

CHIP SHOTS

KATE'S TURN

CLUBHOUSE BOSS – It seems every year we find our get together dealing with a different manager. Every year I reprint the quote Legend Fritz Ford made popular from past experiences. “I guess we have to train another.” Not quite! Gone is Kristiana with whom we dealt last year. She warned me she would likely leave, claiming they worked her too hard and long and refused to give her help. That concerned me. Once before a change in management and the new regime lost our reservations. I was relieved when Kate finally returned my call. “I remember,” she said in an excited tone. “You guys were fun.” She immediately spouted the names Paden and Dagon. Why would that be? Kate was the cart girl. That answers it. For years from Chuck Webb, Geneva’s first manager, to Amy, each boss promised the course would be in better shape than the previous year. Every year the course was the same cow pasture. Then along came Amy. She realized those promises made little difference to us. We knew what to expect from the condition of the course. We were lured to Geneva by the extras. The easy access to the Strip and the warm welcome at the golf course were important. What makes Geneva special is the amenities between shots both on the golf course and on the Strip. The personalities of the clubhouse boss and cart girls became a priority, and their efforts have been financially rewarded. A tip of the cap to Amy, Kristiana, and Kate for adding special touches to our outing. I will keep in touch with Kate to be sure she is properly prepared.

HELP WANTED – A couple of months ago, I announced no changes to the Geneva format. My mind finally thawed from winter’s brutal reenactment of the Ice Age. Once active and functioning again, the brain cells warmed to the idea of a Geneva Hall of Fame. 48 years of strolling Geneva dirt with patches of green grass and weeds along its fairways has been stomped by so many different personalities. There are the old and there are the present. Remembering some of the old, the Buck Luzader’s,

Scott Riffle, Joe Casa, Welby, Mike Weilbacher to throw out a few names, and several of the present-day players puts an extra stamp on the outing and heightens the status and reputation to another level. Do not expect a bust or a gold jacket if selected. We have yet to reach those standards. What has been discussed is a large plaque with the names of the Hall of Famers engraved. Each newly nominated entry will be added to the plaque's list of names. Good idea? The particulars have not been established. That is why I am asking for your help. For instance, who nominates potential inductees? Once nominated, who votes? How do we score the votes each year to finalize the induction? One more thing, where do we store the Hall of Fame plaque? Let me know your thoughts. Having discussed this venture with several Geneva brothers, an agreement that the initial Hall of Fame class will be the Charter Members (those at the first Geneva) and current Legends. The list reads; Frank Alexander (Charter Member and Legend), Dick Barrett (Charter Member), Bob Berger (Charter Member), Jack Berger (Mini-Legend), Fritz Ford (Legend), Vince Gatto (Legend), Gary Glanzman (Charter Member and Legend), Jerry Graves (Charter Member and Mini-Legend), Jim Nogawick (Charter Member), Mike Sachs (Charter Member), and Adrian Skunza (Charter Member and Founder). That is an initial list of eleven. After this class, I do not expect that many inductees each year. Tell me if you think my crusty old mind is grasping at straws. Any ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated. I hope to launch this endeavor in July.

SEASON CHANGE – The usual signs of Spring are in full bloom along the North Coast. The icy Lake is water once again. It is raining everyday instead of snowing with occasional guest appearances from the sun. Easter, the Masters, baseball, daffodils are indications old man winter is in the rear-view mirror. The dudes in Florida, Texas, Nevada, and California are months ahead with their Geneva prep. Even Dick Plageman, who squeezes a round of golf nearly every time the thermometer climbs to 40, has played far less holes this year than the Doobie Brothers, an assumption on my part because I am not sure the Brothers frame of mind calculates said statistics. There is plenty of time to catch up with our fair-weather friends. Tee times at Manakiki (noon on July 24) are months away.

Those who have preferred foursomes for Friday and Saturday golf may send their requests to me and I will accommodate the best I can. Questions still linger about availability. For instance, what about Jay? Has anyone heard from him? Legend Vince Gatto has physically declined where golf, especially three days' worth, is uncertain. At this date, he is making a strong effort to play. I find the Social Package long used by Doctor Hate since Geneva's inception is becoming a more used option. Last year Jerry Graves and John Skunza joined the group on this package. Speaking of My Little Buddy, Mini-Legend Jerry Graves, his golfing presence this Geneva is in a state of flux. He recently underwent a second shoulder surgery on the same bone that prevented him from golfing last July. He is frustrated. His rehab has reached north of 45 visits thus far. Picking up the sticks by July is questionable. Down Ironton way, Billy Boggess is recovering slowly from a back operation he had done last October. He is far from satisfied with his recovery. He can only walk 100 yards without resting to relieve the pain. His plans are to give golf a go this July. He believes riding a cart will eliminate the long walks and the discomfort that would prevent him from competing. Thank God for golf carts or many more of us would attend Geneva on the Social Package. Legend Fritz Ford reminded me of the famous words of Mickey Mantle who said, "He who has the fastest golf cart never has a bad lie."