

# CHIP SHOTS

## FINAL THOUGHTS ON 2024

THANK YOU – I sincerely hope the memories from the 2024 Geneva Open are mostly pleasant. Many volunteers worked long and hard to create a competitive and entertaining environment. Usually, I name several who help organize these yearly events. You know the normal suspects. I am very grateful for their efforts. But the real reason for Geneva's success is "YOU". Pat yourselves on the back. 48 golfers came, dedicated to the cause. Each personality brings unique characteristics, but all have two things in common, a sense of humor and a goal to have a good time. Lord help anyone who stands in our way. Bitching and disagreements are at a minimum if at all. If there are misunderstandings, they are settled quickly over a strong beverage. Lessons that could be learned on the political stage. This year five rookies were introduced to Geneva. Like always, they were welcomed with open arms. Observations throughout the weekend was they felt comfortable, enjoyed themselves and quickly slipped into the spirit of Geneva. I have not heard anything to the contrary. That is a credit to everyone involved. I thank all of you for your contribution. Oh yeah! I forgot. There is the lure of golf which is Geneva's foundation. Silly me.

SICK BAY – Before this year's field was set, tragedy hit with the passing of long-time participants Tom Jech and Bill Kirk. May they Rest in Peace. They are missed for sure. Their deaths forewarned of trouble ahead. Though not as serious, four others were forced to withdraw because of physical conditions. Matt Mazzocco, Legend Gary Glanzman, Michael Sachs, and Ron Szymczak could not participate. This is the latest report on their recoveries. According to Gary Mazzocco, Matt is on light duty at work and still doing physical therapy every week. He lost his grip and feeling in his right hand. Unable to grab a golf club keeps him off the golf course. Gary promises future updates. Much of the same problem harasses Legend Gary Glanzman who fights conditions brought about by a bad upper back. Therapy is part of his recovery routine. He has not played golf since early July, and he is miserable. "I am becoming a combination of Doc Hate and Vince Gatto with a bad attitude," he said. Speaking of Doctor Hate, he recovered well from his heart condition which kept him home this

Geneva. We shared many drinks since, and he is as hateful as ever. We wouldn't want him any other way. He needs to stay healthy. Old Fashions and Manhattans are not the same without his sarcastic comments as he serves his masterpieces. Then there were Ron Szymczak and Mini-Legend Jerry Graves. Lordy-Lordy-Lordy. Both made it to Geneva, and both sustained their injuries on site. After a late-night Thursday which included intimacy with an inflatable chicken, Ron was still lubricating hours into Friday. He got a crazy idea to ride a bike that sat empty around the Summertime complex. In his attempt to fetch the two-wheeler, he fell and cracked 3 ribs. Out for the weekend. "All healed up, back to playing golf twice a week," he wrote. "Looking forward to next year." I am not sure about the chicken. Lastly, the healing of Mini-Legend Jerry Graves is complete after taking a seat in a fire pit. Although he only spent two seconds in the burning ring of fire, you would think he might find religion now that he has experienced true hellish conditions. The burns bothered him for a solid month, but he is much better these days. It is still amazing Our Little Buddy competed all weekend and won the Gavin Cup sporting 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns.

VEGAS – Late last month, a few of us made our way to Las Vegas. It was not the golf trip that Tony McGuckin envisioned. This was all about craps, blackjack, roulette, keno, and football. The closest we came to golf was a slight interest in the President's Cup. Iran could have bombed Isreal, and we would not have known it. Mini-Legend Jerry Graves, Pat Dorn, Geneva founder Adrian Skunza, and yours truly stayed downtown at the Golden Nugget. Tim and Tom Black had rooms on the Strip. Greg Gudenkauf, a Las Vegas resident, came by on Saturday afternoon for cocktails. He presented us with a welcome gift that created more mind-altering ways to wager at the tables. After Ohio State whipped Michigan State, we spent our winnings on \$80 steaks at a top of the town restaurant. We were not as lucky with the BROWNS against the Raiders. That did not spoil our fun. Jerry made many friends at the crap table Saturday. He had control of the dice for over a half hour raking in chips and cheers around a crowded table. I had to rub his arm down. Tired or not, he refused to submit to a pitch count. I think the pit bosses were ready to cut him off. Adrian hit on the roulette wheel playing number 22 on the advice of Humphrey Bogart from the movie Casablanca. Creature and I were contributors to a fund to keep Las Vegas growing. They tell me Las Vegas was not built on winners.

I was so caught up in the Vegas mystic, I was given an extended visit. Kamala Harris closed the airport so she could leave safely, forcing me to spend an extra 14 hours in a casino. Darn! That may have influenced my vote. We had a great time. Somehow the frustrations on the tables are much more tolerable than the frustrations on the golf course.

CLOSING 24 – The lid is nailed shut on the 2024 Geneva Open. Adrian Skunza tells me “All our memories are in the past.” I spent the last three months rehashing some of them in print. I am sure many more tails will be shared from all 48 attendees. I plan on having our Christmas get together at the Gahanna Grill on Dec. 26 at noon like we have done for the past two years. We can share more memories over lunch and cocktails. We now turn our attention to the Holidays, Halloween candy, Thanksgiving turkey, and the variety of Christmas traditions of each family with plenty of meats, veggies, deserts, and fruit. Just remember, man who eats many prunes gets good run for money.