

## **MGA Fall/Winter Shootout April 24th, 2025**

To paraphrase a popular science-fiction television show: “The golf course, the final frontier. This is the story of the MGA Fall-Winter Shootout and its seasonal competition to determine the winner of the coveted ‘Fickle Finger of Fate Award. ’ No mere mortal can achieve this great honor; only the best, the brightest, and the most daring and competent dare to walk onto the fairway of this competition.”

Daydreaming aside, today we had another exciting shootout showcasing some intriguing golfers' athletic skills and drinking abilities. These gentlemen earned this honor by achieving the highest scores in the shootout competition over the last four months. Congratulations to all.



L-R) Greg Wynn, Jack Hinsch, Ken Moffa, Mike O'Brien, John Rybacki, Pat Wood, Tony Blackmore, Jan Marsh, Frank Large, Tony Arcaro

Among them, we have the jovial yet ubiquitous **Tony Arcaro**, who has been winning tournaments galore within the league and throughout the club. His long drives and accurate short game pose a challenge to the other golfers in the competition. Playing as his competitor is his partner in crime and golf, **Pat Wood**, who is a strategically competent and proficient golfer. His drives are powerful, and his short game is intimidating. We also have **Tony Blackmore**, who nearly achieved the shootout trophy in the fall from Al Aldecoa. His game is stunning, making him an outstanding competitor. **Greg Wynn** is not a newcomer to the shootout; he has a steady, relaxed swing and a long drive that can be intimidating to others. Then we have the grandmaster of this competition, **Jack "The Hammer" Hinsch**, who has won the coveted trophy four times in the past and stands to reckon with the title of the "Five Timer Champion" of the Shootout. **Jan Marsh** also has a competitive game that is steady, patient, and focused, making him a potential threat to Jack's dreams. **Ken Moffa** is the secret weapon of the pack. While he has a cautious playing style, he can hit a steady, straight ball and achieve some dramatic putts when needed. And let's not forget the luck of the Irish with **Mike O' Brien**, who has an outstanding game. Yesterday, he had the highest game score in the Individual Stableford and the lowest net score. Mike is a constant threat to this pack. And speaking of the fires of competition, we have our own fireman of golf, **Frank Large**, who is not only large but also a dramatically competent player with long drives, a challenging short game, and a putting style that puts Betty Crocker to shame. Lastly, we have another major challenger in this competition in **John Rybacki**. Anyone who has played with John in recent weeks knows that he is a very competent golfer with a cautious, steady game plan from the outset. He has a clean, straight drive, a good short game, and can putt up a storm. This is the cast of characters that will drive our competition.

On with the show!

#### Hole #10:

All ten of our golfers had excellent starts, with Tony Arcaro hitting the longest drive, placing him 82 yards from the pin. He chipped onto the green with his second shot, putting out in four. John Rybacki finished the hole with a five, shooting straight through the fairway, staying out of trouble, and getting on the green in three. Pat Wood had a nice opening drive, placing him about 160 yards from the pin, but his second shot sliced into the water. After taking a drop, he was able to get onto the green but finished the hole with a seven. Tony Blackmore also had a nice drive, placing him 138 yards from the pin, but his second shot also entered the water at the base of the green. He finished the hole with a six, as did everyone else playing the hole. Unfortunately, Pat Wood was eliminated.

#### Hole #11:

Tony Arcaro once again attempted to showcase his long driving skills, but this shot veered to the left into the rough between the sand traps. His second shot from the

rough landed in the water , as did his fourth, making the green in six and finishing with a seven; a double bogey. Tony Blackmore had a nice drive, placing him about 240 yards from the green in the rough. His second shot found the fairway at 58 yards from the pin, getting onto the green with his third shot. The greens were rolling fast, and he had some missed putts, finishing with a six. Greg Wynn had a beautiful drive to the center of the fairway at 230 yards from the pin. His second shot was a grounder that rolled into the water. He was able to recover, getting onto the green and finishing with a six. Jack Hinsch also made a nice drive, landing it 281 yards from the pin. He followed up with a solid second shot about 158 yards from the pin, and a third shot about 70 yards from the pin. He reached the green in four and finished with a seven. Jan Marsh drove to 260 yards from the pin, had a couple of mishits but made the green in three and finished with a five. Ken Moffa also finished the hole with a five, having placed his drive in a trap but recovering nicely. Mike O'Brien hit a long drive, placing his ball 230 yards from the pin and following up with some very nice shots to close on #11 with a six. Frank Large also scored a five on this hole with some beautiful long shots. John Rybacki earned a six on this hole after driving to 220 yards from the pin, then hitting into the fairway bunker on the right about 68 yards from the green, only to hit out and land in the greenside bunker, finishing the hole well.

A chip-off was conducted between Tony Arcaro and Jack Hinsch, with Tony being eliminated.

#### Hole #12

The twelfth hole is considered one of the easier holes on the course, but if played poorly, it can lead players into issues they didn't know they had until it's too late. Our field of eight remaining golfers performed reasonably well, with everyone avoiding the notorious greenside front bunker (the Carl Zimmermann Memorial Trap!). Frank Large excelled on this hole, being the only one to make par, especially after driving into the waste bunker on the left side of the fairway. His shot out of this trouble area reached the green nicely, and he closed out the hole like a pro. Greg Wynn, Jan Marsh, Ken Moffa, and Mike O'Brien earned bogeys on this hole, but these were hard-fought achievements. Jan drove to 100 yards from the pin and placed his second shot into the right greenside bunker, but chipped out onto the green, landing 15' from the pin on his third shot. With two putts, he closed out the hole. Greg Wynn had a nice drive to about 92 yards from the pin on the left side. His third shot narrowly skirted around the Zimmermann Trap, comfortably reaching the green and holing out in five. Ken Moffa sliced his drive, knocking his ball into the palm brush on the right side of the fairway. He took a drop, chipped out to the front of the green, and also holed out in five. Unfortunately, Jack Hinch, Tony Blackmore, and John Rybacki finished the hole with a gross six, but Jack and John had strokes, eliminating Tony Blackmore at this point.

#### Hole #13

The big winner on this hole was Ken Moffa, who was the only member of the group to par it. Shooting from the red tees, which were 254 yards from the pin, he placed his drive 110 yards from the hole, hit a second shot that was inches from the

left greenside trap, chipped to 10 feet from the hole, and holed out for par. Greg Wynn, Jan Marsh, and Mike O'Brien finished second with their bogeys, while Jack Hinsch, Frank Large, and John Rybacki scored six. A chip-off occurred between Jack, Frank Large, and John Rybacki, with Jack Hinsch falling short of his goal of winning his fifth Shootout Championship.

#### Hole #14

This par 3 is a challenging hole to confront on any day of the week. The pin placement was dead center within the green gully, making it an exceptional challenge today. With the six remaining golfers, the efforts were outstanding. Greg Wynn had a beautiful drive to the right side of the green, falling short of the green apron. He chipped onto the green but was short. His third shot was 2 inches from the pin, and he holed out with a four. Jan Marsh had a nice drive just off the left side of the green. His second shot was gently nudged down the gully of the green to about six feet from the pin. His third shot was a miss, stopping eight inches from the hole, causing him to finish with a four. Mike O'Brien had a drive that placed him off the green as well, but he was able to chip gently to one foot from the pin, holing out with par. Frank Large also earned a par by hitting a beautiful drive onto the green to about twenty feet from the pin, followed by a short "wobble" putt, holing out with a three. John Rybacki also drove to the left off the green. His next shot was a chip that was a bit too hard, placing him on the other side of the green. His third shot went to eight feet from the pin, and he holed out with a five. Ken Moffa had some difficulty here, first driving under the oak tree onto the mulch. His second shot was short, and his third shot was long, going to about ten feet from the pin. His fourth and fifth shots missed the hole, finishing with a six. Ken was eliminated at this point.

#### Hole #15

The second hardest hole on the course can be a boon or a disappointment. It was certainly that for Jan Marsh, who played very well throughout the round. His opening drive was about 170 yards into the center. His second shot was a grounder, placing the ball 75 yards from the pin. He reached the apron of the green with his third shot, but his fourth shot didn't quite make the ridge in the center of the green. It took him three putts to hole out, ending with a seven. Greg Wynn also had a long drive, but on his third shot, he found himself in the greenside bunker on the left. He hit out of the trap but was still off the green. He also followed up with three putts, ending with a seven. Frank Large sliced his drive to the far right and chipped out of that area to the opposite side of the fairway into the rough. He then shot into the same trap as Greg and had trouble getting out of the bunker, ultimately putting out for a seven. John Rybacki was more successful than the others, earning a five for the hole by patiently hitting straight down the fairway and carefully making the approach to the green. A three-way chip-off occurred between Greg, Frank, and Jan, and Mr. Marsh was eliminated.

## Hole #16

Then there were four golfers remaining from the original ten. Greg had a beautiful drive to the center with his ball resting 140 yards from the pin. He reached the top of the green and holed out with a four. Mike O'Brien also delivered a brilliant drive to the center, but he encountered some issues getting into the right greenside bunker. Nevertheless, he holed out with a par as well. Frank Large found himself in the waste bunker after his drive. He executed a nice shot out of that area to the base of the hill, chipped onto the green, and putted out for a four. John Rybacki faced some difficulty with this hole. He had a nice drive to 150 yards from the pin, but his second shot went too far right into the greenside bunker. He struggled to get out of the trap, and after finally emerging, he conceded the hole. John was eliminated.

## Hole #17

Then there were three: Greg, Mike, and Frank. Greg drove very well, coming up short of the green. He chipped a rolling ball onto the green and holed out with a four. Frank Large also scored a four after driving to the left side of the fairway near the greenside bunker, making chips and putts comfortably. Mike O'Brien landed in the greenside bunker on the right and came up short on his second shot, but he faced some putting issues, finishing with a five. However, since all three golfers had a stroke, they entered a chip-off. Mike O'Brien was eliminated.



## Hole #18

Then two golfers competed for the Fickle Finger Trophy and the right to be called the 2025 Fall-Winter Shootout Champion: Frank Large and Greg Wynn. Individuals played well throughout the day, exemplifying all that we expect from outstanding golfers. Frank drove first with a strong shot to the area in front of the fairway bunker on the left. Greg followed with a solid drive to the hill above where Frank was located. Frank executed a beautiful second shot with his

fairway wood, reaching the right side of the tree line. Greg made a long hit through the center of the fairway, but an oak tree posed a slight problem. Frank was 70 yards from the pin and had a clear approach to the green in his sights. Greg was 150 yards from the pin, positioned off-center from the oak tree. Greg hit first, strategically placing his shot under the oak tree branches, landing before the side of the greenside ridge. Frank



followed up with a shot that fell short of the green by a foot, landing in the same area as Greg. Greg chipped onto the green first, but his ball stopped on the apron. Frank chipped past the pin, about fifteen feet away. Frank holed out with a six, while Greg holed out with a seven, but had a stroke penalty, tying the round. They had a chip-off, and Frank Large won the Shootout.



L-R) Greg Wynn, Frank Large, Shootout Champion,  
Billy VanArdsdale, Club Pro

May thanks to all involved in this exciting shootout competition. We especially thank Billy Van Ardsdale, who monitored the competition as referee, scorekeeper, and all-around good guy. Many nods of appreciation to the caddies of our competitors: Eric Hespenheide, Jim Byrne, Emma Blackmore, Rick White, Larry Geiser, John Holzinger, Carl Zimmermann, Bob Schwarzlowlow, Terry Donahue, and Scott Anders. Also, thank you, Don Warfield, for serving as a fore marshal on the course.

It was an entertaining and exciting shootout experience for all involved.

Scoreboard;

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Tony Arcaro.	4/3	7/6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tony Blackmore	6/5	6/5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jack Hinsch.	6/5	7/6	6/5	6/5	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Frank Large.</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>7/6</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7/6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Jan Marsh	6/5	5/4	5	5/4	4	7/6	—	—	—

Ken Moffa	6/5	5/4	5/4	4/3	6/5	—	—	—	—
Mike O'Brien	6/5	6/5	5	5/4	3/2	6/5	4	5/4	—
John Rybacki	5/4	6/5	6/5	6/5	5/4	5/3	7	—	—
Pat Wood	7/6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greg Wynn	6/5	6/5	5	5/4	4	7/6	4	4	7/6