



114th MGA Amateur Championship
July 17-19, 2017
Interlachen Country Club, Edina, Minn.

GENERAL INFO/FORMAT – The 114th annual MGA Amateur Championship will be held at Interlachen Country Club, Monday through Wednesday, July 17-19. One hundred and fifty-six competitors will play 36 holes – 18 on Monday and 18 on Tuesday. After 36 holes, a cut will be made and the remaining 60 players and ties will play 18 holes on Wednesday to determine the champion.

LIVE SCORING ON THE WEB

Live Scoring will be available on the MGA website at www.mngolf.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE – Follow us for updates, photos, and results

Facebook: Minnesota Golf Association

Twitter Handle: @MNGolfAssn; #MGA Amateur

Instagram: MNGolfAssn

INTERLACHEN COUNTRY CLUB OFFICIALS – Lou DiLorenzo, Club President; Dennis Wahr, Vice President; Joel Livingood, General Manager; Nathan Ollhoff, PGA Golf Professional; and Matt Rostal, Golf Course Superintendent.

INTERLACHEN COUNTRY CLUB – Interlachen Country Club in Edina was incorporated in 1909 and opened for play in 1910 by several businessmen and members of the Bryn Mawr Golf Club in Minneapolis, which was slated to close due to residential development. Willie Watson designed the original 18 holes, Dow George was the first head golf professional, John Westergreen, the first greenkeeper, and Alvin Poehler, the club's first president.

George added bunkers in preparation for Interlachen's first MGA State Amateur Championship in 1913, and the Western Amateur to be contested the following year. In 1919, Donald Ross redesigned Watson's original 18 and a decade later, Willie Kidd, the club's professional, made several significant changes to Ross's design in preparation for the 1930 U.S. Open.

Interlachen and the legendary Bobby Jones will forever be linked thanks to the latter winning the U.S. Open, the third leg of his Grand Slam (the British and U.S. Amateurs, and the British and U.S. Opens), a feat aptly titled the "Impregnable Quadrilateral" by

O.B. Keeler. Interlachen is also associated with another golf legend, Patty Berg, an LPGA and Minnesota Golf Hall of Famer who amassed 60 professional tournament wins including 15 majors. Berg learned the game at Interlachen, and during her lifetime she estimated that she gave more than 10,000 golf clinics introducing the game to thousands of golfers around the world.

In the modern era, Interlachen hosted the 1986 U.S. Senior Amateur, the 1993 U.S. Walker Cup, the 2002 Solheim Cup and the 2008 U.S. Women's Open. At the latter, 19-year-old Inbee Park, of South Korea, beat the game's greatest golfers including Lorena Ochoa, Paula Creamer and Annika Sorenstam. Fittingly, Sorenstam, playing the last hole in her final USGA championship, holed out a 6 iron from 199 yards for an eagle 3.

This year marks the 8th time the MGA Amateur Championship has visited Interlachen. Minnesota Golf Hall of Famers who have won the State Amateur at Interlachen include Harry Legg, Harrison "Jimmy" Johnston, Charles "Pat" Sawyer and Bill Israelson. In 1996, the last time the amateur was hosted at ICC, Joe Stansberry of Hiawatha Golf Club overcame two double bogeys going out in 3-over par 40, with three birdies on holes 14, 16 and 18, coming home in 1-under par 35, scoring rounds of 72-74-75—221, for a two-shot victory over Ted Bodine. Terry O'Loughlin and Ben Poehling tied for third at 224.

LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP – After watching his lead evaporate during a sticky afternoon final round, Alex Uloth walked to the last green needing a birdie to force a playoff with University of Minnesota golfer Riley Johnson, in at 6-under par 207. Reaching the par-5 18th in two, he did one better by sinking his eagle putt from 30 feet to clinch the 113th Minnesota Golf Association Amateur Championship at North Oaks Golf Club at 7-under par 206 to notch his first victory as an amateur.

Uloth tied a tournament record during the opening round, shooting an 8-under par 63 before carding a 70 during the second round to take a four-stroke lead over the 2008 Amateur champ, Trent Peterson. Uloth got off to a solid start on the front nine despite a bogey at the seventh, hitting his tee shot out of bounds. He birdied the ninth by rolling in a short putt to turn at even for the day. Taking advantage of the short, par-4 10th, Uloth rolled in his second straight birdie before dropping six shots in a span of five holes early on his back nine. Uloth's troubles began at the 11th where he missed a 10-foot par putt to fall to 9-under. At the par-3 13th he would again leave his second putt well short before lipping-out twice, finally tapping in for double-bogey to slip to 7-under as his lead shrunk to two. Uloth would four putt the par-4 14th and see his lead vanish. He would pull his tee shot left at the par-3 15, hitting a flop shot past the flag and two-putted for bogey. Trailing for the first time in 49 holes, Uloth sank an important birdie at the par-5 16th after sticking his approach inside of five feet to draw even with Johnson.

Following Uloth's wire-to-wire victory, the first since Donald Constable shot an opening-round 66 and went on to win by three strokes at White Bear Yacht Club in 2011, John Carlson, the University of Minnesota men's golf coach, announced that Uloth would join the Gophers' roster.

THE FIELD – Alex Uloth returns to defend his title amongst a formidable field of challengers including three former MGA Amateur champions: Jesse Bull, Golden Valley G&CC (2014); Trent Peterson, Valley Wood GC (2008); and Michael Christensen, Bunker Hills GC (1995), and the only person in this year’s field who also made the cut in 1996, when the MGA Amateur was last at Interlachen CC.

Additional accomplished competitors in the field include the 2016 MGA Senior Men’s Player of the Year, John Anderson (Bunker Hills GC); the 2017 Class AA High School individual champ, Cecil Belisle (Mississippi National); runner up at the 2017 MGA Players’ (Match Play) Championship, Justin Burleson (Valleywood GC); runner up at the 2014 MGA Amateur, Erik Christopherson (StoneRidge GC); the 2016 Minnesota PGA Junior Match Play champ, Lincoln Cizek (Stonebrook GC); the 2016 Minnesota State Open champ, Ben Greve (Minneapolis GC); the 2016 Class AA High School individual champ, Derek Hitchner (Minikahda Club); the 2017 Class AAA High School individual champ, Van Holmgren (Baker National); the 2016 MGA Mid-Players’ champ, Andy Jacobson (Eagle Creek GC); the 2016 MGA Amateur runner-up, Riley Johnson (University GC); the 2011 Minnesota State Open champ, Troy Johnson (Medina G&CC); the 2014 MGA Players’ champ, Johnny Larson (Dacotah Ridge); three-time MGA Senior Amateur champion, Jim Lehman (Windsong Farm); the 2002 MGA Players’ champ, David Morgan (Rochester G&CC); the 2015 MGA Mid-Players champ, Joe O’Brien (Rush Creek GC); five-time MGA Player of the Year, and the 2017 Minnesota Golf Champions winner, Sammy Schmitz (Southview CC); the 2016 State Public Links champ, Max Tylke (Legends GC); and the 2017 MGA Players’ champ, Jacques Wilson (Chaska Town).

CLUB TEAM EVENT – The MGA Amateur Championship includes a team competition during the first two rounds (MGA member clubs are represented by three or four golfers, whose low three scores are totaled). Ties are broken by a matching of scorecards, per the [Rules of Golf](#), see Appendix I, Part C.

Last year, **Valleywood GC** (Justin Burleson, Leif Carlson, Joel (JT) Johnson and Trent Peterson) and **Bunker Hills GC** (Topher Baron, Michael Christensen, Brian Moores and Bill Tadewald) tied at 433 (+7); Valleywood won in a scorecard playoff.

COURSE SET UP – 6,924 yds, Par 35-35 – 70

Hole #1 – 500 yards, par 4	Hole #10 – 347 yards, par 4
Hole #2 – 396 yards, par 4	Hole #11 – 458 yards, par 4
Hole #3 – 226 yards, par 3	Hole #12 – 557 yards, par 5
Hole #4 – 575 yards, par 5	Hole #13 – 190 yards, par 3
Hole #5 – 186 yards, par 3	Hole #14 – 440 yards, par 4
Hole #6 – 345 yards, par 4	Hole #15 – 414 yards, par 4
Hole #7 – 360 yards, par 4	Hole #16 – 318 yards, par 4
Hole #8 – 441 yards, par 4	Hole #17 – 225 yards, par 3
Hole #9 – 518 yards, par 4	Hole #18 – 428 yards, par 4

Out – 3,547 yds Par 35 In – 3,377 yds Par 35
Course Rating/Slope Rating: 74.2/141

ELIGIBILITY – To enter the MGA Amateur Championship, a player must be an associate member of the MGA (through membership of an MGA member club) and carry a USGA Handicap Index of 6.4 or lower at the time of entry.

PAIRINGS/NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

Complete pairings and the notice to competitors are available online at https://www.mngolf.org/Tournament/114th_MGA_Amateur_Championship

ABOUT THE MGA

Founded in 1901, the Minnesota Golf Association is the governing body over amateur golf in the state, responsible for administering the *Rules of Golf*, and committed to uphold and promote the game of golf and its values for all golfers in Minnesota. The MGA conducts 16 major amateur championships and 15 USGA qualifying events each year. Thanks to the support of its member clubs and associate members, and the efforts of its volunteers and staff, the MGA provides a variety of services such as handicapping, course rating and measuring, an online golf news and information resource, *mngolf.org*, and an official publication, *Minnesota Golfer* magazine, which benefits all golfers throughout Minnesota.

Sources: “From Fields to Fairways, Classic Golf Clubs of Minnesota,” by Rick Shefchik.
“Interlachen Country Club, A Century of Excellence: 1909-2009,” by Christine Geer Dean.