



May 24, 2016

## Baltusrol Returns to the Winner's Circle



The 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Champions, from Baltusrol GC (L to R): Nick Desai, Dan Feeney, Steven Wentz, Terry Yun, Branden Holden, Captain Andy Stock, DJ Stewart, Roddy McRae and Gregg Angelillo

The 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Finals ended in a somewhat familiar fashion, with **Baltusrol Golf Club** and **Black Oak Golf Club** providing a typical, down-to-the-last-group finish at splendid **Mountain Ridge Country Club**. Baltusrol came out on top this time by the scantiest of spreads, 209 to Black Oak's 210-- just the latest in tiny separations between the two squads over the past five seasons.

**Metedeconk National Golf Club** proved that it is a for-real team with a bright future, coming in third with a 213 total. Led by a brilliant 68 from the team of Tyler Brewington and John Browndorf, and leadership from talented professional Brent Studer, Metedeconk showed it can hang with the best. Captain Bill Bello has created a supply of strong players at the 'Conk and gave notice that it plans to be a fixture in Finals to come.

The spell came off **Mendham Golf and Tennis Club's** giant-killer season. In its first trip to the playoffs, the match play mavens of the first four rounds shot 225 in the medal play Finals format. However, MGTC should take solace in the fact that no one will take them lightly going forward, certainly as long as Steve Zychowski and TJ Malman are in the mix. Each (with their respective partners) came close to a perfect

match play record, with Zychowki away and Malman at home. Five to six points right off is a great foundation for any captain to build on.

### **How Did They Do That?**

Baltusrol was led by its first team out of the blocks, veterans Nick Desai and Dan Feeney, who captured the medalist honors with a *how-did-they-do-that?* 67 in weather conditions more typical to pond hockey than spring golf. Long-hitting Branden Holden and steady Steven Wentz teamed well to finish in the twilight with a sterling 68, while Terry Yun and Gregg Angelillo completed the scoring for Baltusrol with a 74.

In a format counting the best three of four team scores, impressive Black Oak provided the most consistent scoring: 69 by David Glenz and John Olsen, 70 from Michael Deo and Chris Markham, and an even-par 71 from Brian Komline and Todd Peluso. Black Oak is a team composed of champions that is already making plans to take back the Hoffman Cup in 2017.

Baltusrol v. Black Oak has officially become a friendly but legit rivalry. They've met in three medal-play Hoffman Cup Finals in the past five seasons, separated by a total of three shots. Baltusrol won two of the meetings over Black Oak by a total of three shots, while the two clubs tied for second against **Arcola Country Club** in 2015. But in their only head-to-head match (in 2014), Black Oak came out on top in a tie breaker after a 6-6 total. Expect the rivalry to continue!

The Hoffman Cup 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.

### **Awesome Mountain Ridge**

Mountain Ridge's course proved to be a beautiful, extraordinary test, with perfect greens sliding into warp speed by wind gusts over 30 miles per hour. The club was a wonderful host, and our sincere thank you goes to its Board, Hoffman Cup Captain Michael Kopelman, Head Professional Len Siter and General Manager Jim Corcoran for making this memorable 2016 Finals possible.

These Finals are the capstone to the 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Matches, which included over 400 low-handicap regional golfers and professionals and accounted for 864 individual rounds of early spring golf, more than \$56,000 in caddie fees, and over \$20,000 in donations to the four First Tee chapters of New Jersey. Thank you to the team captains, who prove every year that it is their passion that makes the Hoffman Cup Matches a success.

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.



## Recap of 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Matches

### 2016 Hoffman Cup Groups

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Arcola CC	Black Oak GC	Baltusrol GC	Plainfield CC	Echo Lake CC	Knickerbocker CC	Manasquan River GC	Montclair GC
Mendham GTC	Hamilton Farm GC	Fairmount CC	Hackensack GC	Metedeconk National GC	Upper Montclair CC	Spring Brook CC	Rockaway River CC
Morris County GC	Essex Fells CC	Trump National GC Bedminster	Bayonne GC	Spring Lake CC	The Ridge at Back Brook	Mountain Ridge CC	Essex County CC
Rumson CC	Canoe Brook CC	Alpine CC	Roxiticus GC	Ridgewood GC	Navesink CC	Bedens Brook CC	Liberty National GC

### Intragroup Play

First Day of Intragroup Matches, Saturday, April 23

Group	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS
A	Arcola	7	vs	Rumson	5	Mendham	11	vs	Morris County	1
B	Black Oak	9	vs	Canoe Brook	3	Hamilton Farm	8	vs	Essex Fells	4
C	Baltusrol	11.5	vs	Alpine	.5	Fairmount	7.5	vs	Trump National	4.5
D	Plainfield	7.5	vs	Roxiticus	4.5	Hackensack	7	vs	Bayonne	5
E	Echo Lake	6.5	vs	Ridgewood	5.5	Metedeconk	8.5	vs	Spring Lake	3.5

F	Knickerbocker	10	vs	Navesink	2	Upper Montclair	6	vs	Ridge at Back Brook	6
G	Manasquan River	6	vs	Bedens Brook	6	Spring Brook	9	vs	Mountain Ridge	3
H	Montclair	8.5	vs	Liberty National	3.5	Rockaway River	4.5	vs	Essex County	7.5

Second Day of Intragroup Matches, Sunday, April 24

Group	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS
A	Arcola	11	vs	Morris County	1	Mendham	6	vs	Rumson	6
B	Black Oak	8	vs	Essex Fells	4	Hamilton Farm	6.5	vs	Canoe Brook	5.5
C	Baltusrol	10	vs	Trump National	2	Fairmount	6.5	vs	Alpine	5.5
D	Plainfield	9	vs	Bayonne	3	Hackensack	7	vs	Roxiticus	5
E	Echo Lake	6	vs	Spring Lake	6	Metedeconk	5	vs	Ridgewood	7
F	Knickerbocker	6.5	vs	Ridge at Back Brook	5.5	Upper Montclair	8	vs	Navesink	4
G	Manasquan River	10.5	vs	Mountain Ridge	1.5	Spring Brook	10.5	vs	Bedens Brook	1.5
H	Montclair	8	vs	Essex County	4	Rockaway River	8.5	vs	Liberty National	3.5

Third Day of Intragroup Matches, Saturday, April 30

Group	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS	CLUB	PTS		CLUB	PTS
A	Arcola	4	vs	Mendham	8	Morris County	4.5	vs	Rumson	7.5
B	Black Oak	9	vs	Hamilton Farm	3	Essex Fells	5.5	vs	Canoe Brook	6.5
C	Baltusrol	3.5	vs	Fairmount	8.5	Trump National	8	vs	Alpine	4
D	Plainfield	8	vs	Hackensack	4	Bayonne	11	vs	Roxiticus	1

<b>E</b>	<b>Echo Lake</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Metedeconk</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>Spring Lake</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Ridgewood</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Knickerbocker</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Upper Montclair</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>Ridge at Back Brook</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Navesink</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Manasquan River</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Spring Brook</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Mountain Ridge</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Bedens Brook</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>Montclair</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Rockaway River</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>Essex County</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Liberty National</b>	<b>1.5</b>

### Results of Intragroup Play

Eight clubs earned their way into the playoffs for the 2016 Hoffman Cup by garnering the most points in their Groups. Each in head-to-head matches with three other clubs, **Mendham GTC**, **Black Oak GC**, **Baltusrol GC**, **Plainfield CC**, **Metedeconk National GC**, **Knickerbocker CC**, **Spring Brook CC** and **Montclair GC** emerged to earn a spot the Hoffman Cup Semifinals.

A weekend of exciting matches saw one stunning upset and a few close calls. The most surprising result was Mendham's 8-4 victory over defending champ **Arcola CC**, considered by many as the finest team to ever win the Cup. Just last year, Arcola dominated both its group play and the Finals on the way to its title. Mendham played as though it didn't realize it was supposed to lose, led by a three-point performance by co-captain Steve Zychowski and partner Steve Bosacki at Arcola, and four points at home.

The two other teams considered the cream of the field made it through to the playoffs, but in a decidedly different manner. Black Oak handled a challenge by neighbor **Hamilton Farm GC** with a big 9 to 3 win. Baltusrol had a decidedly different experience against formidable **Fairmount CC**, losing 8.5-3.5 against the first-ever Hoffman Cup champ, but holding on for a narrow 2.5 point Group win. This match play loss is Baltusrol's worst ever, and will no doubt be used as incentive for fine play next weekend.

Knickerbocker took on a head-to-head challenge by a strong **Upper Montclair CC** squad with a solid win to secure first place in its Group. Lower seeds Metedeconk and Spring Brook had less exciting paths to the playoffs, with solid wins in each of their matches. Montclair did what it has done more than any Hoffman Cup team -- win -- in a tight match against a spirited **Rockaway River CC** squad. 2016 finalist Plainfield captured its third straight trip to the playoffs with a solid 8-4 win over a strong **Hackensack GC**.

**Group A: Mendham -- 25;** Arcola 22; Rumson -- 18.5; Morris County -- 6.5

**Group B: Black Oak -- 26;** Hamilton Farm - 17.5; Canoe Brook -- 15; Essex Fells -- 13.5

**Group C: Baltusrol -- 25;** Fairmount 22.5; Trump National - 14.5; Alpine -- 10

**Group D: Plainfield 24.5;** Bayonne -- 19; Hackensack -- 18; Roxiticus -- 10.5

**Group E: Metedeconk National - 23;** Ridgewood -- 20; Echo Lake - 15; ; Spring Lake -- 14

**Group F: Knickerbocker - 24;** Upper Montclair - 18.5; Ridge @ Back Brook - 11 ; Navesink -- 6

**Group G: Spring Brook -- 26.5;** Manasquan River -- 21.5; Bedens Brook - 14.5; Mountain Ridge -- 9.5

**Group H: Montclair -- 23;** Essex County -- 22; Rockaway River -- 18.5; Liberty National -- 8.5



## 2016 Semifinal Matches

On Saturday, May 7, the eight semifinalists in the 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Matches evolved into the four finalists, each as a result of convincing wins over strong teams. Two wins would qualify as not unexpected, with perennial contenders **Baltusrol GC** and **Black Oak GC** each claiming impressive 9-3 wins over **Knickerbocker CC** and **Spring Brook CC**, respectively. Despite strong showings in capturing their groups, Knickerbocker and Spring Brook could not keep up with the unrelenting strength of last year's co-runners-up.

The other two wins clearly qualify as upsets. **Mendham GTC** is competing in its first Hoffman Cup playoffs, but is playing like it owns the event. After a shocking win last week over defending champion **Arcola CC**, Mendham repeated itself with an 8-4 win over 5-time champion **Montclair GC**. Then, **Metedeconk National GC** pulled off an unlikely 7.5-4.5 win over 2015 Finalist **Plainfield CC**. This win is all the more unusual because -- due to this week's green aeration at Metedeconk and Plainfield's subsequent gracious offer to host -- all four matches were competed at Plainfield. It seems obvious that Metedeconk has developed a very strong Hoffman Cup team.

Therefore, 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Finalists are Baltusrol Golf Club, Black Oak Golf Club, Mendham Golf and Tennis Club and Metedeconk National Golf Club. The Finals will be waged at Mountain Ridge Golf Club on May 15, with tee times starting at 1:40, as noted below. A short awards reception will follow play that evening.

Many would say that this Final will be the resumption of a battle between two veteran, stacked teams -- Black Oak and Baltusrol. They tied for second in the Finals last year and have a history of beating each other up in head-to-head matches. But you'd have to look at the impressive play of both Mendham and Metedeconk this year to see that the Finals could easily be a four-horse race.

Congratulations not only to the Finalists but to all 32 clubs that participated in the 2016 Red Hoffman Cup Matches!

Group A winner, **Mendham GTC (8)** vs. Group H winner, Montclair GC (4)  
Group B winner, **Black Oak GC (9)** vs. Group G winner, Spring Brook CC (3)  
Group C winner, **Baltusrol GC (9)** vs. Group F winner, Knickerbocker CC (3)  
Group D winner, Plainfield CC (4.5) vs. Group E winner, **Metedeconk National GC (7.5)**



**2016 Hoffman Cup Finals**  
*At Mountain Ridge Golf Club on Sunday, May 15*  
**Results**

Baltusrol Golf Club – 209  
 Black Oak Golf Club -- 210  
 Metedeconk National Golf Club -- 213  
 Mendham Golf and Tennis Club -- 225

Club / Team	Players	Score
Baltusrol GC #4	Nick Desai / Dan Feeney	67*
Baltusrol GC #1	Branden Holden / Steven Wentz	68*
Metedeconk National GC #2	Tyler Brewington / John Browndorf	68*
Black Oak GC #2	David Glenz / John Olsen	69*
Black Oak GC #3	Michael Deo / Christopher Markham	70*
Black Oak GC #1	Brian Komline / Todd Peluso	71*
Metedeconk National GC #1	Brent Studer / Tom Hassel	72*
Metedeconk National GC #3	Bill Bello / Chris Housen	73*
Mendham GTC #2	TJ Malman / Ryle Heraghty	73*
Mendham GTC #1	Steve Zychowki / Steve Bosacki	74*
Baltusrol GC #2	Terry Yun / Greg Angelillo	74*
Black Oak GC #4	Ira Flood / Brian Kurylo	75
Mendham GTC #3	Sean Curtin / Chuck Rundlet	78*
Baltusrol GC #3	DJ Stewart / Roddy McRae	79
Mendham GTC #4	Matt Wirths / Bob Buchney	79
Metedeconk National GC #4	Bill Boyle / Dino Strathis	80

\* = Counts toward team score