



Morris Park C. C. Recap - September 14, 2020

The MSGA's 10th and final tournament of 2020 (9th tournament played), the Robert Brady Challenge, was held at Morris Park C. C. in South Bend, IN on September 14th. The turnout was excellent with 107 players even though the COVID-19 pandemic has affected participation throughout the season. It was the MSGA's tenth tournament at Morris Park C. C. over the years. As always, the Morris Park 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 perfect for a late summer day with plenty of sunshine and high clouds, light breezes and temperatures in the mid 70's.

The golf course was in wonderful shape but played quite difficult. The rough was thick and deep, especially around the greens making up and down chip shots difficult. The sloping greens were soft and although aeriated a week before putted very quick, especially for downhill and sidehill putts. There were some low scores, but also many high scores. Those players who stayed out of the rough were able to post nice rounds. At par 70, the course played difficult, especially with the fast greens and tough rough. Overall, with handicaps, only 11 players beat par of 70 while four others matched par. For the 107 players, the average Gross score was 88.9 with 75.1 as the average Net score, 5.1 shots over par of 70. In total, only 14% of the players beat or matched par.

In the Individual Medal competition (flights playing from regular tees), Tim Swallers won the overall gross award with a five over par 75. He was followed closely by Rex Johnson and John Hulewicz with 76's and John Hampton with 77. Kevin Shidler and Steve Stone posted 78's and five others recorded 79's.

In the Net competition for regular tee players, John Martin was low with a net 65, followed by Bill Ketcham with net 67 and John Hulewicz, Chuck Blair, and Chuck Zimmerman with net 69's.

In Individual Medal competition (flights playing from forward tees), Fred Hillis won with a 74 followed by Ray Ginsburg with 75 and Mike Grubb and Taylor Seward with 84's.

In the Net competition for forward tee players, Ray Ginsburg was low with a net 63 followed by Taylor Seward with a net 64. Next in line were Mike Grubb and Harvey King with net 67's.

In the Skins competition, John Hampton, John Hulewicz, Jim Galt, Paul Martindale, Clyde Compton, and Mike Grubb each recorded two skins each. In total, there were 29 skins in the five flights.

Congratulations to award winners in all the flights and especially to Tim Swallers and Fred Hillis for overall low gross scores and to John Martin and Ray Ginsburg for overall low net scores. The complete list of winners can be found on the Tournament Results tab.

In the season-long Brady Cup competition, John Hulewicz won first place with 1875 points with second going to Jay Wilson (1770 points) and third place to Ray Ginsburg (1705). Fred Hillis and Mark Joseph rounded out the top five places. John will have his name added to the permanent Brady Cup trophy in addition to receiving an engraved replica of the permanent trophy. The Final 2020 Brady Cup standings with the top 25 places are shown on the Brady Cup tab.

The Morris Park field of 107 included 17 members who played in all nine 2020 MSGA tournaments (opening day at Maplecrest was cancelled because of the pandemic). The current MSGA membership stands at 173, down 16% from last year's ending membership of 205. The Board of Directors believes much of the difference was the result of the pandemic.

For 2020, 99 members played five or more events (57%) and 134 played in at least 2 events (77%). For the 2020 season, the average number of players was 97 (56% of members) as compared to the average number of players for 2019 of 119 (58% of members).

It was a nice finish to a difficult year caused by the pandemic's changing guidelines for golf courses. The Board of Directors thanks all the members for their patience and participation this year.