

Spring Shootout 2024

Inside the outstanding golf movie Bagger Vance (2000) is that wonderful quote by Bagger to Rannulph Junnah about the game we all love so much:

“Inside each and every one
of us is one true authentic swing...
Somethin' we was born with...
Somethin' that's ours and ours alone”

Watching today's Shootout I could not help but think about that quote and the movie as we watched ten of our league brothers participating in this event which exemplifies the best of our game. Even though there was one big winner at the end, everyone who played was indeed a winner that transforms the game for all of us who watch each round of a Shootout experience.



Today, we had eleven golfers who earned the right to participate in the top ten category of shootout leaderboard points. Pat Wood, John Holzinger, Tony Arcaro, Jack Hinsch, Rich Kawa, Greg Wynn, Eli Smith, Tom Driscoll, Bob Schwarzlow, Bob Aiken and Joe Dresnok. It was a beautiful afternoon with temperatures around 81° with a light ocean breeze invigorating our group.

Hole #10, par 4, 342/310 yds.

With eleven golfers playing there was obviously a tie in points, so an arrangement was created to eliminate two golfers on the first hole of play. Pat Wood drove first shooting a long drive into fairway. Unfortunately, his second shot

was misaligned, and he placed it into the water. After taking a drop, he had a flop shot in front of the green and putt out with "an around the world" holing for a six. John Holzinger also had a long drive shooting a second shot to the edge of the green apron then chipping to within three feet of the pin, missing his fourth shot just past the hole and holing out with a five. Tony Arcaro had the longest drive of the hole making the green in two and putting out in four. Jack Hinsch had a drive that took him to the fairway bunker, but his second shot made it out to within 80 yards of the pin. His third shot was short of the green, his chip brought the ball to two feet from the pin, missing the put on five and holing out with a six. Rich Kawa had a straight-on drive and worked his way to the green in three strokes placing his ball two feet from the pin, but he missed the hole with his fourth shot and holed out with a five. Greg Wynn's opening drive went toward the bunker also, but he had a long second shot placing his ball 30 yds. From the pin. He had some difficulty getting his ball up close and missed a putt earning a six on this hole. Eli Smith made it to the green in regulation and was putting at ten feet from the pin. He had a mis-putt and holed out in five. Bob Schwarzlow had a long straight opening drive and finished the hole in six. Bob Aiken had a nice drive into the fairway but had some issues with his approach shots to get onto the green; he completed this hole with an eight. Joe Dresnok also had a nice drive and approached the green very well, but he chipped a long ball across the green and had a long putt to follow. He eventually completed the hole with a six. Tom "Quick Draw" Driscoll wasted no time setting up and shooting his drive making the green in three putting a six-footer to the hole and holing out with a six. Since two golfers needed to be eliminated a seven-way chip off was conducted and Bob Aiken and Joe Dresnok were dropped.

Pat Wood 6/5, John Holzinger 5/4, Tony Arcaro 4/3, Jack Hinsch 6/5, Rich Kawa 5/4 Greg Wynn 6/5, Eli Smith 5/5, Tom Driscoll 6/4, Bob Schwarzlow 6/5, Bob Aiken 8/7, Joe Dresnok 6/5.

Hole #11, par 5, 486/423 yds

The first to shoot was Tony Arcaro who played from the white tees. His drive was a hook to the left into the pond. His third shot was a long ball as was his fourth shot but he had some issues getting onto the green and missing a three foot putt. He holed out with a nine. Pat Wood once again hit a long drive into the center fairway and followed that up with another long ball, but he had a flop shot which placed his ball above the greenside bunker on the hill. His fourth shot was a chip over the trap followed by a short chip to the green rolling to within six inches of the hole completing the hole with a six. John Holzinger had a long-centered drive with a second shot that placed him on a sprinkler head in front of the green. After adjusting this with Billy VanArdsdale he placed his ball midway onto the green, about 70 feet from the pin. He followed this up with a ten-foot putt and another to within six feet holing out with a six. Jack Hinsch had a series of difficulties on this hole with a lost ball in the pond to the left, then a re-tee of the ball placing his ball about fifty feet from the fairway bunker on the right. He then had a series of

mishits completing the hole with an eight. Rich Kawa completed the hole with a six after having some excellent shots from his drive to approaching the green. He was four inches short of par and ended up with a bogey. Greg Wynn also finished this hole with a six after a misfired second shot but eventually putting to within six inches of the hole. Eli Smith had a bogey on this hole as well after hitting an excellent drive and follow-up shot he was twenty-five yards from the pin and placed his ball onto the green with a great chip, but the ball rolled off the green on the other side. He recovered nicely with the bogey. Tom Driscoll took no prisoners on the hole keeping his shots dead center and eventually putting to within one foot of the pin. He finished #11 with a five. Bob Schwarzlow also had a bogey on this hole after hitting some straight shots, a bunker visit and a chip that stopped short of the green edge. He was twenty feet from the pin and he holed out with a six. Unfortunately, Tony Arcaro was eliminated at this point and the field shrunk to eight golfers.

Pat Wood 6/5, John Holzinger 6/5, Tony Arcaro 9/8, Jack Hinsch 8/7, Rich Kawa 6/5, Greg Wynn 6/5, Eli Smith 6/5, Tom Driscoll 5/4, Bob Schwarzlow 6/5.

Hole #12, par 4, 279/238 yds.

#12 is the short par four on the back nine and it can be an easy hole, or a problem based on how one places their opening shot. Pat Wood once again had a beautiful long drive. His second shot was short of the green and his third shot was 40 yds and went to one foot from the pin. He made par on this hole. John Holzinger had another long drive and made the green in two. His third shot was a putt from about 70 feet from the pin stopping at about eight feet from the flag. He had a missed putt to below the pin by two feet and another miss holing out with a six. Jack Hinsch had a nice opening drive and placed his second shot short of the green. His third shot was a chip that placed the ball about thirty feet from the pin and missed the next putt by two feet from the hole. He also made par. Rich Kawa had a good drive, but his second shot popped into the right greenside bunker. He got out of the bunker with a short shot placing the ball onto the long grass above the green. His next shot rolled the ball to the other side of the green through Jim Golomb's leg's (*who enjoyed the experience!!*). He completed the hole with a six. Greg Wynn made par on the hole after a nice straight drive and a pop fly to the green placing his ball within five feet of the pin. He missed the birdie opportunity but picked up the four easily. Eli Smith had a drive that veered left into the waste bunker. His second shot removed him from this area to about forty yds. From the pin. Unfortunately, his third shot was too long, and the over hit ended up in the trees in back of the green. He completed the hole with a seven. Bob Schwarzlow had a nice long drive and a second shot placing the ball with ten feet of the green. His third shot was with a putter placing the ball about two feet from the pin. He missed his fourth shot to one foot from the pin and finished it with a five. Tom Driscoll had another great opening shot with a second shot that went into the

right greenside bunker. He was able to get out of the trap to about three feet from the pin completing the hole with a six. Eli Smith was eliminated.

Pat Wood 4/3, John Holzinger 6/6, Jack Hinsch 4/3, Rich Kawa 6/5, Greg Wynn 4/4, Eli Smith 7/7, Tom Driscoll 6/5, Bob Schwarzlow 5/5.

Hole #13, par 4, 351/312 yds.

Pat Wood was eliminated on this hole after displaying his prowess to make long powerful drives. His opening shot here was well over the hill that adorns the center of the fairway. His second shot was not aligned correctly and ended up on the right side of the fairway, greenside, near the traps. Unfortunately, his next shot went into the trap in front of his previous shot. He was able to get out but had some difficulty putting completing the hole with a seven. John Holzinger earned a par on this hole after also hitting a long drive placing his ball about 140 yds from the pin. He made the green and had a twenty-foot putt to finish the hole. Jack Hinsch had a nice drive into the center placing his ball about 180 yds from the pin. Using his fairway wood, he brought his ball to the edge before the right greenside trap and followed through with careful putts earning a five for the hole. Rich Kawa placed his drive about 176 yds from the pin at the crest of the fairway hill. His next ball was brought to the left side before the left greenside trap. He chipped on and had a ten-foot putt earning a bogey on the hole. Greg Wynn drove his ball to the right side of the fairway short of the fairway traps. He had a long ball placed within sixty yds of the pin. He finished with a six. Bob Schwarzlow had a long opening drive to about 200 yds from the pin just shy of the hill crest. He had excellent successive shots to the green and putt out for a five. Tom Driscoll earned a six on this hole after two excellent long shots placing his ball at 60 yds from this pin, but a mishit flopped the ball thirty yds from the pin. He putts out with a six.

Pat Wood 7/6, John Holzinger 4/3, Jack Hinsch 5/4, Rich Kawa 5/4, Tom Driscoll 6/4, Bob Schwarzlow 5/4

Hole #14, par 3, 120/100 yds.

Then there were six golfers left in our competition. The first to take on this challenging par 3 was John Holzinger who made the green in regulation until the ball rolled off to the left side off the green. He had a misfire on his chip and was able to chip again earning a five after putting into the hole. Jack Hinsch placed his ball mid fairway. His second shot was a pop up to the front of the green. He took putts to earn a four. Rich Kawa had a similar result as John Holzinger's opening drive. His ball sat in the depression on the left off the green. He eventually moved the ball to a four for the hole. Greg Wynn had a short ball to the left but placed the ball onto the green and earning par for the hole. Bob Schwarzlow made the green in regulation and his ball stayed put in the center depression of the green. He completed this hole with a three. Tom Driscoll hit his

ball into the front bunker, but he moved it out on his second shot to the side of the green. He then had a rolling chip to the other side of the green putting out to within one foot of the pin earning a five. John Holzinger was eliminated at this point.

John Holzinger 5/5, Jack Hirsch 4/4, Rich Kawa 5/4, Greg Wynn 3/3, Tom Driscoll 5/4, Bob Schwarzlow 3/3

Hole #15, par 4, 375/328 yds

Jack Hirsch began things on this hole with a drive that veered to the right side of the fairway. He had some difficulty following up with a flop shot still remaining on the right side of the fairway in the rough. After his third shot he placed the ball into the approach path to the green and holed out with a six. Rich Kawa earned par on this hole with successive long balls and controlled focused putting expertise. Greg Wynn drove to the tree line left side of the fairway, but he was able to move the ball on his second shot into the center of the fairway 120 yds from the pin. His third shot went past the pin, but his fourth putt brought the ball to within eight inches from the hole, finishing with a 6. Tom Driscoll earned a seven on this hole after having some issues with his shots entering and exiting the greenside trap. A four-way chip off followed with Tom Driscoll being eliminated.

Jack Hirsch 6/5, Rich Kawa 4/3, Greg Wynn 6/5, Tom Driscoll 7/5, Bob Schwarzlow 6/5

Hole #16 par 4, 343/301 yds

The hole with the plateau continues to be a challenging hole for all golfers. Jack Hirsch demonstrated this as he had a nice opening drive that brought his ball to 170 yds from the pin. His next shot fell at the base of the ridge getting onto the green on his third shot. He had a fifty-foot putt but it stopped two feet from the hole, causing him to hole out with a six. Rich Kawa had a great center drive and made the green in regulation. He had a seventy-foot putt to eight feet from the pin and placed his par putt neatly into the hole. Greg Wynn veered right on his drive placing him about 152 yds from the pin. His second shot went right near the cart path and his third shot made the plateau ridge above the greenside right bunker. He had a thirty-foot putt but completed the hole with a six. Bob Schwarzlow found his opening drive in the waste bunker on the left. But he moved his second shot to within yards of the pin allowing him to make the green in three and putting out with a five. A two-way chip-off occurred between Jack Hirsch and Greg Wynn with Greg being eliminated.

Jack Hirsch 6/5, Rich Kawa 4/3, Greg Wynn 6/5, Bob Schwarzlow 5/4

Hole #17, par 3, 137/130 yds

This hole is a long par three with intricate issues every time we play it. The pin was placed in the center of the depression in the green. All three golfers did an admirable performance of teeing off onto the green area. Jack ended up thirty feet from the pin in the back of the green. Rich rolled off the back of the green to about forty feet from the pin, and Bob had a drive that went to the extreme left fading back onto the edge of the left side of the green. Each golfer made par with exactly focused putts. Unfortunately, this caused a chip off between all three and Bob Schwarzlow (who had an outstanding performance throughout the round) was eliminated.

Jack Hinsch 3/2, Rich Kawa 3/2, Bob Schwarzlow 3/2

Hole #18, par 5, 466/417 yds



And now there were two golfers remaining on “survivor island” here at Grand Haven. The winner of the preceding two shootouts looking to add a third successive championship, Jack “The Hammer” Hinsch, and his challenger- and friend- Rich “The Lover” Kawa.

The opening drive from the white tees saw Jack’s ball going to the left off the cart path and bouncing toward the fairway sand trap landing in the center. Rich drove his ball short of the same trap landing in the swale before the bunker. Rich took the next shot out of the swale with his fairway wood hitting a long ball into the center of the fairway approximately 60 feet from the oak tree. Jack used a long iron to remove his ball from the trap, but it struck the rim of the bunker on the way out deflecting it to the center but losing distance. Jack hit his third shot as a long ball into

the center of the fairway away from the tree and in line with the green. Rich attempted to hit his ball over or under the oak tree, but the ball went directly into the upper branches of the tree miraculously finding a path through and landing on the green about thirty feet from the pin. Jack hit his next shot, but it veered to the left into the left greenside bunker. Jack shot his fifth shot to get out of the bunker, but it stopped on top, short of the green. Rich putt his fourth stroke towards the hole and was able to par the hole. Jack conceded the hole allowing Rich to earn **“The Fickle Finger of Fate”** the desired trophy of every MGA golfer, to become the winner of the Spring Shootout 2024.

Congratulations to all the golfers that played today, and especially the gentlemen that were caddies, Jim Golomb, Lee Figliuolo, Jim Byrne, Larry Geiser, Al Aldecoa, Steve Samuel, Frank Large, Otto Bohmueller, Carl Zimmermann, Mike O'Brien, Eric Hesperheide, Richard Frank. Also, to club pro Billy Van Ardsdale, MGA President David Neely, and MGA Treasurer Jan Marsh.

