

2025 SKINS & SKILL SHOTS WRAP UP

MANY COLLECTED

My past three articles have been mostly about the team competitions at Geneva. This piece will concentrate more on the individual play. The best shot of the weekend was Ray Ballard's drive on No.9 during Sunday's round. Most of us stand on that tee and visualize just reaching the green. When Ray's ball kicked towards the pin and rolled as if directed by a heavenly magnetic field, the excitement began to build. Screams and yells erupted as the ball disappeared into the hole. JACKPOT! Except there was no jackpot on that day. No Skins, no Skill Shot, only a "that a boy." The shot was not financially rewarded but it will be long remembered as long as Geneva continues, and this web page exists. It was an achievement Ray can be very proud to have accomplished and relished for the rest of his life.

Those who were rewarded for hitting good shots, did so on Saturday. All par 3's held Closest to the Pin contests. The Master shot maker was Rick Jonas. His shots on No.3, No.14, and No. 16 bettered the field earning him \$150. Do-Be-Do-Be-Do. Nick Boggess bested no.9. The Closest 2nd Shot to the Green was held on No.5. This hole was chosen because the pond in front of the green neutralized the playing field, taking the driver out of play giving all 46 golfers a chance to win. Taking advantage of the opportunity was Legend Fritz Ford who knocked his iron shot onto the green, sticking his Titleist close enough to pocket \$50. Putting the driver back into everyone's hands, Dagan Abdon launched the longest tee ball on No.12. There was also a game with the short stick. No.9 rewarded the player who made the Longest 1st Putt. That individual was Steve Reed.

If there was an award for the DUDE who had the best Geneva weekend (there have been discussions about such an award), it would be hard to give it to anyone other than Ray. However, an argument can be made for Mike Pagnanelli. Ray hit one shot that lasted 15 glorious seconds but will be remembered for a lifetime. Pags had a weekend of many glorious seconds. Pags won both Best Ball and Gavin Cup championships.

Add two Skins to Mike's performance. He birdied No.10 and was the only "B" flighter to par the 17th hole, often referred as the Widow Maker. Others winning Skins in "B" flight on Saturday were Jamie Vernon (birdie on No.4) Kyle Willis (birdie on 8) and Steve Reed with a deuce on the 9th hole.

Then along comes Dagan. He was part of the Best Ball and Scramble winning teams. As mentioned earlier, he outdrove the field on the 12th fairway. He earned two Skins on Friday and one on Saturday. He is a DUDE. "A" flight recorded 11 Skins on Saturday. Besides Dagan's birdie on the 11th hole, other Skins included two by Rick Jonas (birdies on 3 and 8), and two by Nick Boggess (birdie on 9 and a finishing eagle on 18). The remaining six Skins were earned by Andrew Brinkmeyer's birdie on the first hole. Birdies on No.4 by Blaise and No.5 by Legend Gary Glanzman who bagged a second Skin with an eagle on the 12th hole. The last of Saturday's Skins were won with a Don Jander birdie on No.13, and Keith Boggess' 3 on the 15th hole.

Friday's Skins were also a higher number than anticipated. 7 Skins were paid, each worth \$60. With Squabbit counting scores, we were able to handicap the Friday Skins game, which may be the reason for the uptick in winners. The scores you are about to read are net totals after applying handicap. Dagan Abdon (the DUDE) earned his two Skins with birdies on 7 and 15. Three eagles captured Skin money, one produced by Bill Juenger on No.10, another by Tom Black on 12, and Rick Jonas eagled the 17th hole. Nick Boggess, as he often does, set the tone for the weekend by birdieing the first hole. Tim Black was a winner with his birdie on No.8.

All in all, 18 different guys won individual honors. Let's be honest. Although several of us did not collect a single cent, everyone had their MVP moments whether it was on the course, cruising the Strip, or just reminiscing and laughing with friends. I want to congratulate all of you on being winners in my book.