

# The Manifesto of Classic Justice

Let it be known to all honorable gentlemen that the OFFICIAL LABOR DAY OPEN INVITATIONAL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT THING *was* played on its traditional date of Labor Day, 1997 - September 1st of this year - at the traditional location: the Hartwell Golf Club.

Herewithin, and thus hither to thou, for the official record, for all future generations of Labor Day Classic participants, and for any other life forms with the intelligence to comprehend the portent of this document, be it noted that the participants at this year's event were the right honorable Mr. Richard P. Herbst, Esq., and the right honorable Mr. Michael J. Gorman, Esq. The winner was Mr. Gorman with a score of 72 strokes, which was slightly better than the fine effort of Mr. Herbst at 74 strokes. Honorable Mention should go to Mr. Herbst for the "Best Grip" award for his ability to keep his staff under control.

We call upon you, as honest and sporting Gentlemen, to accept that which cannot be denied, to agree to that which cannot be disputed, and to acknowledge these facts which cannot be refuted, and thus to affix a tag with the embossed name of Mr. Michael J. Gorman onto the Labor Day Classic winners' plaque in the position of honor for the 1997 winner.

Not to do so would dishonor the tradition and meaning of this event in much the same way that the Designated Hitter Rule has defiled the once noble national pastime of baseball, subsequently resulting in such national misfortunes as the presidential election of Jimmy Carter, the rise of Disco, and the widespreadening of bell bottoms.

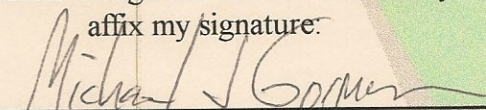
Also, *not* to acknowledge these aforementioned facts and hyperbole would be a heinous and treacherous breach of sportsmanship reminiscent of the depravity and turpitude which led to the downfall of the Roman Empire and subsequently the Holy Roman Empire as well.

Additionally, as logic and tradition dictate, the *true* Labor Day Classic can *only* be played on Labor Day. Any event pretending to be the Labor Day Classic but *not* played on Labor Day is, at the very least, 66% *not* a Labor Day Classic, and 100% a "*Classic*" sham.

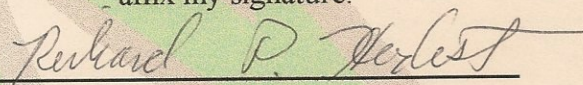
Furthermore, to refute these resounding obviousities, these absolute certitudes, and these verifiable verities, will bring a plague upon your golf bags.

Oh, Yeah, and one more thing: Obstinate resistance to full accreditation of the rightful winner, Mr. Michael J. Gorman, will result in an appeal to the true and ultimate governing authority of the Labor Day Classic, namely, The Wives.

In acknowledgment thereof: I do freely  
affix my signature:

  
Mr. Michael J. Gorman, Esq.

In acknowledgment thereof: I do freely  
affix my signature:

  
Mr. Richard P. Herbst, Esq.



## **The Hartwell Labor Day Open Invitational Classic**

### **Office of the Commissioner**

My friends:

Imagine a bright Memorial Day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The cars are ready to go, the people are all waiting for the greatest event in racing, when a sudden thunderstorm delays the event. After an hour of waiting, the race is officially postponed until the following day. Several hours go by, and the rain isn't coming down so hard. My brother and I, who both have to be at work the next day and can't come back, decide to sneak onto the race track and do a couple laps in our respective cars. We have great fun, and I edge him out by a few seconds, since my RX7 has a little more muscle than his Miata. We then go for a couple beers and I decide, 'Hey, I was the winner of the only race that happened at Indy on Memorial Day. I ought to be the winner and the trophy should be mine!' Your reaction would probably be, "Bill, what sort of beer were you drinking? All the racers understood the event was postponed, and besides, your average speed of 87 mph was slower than those guys go in the pits."

Just such a thing has happened this year at the Classic. Attached to this letter is a 'Manifesto of Classic Justice' written by Mike Gorman. In it, Mike asserts that he is the true winner of the 1997 classic, since he had the better score of the only game that happened at Hartwell on Labor Day. We'll deal with that in a moment. First - some facts:

- The traditional golf game played amongst us was held on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Hartwell Sports Club. In attendance were Bill, Marty, Drew, Mike S, George and Rick. The reason for postponing the event was really only a matter of more people being available on that date. Drew, Marty and Greg were all out of town on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Drew Banks carried the day with a score of 49. Not his best nine holes ever, but enough to beat out his older brother.
- One to two weeks prior to Labor day I called each of the traditional participants to discuss our scheduling difficulty. Only two would not be able to make it on the 7<sup>th</sup>, while three (including the defending champion and a founding member) would be unable to make the 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike G. and Mark S both said that they were sorry they would not be able to play, but they understood that it would have to be rescheduled.

We have decided NOT to grant Mr. Gorman's request that he be named winner of this year's event for the following reasons:

1. Mr. Gorman clearly understood, prior to the event, the nature of our scheduling difficulty and my intention to move the date if more people could attend on the alternate date. Mr. Gorman voiced no objection at the time. Indeed, the first we heard of Mr. Gorman's complaint was AFTER our round on the 7<sup>th</sup> had concluded.
2. Mr. Gorman's score of 72 strokes, while a nice try, was 23 strokes higher than the best score of the day. If this had been an 18 hole tournament, Mr. Gorman probably would not have made the cut for the back nine. In fact, each of the six contestants of Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> scored better than 72. We would have given greater weight to Mr. Gorman's complaint, but come on...72?!



As to Mr. Gorman's Manifesto, some words of clarification are in order:

1. As to the true classic only being held on Labor Day - we weighed this matter at great length and finally settled on this. The full name of this tournament is the Hartwell Labor Day Open Invitational Classic. In fact, it has not always been played at the Hartwell course. In 1990, the course of choice was Woodland. You really can't call this an Open tournament, since there are some people we really don't let play, since they're too good. Also, it isn't fair to call it an invitational either, since there are some years, like this one, when I don't get around to actually sending invitations. For these reasons, we generally refer to this tournament as, simply, the Classic. Focusing on one aspect or another of the name of the Classic is simply missing the point.
2. As to the Wives being the final arbiters of any disputes, we are inclined to indulge Mr. Gorman and Mr. Herbst, since they do not yet have wives of their own. However, for the record, let it be known that the only place the wives have in golf is to regulate the frequency with which we play the game. Take, for example, the following fictional exchange:  
Husband - "Christie, the guys are all playing golf tomorrow. Can I go?"  
Wife - "Greg, you know I wanted to go shopping tomorrow."  
Husband - "Yes, dear"
3. As to the "tradition and meaning of this event" that Mr. Gorman refers to, let me state that again here for the record. The purpose of the Classic is to bring together a group of old friends for one last, and for some first, round of golf at the end of summer. It really wouldn't matter if the game was football, softball or euchre. The meaning would still be there simply in the gathering. All the ornaments that we chose to hang on the event itself are simply that and no more. Let's not lose sight of these simple truths, gentlemen.

With all of the above stated, we resolve the following:

1. The winner of this year's Classic is Drew Banks.
2. The plaque commemorating the winners of all past Classics will this year bear an asterisk, to denote the unusual nature of the 1997 Classic. A special pocket will be affixed to the back of the plaque and Mr. Gorman's original Manifesto will be sealed within, so that all future winners will read it know of the great controversy.
3. This is the last I want to hear about the 1997 Classic.
4. The 1998 Classic will be held on Labor Day, come what may. The tournament will commence at 9am and we will finish the day with an awards ceremony at the Frish's on Vine St. If you're reading this letter, consider yourself invited and plan your vacations accordingly.

So now that you know where you're going to be next Labor day morning, and seeing as this IS the Hartwell course, one of the easier courses in the city, you've got to ask yourself one question .... "Do I feel like practicing?" Well do you, Mike?

See you next summer,

William V. Banks