



*The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association*



## **2021 INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Monday, October 25, 2021**

Talamore Country Club  
723 Talamore Drive, Ambler, PA 19002  
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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC BLIND GOLF ASSOCIATION

Mario Tobia, President  
Steve Rodos, Vice President  
Brian Mackey, Interim Secretary

Marty Jensen, Treasurer  
Paris Sterrett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Dear Friends and Members of MABGA:

**Welcome!** Once again, we are gathered to celebrate the anniversary of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association (MABGA). This year marks our 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary since our founding fathers introduced the game of golf to all visually impaired and blind individuals. Since our inception in 1948, the MABGA has broadened our scope to include sponsorship to 14 junior golf events a year and the completion of our second golf course, The Kritz Links golf course on the grounds of the New York Institute for Special Education, located at 999 Pelham Parkway in the Bronx, New York. The course is proudly named after Norman Kritz, the driving force and architect of our Junior Blind Golf program.

Our adult program regularly hosts approximately thirty-five outings each year in addition to our annual fundraising tournament.

Essential to this celebration is a big thank you to our coaches. Without them, we could not play golf at all! Their gifts of time, talent and patience are sincerely appreciated by each and every member of MABGA.

Additionally, thank you to every golf club, which welcomes us to its facilities. We appreciate you greatly for the extra dimension you add to our lives.

On behalf of all of our members, I thank the many men and women who volunteer their time, effort and partnership, enabling our members to play and enjoy this great game of golf.

Sincerely,

**Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association**

Mario Tobia, President

# THANK YOU FOR OUR HOST CLUBS

Over the past 73 years through today, many private clubs and public golf courses throughout the Middle Atlantic States have contributed to the success of MABGA. The Association would be hard-pressed to continue to remain in existence without the cooperation and generosity of the golf clubs that have sponsored outings for our blind golfers. The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to our members, coaches, clubs and all those who have played a role in the success of MABGA throughout the years. The following are the Host Clubs that have made it possible for MABGA to enjoy its successful 2021 golf season:

**Applecross Country Club**

**Bala Golf Club**

**Bluestone Country Club**

**Brookside Country Club**

**Buena Vista Golf Course**

**Downingtown Country Club**

**Five Ponds Golf Club**

**Flourtown Country Club**

**Green Valley Country Club**

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**Phoenixville Country Club**

**Radnor Valley Country Club**

**Ramblewood Country Club**

**Sandy Run Country Club**

**Skippack Golf Club**

**Stonewall Country Club**

**Talamore Country Club**

**Union League Golf Club - Torresdale**

**Valleybrook Golf Club**

**Whitemarsh Valley Golf Club**

**Worcester Golf Club**

# MABGA JUNIOR GOLF

## by Paris Sterrett

The junior MABGA golf program ran the gamut from joy to sadness. The very positive news was the dedication of the Kritz Links for the Blind and Visually Impaired on the grounds of the New York Institute for Special Needs. Norman Kritz's incredible project was initiated in 2018 and the course was dedicated in his name on May 25, 2021. Norman is 92 years young and spent many hours planning and developing the seven hole course on what seemed like an eternity in its development. The COVID 19 also hindered its completion.

The layout is a pitch-and-chip course designed to accommodate its target players. Its longest hole is 45 yards and the course is similar to the one that Norman developed at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. The first and fourth holes have wheelchair access to accommodate those with additional disabilities at the school. Norman said that you not only have kids that have a problem with vision, but many of the children also have physical difficulties. Some of the children are in wheelchairs and some utilize crutches. Children in wheelchairs can roll right onto the greens.

Norman lives in Cherry Hill and getting to New York was a challenge, but he had support from building contractor Dominic Parisi, supervisor Ken Brouwer, Glen Oaks superintendent Craig Currier, Metropolitan PGA executive director Jeff Voorheis and New York Institute for Special Education director Bernadette Kappen.

Kritz is confident the course will bring plenty of joy to the students and describes his thirty year MABGA history working with kids as "amazing, fulfilling and gratifying. Your reward is the smiles you take home with you." Norman thinks the experience of working for the children of MABGA is its own reward.

Mike Molloy, director of our MABGA junior blind program, had to compromise this year's activities because of COVID restrictions, but energized parents to help out with the different programs for the 78 eligible players.

MABGA lost a close friend, Gil Kayson at age 89, and co-founder of the junior and adult program with Norman Kritz. Gil coped with his total blindness and was supported by Sandy, his incredible wife of 66 years, family members and close friends. I first met Gil twenty-five years ago when his sister, Marilyn, asked me to coach him. Gil loved to play and always completed all eighteen holes and seldom missed an outing. No course was too far for us to travel and his favorite question was: "Did I get something out of that shot?" I will always remember Gil for his dedication and love for the junior blind golfers.

One of the prized graduates of the junior golf program is Havertown resident David Abrahams. David is a junior mathematics major at Harvard and a Division 1 swimmer. He was on the USA Paralympics team where he qualified and competed in three events in Tokyo including the 100 meter breaststroke, 100 butterfly and 200 individual individual medley. David, blind since 13, contributes much of his success to the Overbrook School for the Blind. He came in second in the world to a German swimmer in the 100 breaststroke losing by only .03 seconds as the winner set a world record.

## 2021 MABGA INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The following are the blind golfers and volunteer coaches who comprise the 2021 Tournament Committee. These members have worked tirelessly and diligently for the tournament's success and to assure that everyone who participates in the tournament enjoys every aspect of this special event.

### **Committee members:**

Marty Jensen

Cynthia Martin

Jim Olsen

Steve Rodos

Julie Sokoloff

Al Test

Mario Tobia

A special thanks to Sharon Freas for organizing and coordinating all the volunteers on the day of the golf tournament. These ladies make our golf tournament more enjoyable for everyone!



**The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association**  
would like to thank



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# MABGA's 2021 Invitational Golf Tournament

Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY) supports the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Blind Golfer's Association (MABGA) who since 1948, have been providing blind and visually impaired (legally blind) men, women, and children the opportunity to enjoy the challenges and rewards that golf offers.

*Wishing you continued success throughout the years!*



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# Best of Luck MABGA!

## AI Test



**Congratulations  
to MABGA and a  
special thanks to  
Julie Sokoloff  
and her continued  
support of MABGA**

Harriet and Jeff Bleiman

# BEST WISHES MABGA ❤️



**You are a Wonderful Colorful Group  
making many fabulous fond memories!  
Coventry Lions Club is a proud sponsor!**

**May your Balls Fly to each Hole no matter how You Swing!**



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**~MABGA'r Lion Leah Kinzinger ~**

**In Memory of our  
dear friend Gil Kayson  
for his leadership in  
this wonderful program**

Marty and Barbara Coopersmith

# **In Loving Memory of Norman H. Martin**

Cynthia

# **Compliments of Aspen Insurance**

# **Best of Luck to MABGA**

Michael Foy

**Best Wishes to  
the 2021 MABGA  
Tournament and  
all its participants!**

Sam and Michele Huhn



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In Memory of Lifelong Club Member and Middle  
Atlantic Blind Golf Association Member

Cletus S. Stanton  
Died March 15, 2021, age 57



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In loving memory of

Owen B. Schmidt, Jr.  
(*“Schmidty”*)

a member of MABGA for several years

who taught us many of the most important lessons in life and who also taught us to love to play golf.

We would like to thank the entire MABGA organization and past and present members for all the wonderful memories you provided for our dad.

We would also like to pay tribute to our mom, Mildred, **“Mitzi” Schmidt** – who passed away in July – she was also an avid golfer (*at her insistence, a woman golfer was engraved on her tombstone ☺*).

Sincerely,

The other “Schmidtys” -  
John & Gary Schmidt, and our families

**Dr. Scott Schaffer**

*and his colleagues at*

**advocare**

**ENT Specialty Center**

Marlton, NJ

*applaud and support*

**All Adult and Junior  
Mid Atlantic Blind Golfers**  
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# **Best Wishes to MABGA**

**Mike Swenton**

# **Best Wishes to MABGA**

Carol Eastwood  
and  
Colleen McConaghy

*Good luck MABGA!*

*Tom & Sue Brozena*



**Dear Sandy –**

**Your husband and my  
dear friend, Gil, left me with  
so many fond memories.**

**Norman**

The community of **Foulkeways** wish the  
**Blind Golfers & Coaches at Foulkeways** a  
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IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF OUR DAD  
AND GRANDFATHER

JACK HERBERT

WHO SO ENJOYED PLAYING  
THE GAME OF GOLF

WE LOVE YOU FOREVER  
AND MISS YOU ALWAYS

THE FREAS AND CSOP FAMILIES



**In Memory of  
Al Greenland**

**Who loved the game!**

**In memory of  
Jack Herbert**

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**Happy to support  
this great group!**

Carrie and Barry Jacobson

Joe Sickora,  
We are proud of your efforts!  
Love,  
RoseMarie, Bryan & Jim



Wishing the MABGA  
Continued Success

Tom McGoldrick, MABGA  
Jim Carr, Coach

**Great organization!**

**Thanks for all you do and all  
who help and participate.**

**Helen & Bill McIntyre**

Congratulations to  
Julie Sokoloff for your dedication  
and caring of your  
blind golfers!

Nancy Lee

The Paoli-Berwyn-Malvern ("PBM") Lions Club  
of Chester County, Pennsylvania  
is proud to be a continued sponsor of MABGA.  
We are also happy to acknowledge our  
very own Golfer & MABGA member,



Lion Carol Sexton



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***Have a great tournament!***



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**Congratulations  
and Best Wishes to MABGA**

Shelley Goldin

**Best wishes to MABGA  
for continued success,  
to a great organization!**

The Smeraski Family

**Good luck MABGA**

Tom Lane

Lane Hipple

**Congratulations on  
another great year!**

**Good luck for  
everyone in 2022!**

Steve and Dee Rodos

**Best Wishes to  
MABGA**

Rob Levin

**Best wishes to  
MABGA**

Ronni Uhr



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