

CHIP SHOTS

FIELD NEARLY SET

INS AND OUTS – This year's number hovers around 44 participants. When you have been doing this for as long as I have, I would be a fool to state the field is set. Last hour changes occur every year whether it be additions or subtractions. If there are any surprises, please inform me as soon as possible. It is not too late to submit a preferred group to pair together for Manakiki and Saturday's early rounds. I have several listed already. The final count should be finalized by July 4 so the different Committees can complete their responsibilities including the Merchandise, Pairings, and Scramble people. For instance, Jacob Davis will miss Manakiki and Saturday's early golf but will be able to join the Scramble and Best Ball competitions. John Skunza indicated he will be available for the Scramble only. Hell yes, he is. That was his only performance last year and was part of the winning team. Nice work if you can get it. The sooner we know the ins and outs, the sooner we can slot the players into fair competition. Your cooperation is certainly appreciated.

CLEAN UP DUTIES – Having been part of Geneva's summers for nearly a half of century, it is easy to feel comfortable taking liberties that may stretch our welcome to the limits. Three days of golf and fun is our goal. But when the lights dim and the curtain falls, we should show respect and gratitude and not leave the grounds looking like Yasgur's farm the day after Woodstock. I heard complaints from two different sources. The gals running the Summertime have threatened to charge a \$250 cleaning fee if more effort is not taken to half straighten the rooms before checkout. Taking garbage to the waste receptacle and cleaning out the refrigerator are examples of expected responsibilities. I would also recommend leaving the Summertime cleaning crew a tip. Another complaint came from the golf course. The trash rolling around in the carts needs to be disposed before parking. Asking for trouble is leaving remnants of alcoholic beverages not sold in the clubhouse. This puts the golf course at risk for violating the

State of Ohio liquor laws. Last year, Nick Boggess returned to the course and helped the cart attendant scrap the trash. I am asking for a little more consideration and effort in our exit responsibilities. Ten extra minutes should be long enough to satisfy those in charge. The extra time is worth the 4 days of enjoyment we create.

GENEVA FACTOR – Life is full of decisions. Some are extremely tough. Take trying to find the perfect gift for your teenage daughter for instance. Even an acceptable gift is more often disastrous. There are much easier choices in life. Easier decisions may also cause repercussions. Let's hope Bob Rutherford will not need to pay restitution for his Geneva commitment. He reserved a spot on a buddy's sailboat to travel down the Hudson River. This is not some three-hour cruise. The Skipper and his Gilligan have been friends of Bob and wife Susan for over 30 years. The 50' vessel accommodates 6 or 8 people. The trip originates on the shores of Sandusky, Ohio, sails along the Lake Erie coastline passing by Geneva-on-the-Lake and journeying its way through the locks connecting the Great Lakes to the Hudson River. The destination is Fort Myers, Florida. Lumpy, posing as the Professor, and wife Susan, more of the Ginger type, will board the vessel in Albany, New York. Rivers have always played a role in Bob Rutherford's life. 50 years ago, Lumpy was very competitive skiing in the regattas staged on the Scioto River. He never won anything but looked professional spinning and flipping off the ramps in front of thousands of spectators. Bob was also masterful in riding rapids on some of West Virginia's wildest rivers. In his mid-70's these days, Lump settled for a 10-day cruise down the Hudson. Hold on for a minute. This portion of the trip occurs during Geneva time. Can't have that. Like the Professor on Gilligan's Island, Lumpy calculated time, distance, and importance. If he leaves the trip in New York City, he will negotiate enough time to attend Geneva. Susan will be left behind to finish the voyage to Baltimore, without Bob. This is a bold move by a brave man but Geneva calls. This kind of precedent had been set years ago. Over a decade past, Billy Boggess had a wedding date for his stepson rescheduled. Bill chose Geneva over attending the wedding, forcing a different weekend to exchange vows. These kinds of stories warm my heart.

WHAT TO EXPECT – Most games will follow the same format as last year. Full handicaps will be used for Gavin Cup play. The thought of cutting handicaps in half was nixed because the Pagnanelli-Berger team set a Gavin Cup scoring record of 45 under par. The idea of giving others a chance to break this fantastic score could only be accomplished with full handicaps. Friday's Skins and Sunday's Best Ball will be played using half handicaps. This eliminates any golfer catching two strokes on a hole. It is believed this practice keeps the Best Ball closer keeping every team within victory range at the turn. Saturday's Skins are scratch and the field will be split with "A" and "B" competing and "C" and "D" having their own competition. Besides a payout for the winning Scramble team, there will also be a Skins game. Initiated a couple years back, the Scramble Skins game has become a favorite especially for the teams that win one. "A" players will choose the Best Ball teams. The defending champions will be without Kyle Willis who withdrew from this year's event. He was the fourth man chosen by Pags to join his team and will be replaced by the last pick in the draft. That lucky individual will finalize the Pags-Dagan Abdon-Pat Dorn squad. That is the way it will be. I will not entertain any complaints. I adhere to Charles Barkley (who knew he was such a philosopher), who said, "If you are afraid of failure, you don't deserve to be successful."