

GOLF NEWS

The Newsletter of GLAGA,
the Greater Lansing
Amateur Golf Association

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GLAGA Receives State Recreation Award for Junior Golf Scholarships

The Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association has been awarded the prestigious Michigan Parks and Recreation Association's Community Service Award for 1999. The honor recognized the unique Youth Golf Scholarship Program sponsored by GLAGA. Thirty-two Lansing area teenage boy and girl golfers were provided with scholarships enabling them to golf at any of Lansing's four public golf courses for a reduced rate for the entire 1999 summer season. (Waverly, Red Cedar & Sycamore - \$0.50; Grosbeck \$1.25/9 holes).

GLAGA took the initiative to foster and support a greater participation and appreciation of the sport by urban teens. Each applicant submitted an essay as to why they would like to receive a scholarship. Classes were provided on golf rules, etiquette and how to play the game.

GLAGA funds these scholarships from member dues and advertising revenues. Last year GLAGA contributed \$1500 which the Greater Lansing Recreation Foundation matched bringing the 1999 total to \$3000 for junior golf scholarships.

GLAGA has committed to continuing the program and has donated \$3,000 for the 2000 golf season so as to continue the high level of participation. Additionally, GLAGA is also donating golf balls provided by Walnut Hills Country Club from the LPGA tournament practice range. Used golf equipment has been donated by many of the over 300 GLAGA members to also support this effort.

Stuart White, President of GLAGA said, "We are gratified by the recognition this award symbolizes. We believe the program is important as well as fun for all parties. We look toward working with the city to some day expand on this program with activities that will include mentoring of participants, development of a practice facility in Lansing and PGA level lessons for the teens.

White added, "The continuation of the Junior Golf Scholarship Program would not be possible without the

membership dues from the 300 plus golfers who join GLAGA each year and the revenues received from sponsors who advertise in GLAGA's newsletter. It was an honor to accept this important award on their behalf."



Receiving award on stage (from left) - Dick Baker, Paul Nieratko, Stu White, Gray Tuttle, and Lansing Golf Manager Don Ballard

Reminder: GLAGA is soliciting clubs, balls and bags for juniors in the greater Lansing area. You can bring your donation to the next GLAGA tournament you enter. You can also donate them on Junior Golf Day at Groesbeck (June 9) when GLAGA hands out scholarships for this year. Your donation will be given to the Lansing Park and Recreation Department for use at the local municipal golf courses.

DONOR'S CORNER

A SPECIAL THANKS THIS MONTH TO:

SHEILA TANSEY
TOM HAZLETT
RAY

PAUL NIERATKO
GRAY TUTTLE
LARRY YACHCIK

Every newsletter we will credit those generous souls who have donated to junior golf.

Nathan Rules

All City Medal

Coming back from a six shot deficit at the start of day three, MSU Sophomore Nathan Clark won the All City Medal Play with a one shot victory over second round leader Bob Matthiesen and Corey Peckham. His third round score of 71 was low for the day on Forest Akers West where the average score among the 65 players in the Championship Flite was 80.83.

Nathan birdied three of the last four holes to forge a lead over his closest competitors - Dave Greeley, Eric Morfe, Corey Peckham as well as Bob Matthiesen. Anyone of them could have sent the tournament into overtime with one or two birdies at any of the last three holes. Matthiesen had a four footer for birdie at 16 but missed his second putt inside five feet on the backward nine. Peckham knocked one stiff at 17 and closed the deal with a ten foot putt for birdie. He gave himself a chance for another birdie on 18.

With Nathan looking on from the sidelines along with his father and caddy, Ward, Corey just missed his 10 footer and left the field of play for Bob Matthiesen to try to produce a tie setting birdie at 18. Bob gave it his best but as with Peckham just missed his 20 footer and had to settle for a second place tie at four over par for the three day event.

The rest of the top ten order of finish included Eric Morfe in solo fourth at 221. Dave Greeley and Jeff Irish tied for fifth with a 222 finish. Jim Olsen who was the only player able to match par 72 on Sunday finished in seventh place. First day leader Duffy House shared eighth with Duck Lake standout Steve Parks. GLAGA Board member Dave Kaufman shared 10th place along with five other players, Eric Cowles, Tony Keim, Dennis Korkoske, and Glenn Morrison. Carl Bond once again claimed low senior honors with a three day score five shots lower than his closest senior competitor, Jim Westwood.

Daryl Chappell won the First Flite with a score of 233, Paul Ellieff took the Second Flite trophy with a score of 237, and Tyler Hursey triumphed in the Third Flite with a score of 251. The All City Medal Play returns to Forest Akers in August 2000.

With wins at the GLAGA Spring Medal, the All City Match Play and the All City Medal Play, Nathan clearly earned the unofficial title of Lansing Player of the Year. His win at the All City followed from a seventh place finish in the GAM Championship played earlier in the week at the Country Club of Lansing. Nathan is the first Lansing golfer to claim both city majors and a regional medal play tourney in the same year. If it's not a grand slam, Nathan's victories at least qualify as a historic triple play. **In 1999 Nathan ruled.**

Summer Medal Play

Twenty six year old Tim Taylor from Holt won the Championship Flite with a two day, 36 hole score of 142. He followed his opening round of 69 at Brookshire Golf Course in Williamston with a one over par score of 73. Thirty seven year old Andy MacIntosh from Okemos won the first flite with a two day score of 155.

Only one player, senior golfer Jim Westwood, shot a score lower than Taylor's on Sunday. Westwood's one under par 71 coupled with an even par 72 on Saturday left him all alone in second one shot back. Bruce Couturier took third with a three over par total of 147 while Doug Kahl and Jerry Blake tied for fourth at 148.

Andy MacIntosh won the first flite with a two day total of 155. Michael Parisian finished two strokes back in solo second and Robert Davis and Jeff Hary tied for third with 159.

Fall Stableford

Bob Matthiesen broke through with a victory in 1999 at the Fall Stableford. Gray Tuttle, GLAGA Treasurer and first day leader with 21 points, gave Bob a run for his money but came up a few points short at then end of day two. Stu White, first flite co-leader after day one and GOLF News editor, withdrew from the tournament on day two to attend the joyous birth of his first child, Samantha. *(Editor's Note - This change in status from golfing vagabond to parent hopefully explains why the story and web coverage about the Stableford tournament is incomplete)*

1999 Challenge Cup Players



Challenge Cup

The Public Players edged out the combined team of Walnut Hills and Country Club of Lansing players by the barest of margins for a repeat victory in 1999. The format and schedule for the 2000 Challenge Cup will be changed to accommodate college players as well as country club players who were unable to compete in the fall.

From the President

Once again it is time to renew your association with GLAGA. The Board has chosen to increase membership dues by five dollars to \$25. I think it is appropriate, therefore, to look back at what your dues helped GLAGA accomplish in 1999 as well as what your 2000 dues will help us do this year.

Last year we tried to reach out to the membership and find out what you wanted from your association. We held an annual membership meeting in April for all of you who braved the rain and cold to scramble around Highland Hills for 18 holes. We heard from the members at this meeting that they supported the Board's effort to promote more opportunities for juniors to play golf in Lansing.

At the beginning of 1999, the Board set aside \$1500 for a scholarship program which helped junior golfers save on green fees during off peak hours at any of Lansing's municipal golf courses. With matching funds, 32 scholarships were provided in 1999.

For this year, the Board has allocated \$3000 toward this scholarship with the Youth and Recreation Fund raising funds to match GLAGA's contribution. This combined total of up to \$6000 means that we can support as many as 60 juniors in 2000. In addition to the scholarship program, GLAGA will conduct in July a one day open tournament for all juniors, boys and girls, at Groesbeck.

We circulated a survey last year, in which you told us that you wanted a faster pace of play in the various tournaments that GLAGA runs. The Board responded with a formal Pace of Play Policy and a vigorous enforcement effort of this policy, especially at the All City Medal Play. As a matter of fact, our enforcement proved so rigorous that I received an email during the All City complaining that the pace was too fast. I consider this email a badge of victory. At the All City, we kept track of when golfers teed off and finished their rounds. On each day of the three-day tournament, the pace of play averaged 4 hours and 15 minutes or less regardless of flight or level of skill.

We also tried to facilitate enhanced communication with the local golfing public through the World Wide Web. The GLAGA website received on average 45 hits a day during the peak golfing season.

None of this is possible without your membership and the support of our sponsors who advertise in GOLF News. Membership is an annual affair that is renewable at the beginning of every calendar year. It does have its benefits. Starting with the knowledge that you are supporting area youth who want to play the game we all love, you are also eligible for golf tournaments organized exclusively for members, a reduction in the All City Medal Play entry fee that is more than the cost of membership, and periodic newsletters that help keep the local golf community informed about Nathan Clark's latest golfing triumph. In addition, for seniors 50 and older, GLAGA will initiate a two day Senior Medal Play tournament this summer. So please help us help local golf through the renewal of your GLAGA membership for 2000.

GLAGA President, Stu White

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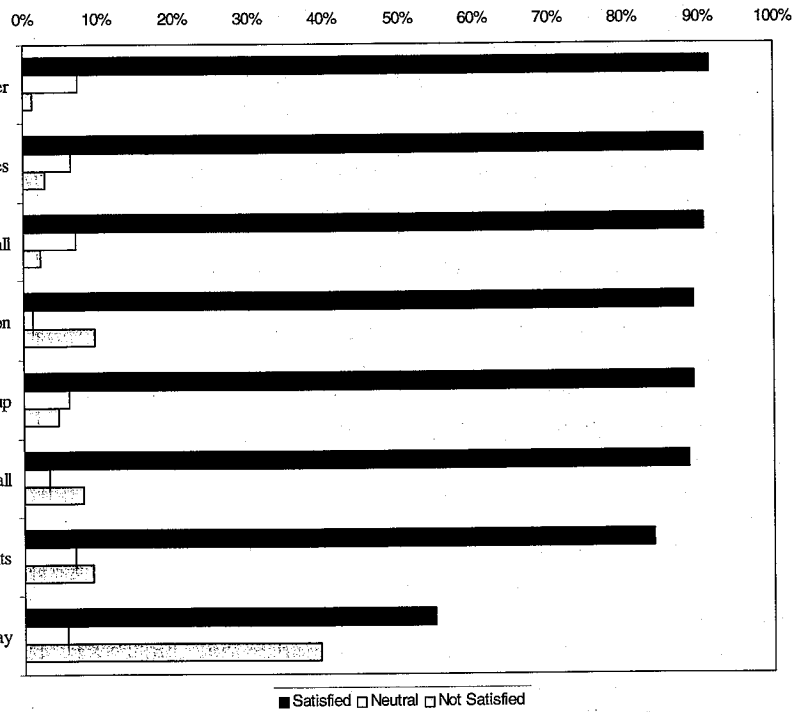
Local Golf Survey Suggests Ways to Improve GLAGA

Last spring the Board mailed surveys to several hundred golfers in the Lansing area asking them for feedback in various areas including their satisfaction with GLAGA. In general, the golf community was pleased with the direction of the association. Nine out of ten of the 90 golfers who responded to the survey were satisfied with the overall operation of GLAGA.

When asked about their satisfaction with specific features of GLAGA, the levels of satisfaction remained high except for pace of play at tournaments. Only one in two respondents was satisfied with pace of play while between 8 and 9 out of 10 were satisfied with the newsletter (92%), the course selection for tournaments (89%), the course setup for tournaments (89%), and the cost of the tournaments (84%).

The respondents have played golf on average 26.5 years. The least number of years that persons answering the survey have played golf is five years (1 respondent) and the most is 65 years (1 respondent). Nearly nine out of ten (88%) of the respondents indicated that they were a member of GLAGA. The average duration of membership among survey respondents was five years. Nine out of ten (92%) have been a member for ten years or less. One respondent indicated that he has been a GLAGA member for 25 years, which provides some indication of how long GLAGA has served the Greater Lansing area.

In other words, the golfing longevity of the people answering the survey is fairly extensive while their affiliation with an organization like GLAGA, one of whose primary objectives is to provide opportunities for competitive golf, is



For complete survey results, go to www.golfhaus.org/ on the web.



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less extensive. Judging then from the survey results, the likely growth in membership for GLAGA will come from those golfers who, regardless of skill level, have developed their attachment to the game sufficiently to want to explore another dimension in golf, namely the venue of tournament competition.

Golfers were also asked to rank the courses where they would like to play a tournament. Not surprisingly, those courses that perennially host tournaments ranked the highest among respondents. Nearly all respondents (97.5%) indicated a preference for Hawk Hollow and the Emerald followed by Forest Akers (94.1%), Groesbeck (93.6%), Oaklane (93.1%) and Royal Scot (90%) --- with all but Hawk Hollow selected as GLAGA tournament venues for 2000.



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GLAGA Adds Two Tournaments for Summer 2000

In response to members' requests, GLAGA will initiate its own seniors tournament in June. This two-day medal play tournament which will be held at Oaklane is open to any GLAGA member aged 50 or older. The tournament will be flited after day one based on scores.

GLAGA will also inaugurate a one-day junior tournament in July for girls and boys under 18. The tournament will be held midweek at Groesbeck. Preference for entry will be given to scholarship recipients and children of GLAGA members.



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Meet the Board

Mike Scieszka was recently added to the GLAGA Board. Mike's first assignment is to direct the June 24th and 25th Senior's Tournament at Oaklane in Webberville.

Mike was born and raised in Lansing and spent many a summer day chasing turtles and errant shots at Sycamore and caddying at the Country Club of Lansing. He intends to give back to golf, through GLAGA, some of the enjoyment it has provided him.

Mike and his wife Sue live in Williamston. They call Forest Akers their home course.

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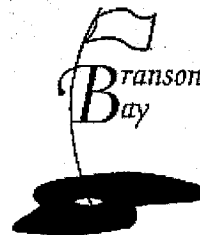
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GLAGA Tournament Calendar

April 15	Members Scramble	Royal Scot
May 6-7	Spring Medal Play	The Emerald
June 16-18	All City Match Play	Grosbeck
June 24-25	GLAGA Seniors MP	Oaklane
July 22-23	Summer Medal Play	Royal Scot
August 4-6	All City Medal Play	Forest Akers
Sept 23-24	Fall Stableford	TBA



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On Junior Golf Day (June 9) at Groesbeck Donate Your Old Clubs, Balls and Bags



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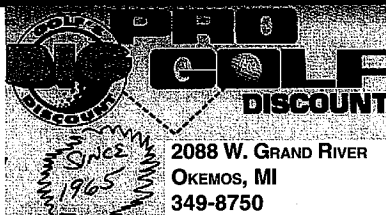
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TOURNAMENT FEES

Members April Scramble @ Royal Scot - \$35 (9 A.M. Shotgun)

Make check payable to GLAGA and return to the address below. For membership events include \$25 dues for 2000.

Tournament

- Welcome Back Members Scramble - April 15
- Members Spring Medal Play - May 6 & 7
- All City Match Play - June 16 -18

Spring Medal Play @ The Emerald - \$85 (7:30 A.M. Tee Times)

All City Match Play @ Groesbeck - \$75 (Friday AM Shotgun)

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www.golfhaus.org/glaga

Newsletter Editor: Stu White

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