

Hoffman Cup Moves to a New Home – Arcola Country Club

Arcola Country Club made a memorable debut in the 2015 Red Hoffman Cup Matches Finals, cruising to a solid four-shot win over defending champ Black Oak Golf Club and two-time HCM winner Baltusrol Golf Club, while coming in seven strokes clear of Plainfield Country Club.

Arcola's 209 total featured a splendid 68 by Al Costello / Trevor Randolph, played on a beautifully prepared but surprisingly feisty par-70 Morris County Golf Club track.

The HCM Finals follow a four-ball, medal play format among the four clubs left standing of the 32 teams that started match play in late April.

Before tee time, everyone seemed to expect a tight medal competition. Arcola added some excellent new players in the offseason. Black Oak was itching for a HCM three-peat. And Baltusrol had clearly pulled together quite likely its strongest team ever.

The possibility of a tie loomed large when the first four scores turned in were three 70s and a 71. But Arcola's depth was the difference that helped them pull away from the field. Arcola's 70 from Ryan Chin / Mike O'Connell and a 71 from Ryan Fountaine / George Cultraro, Jr. kept them in the event. Then, Costello and Randolph turned in their 68 to seal the deal.

Common wisdom would say that ideal weather and less than 6600 yards of pristine MCGC turf should yield low scores, especially in a field that included a dozen of the area's very best players. Yesterday, MCGC offered up only two sub-par rounds – Black Oak's Patrick Bosworth and Todd Peluso reprised their 2014 medalist role by matching the Costello / Randolph 68.

Baltusrol and Black Oak were both loaded with horses. Baltusrol's national-level competitor Roger Hoit teamed with Dan Feeney, turning in one of those early 70's. Black Oak founder David Glenz, whose decade(+) as MCGC's head pro included an eye-popping home course-record 61, teamed with Black Oak captain and former two-time State Open champ Brian Komline for a 71.

Plainfield finished fourth at 216, paced by Scott Paris and Brett Rosely's 70, in Plainfield's first trip back to the Finals in several years. There's little doubt they'll be back again soon.

The Red Hoffman Cup Matches were created to foster interaction and friendly competition among northern New Jersey golf clubs. Now in their eleventh year, these matches have been named in honor of Arthur K. "Red" Hoffman, the legendary New Jersey golf writer.

The event features a no-handicap competition that effectively identifies the strongest cohort of players in one club in Northern New Jersey. Arcola has conclusively earned that distinction for 2015!

Recap of 2015 Red Hoffman Cup Matches

First Day of Matches, Saturday, April 25

Group	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS
A	Black Oak	7	vs	Mountain Ridge	5	vs	Morris County	7	vs	Navesink	5
B	Manasquan River	10	vs	Alpine	2	vs	Metedeconk	4.5	vs	Essex County	7.5
C	Spring Brook	5	vs	Rockaway River	7	vs	Echo Lake	10.5	vs	Trump National	1.5
D	Montclair	7.5	vs	Hamilton Farm	4.5	vs	Upper Montclair	9.5	vs	Ridgewood	2.5
E	Baltusrol	9.5	vs	Hackensack	2.5	vs	Canoe Brook	8.5	vs	Roxiticus	3.5
F	Arcola	11.5	vs	Liberty National	.5	vs	Fairmount	11.5	vs	Rock Spring	.5
G	Plainfield	2.5	vs	Mendham	9.5	vs	Spring Lake	6	vs	Ridge @ Back Brook	6
H	Bedens Brook	1.5	vs	Essex Fells	109.5	vs	Bayonne	5	vs	Knickerbocker	7

Second Day of Matches, Sunday, April 26

Group	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS
A	Black Oak	11.5	vs	Navesink	.5	vs	Morris County	6.5	vs	Mountain Ridge	5.5
B	Manasquan River	8	vs	Essex County	4	vs	Metedeconk	9	vs	Alpine	3
C	Spring Brook	6.5	vs	Trump National	5.5	vs	Echo Lake	8	vs	Rockaway River	4
D	Montclair	6	vs	Ridgewood	6	vs	Upper Montclair	5	vs	Hamilton Farm	7
E	Baltusrol	12	vs	Roxiticus	0	vs	Canoe Brook	2	vs	Hackensack	10
F	Arcola	11.5	vs	Rock Spring	.5	vs	Fairmount	8.5	vs	Liberty National	3.5
G	Plainfield	9.5	vs	Ridge @ Back Brook	2.5	vs	Spring Lake	6	vs	Mendham	6
H	Bedens Brook	2.5	vs	Knickerbocker	9.5	vs	Bayonne	7.5	vs	Essex Fells	4.5

Group Standings after Two Days:

Group A: Black Oak (18.5); Morris County (13.5); Mountain Ridge (10.5); Navesink (5.5)

Group B: Manasquan River (18); Metedeconk (13.5); Essex County (11.5); Alpine (5)

Group C: Echo Lake (18.5); Spring Brook (11.5); Rockaway River (11); Trump National (7)

Group D: Upper Montclair (14.5); Montclair (13.5); Hamilton Farm (11.5); Ridgewood (8.5)

Group E: Baltusrol (21.5); Hackensack (12.5); Canoe Brook (10.5); Roxiticus (3.5)

Group F: Arcola (23); Fairmont (20); Liberty National (4); Rock Spring (1)

Group G: Mendham (15.5); Plainfield (12); Spring Lake (12); Ridge@Back Brook (8.5)

Group H: Knickerbocker (16.5); Essex Fells (15); Bayonne (12.5); Bedens Brook (4)

Third Day of Matches, Saturday, May 2

Group	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS	vs	CLUB	PTS
A	Black Oak	10.5	vs	Morris County	1.5	vs	Navesink	4
							Mountain Ridge	8
B	Manasquan River	6	vs	Metedeconk	6	vs	Essex County	9
							Alpine	3
C	Spring Brook	4.5	vs	Echo Lake	7.5	vs	Trump National	2
							Rockaway River	10
D	Montclair	9	vs	Upper Montclair	3	vs	Ridgewood	4
							Hamilton Farm	8
E	Baltusrol	9.5	vs	Canoe Brook	2.5	vs	Roxiticus	2
							Hackensack	10
F	Arcola	8	vs	Fairmount	4	vs	Rock Spring	7.5
							Liberty National	4.5
G	Plainfield	10	vs	Spring Lake	2	vs	Ridge @ Back Brook	7
							Mendham	5
H	Bedens Brook	7.5	vs	Bayonne	4.5	vs	Knickerbocker	9
							Essex Fells	3

Group Standings after Completion of Intragroup Play:

Group A: Black Oak (29); Morris County (15); Mountain Ridge (18.5); Navesink (9.5)

Group B: Manasquan River (24); Essex County (20.5); Metedeconk (19.5); Alpine (8)

Group C: Echo Lake (26); Rockaway River (21); Spring Brook (16); Trump National (9)

Group D: Montclair (22.5); Hamilton Farm (19.5); Upper Montclair (17.5); Ridgewood (12.5)

Group E: Baltusrol (31); Hackensack (22.5); Canoe Brook (13); Roxiticus (5.5)

Group F: Arcola (31); Fairmount (24); Rock Spring (8.5); Liberty National (8.5)

Group G: Plainfield (22); Mendham (20.5); Ridge @ Back Brook (15.5); Spring Lake (14)

Group H: Knickerbocker (25.5); Essex Fells (18); Bayonne (17); Bedens Brook (11.5)

Semifinals, May 9:

Group A Winner Black Oak (8) vs. Group H Winner Knickerbocker (4)
Group B Winner Manasquan River (4.5) vs. Group G Winner Plainfield (7.5)
Group C Winner Echo Lake (.5) vs. Group F Winner Arcola (11.5)
Group D Winner Montclair (2) vs. Group E Winner Baltusrol (10)

2015 Finalists: Black Oak Golf Club; Plainfield Country Club; Arcola Country Club; Baltusrol Golf Club

2015 Finals Results:

2015 Red Hoffman Cup Matches Finals May 31, 2015 Morris County Golf Club		
CLUB	Players	Score
Black Oak GC #2	Todd Peluso / Patrick Bosworth	68*
Arcola CC #3	Al Costello / Trevor Randolph	68*
Arcola CC #1	Mike O'Connell / Ryan Chin	70*
Baltusrol GC #1	Roger Hoit / Dan Feeney	70*
Plainfield CC #1	Scott Paris / Brett Rosely	70*
Black Oak GC #1	Brian Komline / David Glenz	71*
Arcola CC #2	Ryan Fontaine / George Cultraro, Jr.	71*
Baltusrol GC #2	Nick Desai / Gregg Angelillo	71*
Baltusrol GC #4	Brandon Holden / Randy Riley	72*
Plainfield CC #4	Bob Corbett / Keith Handler	72*
Arcola CC #4	Brian Celiberti / John Earl	74
Black Oak GC #3	Chris Markham / John Olsen	74*
Plainfield CC #3	Mark Gately / Timmy Campbell	74*
Baltusrol GC #3	Stephen Wentz / Terry Yun	75
Black Oak GC #4	Justin Lavoie / Brian Kurylo	77
Plainfield CC #2	Brian Kilduff / Scott Parker	77

(Counting best 3 of 4 scores)

1. Arcola Country Club -- 209
2. Black Oak Golf Club -- 213
3. Baltusrol Golf Club -- 213
4. Plainfield Country Club -- 216

**Congratulations to the 2015 Red Hoffman Cup Matches
Champion**

Arcola Country Club