

CHIP SHOTS

ALL ABOARD

COMMITMENT TIME – May is the start of the growing season. Trees spring new leaves making every golfer swear the theory that trees are 90% air is balderdash. Daylight blesses us with extended hours. The ball of fire in the sky reappears and resumes its stint of warming our bodies and our hearts. Besides the heavenly changes, May is also the month Geneva registrations kick into high gear. The Pairings, Handicap, and Merchandise Committees try to get a handle on who is playing and who is sitting. They start with the assumption that everyone who participated last year will return. At this time, we are aware of one rookie joining us and he is Bill Juengar, a Blaise Plageman recruit from the Sunday Tour. If more plan to attend, please contact me. If you played in years past but not last year and intend to play this year, contact me. If you played last year but will not play this year, contact me. These two months before Geneva will rush by rather quickly and your fast response is appreciated. The recent practice of setting Saturday tee times will continue. If you have a foursome for Saturday's golf, contact me. If you do not have a game, the Pairings Committee will slot you into a group. Depending on the final numbers, foursomes will be formed. Every Geneva has headaches because of unfortunate circumstances like humping an inflatable rooster then falling to crack ribs on Geneva Eve creating a late, and I mean late scratch. So, it is a blessing to be organized and eliminate as many last-minute headaches as possible. Contact me.

St. Denis – I stopped into the clubhouse of St. Denis Golf Course just after Easter and introduced myself to Darrell. "Oh yes, the Geneva group," he smiled remembering that is the entry for our tee times on July 25. My appearance appeared to create mutual respect and appreciation. I have been fooled before, but I know I am genuine and the Geneva outing is what I say. He checked his log and informed me that currently, space is available for Thursday's practice round at noon. Those who plan to play need contact

Shawn Dorn who will secure the times once he has a figure. From the clubhouse, the course looked plush. The bright sunshine splashed on the Kelly-green fairways and gave the grounds a sparkling emerald look. The hope is it remains as colorful and luscious in July. Let's face it, some courses do not extend the effort to maintain country club conditions. Geneva plays differently in May compared to July depending more on Mother Nature than Pinehurst. I snatched a score card from St. Denis and immediately came to the realization adjustments may need to be made. There is a 900 yards difference between the up tees and the regular tees. Slope ratings are 107 and 126. The Gary Glanzman's, Pat Dorn's, Dick Plageman's, and Ron Szymczak's of the world, have a huge advantage from the up tees. How do we fix it? My first thought was everyone plays the white tees on the par 3's. That pushes the total yards 160 yards further for the seniors. Is that enough? I do not think so. I have a second option which is more complicated but truer to the fairness of the game. Distance from the white tees is 6,000 yards. Distance from the blue tees is 6,275 yards. I suggest seniors play the white tees and the younger dudes play the blues...with a twist. The old men hit from the gold tees on the four par 3's. All others play the par 3's from the whites. This changes the yardage discrepancy by 435 yards, much better to balance the competition. Maybe I have too much time on my hands or maybe I am testing my mind to see if I am still sharp. Memory loss is a sad and scary disease as we have noticed over this winter with a couple of Geneva's brothers. I hope to play St. Denis before the outing to test this idea. I will also gain input from those who play the practice round and hear if they believe my adjustments bring a fairer competition. It is never perfect, and I expect the usual bitches will chirp their complaint. I know who they are, and I know what to expect.

APP NIXED – For the past year and a half, I harped about introducing a scoring app to the Geneva theatre. The purpose was to relieve Ben Lloyd and Blaise Plageman from needing to stay after their round and collect score cards and enter hole by hole accounts into a computer to figure Skins and Gavin Cup results. This was valuable drinking time they sacrificed. The search led to a scoring app that looked very promising. I discussed applying this feature with the Commissioners of the Plank's League (Don

Jander), Sunday Tour (Don Jander), and the Kentucky Trip (Don Jander). We hashed out the logistics of applying this feature. The gummies kicked in and we realized the technology to operate this function was way above our brain levels and suited more for the Mensa Society. There is much more to this application than just posting your score on your phone. Setting it up to perform the duties desired for the Plank's League, Sunday Tour, Kentucky Trip, and Geneva is like programming a personal robot to serve all our needs. The conclusion was to operate the same as in the past. Before Blaise gets his panties in a wedgy, Don Jander and Ron Szymczak volunteered to take the task of entering the scores. Once they receive Ben's program to perform the necessary functions, they may find a way to tweak enough to make results more instantaneous. Don and Ron like that kind of stuff leaving Blaise and Ben to get back doing what they do best.

HIKE IN PRICES – Twenty-five years ago Joe Casa said, "Geneva-on-the-Lake is the village time passed bye." The resort town was not resorting much. An order of langostinos as an appetizer, a 16 oz. N.Y. Strip Steak with potatoes and salad, washed down with a couple Beefeater martinis, adding a tip for Irene, our waitress, at the Restaurant/Lounge (Chops) would cost under \$30. Joe Casa ordered a round of Cuervo Gold (28 shots) for the table for around \$75. Improvements by The Chamber of Commerce since then have made Geneva-on-the-Lake a vibrant and active destination spot again. Just look at how the Summertime Inn spruced up for visitors. Believe me, you should have stayed in the joint 45 years ago. With the upgrades, came an increase in prices. Even the Geneva Golf Course raised green fees, which is more in tune today with other golf courses. Food prices and other amenities increased and John Skunza clearly blames it on Trump's tariffs. Well, I banged on my calculator attempting to keep Geneva dues down and the best I computed was \$240. That total will include green fees for Saturday and Sunday, the seven different competitions on the course, the Commissioner's steak dinner, and the cost of merchandise. Gone are the days when \$175 covered the same script. That total does not include housing or golf at St. Denis (\$50). Hey! I am trying to keep costs down. I am a disciple of Jack Benny and adhere to his

philosophies. One of his beliefs was “A rich man is one who isn’t afraid to ask the salesperson to show him something cheaper.”