



MSG A 2018 Championship Recap: August 20-21, 2018

The 16th annual MSGA Championship was held at Swan Lake Resort G.C. in Plymouth, IN on August 20th & 21st. The event was also the eighth of the MSGA's 2018 season. The turnout was 72 players for the Two-man Best-Ball event including four guests. Six flights were required to accommodate the 36 teams.

The weather was threatening both days causing rain delays each day. On Monday, the rain held off until just before noon, then rained thru lunch and for another hour before the third round could start. On Tuesday, the rain began during the second round causing a delay of one and a half hours. The round was completed in very wet conditions and the shootout began with standing water in many areas.

This was the sixth consecutive year playing the MSGA Championship at Swan Lake, although the MSGA has played the course other times for regular tournaments. Since the golf course was very wet, the course played with little role off the tees. Even with the wet conditions, the greens were in excellent shape with water standing only in a few spots. The staff at Swan Lake, led by Head-Pro Chad Hutsell, did a great job in preparing the course and hosting the championship that included two continental breakfasts and nice lunches. Prior to the start, several players stayed overnight at the resort.

For the 2018 MSGA Championship, the shootout winners and overall champions were Gary Drutis and Mark Joseph who qualified for the shootout as winners of the Eagle Flight (E). Second place in the shootout went to Randy Kerns and Don Rogers who placed first in the Drive Flight (D). Other flight winners were Kevin Shidler and Fred Hillis in the Albatross Flight (A), Bill Murray and Paul Martindale in the Birdie Flight (B), Bob Hart and Steve Kahn in the Chip Flight (C) and John Graft and guest Glenn Borden in Fairway Flight (F).

The playoff was exciting from start to finish. The teams of Bill Murray and Paul Martindale and Bob Hart and Steve Kahn were eliminated on the first shootout hole. John Graft and Glenn Borden were eliminated on the second hole after failing to make a net par. Kevin Shidler and Fred Hillis were eliminated on the third hole after a chip-off with all three remaining teams. Gary Drutis and Mark Joseph won on the fourth and final playoff hole over Randy Kerns and Don Rogers when Gary sank a five foot par putt and Randy missed a slightly shorter tying putt.

Congratulations to all the flight winners and especially to Gary Drutis and Mark Joseph who will have their names added to the permanent John J. Pavlos Memorial Championship trophy as the winners of the 2018 MSGA championship. They will also be awarded individual trophies at the final dinner event at Morris Park C. C. All results of the tournament are shown on the Tournament Results tab.

The Championship resulted in significant changes to the overall Brady Cup standings. Steve Stone moved from second to first with 1395 points. Roland Pereira moved to second with 1295 points and John Hulewicz (1250 points), Kent Naylor (1225 points) and John Spensley (1210 points) round out the top five. The current standings are shown on the Brady Cup tab.