

The return of summer temperatures couldn't keep those World Famous 9-Holers away from a game called ECLECTIC. We were two short of having the FULL HERD on the course! We have a "baker's dozen" in the Herd. Within the eleven we had four Putting Competitors and seven Golfing Competitors.

I make "big bucks" when The Herd is this large! So I evenly divided The Herd into two groups. First off the #1 were four golfers – Mac McConahy, Greg Kepner, Tommy Atkins and John Moran. Since John was the only one who could count and write, he was selected as scorekeeper. Plus John is most trustworthy.

Second off the #1 tee were three golfers – Tom Robinson, Bob Westbrook and me; and tagging along with us were the four Putting Competitors – James Longoria, Ken Mayne, Don Webb and C.L. Newsome (scorekeeper). The four putters are the equivalent of one golfer so that's how The Herd was evenly divided.

The first group had impressive drives and was soon out of range and moving along rapidly.

The second group did okay with their drives. I had the "Shot-of-the-Day" when my lousy drive went somewhat left and smacked one of the 30 geese on the course. It recovered and my ball wasn't damaged by the encounter. Geese are just as dumb as deer – they didn't move away or run for cover.

The real action and excitement today came from the four Putting Competitors. These guys were out for bragging rights and big money. Don starts with his "radioactive bright red" ball which he acquired from Tommy (probably not a good idea since he four putts this hole which will come back to haunt him). James and C.L. are using "hand painted balls" from Longoria's art class and Ken is using his "soccer ball". With very fast greens and non-compensating old slow guys, the greens were very challenging today. C.L.'s first putt left the green for his first of many "yellow cards" for the round.

At hole #4 the bottom fell out for the putters. Don and James' putts ran off the green for "yellow cards" for each. But C.L. not only putted off the green but past the "frog's hair" and into the rough. In his attempt to get back to the green, he was short for another "yellow card" which brought his total to five in just four holes. And it wasn't over. At green # 5 Ken and C.L. both putted off the green for "yellow cards." By the end of the round I had issued a total of nine "yellow cards" with C.L. receiving a new record of six "yellow cards." Now each three "yellow cards" is the equivalent of a "red card." So C.L. set a new 9-Holer record of two 'RED CARDS'. The penalty for a "RED CARD" is paid at the 9-Holer lunch where the "red card" holder must sit at a different table than The Herd. For C.L. he must be located two tables away from The Herd!

The other highlight of the day was Bob Westbrook's new approach to "Anger Management" when his ball didn't go where it was supposed to go. I guess his new approach can be best described as "rage yoga" with a golf club and ball. Unfortunately it didn't seem to work too well except The Herd did get a chuckle from it. With all The Herd finally back in the pro-shop, the two scorecards were tossed into the Quantum 9-Holer Computer card shredder which has its own form of anger management. Bruno, the voice interface, yelled "ECLECTIC" for calculations to commence. Faster than I can call "yellow card" the results were revealed in a virtual reality display on the ceiling. Here's how The Herd fared today:

Putting Competition:

- 1st Place for \$3: James Longoria – 23 putts (winning by a scorecard playoff on green #1);
- 2nd Place for \$2: Don Webb – 23 putts (placing second by a scorecard playoff on green #1);
- 3rd Place for \$2: C.L. Newsome – 26 putts;
- 4th Place for \$1: Ken Mayne – 27 putts.

Golfing Competition:

- 1st Place for \$3 each: Greg Kepner, Tom Robinson and Paul Castiglione, net 31 ½;
- 2nd Place for \$2: Tommy Atkins, net 34;
- 3rd Place for \$1: John Moran, net 34 ½;
- 4th Place for \$1: Mac McConahy, net 36 ½;
- 5th Place for \$1: Bob Westbrook, net 37.

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