



South Bend C. C. Recap - September 16, 2019

The MSGA's 10th and final tournament of 2019, the Robert Brady Challenge, was held at South Bend C. C. in South Bend, IN on September 16th. The turnout was excellent with 124 players. It was the MSGA's fifth tournament at South Bend C. C. over the years. As always, the South Bend staff did a great job with excellent service for lunch, golf and the awards dinner. All players received door prizes before play started.

The weather was a beautiful, but quite warm for a late summer day with sunshine and high clouds, light breezes and temperatures in the mid 80's.

The golf course was in wonderful shape and played pretty tough. With rains over the previous days, the rough was thick and deep, especially around the greens. The sloping greens were soft and in excellent shape and putted very fast, especially for downhill and sidehill putts. There were many low scores, but also many high scores. Those players who stayed out of the rough were able to post nice rounds. At par 71, the course played difficult, especially with the fast greens and deep rough. Overall with handicaps, 32 players beat par of 71 while 10 others matched par. For the 124 players, the average Gross score was 92.5 with 74.5 as the average Net score, 3.5 shots over par of 71. In total, 34% of the players beat or matched par.

A separate Flight (E) was used for players whose handicap index plus age total 95 and who choose to play from the forward tees. The flight plays for net awards only and had a fine turnout of 22 players.

In the Individual Medal competition, the Overall Low Gross award was won by Jerry Giolitto with a one over par 72. Jerry's round included an eagle on #12, a birdie and four bogies. His back nine was a nice 32. Tim Swallers, Bryan Boettger and Jeff Hartin were next were with 76's followed by Scott Smith, Steve Stone, Doug Chapman and Tom Smith with 77's. Five other players broke 80.

Roger Stevens was first in the Low Net competition, shooting an excellent net 63. Jeff Hartin and Tom Smith followed closely with a net 65's, while Steve Kahn, Vern Sawyer, Jerry Giolitto, John Spensley and Bruce Fisher posted net 66's.

In Flight E, Wayne Slabach led with a net 67, followed by Jerry Stayton with 69.

In the Skins competition, Doug Chapman, Promit Das, Bruce Ruge, John Spensley and Tom Mackrola each recorded two skins each. In total, there were 27 skins in the six flights.

Congratulations to award winners in all the flights and especially to Jerry Giolitto for overall low gross and to Roger Stevens for leading the field with a net 63. The complete list of winners can be found on the Tournament Results tab.

In the season-long Brady Cup competition, Steve Stone repeated as first place winner with 1905 points, just ahead of Kevin Shidler with 1865. Bruce Fisher (1755) was third, and Bob Henrikson and Mike Hoffman tied for fourth with 1630 points rounded out the top five places. Steve will have his name added to the permanent Brady Cup trophy in addition to receiving an engraved replica of the permanent trophy. The Final 2019 Brady Cup standings with the top 25 places are shown on the Brady Cup tab.

The South Bend field of 124 included eight members who played in all nine 2019 MSGA tournaments (opening day at Whittaker Woods was cancelled because of weather). The current MSGA membership stands at 205, up 13% from last year's ending 181 members. For 2019, 115 members played five or more events (56%) and 175 played in at least 2 events (85%).

It was a nice finish to a great year with the average entries for the individual events at 119, well above the previous record of 108 in 2013.