

Hi Members, Support Members and friends of the USBGA:

8-25-12

Ted Fass, picked the theme for the 2012 Nationals which was: "More Than A Tournament, An Outing At The Club", and that is exactly what we had. Middle Bay Country Club provided great golf, terrific food and Ted Fass provided great entertainment. "On Monday, I felt like I was on a cruise ship when we had the Caribbean band around the pool", said Sheila Drummond.

We would like to thank everyone at Middle Bay Country Club for doing an impressive job and also Ted Fass and his staff for all the planning of the outing and also for doing an excellent job with fundraising.

The course at Middle Bay was blind-friendly with some manmade hills. It allowed for one to experience all of the elements. The winds off the Atlantic Ocean made for comfortable temperatures, yet challenged golfers to be required to strike all kinds of shots. The greens were a bit sloped and rather fast. Together all this made a great location for the USBGA 67th National Championship.

On Tuesday night August 7, all members of the USBGA participating in the 2012 Nationals were treated to an elaborate dinner at the Middle Bay Country Club. The evening began with a relaxing cocktail hour including entertainment by Scarborough Fair, followed by a sit-down feast. It was just enough to create a party atmosphere.

In between food courses we presented the 2012 Induction Ceremony for the four honorees to be selected into our Hall of Fame.

Ron Plath from Oregon became the first visually impaired member of our organization to enter into the USBGA Hall of Fame. Tom Mirus presented Ron and then Ty Thompson, representing Ron, who was unable to attend the 2012 Nationals, shared some appreciative remarks from Ron to everyone.

Next to be inducted was Everett Davis, who joined the USBGA Hall of Fame as an Inductee in the "Coach" division. Kevin Sullivan, the most recent Coach to be selected into the Hall of Fame, presented Everett. Everett graciously accepted his plaque and then presented the Guiding Eyes for the Blind organization into the USBGA Hall of Fame in the "Friends of the USBGA" division. Accepting the award for Guiding Eyes for the Blind was tournament founder Richard "Dick" Ryan and current Tournament Chair Al Maiolo.

Paris Sterrett, a longtime volunteer for the Mid Atlantic Blind Golf Association, presented Al Balukas into the USBGA Hall of Fame in the "Friends of Blind Golf" category. Al, who has been involved with instructing and mentoring several members of the Mid Atlantic Blind Golf Association, has seen many of his students move on to compete in the USBGA.

Following a delicious meal, Ted Fass introduced John Pizzi, a comedy ventriloquist from America's Got Talent, and we were all treated to a very humorous and entertaining act.

Everyone had a great weekend at the 67th National Championship. It was a great opportunity to get more acquainted with each other. Once again, the Board of the USBGA would like to thank Ted, his family and staff for the outstanding tournament they organized for us.

Listed below are the various winners from the 2012 National Championship:

B-1 Blind National Champion- David Meador and Everett Davis

B-1 Blind 2nd place- Jim Baker and Rob Lent

B-1 3rd place- Mario Tobia and Michael Tobia

Boswell Award- Ted Fass and David Santucci

Lazaro Award- Ron Derry and Jerry Rank

B-2 VI National Champion- Jeremy Poincenot and Lionel Poincenot

B-3 VI National Champion- Mike McKone and Ed Hewitt

B-3 VI 2nd place- Scott Wilson and Vicky Wilson

VI Net Winner- Ty Thompson and Paris Sterrett

VI Most Improved- Takeo Maruyama and Ellen Tajima

Sr. Division Net Winner- Millard Reed and Jay Carter

Thank you, Sheila, Bill and Ted for the above information and congratulations to all the winners and inductees.

Attention everyone, be on the watch for the September 3rd issue of the Golf World Magazine. Writers from the magazine were at the national tournament taking pictures and interviewing participants, so the article should be very interesting. Golf World is a national weekly magazine so we look forward to getting a copy.

Now for some lost and found news: Someone lost a B1 USBGA patch while in New York. If you are missing your patch, call Ted at 516-764-2002 and he will be happy to send it to you.

Is it really possible that this summer is almost over? Just one more regional tournament to go. Good luck to Ty and Paul with their tournament in Lexington and good luck to all the golfers who will be attending the second Kentucky Bluegrass Regional Tournament in September.

Until next time, keep swinging.

Joan Dietz

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