mark Spangler-Don Jander-Mini-Legend Jack Berger-and Jay Green. I would like to think I had a hand in their team performance. Before the match, Don and I snuck to Lumpy’s place and were blessed with an expertly concocted Bloody Mary from mixologist and Legend Fritz Ford. This put Jander in the right frame of mind as he played the outward side in only 37 shots despite his quadruple bogey on No.4. By the time they reached the 9th hole Don’s hot hand spread throughout the team like venereal disease after a weekend visit to a House of Ill Repute. Jay parred 9 catching a stroke. This generated a charge through the group and Jack and Mark began flexing their golf skills grinding hard until the climax. Their 12 under finish would win many BEST BALL TOURNAMENTS in year’s past.

“I was going to buy my wife a Rolls Royce for Christmas, but it took too long to deliver so I bought her some handkerchiefs.”

Two teams finished third registering 11 under scores. One of those teams was the Classic Rock Boys consisting of Doobie Brother Rick Jonas and Steve Miller. Mark Johnson and Legend Gary Glanzman rounded out the quartet and together they produced an enlightening jam session. Playing lead was Rick Jonas who strummed his twelve string to the day’s best, a score of 70. His card read

eagle, birdie, birdie on three of the par 5's. Legend Gary Glanzman Listened to the Music and came away impressed with Rick's game. Also finishing with a 61 was the Over the Hill Gang. The age of this foursome totaled 286 years. The team consisted of Mini-Legend Jerry Graves-Legend Frank Alexander-Dick Plageman-and Bob Rutherford. This group enjoys Classic Rock but also bounces to the tunes of Benny Goodman. I'm willing to bet some millennials in the field never heard of Benny Goodman. Of all the music played on the Geneva golf course over the weekend this was the only one listening to Dean Martin. When was the last time you heard "Everybody Loves Somebody" on a golf course?

"I went to a meeting for premature ejaculators. I left early."

The day belonged to the defending champions, especially Ron Szymczak. His 71 lead the way for his BEST BALL team and was instrumental in nabbing this year's GAVIN CUP. (Subsequent article is coming.) Three years ago, there was a Super Team feared of becoming a dynasty. To most everyone's surprise, they failed to defend their championship. Is there a dynasty developing with this foursome? We will know next year if they threepeat. About the only thing that went wrong for Ben Lloyd-Nick Boggess-Matt Mazzocco-and Ron Szymczak was their championship caps had not arrived in time to proudly sport them in Geneva. They have since been distributed and I expect them to audaciously display their accomplishments.

Quotes for this article are courtesy of Jack Benny.

CHRISTMAS WISH LISTS

December is a wonderful time of year. Jack Frost nips at noses making chestnuts roasting on open fires an essential form of warming cold and stressful hearts. I prefer a double of Christian Brothers Brandy flavoring my eggnog to make my season fuzzy and bright. To each their own. Bowl Games and NFL football dominates the TV screen every night and I find it a rewarding finish to bustling days. The docile tones of crooner Bing Crosby singing of a White Christmas sticks like sugar plums dancing in the head and is comforting as long as that White Christmas remains a dream.

It is no secret the shopping trips to the mall can be tedious. Waiting in checkout lines invariably finds us behind a problem buyer. Ten minutes pass before the manager straightens the error and the line begins to move once again. His apology does little to ease the tension. This unnerving condition boils the blood and raises its pressure until we escape back to the mall and see a child sit on Santa's lap and tell him what gifts to leave under the tree. But what do my wandering eyes do I see? A Munchkin (member of the Lollipop Guild) climb on Santa's knee. I had to do a double take. At first, I thought it was Jerry Graves, but he was too tall. Besides, he did not have a bottle of beer in his hand.

My mind entered a philosophical state. If this was Jerry, what would he ask St. Nick to bring him? Certainly not a dame, either live or blow up, he would not know what to do with one anymore. Those woopie days are history since he settled with a cool and wonderful wife who takes good care of him and gives him everything he needs. How about a ride in Santa's sleigh? Nah! I have it on good authority he is afraid of heights. One step on a ladder is as high as he wants to go. Comings and goings are frequent with Mr. Graves who has been retired nearly this entire century. He will travel anywhere in this country as long as there is a bar, casino, or golf course close by. Friends? He has a million of them. Jerry is a patriot to Clarence the Angel's words when he told George Bailey, "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends." Freedom, friends, and a good wife, our Little Buddy lives a man's American Dream.

I shook Jerry from my head. I was growing envious of that Little Guy. I asked myself what I wanted for Christmas? Yeah, right! If I sat on Santa's lap the chair

would collapse. Maybe one of his helpers, you know the kind, one dressed in a short red or green dress with an umbrella finish showing more leg than the lamp in the Christmas Story and exposing cleavage that would make Dolly Parton blush...Nah! That would not work. I would forget my Christmas list. Maybe one of Santa's elves brings me a chair to sit next to the big guy like a court jester. Now I remember. I would ask that jolly old man to spread magic dust in an attempt to motivate some of the old timers to return to Geneva, Adrian Skunza, Jim Nogawick, Shannon Boothe, Mark Schmitt, Mike Yoli, Wally Maley, Ralph DiCarolis just to name a few. Lead them down the Candy Cane Lane to our Oz, the Geneva Clubhouse.

Other wishes for Santa's sleigh, get this, Tim Hughes wants a hippopotamus. Honest! I got it from a trustworthy source. Let's see Santa put that on his sled. Talk about cruelty to animals, those poor reindeers will play hell getting that vehicle off the ground. We do not need to worry about forcing that gift down the chimney it will probably fall through the roof. Come to think of it, I remember dating someone as big as a hippo many years ago. She had more holes and crevasses than any girl I ever dated.

Blaise Plageman wants a big ass, offshore racing boat. That is a lot of boat for a lot of man. Those things do not ride the water, they bounce and fly. Imagine looking out over Lake Erie next July and seeing Blaise soaring over the water waving at us with a beverage in hand wearing his speedos. Oh, my goodness.

Tony McGuckin and Jerod Boling sent Santa letters asking for gifts that could get the fat man wearing a red suit a new outfit in stripes. Jelly wants a lot of weed. Jerod said he is looking for an endless supply of drugs from limitless. In today's world, the way the border patrol works, Santa Claus has a better chance copping Taylor Swift tickets than smuggling drugs into this country on his sleigh. Cheech and Chong did a whole skit about Santa and his magic dust. Of course, if the goods are pure enough it may solve Tim's hippopotamus request. Creedence Clearwater Revival sang;

"Tambourines and elephants are playin in the band,

Won't you take a ride on the flying spoon? Dood-n-doo-doo."

Then there is Craig Marshall who wants to wake up every morning to a session of oral sex. Finally, somebody with a more effective devise than the old alarm clocks. I laughed at the idea until I learned Legend Fritz Ford had the same thought but with an added twist. He asks for a five-foot blonde with blue eyes and a flat head under his tree. It does not take Santa's magic dust to figure her duties.

A more reasonable wish that most all of us would accept is the million-dollar request by Jacob Davis. Although I have never toured Santa's workshop at the North Pole, I have yet to see signs that one of his tools is a printing press. Wishes of this kind must be made to the Lottery Commission. Good luck with that.

Over the years, I have made a yearly resolution to stay healthy, get wealthy, and grow wise. I gave up becoming wealthy at the turn of the century. Wise? I am forgetting more than I ever knew. I quit watching Jeopardy because it depressed me. Wise was a goal far beyond my reach. But I have been damn lucky health wise. A couple misfortunes the past three months have brought my attention to this reality. I extend my health wishes to not just me but all of Geneva's faithful. I look forward to seeing all of you next July.

Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas and a cup of cheer.

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.

2022 SCRAMBLE WRAP UP

HOT LIKE THE GENEVA HEAT

The Saturday thermometer climbed close to 90. Just as Captain Morgan's most often chums with Coca Cola, humidity sidekicks with the heat. This atmosphere brings medical warnings to stay hydrated. With the Geneva field, hydration is not a problem except often we attempt to hydrate drinking the wrong beverages. By Scramble time, energy is zapped from our bodies. The mind is willing, but the body needs nourishment. Weather plays a part in any outdoor sport. Enough of the weather report from this wannabe meteorologist. Let's talk golf.

Perhaps these conditions played a significant role in the Pat Dorn-Richie Heskett-Jared Boling-Tom Prunte team winning the Scramble. I do not believe they drank less than everyone else. It is not their nature. But an incident Friday could have been instrumental in the outcome. After overindulging Thursday night/Friday morning, and consequentially ignoring his medication, Shawn Dorn needed a nurse on Friday. Proving a responsible parent, Papa Pat Dorn donned his scrubs, sat bedside, keeping a wet cloth over the patient's forehead until his son's fever broke. While the rest of the field competed on the Chardon Lakes tract, Creature was forced to withdraw from the Gavin Cup and miss the Skins competition. It was a sacrifice of Biblical proportions.

Fast forward to the Scramble. Having just completed 36 holes in two days under the penetrating heat and humidity of a Mississippi style sun, the Geneva field scattered for air-conditioning, rest, and lunch, hoping to recharge their batteries before the Scramble. The newfound energy could not be retained for the entire 9 holes, except for Pat Dorn. Remember, he did not play golf on Friday, and his frustration brought extra determination and more than likely a little more speed and whip in his swing. When needed, Creature received help from Doobie Brother Richie Heskett, who is moving to Florida to soak year-round in the blazing sun, hunt gators, and play golf. Contributions from Jared Boling and Tom Prunte also proved instrumental in the team finishing 6 under and atop the field. This group split the \$240 purse for first place.

I had the opportunity to play with Nick Boggess, Tommy Black, and Jacob Davis. Records show Nick is the best Scramble teammate of the time. He won three of the last four Scramble Tournaments. His game was a little off this year and I believe the cart girl serving his refreshments played a huge role. He apologized over and over for his play. One Frank Alexander should be the apologist. I do not recall contributing one shot the entire round. Ernest Hemmingway said, "I don't need to swim in a river of snot to know it is snot." I played like slimed in a quart of my own mucus. I am sorry team.

Playing in Nick's group means we were the last foursome in the field. Nick loves for the spotlight of the crowd on the hill witnessing him create his magic. Last year, he delighted the gallery making a 35-foot putt to win the Scramble. Nick the wizard had no such witchcraft this year and the spectators sensed it. Were they burned out from the heat or aware Frank was in this group and Frank can bring any partner to his knees? I heard Jacob Davis beg "Make it stop hurtin." Many years the Scramble takes extra holes to crown a winner which lifts the fools on the hill to lynching mob fever. Pat Dorn, Richie Heskett, Jared Boling, and Tom Prunte were as hot as the weather and dashed any playoff action with their scolding play.

2022 SKINS & SKILL SHOTS WRAP UP

FAMILIAR & NEW FOLKS CASH IN

The gathering at The Commissioner's Dinner is a feast, a celebration, an awards banquet, and the Best Ball draft. All are important in their own way. There is so much activity that sometimes the Commissioner's words are not heard. That does not bother him. He has a wife, you know. If you are a recipient of an envelope, then he catches your attention. Bill Parcells claims after five years, his words grow stale and quite often falls on deaf ears. In a Geneva way, that statement rings true. A Commissioner's Dinner does not pass without Nick Boggess, Dagon Abdon, and Legend Gary Glanzman called to the front table to receive one of these stuffed envelopes. We hear these names every year. Perhaps that is why the Commissioner's voice is ignored. It is a shame because others like Ben Lloyd, Ray Ballard, and Craig Marshall's accomplishments do not get the recognition they deserve. Hopefully, this piece will shine a congratulatory light on their performance.

I am going to report this right away and then we move onward. Only three Skins were won at Chardon Lakes. Legend Gary Glanzman birdied No.14, a par 3. Nick Boggess captured the two remaining Skins with a deuce on No.11 and a birdie 3 on No.15. There I go again passing out big money to Nick and Gary. These Skins were worth \$140 apiece. Before you get your panties all scrunched up, Nick proved generous with his winnings. An anonymous source reported \$100 of his \$280 earnings was turned over to the cart girl.

Come Saturday the course changed but the names remain the same. There was an ante of \$220 in the "A" Skins game split 4 ways, worth \$55 each. Legend Gary Glanzman eagled No.7, Dagon Abdon birdied the 11th hole, and Nick Boggess pocketed his 55 with his birdie on 16. Hush my mouth and still my pin, there are those familiar folks collecting once more. I am happy to introduce a new name to the winner's bracket. Don Jander scored a deuce on No.9, and nobody bettered his production. The "B" side gave away \$210 divided six ways making each Skin worth \$35. Craig Marshall (everybody's favorite hacker) earned stipends for his play on two holes, an eagle on No.1 and a par on the tough fourth. Ben

Lloyd birdied No.2 for his \$35. Legend Fritz Ford, like Legend Glanzman, bested the "B" field on the 7th with a birdie giving him 35 bucks. Shawn Dorn birdied No.14 and Ray Ballard closed the Skin competition with his birdie on 18.

Before I move to the Skill Shot winners, I wish to address a complaint from one of our regulars. Tired of Nick, Dagon, and Gary winning every year because they are good and, quite frankly, better than most competitors, a suggestion to incorporate a handicap Skins game was made. The Competition Committee will consider this possibility. Such a scoring change may require too much effort and affect one's party time and we do not want that to occur. In today's world of computers and technology as mysterious to me as the Holy Trinity, maybe this change is doable. I promise it will be discussed over a pitcher of Old Fashions.

Back to the business at hand. Five holes were dedicated for the Skill Shot competition. Legend Vince Gatto hit Closest to the Pin on No.3. Matt Mazzocco made the Longest Putt on the 9th hole. Nick Boggess' second shot landed closer than anybody's on the 13th. Mike Pagnanelli hit the best tee shot at the 16th hole, the short par 3. Dagon Abdon hit the Longest Drive on No.11, the same hole he earned his Skin. Whoever coined the phrase "You drive for show and putt for dough" never considered how much easier the game is if you hit a good, long tee shot. Dagon, Nick, and Jander can testify to the long ball philosophy, and they scarf many dollars proving it. Jack Nicklaus has said if he were teaching golf, most important is learn to hit far. Direction will come with practice. Each of the five Skill Shot winners received an envelope carrying \$50 for their effort. I guess the rest of us need more practice.

CHIP SHOTS

GENEVA MONTH

SHORT APPROACH – The field is nearly set. Current count has 43 golfers scheduled to play. One more participant would be ideal. The first tee at Chardon Lakes awaits our charge. As always, the ceremonial first foursome consisting of Mini-Legends Jerry Graves and Jack Berger join Legends Gary Glanzman and Vince Gatto as they lead the way starting at high noon on July 22. The registered 43 are;

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

Friday's green fees are the responsibility of each linkster. The price of golf for the remainder of the weekend is \$190 per person. That is an increase from the past five years. Don't blame me. The effort to keep the previous financial duties are simply impossible unless I hit the lottery or a casino windfall. Covid then petroleum spiked inflation. The cost of merchandise and shipping is dollars higher. And the price of beef? MOMMA MIA! Silver cost less than meat. I am working on a plan to cut expenses next year. Billy Boggess has a ranch. His spread is more like Green Acres than Yellowstone. However, it is a piece of land with deer, chickens, pigs, and steers. Do you see where I am going with this?

GAMES WE PLAY – Included in the \$190 are green fees for the rest of the weekend and the ante to our numerous golf games. Damn-near too many games to mention but I will do my best. The Gavin Cup Tournament starts on Friday. This two man team game plays three days and the best low net for the weekend cashes plus receives the trophy to show off his accomplishment. Prying the hardware from defending champion Craig Marshall's arms to present to the next Gavin Cup Champions may require a chisel and crowbar. You would think he was in possession of the Holy Grail. Gavin Cup partners will be randomly selected Thursday Night long after handicaps have been established. Besides round one of the Gavin Cup play, a Skins game will take place at Chardon Lakes with over \$400 in the pot making each skin a nice payout. The Skins competition for Saturday's round will split the field into "A" and "B"

categories according to handicaps. Five designated holes will be part of a Skill Shot venture. These holes have been strategically chosen. Of course, if Mini-Legend Jack Berger is in the first group, he takes the liberty of picking his own holes. Scheduled are two Closest to the Pin (No.3 and No.16), Closest to the Pin on Second Shot (No. 13), Longest Made First Putt (No.9), and Longest Drive (No.11). Don Jander, after a two year hiatus, is back to prove he hits the farthest drive. Hard to believe that skinny runt hits the ball that far. Oops! Did I put a target on Jander's back? After Saturday's early round we will engage in a nine hole Scramble. Many years this is the highlight of the golf weekend. A Scramble Committee works diligently to give no team a distinct advantage. The weekend finishes on Sunday with the 4 man Best Ball match. It is the biggest payout of the weekend. The teams are drafted at the Commissioner's Dinner. "B" and "C" players pick this year.

CHUCK WEBB – The first day the Geneva Open set foot on the hallowed grounds of Geneva-on-the-Lake Municipal Golf Course was like a perfect match on E-Harmony. We instantly took a liking to the course and the Geneva staff embraced us. The outreached arms of Chuck Webb was a hospitable welcome that reigned genuine. Mr. Webb was the course manager and golf pro for the first 23 years of our visits. I caught up with Chuck last month. He is 73 years old and lives on 10 acres in Harpersfield near Debonne' Vineyard. Long retired, he left the Geneva course after 25 years when he became pension eligible. His personality made him well liked and popular which was instrumental in landing the 1987 Ohio Open for the Geneva course. He learned the game of golf at the old Ashtabula Country Club. A new owner changed the private course to public then the name to the Harbor Club. Struggling to make ends meet they asked Chuck to run the facility. The Geneva Open played two Friday rounds at the Harbor Club but even Chuck Webb magic could not save it. Health reasons keep Chuck from playing golf these days. The rent from five apartments help stuff extra cash in his pockets although often land lord duties become full time employment. I took the liberty to invite Chuck to the Commissioner's Dinner. For the old, old time Geneva brothers his nostalgic visit would rattle our experiences down memory lane. Many of those experiences Chuck will hear for the first time. Here is hoping he accepts my invitation.

LAST CALL – The time to play is a gap wedge away. Venison smokies are drying, the apple shine is fermenting, golf swings are tweaking. All the Committees are feverishly at work completing their assignments. Familiar faces will gather around No.1 tee at Chardon Lakes on July 22. Still attending after 45 years are Legends Gary Glanzman, Frank Alexander, Mini-Legend Jerry Graves plus Mike Sachs. Three make their sophomore visit, the Doobie Brothers Richie Heskett and Rick Jonas as well as Las Vegas inhabitant Greg Gudenkauf. Two rookies join the field, a Father-Son combo named Mark and Sam Kovachy from the Cleveland area. As always, it is a star studded roster. Friday's pairings will be released shortly then Saturday's Scramble teams will follow. As soon as I receive them I will pass them to you via e-mail. We will then be locked and loaded for Geneva festivities. You would think after 45 years I would not need much preparation. Just last week I was out practicing when I was stopped by one of Cleveland's finest. He asked "you drinking?" I replied "Are you buying?" We laughed and laughed. I had a hard time getting my wife to pay bail.

CHIP SHOTS

NEXT

JULY 22nd, 23rd, & 24th, 2022 – The script for Chapter 46 began with the New Year. The first 45 Geneva events created many memories. My goal is to present the opportunity to fashion more memorial moments. At press time, only the dates and Saturday and Sunday tee times are secure. Have I mentioned the Geneva Open 2022 takes place from July 22 thru July 24? Still planned is a practice round on Thursday, July 21. The Merchandise Committee conferred several times about this year's favors while consuming multiple glasses of Buffalo Trace. The Committee finds they do their best work smoking fine cigars and drinking good bourbon. A final decision will be decided shortly and they most likely will pop the lid on a bottle of Blanton's to celebrate. To be a member of the Merchandise Committee is an intoxicating adventure. Friday's course has yet to be booked. There are several options available. Once the tee times are reserved, the information will be made public. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to the Commissioner. If you plan to sponsor a rookie this July, contact this office and please have handicap information. Geneva is fun and the integrity of the outing, keeping it fair and competitive, is much of its ambiance. Still several months away but Geneva is in our sights.

LOST THEN FOUND – Last month I sent a search party looking for Ron Szymczak, our Geneva webmaster. The Christmas article sat on his desk for weeks and I panicked. My first concern was his health. In today's virus infected environment those worries enter many pea brains like mine when ghosted. Thank goodness he is healthy, So, where was Ron? I cannot picture him in the Montana Rockies hunting elk. Cross off the image of Ron on the slopes in Vail, Colorado. That venture could only end in a tumble and him rolling into a giant snow ball. Skiing is not his sport. Could anyone possibly believe Ron spent a few weeks isolated at a religious retreat? Szymczak would be an ideal mall Santa Claus scaring the poop out of little three year olds despite his jolly laughter. All those scenarios are possible but truly far-fetched. It is more likely Ron was on a three week bender which is O.K., many of us have done it. I can attest I did it once for 40 long years. When finally found all he said was "sorry for the delay." We will never know the where or why of his disappearance unless Ron tells us. He has my permission to explain and insert his own words here. "....." I am glad he is back at his post on duty and healthy publishing the Commissioner's babbling hubbub.

HIGH OCTANE GOLF – I sat with Geneva fraternity brother Mark Schmitt last month. Although Schmitt has been unable to attend recent Genevas because of arthritic aches and pains, he managed a round of golf in Indianapolis with his son. Little did he know when he strapped his clubs onto his golf cart that he would be playing on a historical site? The Brickyard Crossing is set inside Indianapolis Motor Speedway.....literally inside the famed oval track. Four holes were sculptured throughout the infield. According to Mark, one would never know if he did not know. The track was out of eye sight. The Brickyard Crossing is no Maple Ridge by

any means. The Brickyard Crossing carries a 149 slope rating from the tips measuring 7,180 yards long. Of course we would never play from the tips. Teeing from the white tee box the slope rating is only 137 and measures a much more manageable distance of 6,028 yards long. Pete Dye designed the golf track. On other Pete Dye courses I have found myself challenged by his unique railroad tie hazards. They are prevalent at the Brickyard as well. Other hazards like reused concrete from replaced track walls line creeks and ponds. If you hit an errant shot that takes you to the race track looking for your ball, do not be disappointed when you realize your golf cart does not reach 200 MPH. The price to play the Brickyard Crossing is around \$130. Call early, tee times fill fast.

GEARING UP – I get the notion Geneva takes seed about this time every year. Trips South, some as snow birds, some for golf are happening. The usual intoxicating spermatozoon develops from many different reasons. The surprise of new golf clubs under the tree on Christmas morning will do it. Blaise and Dick Plageman cannot wait to model their brand new John Daley slacks, a sight of trouser fireworks. Whatever the reason, destination Geneva starts flowering by mid-January. Have I mentioned that the 46th Geneva Open takes place July 22 thru July 24? Last month a bumper sticker appeared, created from Blaise's art studio for Craig Marshall and Nate McCorkle. Check it out. A golfer high on his follow through at the finish of his swing with "GAVIN CUP" above and the words "2021 CHAMPIONS" at his feet. Scripted at the bottom is "C mac and Nasty Nate". Who knew Blaise was an artist? Then again, we are all artists. Every breath of life is a stroke of paint on our self-portrait.

CHIP SHOTS

NEWS, INFO, & COMMENTARY

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

MARCH ONWARD – We reached the month where we emerge from hibernation and begin to come back to life like the azaleas at Augusta National. Sun sightings increase and temperatures climb to more tolerable levels. Daylight Savings Time adds daytime hours increasing our itch to golf. It is the month drunken Irishmen (or those pretending to be drunken Irishmen) parade down the middle of downtown streets directly to their favorite pubs. The month's madness is on courts. Baseball teams bring thousands of tourists to Florida and Arizona if greed or pandemics do not interfere. Northeastern Ohio meteorologists tweet like singing cardinals about the melted snow and the statistics of the past winter. Geneva juices kick up. Only four months until we march down Geneva's unpredictable fairways. The Merchandise Committee has been hard at work and production for this year's favors is underway. Next order of business is booking Friday's opening round. Other Committees will fall in line according to their pecking order and by July 21, only the solar system will be more organized. 43 golfers and a few contributors blessed us last year. With the worst of the pandemic behind us and life returning closer to normal, those numbers are expected to close in on the 50 figure. Yes sir, the march to Geneva is under way.

RYALED – Sometime in the Geneva past (ten years or so ago) a fellow by the name of P.J. Ryal was among the Geneva field. Sponsored by Charter Member Jim Nogawick, he came to golf and party. Anyone who hangs with Nogs must live that lifestyle. Only once did he make the trip to the Northern Ohio resort village but it remained embedded in his DNA until his death this past January. For 9 years he battled cancer but died of complications from an unrelated surgery. Up to his dying day he boasted about his Geneva experience and the great time he had. Most do not remember P.J. but he remembered us. I have a story I would like to pass along. Noggy and P.J. flew into Cleveland to play in the Geneva Open from the Carolinas on separate flights. As luck would have it, President Obama came to Cleveland on the same day. Nogs flight landed before air space was closed. P.J. was not so lucky. For three hours Mr. Ryal flew around Cleveland waiting for clearance to land. Running short on fuel, his plane was forced to gas up in Akron before reaching its destination leaving Noggy to sit around the car rental without food or alcoholic drink. It was a miracle Noggy survived such an ordeal. P.J.'s return trip to Charleston was another tedious excursion. Take off from Cleveland was delayed long enough he missed his connecting flight in Atlanta forcing him to spend the night. He worked as the sales manager for a T.V. station and their love for him made his Monday absence excusable. Despite all these travel troubles, he was happy to be part of Geneva lore. Rest in peace P.J. Ryal. I want to thank the Geneva fraternity for making his lone Geneva experience so much fun. Proof once more the Geneva family is among the best.

CONGRATULATIONS – One trip to Geneva and it becomes obvious my fan allegiance lies with the CLEVELAND BROWNS. I have been known to pass gibes a time or two although BROWNS football has accomplished little including zero championships since 1964. I have been known to bust a few tables in my day as many of you can attest. Last year the tables turned. I am prepared to take the abuse the Bengal contingent dishes. A simple greeting of “Who Dey” is like twisting a knife deep in my back forcing me to my knees and crawl like a Dawg around Fountain Square. My pride has taken a hit. Still, I must give credit where credit is due. The Cincinnati Bengals performed like champs. There is no sour grapes from this downtrodden Cleveland fan. I respect the new AFC standard Cinci has set. Next year 15 conference teams come gunning to knock the Bengals from their championship post. I hope that includes the BROWNS. Baker is mending and sharpening his cannon for the battle. The season starts on September 8. Until then, I bow to the accomplishments of the 2021 Cincinnati Bengals.

I became out of sorts more ways than one watching Super Bowl LVI. The recent halftime performance brought about a stark realization. I can no longer keep up with the ways of the world. Many people praised the halftime show as one of the best in Super Bowl history. Are you kidding me? I cannot believe some future artist 50 years from now will rerecord Snoop Dogg’s hit “Drop It Like It’s Hot” or Eminem’s “Venom”. Music revolved from Beethoven to Glen Miller to Frank Sinatra to the Beatles to this? Do you think Benny Goodman rocks in his grave or is he embarrassed about the lack of musical talent on stage these days? I stress this point because at my age I may have lost touch with today’s civilization. Geneva probably needs new leadership. I am not announcing my retirement as Commissioner but I am prepared to hand Blaise Plagemen a more active role in running the event. His input may bring about more up to date policies and events. If health starts to fail me, I am confident Blaise will keep Geneva’s spirit alive in his own ways. The transition of total leadership may take several years and I am sure we will keep the integrity of the event where we strive to achieve every year. It is time for me to prepare for Geneva’s future. As Bobby Bowden said, “Somehow, I went from being too young to being too old. Somewhere in there I must have been just right.”

GENEVA RESULTS BEST BALL

1st PLACE -16 \$500

Ben Lloyd

Nick Boggess

Matt Mazzocco

Ron Szymczak

2nd PLACE -12 \$220

Mark Spangler

Don Jander

Jack Berger

Jay Green

3rd PLACE -11 \$30

Mark Johnson

Steve Miller

Steve Jonas

Gary Glanzman

3rd PLACE -11 \$30

Jerry Graves

Frank Alexander

Dick Plageman

Bob Rutherford

5th PLACE -10

Fritz Ford

Pat Dorn

Padon West

Jim Centorbi

5th PLACE -10

Jared Boling

Greg Gudenkauf

Tony McGuckin

Gary Mazzocco

7th PLACE -9

Mike Pagnanelli

Sam Kovachy

Shawn Dorn

Jacob Davis

8th PLACE -8

Vince Gatto

Keith Boggess

Ray Ballard

Kerry Joyce

9th PLACE -7

Tim Hughes
Blaise Plageman
Nate McCorkle
Tom Prunte

10th PLACE -6

Bill Boggess
Todd Abdon
Craig Marshall
Mark Kovachy

11th PLACE -5

Tim Black
Dagon Abdon
Tom Black
Richie Heskett

2022 GAVIN CUP

1 st PLACE	Ron Szymczak Tony McGuckin	\$200	12 th Place	Keith Boggess Billy Boggess
2 nd PLACE	Jim Centorbi Tim Black	\$100	13 th Place	Rick Jonas Gary Mazzocco
3 rd PLACE	Don Jander Steve Miller	\$40	13 th PLACE	Gary Glanzman Greg Gudenkauf
4 th PLACE	Mike Pagnanelli Tom Prunte	\$20	15 th PLACE	Vince Gatto Bob Rutherford
5 th Place	Jared Boling Frank Alexander		16 th PLACE	Nate McCorkle Craig Marshall
6 th PLACE	Mark Kovachy Frank Alexander		17 th PLACE	Mark Spangler Mark Johnson
7 th PLACE	Dick Plageman Ray Ballard		18 th PLACE	Todd Abdon Tim Hughes
7 th PLACE	Sam Kovachy Jacob Davis		19 th PLACE	Blaise Plageman Tom Black
7 th PLACE	Matt Mazzocco Fritz Ford		20 th PLACE	Dagon Abdon Jay Green
10 th PLACE	Ritchie Heskett Kerry Joyce		21 st PLACE	Jack Berger Paden West
11 th PLACE	Nick Boggess Ben Lloyd			

GENEVA 2022

SCRAMBLE TEAMS

TEAM #1 Dagon Abdon Dick Plageman Tony McGuckin Jim Centorba	TEAM #5 Blaise Plageman Paden West Gary Mazzocco Tim Hughes	TEAM #9 Don Jander Vince Gatto Craig Marshall Ray Ballard
TEAM #2 Nick Boggess Tommy Black Jacob Davis Frank Alexander	TEAM #6 Pat Dorn Richie Heskett Jared Boling Tom Prunte	TEAM #10 Jack Berger Sam Kovachy Fritz Ford Steve Miller
TEAM #3 Nate McCorkle Shawn Dorn Greg Gudenkauf Ben Lloyd	TEAM #7 Gary Glanzman Mike Pagnanelli Tim Black Bob Rutherford	TEAM #11 Ron Szymczak Keith Boggess Jerry Graves Kerry Joyce
TEAM #4 Steve Jonas Matt Mazzocco Mark Johnson Jay Green	TEAM #8 Todd Abdon Mark Spangler Billy Boggess Mark Kovachy	

2022 SCRAMBLE WINNERS

Pat Dorn

Richie Heskett

Jared Boling

Tom Prunte -6

No other teams reporting scores.

They lost.

2022 SKINS & SKILL SHOTS WINNERS

FRIDAY SKINS at CHARDON LAKES - \$140

Nick Boggess	Birdie 2	Hole # 11
Gary Glanzman	Birdie 2	Hole #14
Nick Boggess	Birdie 3	Hole #15

SATURDAY "A" SKINS at GENEVA - \$55

Gary Glanzman	Eagle 3	Hole #7
Don Jander	Birdie 2	Hole #9
Dagon Abdon	Birdie 3	Hole #11
Nick Boggess	Birdie 2	Hole #16

SATURDAY "B" SKINS at GENEVA - \$35

Craig Marshall	Eagle 3	Hole #1
Ben Lloyd	Birdie 3	Hole #2
Craig Marshall	Par 4	Hole #4
Fritz Ford	Birdie 4	Hole #7
Shawn Dorn	Birdie 2	Hole #14
Ray Ballard	Birdie 4	Hole #18

SKILL SHOTS - \$50

Vince Gatto	Closest to Pin	Hole #3
Matt Mazzocco	Longest 1 st Putt	Hole #9
Dagon Abdon	Longest Drive	Hole #11
Nick Boggess	Closest to Pin 2 nd Shot	Hole #13
Mike Pagnanelli	Closest to Pin	Hole #16

GENEVA 2022

CHARDON LAKES TEE TIMES

FRIDAY – JULY 22

12:00 Gary Glanzman Vince Gatto Jack Berger Jerry Graves	12:32 Frank Alexander Kerry Joyce Mark Kovachy Sam Kovachy	1:04 Greg Gudenkauf Nate McCorkle Shawn Dorn Ron Szymczak
12:08 Blaise Plageman Craig Marshall Ben Lloyd Dick Plageman	12:40 Ray Ballard Mark Johnson Steve Miller Tom Black	1:12 Gary Mazzocco Matt Mazzocco Todd Abdon Jacob Davis
12:16 Mike Pagnanelli Richie Heskett Steve Jonas Nick Boggess	12:48 Fritz Ford Bob Rutherford Tim Black John Skunza	1:20 Jared Boling Tim Hughes Tom Prunte Tony McGuckin
12:24 Bill Boggess Jay Green Mark Spangler Keith Boggess	12:56 Dagon Abdon Paden West Pat Dorn Don Jander	