

BLGC MGA 9-Holer Report for October 26, 2017

Since it was the last MGA tournament of October 2017 and since the weather was rather decent and since those BLGC MGA World Famous 9-Holers were headed to lunch at their favorite hangout, we had eight of those World Famous old guys show for a new format of golf.

It was supposed to be MEDAL PLAY, but with the greens looking more like the Sahara (as in desert) following the recent ceremony of sanding/seeding, the 9-Holers proclaimed it SAHARA PLAY.

Doug “head honcho and local bully” Miller, the MGA tournament director, wouldn’t allow The Herd on the greens (which were in fact “sands”) so we had to designate a DBR (Designated Ball Retriever) whose job was to retrieve golf balls from the “sands.” So without any rules, the Herd had to invent a new way to play golf today. For the five golfers once on the “sands” you received a one putt within the flag distance, otherwise it was a two putt.

For the three Putting Competitors, we used the game called SAHARAHerd (which is a highly anti-modified version of STABLEHERD). The putters putted from the edge of the “sands” and the ball nearest the hole received 1 point, the next nearest got 2 points, etc. Since I was the only one who understood the changes, I served as the DBR and referee (again).

The Herd played with all eight since the 18-holers were so few in number again. Putting were James Longoria, Ken Mayne and C.L. Newsome (scorecard keeper); and golfing were: John Moran, Greg Kepner, Mac McConahy, Bob Westbrook and me.

Unfortunately the tee box markers were all stacked up instead of being in the proper position on the tee box. A little change is okay for the Herd, but massive change is not a good thing. So we had to play from whatever color tee marker we could find (which isn’t much different than how we normally play).

The golfers did a good job of staying in the fairway much of the time. One or two of us are always working on tree trimming as we move through the course. It took about two holes for the old guys to realize they shouldn’t shoot for the green, but rather “lay up short” so they could chip nearer the hole for a “one putt.” But once they got the hang of it, they all began to lay up short, albeit some a little too short!

John, Bob and Greg were having a great day with some long tee shots and great second shots. Mac and I were working on our topping the ball routines which is not too difficult to master if you have attention deficit or are just getting old and your arthritis flares up.

The putting competitors were rather docile today since they couldn’t walk on the “sands.”

With lunch waiting, the Herd was back in the pro-shop by 10:30 a.m. The score card was tossed into the Quantum 9-Holer Computer’s card shredder. Bruno, the VI, complained about the change in game format but once I explained the new SAHARA PLAY and SHARAHerd “guidelines”, he had the quantum entanglements underway. Faster than anyone could explain SAHARAHerd, the results were broadcast in a 4K holograph.

Here’s how the Herd did today:

Putting Competition:

1st Place for \$3: James Longoria, 14 points;

2nd Place for \$2: Ken Mayne, 18 points;

3rd Place for \$1: C.L. Newsome, 22 points.

Golfing Competition:

1st Place for \$4: Greg Kepner, net 30;

2nd Place for \$3: Paul Castiglione, net 31;

3rd Place for \$1 each: Mac McConahy and Bob Westbrook, net 31 ½;

4th Place for \$1: John Moran, net 33.

Seven 9-Holers had another great lunch at the River City Grill. Yep, those chicken friend steaks are still the favorite of most of the Herd. Awards were presented to the 9-Holer Champions: James, Paul & Mac.

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

Paul Castiglione

9-Holer Herder and DBR (and still getting the sand out of my shoes)