



## NIMAGA NOTES – MID-FEBRUARY 2018

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### **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome to 2018 - please make sure you renew soon if you have not done so already so you won't miss out on being eligible for the Spring Thaw at Gleneagles. If you have a friend who might be interested please reach out as referrals are the strongest recruiting vehicle. Our dome night is Monday, February 26 at Addison Links and Tees I hope you can join us for some pizza and plenty of golf balls to break the winter rust. We will have some raffle prizes for those attending. Speaking of raffle prizes attached are the Chicagoland Golf Show ticket winners. Thanks to all those who joined by the February deadline.

If you have any questions or issues with registration please reach out to me [fiarito98@comcast.net](mailto:fiarito98@comcast.net).

### **CHICAGO GOLF SHOW – FEB 23rd THRU Feb 25th**

Are you looking to break out of the winter doldrums and get your mind focused on golf again? If so, the Chicago Golf Show makes its 35<sup>th</sup> year appearance in Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> thru Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Over the past 35 years, the Chicago Golf Show<sup>®</sup> has grown from just a few tabletop exhibits in a hotel ballroom to one of the largest golf shows in the Midwest with over 180 vendors, a 4500 square foot demo area and special appearances from top PGA professionals. The convention center is located at 5555 N. River Road Rosemont, IL 60018. Tickets can be purchased through the website (<http://www.chicagogolfshow.com/>) or at the door. This year, NIMAGA offered a blind raffle for tickets to the Chicago Golf Show at the time of our 2018 Membership signup. The winners are:

Richard Tezak	Tim Jordan
Larry Goldberg	Mario Conte
William Schultz	Dave Lather
Ron Potocnik	Jeff Toth
Rolando Leyva	Dave Dianovsky

Have a great time at the golf show, guys!

## **NIMAGA DOME NIGHT – MONDAY, FEB 26th**

The NIMAGA season traditionally kicks off with a Dome Night and this year is no exception. Please join us for the NIMAGA Dome Night at the Addison Links and Tees, 880 West Lake Street in Addison, on Monday, February 26th beginning at 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. The cost per person is \$15.00 and that price will include pizza, soft drinks and all of the golf balls that you can hit. Come get reacquainted with your NIMAGA contestants and be sure to bring a friend who might be interested in joining.

## **NIMAGA MATCH PLAY – RENAMED AND UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

After 10 years of running the NIMAGA Match Play Tournament, Carl Movrich and George Zdarsky have decided to pass the torch onto new management. Starting in 2018, this sub-tournament running throughout the NIMAGA schedule has been renamed to honor their contributions. The C&G Match Play Tournament (standing for **Carl & George Match Play Tournament**) is now open for entries and being managed by Ray Riemer, Tim Jordan and Terry Boksha. They leave big shoes to fill and we hope we can do them justice. Visit the NIMAGA website for more details (entry forms, rules and eligibility requirements) and thanks to Carl and George for their 10 years of service.

## **CALL TO ALL MEMBERS**

NIMAGA is an organization run by volunteers. We all have a stake in keeping NIMAGA alive and flourishing. If you know someone who may be interested in tournament golf, let them know about your experience in NIMAGA. The more members we have, the more beneficial it is to everyone.

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

### **MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE - 9/22/2017**

FINAL RESULTS - MCPLA 61 ½    NIMAGA 34 ½

Tough day for NIMAGA north of the border but this event is not entirely about golf but about the competition in this Ryder Cup format and the friendships that have developed over the years.

I want to start out by thanking everyone that participated in the event. I especially appreciate those who signed up early to make it easier on me to get the team together. Fortunately, there was a lot of interest this year. Hopefully we get the same enthusiasm next year. While it didn't turn out the way we wanted, hopefully everyone had fun competing.

A lot of people had a hand in planning and organizing the event. I appreciate all who helped spread the word about the Milwaukee Challenge to garner interest, especially to new members. Jim Cuny has done a great job running this event for quite a while. He helped me out

along the way, explaining what needed to be done and who I needed to contact. Frank Fiarito did a lot of recruiting and collected all the entries and checks. Dan Plens did the designs for both the towel gift and the hats we wore for the competition. They look awesome! Sal Lombardi got us the towels at cost. Brian Alberts helped me do the handicaps and send group emails. Shawn Pipes, in addition to getting us the course layout, sent many group emails and posted a bunch of stuff on the website for me. Jeff Toth made sure all the payments for the hats, towels, and the event itself were taken care of promptly so that everything went off as planned. Mike Zdarsky passed out hats for me on the day of the Milwaukee Challenge. Thanks to all the others, Ray Riemer, Shawn Pipes, Jerome Johnson, and Dennis Samoska, who all volunteered to lend a hand on the day of the event. Thanks to Mark Heinsohn for buying me my first beer after coming in from the course. It made tallying the results afterwards just a little more bearable.

John Haeflinger from MCPLA is my counterpart on the Wisconsin side. He also helped explain how things worked and what needed to be done. He prepared all the scorecards for us. Bill Rogers and his staff from Evergreen Country Club hosted our event and had the course in great condition. They did an excellent job on the event and meal afterwards. Bringing out water to all the golfers on the course on the unexpectedly hot September day was a nice touch. As you can see, a lot goes into planning this event. It is made much easier though, by everyone helping out, and I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts. I apologize if I forgot anyone.

I believe this is a great event, regardless of the outcome, and hope everyone enjoyed themselves. If anyone has any ideas about the event that they think would make it better, or help us please compete better, please let me know. See you all next year!

Tom O'Brien

## **NIMAGA MATCH PLAY - 2017 FINAL MATCH RESULTS**

The final matches of the **2017 NIMAGA Match Play Tournament** were played last Sunday at the historical and challenging Calumet Country Club in Homewood. The four finalists earned their way to the Finals this day by winning their previous four matches, and the right to compete for their respective Division's MPT Championship on this beautiful course at no cost to them. Both matches were played from the white tees, and were preceded by six fellow NIMAGA members who competed in their own mini-match tournament. The day was sunny and very hot, yet the course was in immaculate condition to set the stage for the final two matches of this 10th edition of the season long MPT.

In the Hogan Division, **Larry Zakosek**, playing in his first MPT Finals, beat **Dennis Samoska** 1 Up in a highly contested match that went the entire 18 holes. Larry was really only challenged once in getting to the Finals when he snuck by last year's finalist James Kotula in sudden death in the quarter-finals. Dennis got here by overcoming Rick Ivonavitch, also in sudden death in the semi-finals. Larry has had numerous good performances in MPT's in the past, but never like this year. Larry played smart and steady golf all day to distinguish himself with his first MPT Championship. Dennis, always a tough competitor, played fearlessly, and had to fight back all

day giving up 10 strokes, and incredibly took Larry to the final hole before accepting defeat and exemplifying great sportsmanship.

After the 14th hole in the Jones Division, the consummate gentleman, **Dan Plens** had **John Snow** "dormie". The fiercely competitive and former MPT Champion **John Snow** wasn't done yet though. On the 15th hole, knowing he had to **win** the final four holes to keep the match alive, drained a **60'** putt to almost assuredly win that hole. Dan couldn't believe it, but shook it off, and calmly stepped up to his 20 footer and sank it for the half and a 4 & 3 victory! Dan's wild fist pump after the putt dropped was the perfect exclamation mark on this match. There were a lot of great shots in this match, including John holing out on his second effort from a sand trap to par a hole to beat Dan. Dan had his best friend Jan along to watch the competition, and was very emotional in winning his first MPT Championship. Not only did his emotion tell what this victory meant to **Dan Plens**, but it also signifies what the NIMAGA Match Play Tournament is all about!

Congratulations to **Larry Zakosek** and **Dan Plens** for an outstanding tournament! They will each be rewarded with a \$135 NIMAGA Certificate, Championship plaque, and received the gratis round of golf at Calumet, and a qualification for last month's NPC. For finishing in second place, **Dennis Samoska** and **John Snow** each will receive an \$85 NIMAGA Certificate, and also got the qualification for the NPC.

Also winning NIMAGA Certificates in the tournament were:

Semi-Finalists (\$43 each)

**William Schultz**

**Rick Ivonavitch**

**Steve Schumm**

**Jeff Lyman**

The final brackets and pictures from Calumet Country Club are attached. Carl Movrich won the mini-match play tournament on Sunday, and Tim Prentiss came in second. There is no doubt all 10 players enjoyed the competition and beauty on this Donald Ross designed course. Special thanks to NIMAGA and Calumet member Bill Walsh for making the arrangements. Thanks also to Shawn Pipes for his timely updates on the NIMAGA website this and every year.

In 2008, with the full support of then NIMAGA President John Brdecka, we created the **Match Play Tournament For NIMAGA Members**. The MPT became a sanctioned NIMAGA Tournament in 2014 under the guidance of current President Frank Fiarito, and was renamed **NIMAGA Match Play Tournament**. John and Frank have been most instrumental in encouraging us to make this the best match play tournament we could for our great organization...**NIMAGA!** After 10 years, we feel we have, and are ready now to turn it over to two new Directors who we think can take it to even greater heights. We hope that all of you who have participated in the MPT over the past 10 years have enjoyed it as much as we have running it. With over 600 matches, some great Finals venues, and 19 deserving Champions, we feel pretty good on what we have accomplished, and hope that this season long Tournament will continue on for many years to come. We appreciate everyone who has helped out and supported us with our mission.

Sincerely - Carl Movrich & George Zdarsky

Date	Day	Tournament Name	Golf Course
Apr. 14	Sat.	Spring Thaw	Gleneagles
Apr. 30	Mon.	April Midweek	Seven Bridges Golf Club
May 5	Sat.	May Jamboree	Hughes Creek GC (Player & Palmer)
			Bloomingtondale GC (Trevino)
May 9	Wed.	May Midweek	Arrowhead GC
May 22	Tue.	NIMAGA Cup (Qualify)	Bowes Creek GC
June 3	Sun.	Summer Classic	Inwood GC
June 12	Tue.	June Midweek	Chalet Hills GC
June 25	Mon.	Senior Open (Age 50+)	St. Andrews Golf and CC
Jul. 14	Sat.	NIMAGA Club Championship	Blackberry Oaks GC
Jul. 15	Sun.		Golf Club of Illinois
July 26	Thu.	July Midweek	Orchard Valley GC
Aug. 12	Sun.	August Classic	Old Orchard CC
Aug. 15	Wed.	August Midweek	Village Greens of Woodridge
Sep. 8	Sat.	Patriots Day Classic	Prairie Bluff GC
Sep. 15	Sat.	NIMAGA Players Championship (Qualify)	Naperbrook
Sep. 16	Sun.		
Sep. 22	Sat.	Milwaukee Challenge (Limited)	Bristol Oaks GC
Oct. 7	Sun.	Two-Man Better Ball	Steeple Chase GC

## **2018 Schedule**

Entry is due 2 weeks before each event date