



## **Blackthorn G. C. Recap: September 8, 2014**

The MSGA's eleventh tournament of the 2014 season was held at Blackthorn G. C. in South Bend, IN on September 8th. The event was the MSGA's fifth visit to Blackthorn over the years with the most recent being in 2010. As always, the event was very successful. The turnout was 109 players, an excellent turnout for late in the season. The 2010 turnout was 104 players in June. The course is one of the favorites of the members.

The weather was perfect with temperatures in the mid 70's, a few high clouds, light winds and low humidity.

As for the golf course, it was in overall great condition. The fairways were in excellent shape and provided very nice lies. The thick rough was tough resulting in some difficult shots. The greens were in perfect condition, very fast and difficult for downhill putts. Overall, the course was a very fair test of golf, especially for those who stayed out of the rough. Many good scores were posted.

Overall with handicaps, 31 players bested par of 72 while 11 others matched par. For the 109 players, the average Gross score was 91.9 with 73.7 as the average Net score, 1.7 shots over par of 72. In total, 39% of the players beat or matched par.

Beginning in 2014, a separate Flight (E) was created for players whose handicap and age total 95 or more and who choose to play from the forward tees. The flight plays for net awards only. Flight E had 16 entries of which 50% of the players beat or matched par.

In the Individual Medal competition, Tom Knoll was the overall Low Gross winner with a three over par 75. Tom's round included one birdie and four bogeys. Fred Kepler was one shot back with a 76, followed by Dave Lamb with a 77 and Chuck Ellison and Jeff Miller with 78's.

In the Net competition from the Regular tees (Flights A – D), Bruce Neulieb was the winner with an excellent net 63. Ray Brosseau (64) and Jim Pawlik (65) followed closely behind, while Chuck Ellison, Tom Stefaniak, and Art Yagodnik each recorded net 66's. Four other players were able to break 70 on their net scores.

In Flight E (played from the forward tees), Clyde Compton and Jim Hutton tied with net 64's with Clyde winning the tiebreaker. Norm Michaels and Bill Hehemann were next in line, both with net 65's.

In the Skins competition, there were two multiple winners with Brian Chalik and Bruce Neulieb each recording two skins. In total, there were 31 skins in the five flights.

In the Closest-to-the-Pin contest, the best shot of the day belonged to Steve Reinhart. Steve's shot stopped at 3' 0" on the 145-yard hole number 13.

Congratulations to award winners in all the flights and especially to Tom Knoll with his fine round of 75 and Bruce Neulieb for his excellent net 63. In Flight E, Clyde Compton and Jim Hutton with excellent net 64's are also worthy of congratulations. The complete list of winners can be found on the Tournament Results tab.

In the season long Brady Cup competition, Tom Stefaniak continues to lead with 1925 points, but Dan DeMartinis (1835) is within striking distance with one event left on the schedule. The race for third place is also tight with Ray Brousseau (1770), Bruce Fisher (1705) and Bill Scully (1574) rounding out the top five places. The Top-25 standings are shown on the Brady Cup tab.