

# CHIP SHOTS

## SCORING APP BACK IN PLAY

PHONE SERVICE – For over two years, Blaise and I advocated initializing a scoring system to relieve several time-consuming man hours and duties. Last month, I nixed the idea. Locating a service I could understand and able to enact was like entering another galaxy. I may grow my hair to look like Albert Einstein but I am more on the intelligent level of Archie Bunker. I felt I was traveling the universe reaching for a star but was falling like an uncontrollable meteorite. Just in time, Tom Ritter directed us to a simpler satellite that even dummies like me should be able to operate. The name of the app is Squabbit. Many of you have seen the invitation to join on your phone. Quick studies and the Geneva IT Department think it will work. Tests are being conducted both on the Sunday Tour in Columbus and virtually in our simulated test laboratory in a hidden room in the corner of Ron Szymczak's house. Confident that the few chinks will be worked out by Geneva, I have given this operation a stamp of approval. Blaise is so happy, he began planning his solar trip to outer space immediately. My question; Is there enough White Claws in the store for his Space Odessey? All this proves to me is in the effort to make life easier, life has become so complicated, and Geneva imitates life.

HOW IT WORKS – I will try to explain in simple terms so even I can understand. Before the round at St. Denis, we will be sent a code to enter the app on our phone. Once the Squabbit app is accessed, then a list of the field should be visible. Only one golfer from each group needs to be entered. That individual will have the duty of recording the scores on his phone. Those entrees will be posted by Squabbit. This alleviates the necessity for Blaise to remain relatively sober in collecting score cards and enter scores hole by hole. Squabbit will do the work for him. A new code will be sent before Saturday and Sunday rounds. Simple. Do we think we could handle it? The tedious work should be handled by Squabbit. There still may be some human input but the Geneva IT Department will take care

of it. The time saved on calculating Skins is at least a 12 pack of White Claws for Blaise. Still to be determined is how much Squabbit can handle. With so many competitions occurring at one time, not all games may be covered. The Scramble, Skill Shots, and Best Ball can easily be computed the old fashion way, lead to scorecards. Skins and Gavin Cup are the concentrated matches for Squabbit. It will still be mandatory to keep scores on scorecards so any mistakes can be corrected. Since so many of the Sunday Tour play at Geneva, I feel confident they will help the first-time users.

**CHANGE IN FRIDAY'S SKINS** – Are you tired of the same dudes winning Skins on Friday? Each year, I seem to hand money to the same guys. Don't get me wrong. These are fine individuals whose golf game deserves a Skin or two at times. But I would like to pass cash to others, the Jacob Davis, Bob Rutherford, or Ray Ballard's of the Geneva field. Hell, I would like to win a Friday Skin myself. The Friday Skin game has always been a scratch event and highly unfair to the higher handicapped players. I hesitated to make the change before because handicapping the Skins would demand more of Ben Lloyd and Blaise Plageman's time in cyphering winners. I worried the extra time, and mental strain would drive Blaise from White Claws to Buffalo Trace and who knows if their calculations would be correct. Along came Squabbit. For the first time in Geneva history, we will handicap the Skins game. Every player will get half their normal handicap for the competition. Squabbit is being programmed to handle the assignment. Why half? This prevents anyone from getting two shots a hole. It is an effort to give all a fair chance to win. The Saturday Skins game will remain the same as always. "A" and "B" players will play in one flight while "C" and "D" golfers have their own Skins match. They remain scratch events. That is the way it will be. No bitching.

**ALMOST TIME** – Last minute preparations is under way. The Competition Committee has decided to move a couple Skill Shots to different holes. All par 3's will play "Closest to the Pin." No.9 will remain "Longest Made 1<sup>st</sup> Putt." The remaining two Skill Shots have changed locations. We decided to return "The Longest Drive" back to the 12<sup>th</sup> hole. The difference in yardage between the gold tees and the white tee box

should be enough to give more players a chance. Remember, to win, the ball must stay in the fairway. For the first time ever, "The Closest to the Pin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shot" will take place on No. 5. For years we played this competition on No. 10, but some long ball hitters nearly hit the green with their drives. That is a huge advantage for the gorilla hitters. By moving this to hole 5, everyone must play short of the pond with their tee ball, leaving the approach shot a more equal distance to the pin for all. The final count is between 44 and 48 players in this year's field. The push is on to finalize commitments this week and turn our attention to creating foursomes. The Competition Committee is doing their best to level the playing field. Winning is a goal of everyone. Other factors also make Geneva great. Though this edition of the Geneva webpage is all about the golf, many have other ambitions. I am better at other ambitions. I close with this advice from Bill Parcells who said, "If you have fun, fine. It's not all life and death."