

2012

Middle-Amateur Championship



Chester Valley Golf Club
Malvern, Pa.
May 23-24

Course Information

Par: 35-35= 70

Yardage: 6,702

Course Architects: Perry Maxwell/George Fazio

Opened: 1923

Web site: www.chestervalleygc.org



Directions

From Philadelphia: Take 76 West to 202 South and follow to Frazer exit (Route 401). Turn right and get into left lane. At first traffic light, turn left onto Moores Road. Bear left onto Church Road. First intersection is Church and Swedesford Road. Turn right onto Swedesford Road. Club is on left, parking lot on right.

From New Jersey: Take Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 326 (Valley Forge). Follow signs to 202 South. Take 202 South. to Frazer exit (Route 401). Turn right and get into left lane. At first traffic light, turn left onto Moores Road. Bear left onto Church Road. First intersection is Church and Swedesford Road. Turn right onto Swedesford Road. Club is on left, parking lot on right.

From Delaware: Take 202 North to Frazer Exit (Route 401). Turn right and get into left lane. At first traffic light, turn left onto Moores Road. Bear left onto Church Road. First intersection is Church and Swedesford Road. Turn right onto Swedesford Road. Club is on left, parking lot on right.

Contact Information

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Superintendent: David Visocan

Director of Competitions: Kirby Martin
Director of Operations: Martin D. Emeno, Jr.
Tournament Director: Chris Roselle
Assistant Director of Communications: Tony Regina

2012 Conditions of Play

Entries

Open to Member Club golfers who are 25 years of age and over with a USGA Handicap Index of 7.0 or lower.

Field

132; consists of exempt players entered and those who qualify at the Mid-Amateur Championship Qualifiers held at Wedgwood Country Club April 26 and Bellewood Golf Club May 2.

Format

36-hole individual gross stroke play, two day event. With a cut after the first day to the low 70 and ties. In the event of a tie, there will be a four-hole aggregate playoff for Championship. Second place ties will receive duplicate prizes, prize money to be split. All other ties to be split evenly.

Practice rounds

Practice Rounds are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after 1 p.m. and Saturday after 2 p.m. Participants must call 610-644-2594 to schedule a tee time. The practice round fee is \$30. Players are required to take a cart. Payment options are reciprocal charge. Food and beverage accepts credit card or reciprocal charge.

Rules of Play

Local rules sheets will be distributed to each participant on the day of the tournament. Automotive transportation is permitted in this event.

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To view tee times for the Middle-Amateur Championship, visit
<http://www.ghintpp.com/gap/TPPOnlineScoring/Pairings.aspx?id=213>.

Mercer Oaks' Smeraglio seizes 2011 Mid-Am title

MT. LAUREL, N.J. — It's been a decade of heartbreaks for Glenn Smeraglio when it comes to the Mid-Am. Eight times in the prior 10 years he's finished in the Top 11 with no victories, including a second-place showing in 2002. At a challenging Laurel Creek CC (par 71, 6,704 yards), Smeraglio made certain this year's Middle-Amateur Championship wouldn't get away.

The 51-year-old Newtown, Pa. resident played his last 10 holes in 4-under par to surge past the Day 1 leaders, post a final-round 69 and clinch his first, and long awaited, Middle-Amateur title. He finished at 2-under (140 total). Andy Achenbach of RiverCrest GC & Preserve posted a spectacular final-round 66, the tournament's low score, to finish a stroke back in second. Chip Lutz of LedgeRock GC and Michael Hyland of Little Mill CC tied for third at even par. Defending Mid-Am Champion Tom Gramigna of Tavistock CC tied for 12th place.

"I'm very excited. I finally got a Mid-Am. It's been a long time," said Smeraglio. "I've been near the lead pack a bunch of years in row and never got the job done. Someone's always done better. It was my turn today."

Smeraglio cited a par save on No. 8 (par 4, 366 yards) as the genesis for his dramatic late-round push. His 122-yard wedge shot bounced long and to the back of the green complex, leaving a difficult 50-foot birdie chance. His first putt stopped 10-feet short, but Smeraglio converted the ensuing par save to get things going.

"[My approach] went all the way to the back of the green," he said. "I'd been struggling with my longer putts all day, the last two days actually. I putted it and again left it 10 feet short. [My playing partner] Lou Giovi made a great putt [on my line] that didn't go in. Mine trickled in and I thought at that point maybe something can happen. I hit it close on No. 9 for an eagle [try] and missed it but I hit a good putt. I birdied No. 10 and that was the start of good things. It was more on the eighth than the 10th hole that started [the momentum]."

Smeraglio, who works in financial planning, trailed leaders Hyland and Ryan McCarty, also a Little Mill CC member, by three strokes at that point.



Glenn Smeraglio

However, as the wind kept steady and the pressure of a Major reared its head, Smeraglio was getting started. He went on a birdie bonanza on holes 13-15 to, in essence, seal his fate. On No. 13 (par 4, 397 yards) he punched a 7-iron from 152 yards to six feet. He followed that with another punch 7-iron on No. 14 (par 3, 165 yards) that, too, stopped a short distance away. On No. 15 (par 5, 521 yards), after almost losing his drive in the rough, Smeraglio found his ball, regained his composure and lifted a sand wedge from 88 yards, to eight feet.

This was Smeraglio's third Major win. He won the 1998 and 2008 Patterson Cup and is a three-time Silver Cross winner.

"To win another Major is big for me," said Smeraglio. "For an old guy it's not too bad. I like to compete and still think I can compete with everyone. I held my own this week. It's good to get a W."

Achenbach, 38, of Royersford, Pa. almost pulled the ultimate sneak attack.

"I can't complain about anything today. I got lucky a lot of times finding my ball," said Achenbach. "Obviously with the way I hit it and how little I've played this year I can't complain about a thing. I wish I was one or two better, though."

2011 Championship Results

- 140 — Glenn Smeraglio, Mercer Oaks Golf Course
 141 — Andy Achenbach, RiverCrest GC & Preserve
 142 — Chip Lutz, LedgeRock GC; Michael Hyland, Little Mill CC
 144 — Douglas Zelner, Coatesville CC; Ryan McCarty, Little Mill CC
 145 — Matthew Mattare, Saucon Valley CC
 146 — John Brennan, Spring Ford CC; Michael Brown, Lookaway GC; Jamie Slonis, Tavistock CC; Brian Gillespie, St. Davids GC
 147 — Michael McDermott, Merion GC; Thomas Gramigna, Tavistock CC
 148 — Peter Barron, III; Stone Harbor GC; Stephen Seiden, Llanerch CC
 149 — Marc Mandel, Philadelphia Cricket Club; Chris Hynoski, Mercer Oaks GC
 150 — William McGuinness, Tavistock CC; Matthew Walsh, Overbrook GC; David West, Whitford CC; Ray Pyontek, Mercer Oaks GC; Louis Givi, Old York CC at Chesterfield
 151 — Geoffrey Cooper, Laurel Creek CC; Kenneth Matt, Philadelphia Publincs GA; James Donnelly, Merion GC; William Jeremiah, Bidermann GC; Michael Moffat, Five Ponds GC
 152 — Scott McLaughlin, Commonwealth National GC; Kyle Davis, Fieldstone GC; James Gillespie, Wedgwood CC; Sean Leonard, Tavistock CC; Robert Cunningham, Overbrook GC
 153 — Dan Pickering, Indian Valley CC; Chris Lange, Jr., Overbrook GC; Tom DiCinti, Links GC; David Smith, Doylestown CC; Rodney James, Five Ponds GC; Robert Good, Merion GC; Joseph Russo, Running Deer GC
 154 — Ryan Gelrod, Commonwealth National GC; Anthony Martire, Seaview Resort & Spa; Tom Spano, Llanerch CC; Robert Bechtold, Loch Nairn GC; Christopher Lange, Overbrook GC; Michael LaGrasso, Little Mill CC; Tim Freeh, Back Creek GC
 155 — Oscar Mestre, Overbrook GC
 156 — Daniel Feeney, Philadelphia Cricket Club; Scott Klee, Indian Valley CC; Tom Borsello, White Clay Creek CC; Todd Vonderheid, Huntsville GC; Matthew Finger, Wedgwood CC; Jim Rattigan, Schuylkill CC; P. Chet Walsh, Philadelphia CC
 157 — Brian Kenny, Greate Bay CC
 158 — Michael Rose, Meadowlands CC
 159 — Gregg Angelillo, Moselem Springs GC; Lee Cook, Laurel Creek CC; Arthur Kania, Jr., Merion GC;
 160 — Andrew Dietz, Laurel Creek CC; Christopher Ault, Mercer Oaks; Steven Budenz, Mercer Oaks; Michael Quinn, Edgmont CC
 161 — Alan Lazzarino, Loch Nairn GC; Lance Oberparleiter, Little Mill CC
 163 — John Murphy, II, Wildwood G&CC; Rich Pruchnik, West Chester G&CC
 164 — Ed Chylinski, Chester Valley GC
 165 — Gil Moniz, Jr., Running Deer GC
 166 — Thomas Hyland, Little Mill CC
 167 — Fred Jones, Merion GC
 170 — Joe Frey, Edgmont CC



Bill Jeremiah, 2010 Middle-Amateur Runner-Up

Day 1 Results

Brian Gillespie of St. Davids Golf Club carded a 4-under-par 67 to emerge as the first round leader by two strokes.

The cut line for the low 70 players and ties fell to 80. A total of 74 players of the 125 advanced to Day 2.

Championship History

The Golf Association of Philadelphia's Middle-Amateur started in 1984, three years after the USGA created the U.S. Mid-Am as a formal championship for post-college amateurs. The Association followed suit with the USGA in creating a Mid.-Am., but initially differed in its administration of the tournament in a couple of respects.

The most obvious difference was the age requirement. Prior to 2001, the GAP Middle-Amateur Championship was for players 30 years of age and older. The organization's Executive Committee reviewed and revised that age requirement in 2001 to match the USGA's guidelines of 25 years of age or older for eligible players.

Also at that point, the Committee changed the format of the event to a two-day stroke play tournament (instead of a one-day medal play event) with a cut to the low 70 players and ties after the first round. The field begins with 132 players. Players must have a GAP/USGA Handicap Index of 7.0 or lower.

The Middle-Amateur Championship is the first Major of the Association's tournament season. It is a William Hyndman, III Player of the Year points event. To be included in the Middle-Amateur field, players must either earn an exemption or advance through one of two qualifiers held prior to the championship proper.

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club hosted the inaugural Middle-Amateur Championship. Member Gene Maginnis, Jr. won with a score of 72.

Past Champions (name, club, score, venue)

- 1984: Gene Maginnis, Jr., Whitemarsh Valley CC — 72, Whitemarsh Valley
- 1985: Gary Daniels, Chester Valley GC — 70, Torresdale-Frankford CC
- 1986: David Brookreson, Huntingdon Valley CC — 70, Indian Valley CC
- 1987: Robert Levy, Philmont CC — 70, Old York Road CC
- 1988: David Brookreson, Huntingdon Valley CC — 71, Sunnybrook GC
- 1989: Thomas F. Dillon, Jr., Yardley CC — 74, Chester Valley GC
- 1990: Chris Terebesi, Chester Valley GC — 72, Philadelphia Cricket Club
- 1991: Mark Douglas, Spring Ford CC — 70, Spring Ford CC
- 1992: *John Elder, Jr., Little Mill CC — 77, Doylestown CC
- 1993: *Carl Everett, Merion GC — 75, Philmont CC (North)
- 1994: Michael Tash, Atlantic City CC — 70, Meadowlands CC
- 1995: Michael Rose, Philmont CC — 68, Bent Creek CC
- 1996: Richard Umani, Sakima CC — 69, Spring Ford CC
- 1997: Frank McFadden, Overbrook GC — 70, Overbrook GC
- 1998: Chip Lutz, Berkshire CC — 68, Talamore at Oak Terrace CC
- 1999: Neil Gordon, Philmont CC — 71, Indian Valley CC
- 2000: Darrell Clayton, Cavaliers CC — 72, Jericho National GC
- 2001: Michael McDermott, Llanerch CC — 76-72-148, Coatesville CC
- 2002: Oscar Mestre, Jr., Overbrook GC — 72-69-141, Chester Valley GC
- 2003: Robert Savarese, Jr., Philadelphia Cricket Club — 69-71-140, Philadelphia Cricket Club (Wissahickon)
- 2004: Michael McDermott, Llanerch CC — 69-70-139, Gulph Mills GC
- 2005: Chris Lange, Overbrook GC — 71-74-145, Spring Mill CC
- 2006: Chris Lange, Overbrook GC — 71-77-148, Commonwealth National GC
- 2007: Chip Lutz, LedgeRock GC — 70-70-140, Stonewall (North)
- 2008: Michael McDermott, Merion GC — 69-75-144, Fieldstone GC
- 2009: *Michael Brown, Philadelphia Publinks GA — 71-73-144, Tavistock CC
- 2010: Thomas Gramigna, Tavistock CC — 70-67-137, Philadelphia Cricket Club (Militia Hill)
- 2011: Glenn Smeraglio, Mercer Oaks GC — 71-69-140, Laurel Creek CC

* Won in playoff

Michael McDermott holds a record three Middle-Amateur titles.

