

MGA News Letter, October, 2011

TOURNAMENT NEWS

The 2011 Match Play tournament was completed in late August. Those placing were:

	<u>Handicap Flight</u>	<u>Senior Flight</u>
1 st Place:	Steve Daugherty	Ernie Anderson
2nd Place:	Tim Mullen	James Howard

The 2011 International tournament was held Saturday, September 10. Those placing were:

		<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
1 st Place:	Handicap Flight	Craig Cosgrove	Gary White
	Senior Flight	Vince Nerio	Bill Shoemaker
2nd Place:	Handicap Flight	Karl Fanning	Bob Smith
	Senior Flight	Bob Meyers	Will Allen

MGA NEWS AND VIEWS

By Jim Chittenden

This month we will be discussing Tournament Handicaps. In Handicap theory every competitor has an equal chance of winning a tournament. In practice, however, it seems a few names show up frequently on our winners list. In part, this is due to the five inches between our ears. We think ourselves out of the tournament!

Another factor is the style of game that we employ during non-tournament play. For instance, in a Skins game, only birdies have a chance to score, so why not go for it? We are not thinking about our handicap, just about winning. Even though each score is posted, the resulting handicap is elevated by the type of game we have just played. Then, during a tournament, it is time to bear down and keep that score, on every hole, the lowest possible number. No taking chances in this format. The resulting score can be several strokes below our posted handicap.

Dean Knuth, former USGA Senior Director of Handicapping has developed a Tournament Handicapping procedure that addresses this low score phenomenon. With the Knuth system the top five players or teams, based only on NET scores, are awarded points based on the following scale: 1st place: 5,

2nd place: 4, 3rd place: 3, 4th place: 2, and 5th place: 1 point. If a player accumulates 7 points over a two-year period his handicap for Tournaments will be reduced by two strokes. Each additional two points will reduce the Tournament handicap by an additional stroke. Please note, the USGA Handicap Index is not reduced, only the Handicap that is assigned to the player for each qualifying tournament event.

The system is designed for tournaments that have at least 50 competitors. For flighted events or for tournaments with less than 50 players, the points assigned would be reduced according to a table that adjusts for the number of players.

Your MGA Tournament Committee is looking at the Knuth Tournament Scoring System and we propose to implement the system after the first of the year. We believe this is a fair system, giving everyone a chance to win. Anyone can have an occasional great round; he just cannot have two great rounds without consequences.