

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.