



Valparaiso C. C. Recap: September 23, 2013

The MSGA's tenth and final tournament of 2013, the Robert Brady Challenge, was held at Valparaiso C. C. in Valparaiso, Indiana on September 23rd. The turnout was excellent with 117 players, the largest participation in a final tournament in the MSGA's history. It was the MSGA's seventh tournament at Valpo over the years. The Valpo staff did a great job for the final tournament of the season with excellent service for lunch, golf and dinner.

The weather was a beautiful fall day for golf with plenty of sunshine, temperatures in the low 70's and light winds.

The golf course was in excellent shape, but played very difficult. The undulating greens were in wonderful shape, but very fast, especially for the many downhill putts. The difficult and sloping greens lead to plenty of three putts. The fairways and rough were also in excellent shape from the heavy rains the course received the previous week. Overall with handicaps, only 13 players beat par of 72 while seven others matched par. The average net score for the 117 players was a very high 77.2 net strokes, 5.2 strokes over par of 72.

In the Individual Medal competition, the Overall Low Gross winner was Jerry Giolitto with an excellent par-matching 72 that included four birdies and four bogeys. Bill Gustin with a 79 was second and the only other player to break 80. Fred Mitchell (80), Steve Kahn (81), X. Gartland (82) and Fred Kepler (82) followed. Jerry Barry was the Overall Low Net winner with a fine net 67 followed by Steve Raymond, Jerry Giolitto and Bill Gustin, all with net 68's. Greg Dupont with a net 69 was the only other player to break 70. Overall, with six flights, 62 players won prizes in the Individual Medal competition.

In the Skins competition, nine players were multiple winners with two skins each. Those players were Jim Jonas, Bill Gustin, Paul Sittig, Larry Jackson, Ray Ojeda, Danny Bates, Steve Raymond, Bill Scully and Larry Fegaras. In total, there were 39 skins in the six flights. In the Closest to the Pin contest, Mike Gilpin had the closest shot of the day on the 140 yard 4th hole when his ball was measured at 3 feet 8 inches from the cup. Congratulations to prize winners in all the flights, a list of which can be found on the Tournament Results tab.

In the season-long Brady Cup competition, Dave Pendergast finished first with 2250 points, 380 points ahead of his nearest competitor, Ed O'Connor who finished second with 1870 points. Dave will have his name added to the permanent Brady Cup trophy in addition to receiving a personal engraved replica of the permanent trophy. Bruce Fisher (1795 points), Mike Gilpin (1755 points) and Mike Robinson (1720 points) rounded out the top five places. The Final 2012 Brady Cup standings with the top 25 places are shown on the Brady Cup tab.

The stars of the day on an excellent golf course, were Jerry Giolitto with 72 (net 68) and Jerry Barry with a very solid net 67.

The field of 117 included eight members who played in all ten 2013 MSGA tournaments including Jerry Stayton a MSGA rookie in 2013. The current MSGA membership stands at 189, of which 122 played five or more events. It was a great finish to a wonderful year that included excellent weather for all ten events.