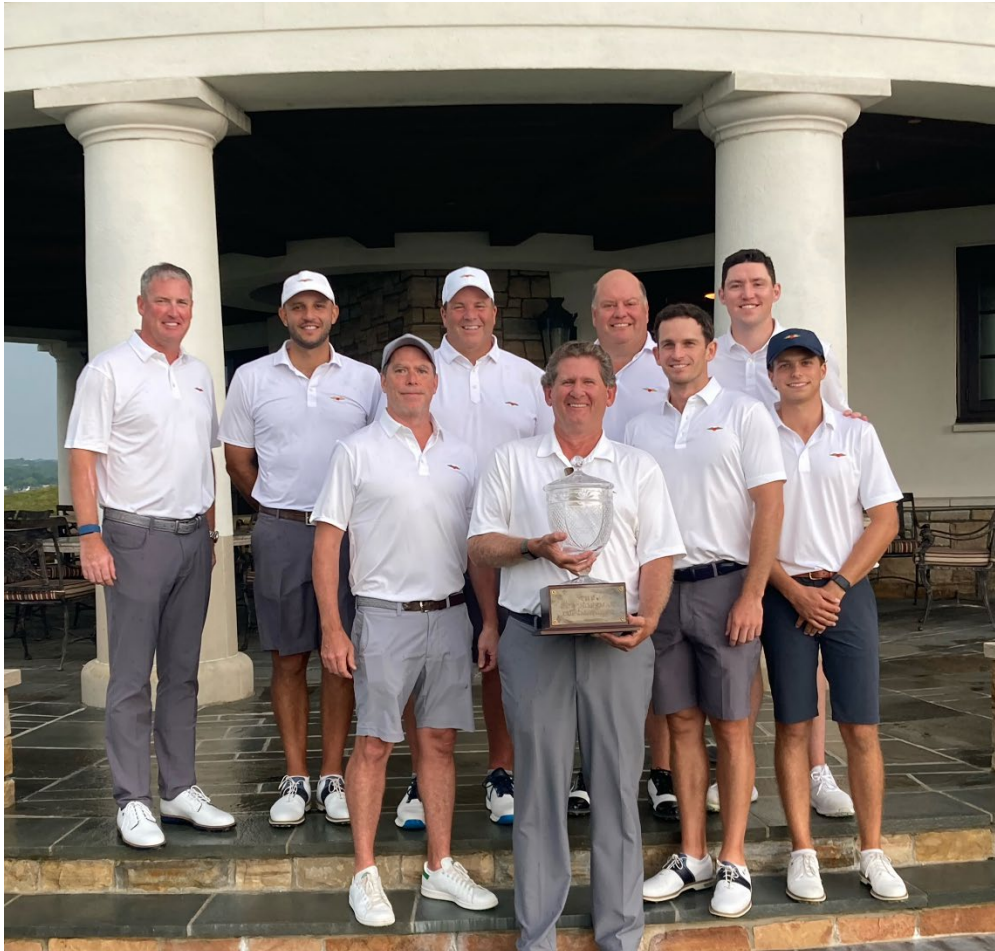


The 2024 Red Hoffman Cup Matches: The Road to Bayonne



**2024 Red Hoffman Cup Matches Champions
Baltusrol Golf Club (l to r: Ryan Fountaine, Mark Costanza,
Jeff Werring, Gregg Angelillo, Captain John Roberts, Roddy
McRae, Max Bichsel, Ben Alcorn, and Barnes Blake**

The Road to Bayonne in the Finals of the 2024 Red Hoffman Cup was as curvy as the driveway leading up to the clubhouse at Bayonne Golf Club. Only one team was able to keep it on the road: Baltusrol Golf Club. The Springfield club played up to its enormous potential, finishing as the only under-par squad in lightning-shortened finals.

This was the first truncated finals in twenty years of Hoffman Cup play. Audibles from the pro shop designed to speed up play were to no avail, as a magnificent thunderstorm decided to park directly over the beautiful hilltop clubhouse at midday. The result was a great light show but an unsettling finish to the Hoffman Cup season.

Not that the result was contested. Baltusrol finished at a convincing 10-under par, eclipsing the nearest competitor, defending champion Arcola Country Club, which was even on the day. Third place was taken by Black Oak Golf Club at 4-over, followed by Hollywood Golf Club (+6) and Upper Montclair Golf Club (+7).

Baltusrol captured its fourth Hoffman Cup championship, but its first in a decade dominated by defending titleist Arcola. Baltusrol's captains, John Roberts, and Roddy McRae, seemed resolved early in the Matches to change the narrative. The squad earned the Bye into the Finals by winning the most points in intragroup play.

In the Finals, they fielded perhaps the strongest Hoffman Cup finals squad ever with two nationally ranked amateurs in Mark Costanza and Barnes Blake, a top-tier local professional in Ryan Fountaine, and an impressive, decorated group of "plus handicappers." The quality showed as each Baltusrol side finished under par, with Fountaine and partner Gregg Angelillo tying teammates Max Bischel and Jeff Werring at -4. The remaining sides of Costanza / McRae and Ben Alcorn / Barnes Blake both came in at -1.

Arcola, which has captured seven of the past nine Hoffman Cup championships, was led by the sides of Grant Sturgeon/Jim Craffey and Trevor Randolph/ Lucas Farmer at -1. The side of Jon Ciccone/Cody Cox, with a 1-under total, paced the Black Oak Golf Club squad. Hollywood, in its second-straight final, was led by its fourth side, Winston Blank and Mike Galeotafiore, at even par. Finals first-timer Upper Montclair captain Todd Wiggins led the way for his squad, teaming with Matt Scozzari to come in at -1.

With six total Hoffman Cups to their credit, it is great to see Baltusrol (4) and Black Oak (2) back in the Finals after a few years in the woods. These two former champion clubs have been eclipsed in recent years by the brilliance of Arcola, but maybe their 2024 success will spur them on to provide consistent pressure to take home the Hoffman Cup.

Our thanks are extended to Bayonne Golf Club and its founder, Eric Bergstol, for the club's excellent support to the Hoffman Cup Matches. Any opportunity to play Bayonne is a bountiful sensory experience – possibly the best in our region. Let's hope we can get in a full Hoffman Cup Finals at Bayonne sometime in the near future!

2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the Hoffman Cup Matches; the first Finals were held in 2005. That year, in a field of four clubs (Rock Spring Club, Fairmount Country Club, Montclair Golf Club and Spring Brook Country Club), Fairmount came out on top with an 8-4 win over Montclair. Fairmount was led by Allen Small and Craig Smith, two of the region's top amateurs who had just returned from Ireland as members of the MGA's Cary Cup

squad. A year later, Montclair extracted revenge by winning the Cup, then winning four more Hoffman Cup seasons in a row.

While the 2005 Hoffman Cup involved four clubs and a total of about 36 golfers, after steady, controlled growth, 2024's event featured 36 clubs and more than 500 golfers. Seen through the Hoffman Cup lens, twenty years have gone by quickly.

2024 Finals results can be found immediately below. Complete 2024 match-by-match results follow.

2024 Hoffman Cup Matches Finals Results		
June 30, 2024, Bayonne Golf Club		
Club; Team #	Players	Score
Baltusrol #1	Gregg Angelillo / Ryan Fontaine	-4
Arcola #1	Jim Craffey / Grant Sturgeon	-1
Black Oak #1	Cody Cox / Jon Ciccone	-1
Hollywood #1	Tyler McArdeU / Dave McGrath	+3
Upper Montclair #1	Matt Scozzari / Todd Wiggins*	-1
Baltusrol #2	Mark Costanza / Roddy McRae*	-1
Arcola #2	Adam Cutler / Xavier Dailly	+2
Black Oak #2	Todd Peluso / George Fernandez	+2
Hollywood #2	Tyler Brewington / Bobby Gross	+2
Upper Montclair #2	Brent Norcia / Andrew Cliff	+1
Baltusrol #3	Max Bichsel / Jeff Werring	-4
Arcola #3	Lucas Farmer / Trevor Randolph	-1
Black Oak #3	Liam Brandt / Tim Morris	E
Hollywood #3	Devin Drobbin* / Jason Zimmel	+1
Upper Montclair #3	Glenn Hertzberg / Tom Scuderi	+5

Baltusrol #4	Ben Alcorn / Barnes Blake	-1
Arcola #4	Mike O'Connell* / Todd Shagin	E
Black Oak #4	Nick Clessuras / Chris Markham*	+3
Hollywood #4	Winston Blank / Mike Galeotafiore	E
Upper Montclair #4	Kevin Milan / Harris Cornell	+2

Intragroup Matches -- Results

Scheduled for Saturday, April 27

	Matches
Group A	Baltusrol (8.5) v Essex Fells (3.5); Canoe Brook (5) v Mendham (7)
Group B	Hamilton Farm (8.5) v Forest Hill (3.5); Fairmount (7) v. Metedeconk (5)
Group C	Fiddler's Elbow (10) v Ridge @ Back Brook (2); Ridgewood (5.5) v Essex County (6.5)
Group D	Baltusrol (11) v Bayonne (1); Morris County (1) v Manasquan River (11)
Group E	Hollywood (9) v Spring Lake (3); Rockaway River (7) v Liberty National (5)
Group F	Rumson (5.5) v Upper Montclair (6.5); Somerset Hills (7) v Bedens Brook (5)
Group G	Black Oak (8.5) v Mountain Ridge (3.5); Plainfield (7) v Navesink (5)
Group H	Montclair (9) v Trump National (3); Deal (9.5) v Echo Lake (2.5)
Group I	Hackensack (7) v N. Jersey (5); Knickerbocker (5) v Spring Brook (7)

Intragroup Matches – Results

Scheduled for Sunday, April 28

	Matches
Group A	Arcola (10) v Mendham - 2; Canoe Brook (11) v Essex Fells (1)
Group B	Hamilton Farm (6) v. Metedeconk (6); Fairmount (2.5) v. Forest Hill (9.5)
Group C	Fiddler's Elbow (5.5) v Essex County (6.5); Ridgewood (6) v Ridge @ Back Brook (6)
Group D	Baltusrol (6.5) v Manasquan (5.5); Morris County (8.5) v Bayonne (3.5)
Group E	Hollywood (5.5) v Liberty National (6.5); Rockaway River (6.5) v Spring Lake (5.5)
Group F	Rumson (8) v Bedens Brook (4); Somerset Hills (3) v Upper Montclair (9)
Group G	Black Oak (8) v Navesink (4); Plainfield (5) v Mountain Ridge (7)
Group H	Montclair (5.5) v Echo Lake (6.5); Deal (4) v Trump National (8)
Group I	Hackensack (4) v Spring Brook (8); Knickerbocker (5) v N. Jersey (7)

Intragroup Matches – Results

Scheduled for Saturday, May 4

	Matches
Group A	Arcola (7.5) v Canoe Brook (4.5); Mendham (3.5) v Essex Fells (8.5)
Group B	Hamilton Farm (4.5) v. Fairmount (7.5); Metedeconk (4) v. Forest Hill (8)
Group C	Fiddler's Elbow (7.5) v Ridgewood (4.5); Essex County (10) v Ridge @ Back Brook (2)
Group D	Baltusrol (9.5) v Morris County (2.5); Manasquan River (5) v Bayonne (7)
Group E	Hollywood (7.5) v Rockaway River (4.5); Liberty v Spring Lake

Group F	Rumson (8.5) v Somerset Hills (3.5); Bedens Brook (5.5) v Upper Montclair (6.5)
Group G	Black Oak (7) v Plainfield (5); Navesink (9.5) v Mountain Ridge (2.5)
Group H	Montclair (10.5) v Deal (1.5); Echo Lake (8) v Trump National (4)
Group I	Hackensack (4) v Knickerbocker (8); Spring Brook (8.5) v N. Jersey (3.5)

HCM Standings -- End of Intergroup Play:

Group A: Arcola - 26*; Canoe Brook - 20.5; Essex Fells - 13; Mendham - 12.5
Group B: Forest Hill - 21*; Metedeconk - 15; Hamilton Farm - 19; Fairmount - 17
Group C: Essex County - 23*; Fiddler's Elbow - 23; Ridgewood - 16; Ridge @ Back Brook - 10
Group D: Baltusrol - 27*; Manasquan River - 21.5; Morris County - 12; Bayonne - 11.5
Group E: Hollywood - 22*; Rockaway River - 18; Liberty National - 11.5; Spring Lake - 10.5
Group F: Upper Montclair - 22*; Rumson - 22; Bedens Brook - 14.5; Somerset Hills - 13.5
Group G: Black Oak - 23.5*; Navesink - 18.5; Plainfield - 17; Mountain Ridge - 13
Group H: Montclair - 25*; Echo Lake 17; Trump - 15; Deal - 15
Group I: Spring Brook - 23.5*; Knickerbocker - 18; North Jersey - 15.5; Hackensack - 15

Hoffman Cup Semifinals

June 8 - 23

Arcola CC (8) v Forest Hill FC (4)

Montclair GC (6) v **Upper Montclair CC (6)**; UMCC won in sudden death

Spring Brook CC (2) v **Hollywood GC (10)**

Black Oak GC (9) v Essex County CC (3)