

With the weather today more like May weather, there were nine of the World Famous 9-Holers out early today for the game of golf called ECLECTIC. Since the 9-Holers greatly outnumbered the pesky 18-holers, I had to divide The Herd into sub-herds so as not to be waiting all day on the 18-holers.

Sub-herd #1 was four golfers: Don Webb (scorecard in hand), Greg Kepner, Mac McConahy and Jack Steward. Their drives from the #1 tee box well defined a “shotgun” start. As they motored away from the tee box some went to the #9 fairway, some went to the #3 fairway, and some appeared headed to the #7 fairway or places unknown. Sub-herd #2 composed of golfers Bob Westbrook and me and our three Putting Competitors: Ken Mayne, C.L. Newsome and James “the Spicewood Legend” Longoria, just watched in awe as golf carts traversed left to right and right to left and sometimes in circles. Bob went back in the pro-shop to warm up his coffee while sub-herd #1 continued their un-syncoated maneuvers. Finally we could hit and we did – right through the trees guarding the fairway. Bob’s game was on the mark today with accuracy and skill like never before. I think he must have washed and cleaned his clubs!

Our putting competitors were out for boasting rights today (and some 9-Holer money which is sort of like Bitcoins). C.L. held back on the first hole and then made his move after that. James was having trouble finding just the right putter to use (he had about nine in his bag) and Ken’s “soccer” golf ball attracted loads of sand as he putted across the greens.

Bob hit most of the par 3 greens in regulation which amazed even him. I hit most of the trees and streets in regulation which is pretty standard for me.

Occasionally we saw sub-herd #1 racing down the fairways in front of us. They weren’t looking for golfs, but just racing since there were no G.U.R ropes to jump over today. I’m going to have to break up that bunch before they knock down a tree (unless of course it’s a tree I always hit!).

Ken shot an “ace” at the #8 green which he is prone to do every 10 years or so. There were “high fives” and cheers all around. James was in disbelief as he walked back to his cart to get a different putter.

With all The Herd back in the pro-shop coffee was served and the two scorecards were tossed into the Quantum 9-Holer Computer card shredder. Bruno, the voice interface, was instructed to run the ECLECTIC program which uses an AI algorithm to compensate for the fact that we only play nine holes. The system did it usual “tilt” and a reset and as fast as James can retrieve another putter from his bag, the results were read aloud in Bruno’s soprano voice:

Putting Competition:

- 1st Place for \$3: C.L. Newsome, 22 putts;
- 2nd Place for \$2: James Longoria, 23;
- 3rd Place for \$1: Ken Mayne, 26 putts.

Golfing Competition:

- 1st Place for \$4: Bob Westbrook, net 31 ½;
- 2nd Place for \$3: Paul Castiglione, net 33;
- 3rd Place for \$2: Greg Kepner, net 33 ½;
- 4th Place for \$1: Don Webb, net 34 ½;
- 5th Place for \$1: Mac McConahy, net 36 ½;
- 6th Place for \$1: Jack Steward, net 41.

That’s it for another great day of 9-Holer golf at good old Blue Lake!

Paul Castiglione
9-Holer Herder