



## **Blackthorn G. C. Recap: July 25, 2022**

The MSGA's sixth tournament of the 2022 season was held at Blackthorn G. C. in South Bend, IN on July 25th.

The Tournament was the eighth time the MSGA has played at the course over the years. Blackthorn was a very challenging course with the large greens and tough pin placements.

The weather was perfect with a few clouds and temperatures in the low to mid-70's.

The turnout was a field with 108 players with 107 completing rounds. The players played in three regular tee flights and two forward tee flights with 65 players on the regular tees and 42 on the forward tees.

The golf course was in great condition except for some traps that had water as the result of rain the previous days. The fairways were near perfect and the rough was playable. The very large greens were extremely difficult, especially for those putts from above of the pins. The course had held a members tournament over the weekend and the pins were placed in difficult positions near the edges of greens, behind sand traps and on upper levels of some multi-tiered greens.

Only four players bested par of 72 and four others matched par (7% of the 107 players) with their net scores. For the 107 players, the average Gross score was 91.7 with 78.8 as the average Net score that was 6.8 shots over par of 72. The scores indicated the course played very difficult as the normal average net scores are usually in the range of two to four over par.

In the Individual Medal competition (flights playing from Regular tees), Tim Swallers had the best gross score with a 3-over par 75. Four others were able to break 80.

In the Net competition for Regular tee players, Mike Christoph and Cory Dennie tied with net 71's with Mike winning the tiebreaker. Following were Tom Smith, Mike Wells and Gary Drutis with net 72's. Seven others were next with net 73's.

In Individual Medal competition (flights playing the Forward tees), Fred Hills lead with a 4-over par 76 followed by John Martin and Steve Foli with 79's. Next were Bill Murray (83) and Chuck Zimmerman and Ken Dowdy with 85's.

In the Net competition for Forward tee players, John Martin won with an overall net of 67 followed by Fred Hillis (69) and Tom Mackrola (72).

In the Skins competition, John Martin Tom Mackrola recorded two skins each. In total there were 19 skins in the five flights. With the fewer than normal skins, the payouts were better.

In the Closest-to-the-Pin contests, Tom Knoll recorded the closest with an 1' 9" shot on hole number 13 in the Regular tee flights and Stan Pytel was closest at 8" on hole number 3 playing in the Forward tee flights.

In the season long Brady Cup competition, Marty Reitz took over the lead with 700 points followed by Paul Martindale (695) and Phil Weybright with 675 points. Three others have 670 points.

Congratulations to award winners in all the flights. The complete list of award winners can be found on the Tournament Results and Brady Cup pages.