

Midwest Deaf Golfers Association

Newsletter

Fall 2003

Robert Ritch – MDGA Champion

Robert Ritch, from North Carolina, claimed his first MDGA championship by three strokes over defending champion William Tonigan. Ritch is the second golfer in history to win both the MDGA and SEDGA tournaments in the same year. Roland Stetson in 1980 was the first to do so.

After two rounds, Ritch had a three-stroke lead over Darrell Hovinen from Michigan. There were three other golfers within 8 shots of the leader. Blankenburg was 6 behind. Bosworth and Tonigan both were 8 behind. Tonigan had the advantage because he was not in the final group, the same situation as Doug Schnoor in 1999.

The final day, on the first hole, a short 320 yard par 4, Hovinen hit a horrible tee shot, lost the ball in the woods and made double-bogey. Ritch three-putted for bogey. Blankenburg and Bosworth both also made bogey after missing the green. It was obvious all four golfers were feeling nervous.

After nine holes, Ritch (with 40 strokes) led Hovinen (39) by two shots. Blankenburg and Bosworth both shot 44 to fall back. Tonigan shot 36 his first nine holes, so he was only four shots behind. Hovinen then played the next six holes in 8-over par to fall out of it. With two holes to go, Tonigan, the only golfer left for Ritch to beat, was just two shots behind. Ritch parred the last two holes to finish off his hard-earned win.

Flight Champions

Bryan Jendra from Illinois won the First Flight by five strokes with a wonderful final round of 79. It was the first time he broke 80 in MDGA tourneys. Tim Tesner from Ohio was the first flight runner-up. John Kaleta, from Wisconsin, won the Second Flight by one stroke over Terry Henderson from Indiana. Both golfers played well on the last day, Kaleta with 86 and Henderson with 87. David Costa from Illinois claimed the Third Flight championship for the THIRD year in a row. He won by two shots over Gary Johnson from Ohio, who was penalized two strokes on the last day because he hit the wrong ball.

Arthur Gendreau from Minnesota won his fourth straight Senior Flight championship, this time by 20 shots over runner-up Pete Wahl from Arizona. Lester Arnold from Tennessee shot a final round of 89 to come behind and win the Senior First Flight championship by three shots over Donald Phelps from Maryland.

Handicap Champions

The first handicap champions in MDGA history were Mark Venz from Wisconsin and Hubert Ruessman from Michigan. Venz shot three rounds under 90 to win by ten shots over Patrick Arnold from Indiana. Venz had never broken 90 in the MDGA tourney before. Ruessman won by just one shot over Dale Johnson from Minnesota and Harry Larson from Maryland.

50 Straight Tournaments!

Arthur Gendreau from Minnesota just played in his 50th straight MDGA tournament. He has never missed an MDGA tourney since 1954. Jack Kunz is the only other golfer to hit the half-century mark. Kunz played in 52 straight tournaments from 1948 to 1999. Dale Johnson has the second longest current streak with 25 straight years since 1979. 50 straight years may never happen again.

Most Amazing Round of MDGA Golf – Maybe all of Deaf Golf, too?

Wilbur Sawhill from Iowa took 83 shots on the Eagle Creek - Sycamore golf course in the second round. Why is this a "most amazing" round, you may ask? It is because Wilbur is 83 years old himself. He is most definitely the oldest golfer in MDGA history to shoot his age. He might be the first golfer in MDGA history to shoot his age. Does anybody else remember anyone shooting his age in MDGA tournaments? What about other deaf tournaments?

New MDGA Hall-of-Famer

Congratulations to Marvin Tuttle from Iowa who was elected to the MDGA Hall of Fame. He is now the 47th member out of more than 860 golfers since 1947. Marvin participated in 16 tournaments since 1958. He was the tournament chairman and Vice-President in 1987. Since 1999, he has been one of the delegates from Iowa.

Hall of Fame State-by-State Information

This counts only the original (home) state of each Hall of Fame member. The state of Wisconsin leads with 17 members. Minnesota follows with 10, then Illinois with 7, Iowa with 4, Michigan with 3, Missouri with 2 and Colorado, Maryland, Nebraska and Ohio with 1 each.

Third Annual MDGA Putting Contest

65 golfers entered the contest this year. Eight golfers won three matches the first day to advance to the second day. Remember that prize money goes to the Elite Eight putters only. The Elite Eight putters were Rick Aylesworth, Dan Blessing, Bob Dramin, David Froehle, Bob Graf, Darrell Hovinen, Gerald Lentini and Richard Sarkisian.

There was a new twist in this year's contest. The matches on the second day were based on double elimination. This did not happen the first two years of the putting contest. Before the matches on the second day, Bob Dramin made a prediction that "Bob" was going to win the putting contest for the third straight year, either himself or Bob Graf. Bob Dramin won two years ago and Bob Graf won last year.

Hovinen won three matches, beating Lentini, Froehle and Aylesworth to await the survivor of double elimination. Lentini and Sarkisian both lost their first two matches. They faced off in a match for 7th place, won by Sarkisian. Blessing and Graf faced off in a long and tough opening match, won by Blessing. Unfortunately, Blessing lost his next three matches to finish in 6th place. Blessing admitted that the first match with Graf wore him out.

Graf beat Sarkisian, lost to Dramin, and beat Blessing for 5th place. Froehle won his first match over Dramin, then lost to Hovinen, beat Blessing, then lost to Dramin for 4th place. Aylesworth won his first two matches over Sarkisian and Blessing, then lost to Hovinen and Dramin to finish in 3rd place. Bob Dramin earned the right to face Darrell Hovinen in the final match and try to make his prediction come true.

The final match was over very quickly. Hovinen three-putted the first hole to lose the first match and send it to one last match. Dramin then three-putted the first hole of the final match to finish in 2nd place.

Bob Dramin, Bob Graf and Darrell (not Bob) Hovinen all made their second appearance in the Elite Eight. In addition, Dramin and Hovinen made their second appearance in the championship match. In three years, a total of 21 golfers have made it into the Elite Eight. This putting contest should be around for a long time since anybody can be the putting champion.

Future Golf Tournaments

Lincoln, Nebraska will host in 2004. Red Wing, Minnesota (southeast of Minneapolis) will host in 2005. Gaylord, Michigan will host in 2006. Springfield, Illinois will host in 2007. Iowa will host in 2008. Where will we go in 2009?

2003 MDGA Tournament Results
Eagle Creek (Sycamore) Golf Course – Indianapolis, Indiana
 106 golfers (69 regular, 37 seniors)

Championship Flight

1. Robert Ritch (NC)	75 - 72 - 79 = 226
2. William Tonigan (MD)	78 - 77 - 74 = 229
3. Darrell Hovinen (MI)	78 - 72 - 81 = 231
4. Curtis Blankenburg (IL)	78 - 75 - 84 = 237
4. David Bosworth (MD)	77 - 78 - 82 = 237
6. Patrick Arnold (IN)	81 - 78 - 79 = 238
7. Robert Graf (WI)	83 - 80 - 77 = 240
8. Cory Horan (IN)	86 - 78 - 79 = 243
9. Robert Dramin (IL)	82 - 81 - 82 = 245
10. Mark Venz (WI)	82 - 87 - 80 = 249
11. Thomas Perkins (IN)	81 - 82 - 87 = 250
12. Greg Gantt (IN)	81 - 85 - 87 = 253
13. Michael Lewis (WI)	90 - 83 - 82 = 255
14. Troy Anderson (MN)	82 - 84 - 91 = 257
15. Charles Peckham (IL)	88 - 82 - 92 = 262

Long Drive – Robert Dramin
Closest To Pin – Cory Horan
Lowest Putts – Mark Venz – 30

Second Flight

1. John Kaleta (WI)	92 - 95 - 86 = 273
2. Terry Henderson (IN)	95 - 92 - 87 = 274
3. Joseph Otis (WI)	96 - 91 - 90 = 277
4. Bill Stricklen (IL)	95 - 94 - 89 = 278
5. Bill McGee (OH)	93 - 97 - 90 = 280
6. Charles Crandall (KY)	92 - 95 - 94 = 281
7. Richard Sarkisian (NJ)	95 - 95 - 92 = 282
8. Tim Anderson (MN)	98 - 93 - 93 = 284
8. David Catt (IN)	94 - 94 - 96 = 284
10. Ronald Swartz (MI)	102 - 90 - 93 = 285
11. Bernard Newman (WI)	92 - 98 - 97 = 287
12. Edwin Carlson Jr. (IL)	94 - 96 - 98 = 288
13. Daniel Kriesel (IN)	103 - 89 - 97 = 289
14. Christopher Burhart (OH)	96 - 98 - 98 = 292
15. Richard Aylesworth (MI)	96 - 98 - 99 = 293

Long Drive – Bill McGee
Closest To Pin – no winner – mistake – wrong flight
Lowest Putts – Bill Stricklen – 32

First Flight

1. Bryan Jendra (IL)	89 - 87 - 79 = 255
2. Tim Tesner (OH)	94 - 83 - 83 = 260
3. Mark Gessinger (IN)	93 - 89 - 84 = 266
4. Stephen Coppock (IA)	90 - 93 - 84 = 267
4. John Dyreson (WI)	90 - 89 - 88 = 267
6. Jeff Prince (OH)	89 - 88 - 93 = 270
7. Wallace Riege (WI)	90 - 89 - 92 = 271
8. David Froehle (IA)	89 - 89 - 95 = 273
9. Lewis Fowler (KY)	93 - 91 - 92 = 276
10. Tom Bachtel (OH)	93 - 92 - 93 = 278
10. Mark McAlear (MN)	89 - 95 - 94 = 278
10. Willie Miller (IA)	90 - 91 - 97 = 278
13. Barry Froehle (IA)	95 - 87 - 99 = 281
14. Andrew Lisac (OH)	99 - 87 - 102 = 288
Dick Chadwick (MN)	87 - 89 = WD
Stephen Blair (MI)	88 = WD

Long Drive – Mark Gessinger
Closest To Pin – Mark McAlear
Lowest Putts – David Froehle – 30

Third Flight

1. David Costa (IL)	95 - 103 - 96 = 294
2. Gary Johnson (OH)	99 - 99 - 98 = 296
3. Mike Rentschler (NE)	98 - 105 - 96 = 299
4. Clayton Claiborne (IA)	103 - 101 - 101 = 305
5. Robert Ryan (IL)	107 - 92 - 107 = 306
5. Ethan Sachs (MI)	100 - 99 - 107 = 306
5. Charles Schwan (IN)	102 - 99 - 105 = 306
8. James Todd Sr (IL)	99 - 107 - 103 = 309
9. David Sommers (WI)	105 - 105 - 100 = 310
10. Gerald Lentini (MD)	114 - 99 - 100 = 313
11. Mitchell Russell (IN)	114 - 101 - 100 = 315
12. Robert Hagman (WI)	107 - 107 - 106 = 320
13. Robert Lawson (IA)	104 - 104 - 113 = 321
14. Robert Lilac (NY)	109 - 98 - 117 = 324
14. Alan Kayser (MN)	109 - 102 - 113 = 324
14. John McPhee (MN)	102 - 112 - 110 = 324
17. Ricky Kraus (IL)	118 - 104 - 107 = 329
18. David Buntin (WI)	109 - 121 - 101 = 331
19. Steve Kaufmann (OH)	112 - 117 - 103 = 332
20. Bobby Locke (IA)	117 - 121 - 102 = 340
21. Carlos Martinez (IL)	114 - 108 - 124 = 346
22. Dan Blessing (OH)	128 - 108 - 115 = 351
23. Jim Butler (IL)	111 - 122 - 125 = 358

Long Drive – Ricky Kraus
Closest To Pin – Robert Hagman
Lowest Putts – David Buntin – 30

Senior Championship Flight

1. Arthur Gendreau (MN)	80 - 79 - 81 = 240
2. Howard Wahl (AZ)	87 - 85 - 88 = 260
3. Wilbur Sawhill (IA)	93 - 83 - 88 = 264
4. Harry Larson (WI)	89 - 83 - 93 = 265
5. David Bailey (IN)	93 - 91 - 90 = 274
5. Patrick Sweeney (OH)	94 - 88 - 92 = 274
7. Dale Johnson (MN)	96 - 88 - 93 = 277
8. Warren Downey (MD)	97 - 88 - 99 = 284
9. James Potter (MN)	96 - 97 - 93 = 286
10. Ronald Deschler (MI)	99 - 97 - 100 = 296
11. Floyd Malone (TN)	95 - 101 - 102 = 298
12. Delbert Boese (NE)	98 - 99 - 109 = 306

Long Drive – David Bailey

Closest To Pin – Dale Johnson

Lowest Putts – Dale Johnson – 30

Senior First Flight

1. Lester Arnold (TN)	105 - 95 - 89 = 289
2. Donald Phelps (MD)	102 - 96 - 94 = 292
3. Robert Scribner (MD)	99 - 102 - 94 = 295
4. Richard Caswell (MD)	105 - 94 - 97 = 296
5. Roger Dempewolf (IA)	104 - 96 - 105 = 305
6. Richard Appleyard (MI)	100 - 103 - 105 = 308
6. Fred Sund (MN)	107 - 100 - 101 = 308
7. Robert Byington (WI)	103 - 108 - 105 = 316
8. Patrick Cleveland (WI)	112 - 109 - 99 = 320
9. Lee Frazier (WI)	117 - 97 - 109 = 323
10. Guy Kelly (WI)	102 - 108 - 114 = 324
11. Marvin Tuttle (IA)	108 - 111 - 106 = 325
12. Hubert Ruessman (MI)	109 - 108 - 113 = 330
13. Robert Wollard (MI)	111 - 115 - 109 = 335
14. Leonard Peacock (WI)	107 - 112 - 117 = 336
15. Joe Siudzinski (IL)	112 - 113 - 118 = 343
16. Alex Rubiano (WI)	118 - 124 - 126 = 368

Lowest Putts – Lester Arnold – 32

Senior 9-Hole Flight

1. Larry Baker (IN)	48 - 50 - 46 = 144
2. Bill Lawson (OH)	53 - 47 - 53 = 153
3. Howard Davis (WI)	56 - 52 - 53 = 161
4. Ken Murray (IN)	53 - 60 - 51 = 164
5. Francis Thompson (MN)	53 - 55 - 57 = 165
6. William Reineck (WI)	52 - 52 - 64 = 168
7. Ted Myhre (IN)	60 - 56 - 58 = 174
8. Roland LeDuc (WI)	61 - 53 - 61 = 175

Third Annual Putting Contest

1. Darrell Hovinen
2. Robert Dramin – 2001 Putting Champion
3. Richard Aylesworth
4. David Froehle
5. Robert Graf – 2002 Putting Champion
6. Dan Blessing
7. Richard Sarkisian
8. Gerald Lentini

State 4-Man Team Competition

Champion: Indiana (984) – P. Arnold (238), C. Horan (243), T. Perkins (250), G. Gantt (253)

Congratulations to the golfers from the Hoosier State! Indiana claimed its 1st MDGA State Team title.

Runner-up: Illinois (999) – C. Blankenburg (237), B. Dramin (245), B. Jendra (255), C. Peckham (262)
3rd Place: Wisconsin (1011) – R. Graf (240), M. Venz (249), M. Lewis (255), J. Dyreson (267)
4th Place: Maryland (1015) – W. Tonigan (229), D. Bosworth (237), H. Larson (265), W. Downey (284)
5th Place: Minnesota (1052) – A. Gendreau (240), T. Anderson (257), D. Johnson (277), M. McAlear (278)
6th Place: Ohio (1082) – T. Tesner (260), J. Prince (270), P. Sweeney (274), T. Bachtel (278)
7th Place: Iowa (1082) – W. Sawhill (264), S. Coppock (267), D. Froehle (273), W. Miller (278)
8th Place: Michigan (1105) – D. Hovinen (231), R. Swartz (285), R. Aylesworth (293), R. Deschler (296)

Medalist – Darrell Hovinen and Robert Ritch both shot 72 in the second round.

Most Improved Golfer – Mark Venz, who improved 33 strokes (From 282 to 249)

The Medalist award goes to the golfer who shot the lowest score in the tournament. The Most Improved Golfer award goes to the golfer who improved the most from last year. Only those golfers who scored 299 or better last year are eligible for the award this year.

Golfer Shooting His Age – Wilbur Sawhill, 83 years old, shot 83 in the second round.

Regular Handicap Tournament

	HDCP	
1. Mark Venz (WI)	22	60 - 65 - 58 = 183
2. Patrick Arnold (IN)	15	66 - 63 - 64 = 193
3. Stephen Coppock (IA)	21	69 - 72 - 63 = 204
4. Greg Gantt (IN)	16	65 - 69 - 71 = 205
Bill McGee (OH)	25	68 - 72 - 65 = 205
David Buntin (WI)	42	67 - 79 - 59 = 205
7. Mark Gessinger (IN)	20	73 - 69 - 64 = 206
8. Robert Graf (WI)	11	72 - 69 - 66 = 207
Bryan Jendra (IL)	16	73 - 71 - 63 = 207
David Froehle (IA)	22	67 - 67 - 73 = 207
Richard Sarkisian (NJ)	25	70 - 70 - 67 = 207
12. William Tonigan (MD)	7	71 - 70 - 67 = 208
Terry Henderson (IN)	22	73 - 70 - 65 = 208
14. Robert Dramin (IL)	12	70 - 69 - 70 = 209
Tom Bachtel (OH)	23	70 - 69 - 70 = 209
16. Darrell Hovinen (MI)	7	71 - 65 - 74 = 210
David Costa (IL)	28	67 - 75 - 68 = 210
Robert Lawson (IA)	37	67 - 67 - 76 = 210
19. Robert Ritch (NC)	5	70 - 67 - 74 = 211
20. David Catt (IN)	24	70 - 70 - 72 = 212
21. John Kaleta (WI)	20	72 - 75 - 66 = 213
Ron Swartz (MI)	24	78 - 66 - 69 = 213
23. Chris Burhart (OH)	26	70 - 72 - 72 = 214
24. Troy Anderson (MN)	14	68 - 70 - 77 = 215
Tim Anderson (MN)	23	75 - 70 - 70 = 215
Robert Hagman (WI)	35	72 - 72 - 71 = 215
27. Mark Lewis (WI)	13	77 - 70 - 69 = 216
Edwin Carlson Jr. (IL)	24	70 - 72 - 74 = 216
Jim Todd Sr. (IL)	31	68 - 76 - 72 = 216
30. Thomas Perkins (IN)	11	70 - 71 - 76 = 217
Bobby Locke (IA)	41	76 - 80 - 61 = 217
32. Cory Horan (IN)	8	78 - 70 - 71 = 219
Lewis Fowler (KY)	19	74 - 72 - 73 = 219
Ethan Sachs (MI)	29	71 - 70 - 78 = 219
35. Wallace Riege (WI)	17	73 - 72 - 75 = 220
Joseph Otis (WI)	19	77 - 72 - 71 = 220
37. Mark McAlear (MN)	19	70 - 76 - 75 = 221
Willie Miller (IA)	19	71 - 72 - 78 = 221
Bernard Newman (NY)	22	70 - 76 - 75 = 221
Rick Aylesworth (MI)	24	72 - 74 - 75 = 221
Clayton Claiborne (IA)	28	75 - 73 - 73 = 221
42. John Dyreson (WI)	15	75 - 74 - 73 = 222
Robert Ryan (IL)	28	79 - 64 - 79 = 222
44. David Sommers (WI)	29	76 - 76 - 71 = 223
45. Charles Crandall (KY)	19	73 - 76 - 75 = 224
Barry Froehle (IA)	19	76 - 68 - 80 = 224
47. David Bosworth (MD)	4	73 - 74 - 78 = 225
Mitchell Russell (IL)	30	84 - 71 - 70 = 225
John McPhee (MN)	33	69 - 79 - 77 = 225
50. Charles Peckham (IL)	12	76 - 70 - 80 = 226
Gerald Lentini (MD)	29	85 - 70 - 71 = 226
52. Ricky Kraus (IL)	34	84 - 70 - 73 = 227
53. Curtis Blankenburg (IL)	3	75 - 72 - 81 = 228
Charles Schwan (IN)	26	76 - 73 - 79 = 228
55. Jeff Prince (OH)	13	76 - 75 - 80 = 231
Alan Kayser (MN)	31	78 - 71 - 82 = 231

Senior Handicap Tournament

	HDCP	
1. Hubert Ruessman (MI)	42	67 - 66 - 71 = 204
2. Dale Johnson (MN)	24	72 - 64 - 69 = 205
Harry Larson (MD)	20	69 - 63 - 73 = 205
4. Jim Potter (MN)	26	70 - 71 - 67 = 208
5. Lee Frazier (WI)	38	79 - 59 - 71 = 209
6. Guy Kelly (WI)	38	64 - 70 - 76 = 210
Leonard Peacock (WI)	42	65 - 70 - 75 = 210
8. David Bailey (IN)	21	72 - 70 - 69 = 211
9. Roger Dempewolf (IA)	31	73 - 65 - 74 = 212
10. Marvin Tuttle (IA)	37	71 - 74 - 69 = 214
11. Arthur Gendreau (MN)	8	72 - 71 - 73 = 216
12. Lester Arnold (TN)	24	81 - 71 - 65 = 217
13. Warren Downey (MD)	22	75 - 66 - 77 = 218
Richard Appleyard (MI)	30	70 - 73 - 75 = 218
15. Wilbur Sawhill (IA)	15	78 - 68 - 73 = 219
16. Robert Scribner (MD)	25	74 - 77 - 69 = 220
Robert Byington (WI)	32	71 - 76 - 73 = 220
18. Patrick Sweeney (OH)	17	77 - 71 - 75 = 223
Floyd Malone (TN)	25	70 - 76 - 77 = 223
20. Howard Wahl (AZ)	12	75 - 73 - 76 = 224
Patrick Cleveland (WI)	32	80 - 77 - 67 = 224
22. Delbert Boese (NE)	26	72 - 73 - 83 = 228
23. Richard Caswell (MD)	22	83 - 72 - 75 = 230
24. Ronald Deschler (MI)	21	78 - 76 - 79 = 233
Robert Wollard (MI)	34	77 - 81 - 75 = 233
26. Donald Phelps (MD)	19	83 - 77 - 75 = 235
27. Fred Sund (MN)	24	83 - 76 - 77 = 236
28. Joseph Siudzinski (IL)	35	77 - 78 - 83 = 238
29. Alex Rubiano (WI)	42	76 - 82 - 84 = 242

Notes on Handicap tournaments

Mark Venz had an outstanding performance. In 2000 through 2002, Mark's low round in MDGA tourneys was 90. His average in this tournament was 83. Patrick Arnold was the handicap runner-up. He also had an outstanding performance. His previous best score in MDGA was 85. He averaged 79 in this tournament. Dick Chadwick was right there, but hurt his back and had to withdraw from the tournament the final day.

Other than those three golfers, it was a very fair handicap competition for both regular and senior golfers. 9 (31%) senior golfers and 22 (33%) regular golfers shot even-par 213 or better.

Regular Handicap Tournament (continued)

57. Dan Kriesel (IN)	19	84 - 70 - 78 = 232
58. Tim Tesner (OH)	9	85 - 74 - 74 = 233
59. Andrew Lisac (OH)	18	81 - 69 - 84 = 234
60. Carlos Martinez (IL)	37	77 - 71 - 87 = 235
61. Mike Rentschler (NE)	21	77 - 84 - 75 = 236
Steve Kaufmann (OH)	32	80 - 85 - 71 = 236
63. Jim Butler (IL)	40	71 - 82 - 85 = 238
64. Bill Stricklen (IL)	13	82 - 81 - 76 = 239
65. Robert Lilac (NY)	28	81 - 70 - 89 = 240
Dan Blessing (OH)	37	91 - 71 - 78 = 240
67. Gary Johnson (OH)	18	81 - 81 - 80 = 242
Dick Chadwick (MN)	24	63 - 65 - WD
Stephen Blair (MI)	15	73 - WD