



[The story of the 2019 Red Hoffman Cup Matches follows, based heavily on the content presented during the event on www.hoffmancup.org. The first article below covers the Finals, then jumps to a chronological description of what happened in the 2019 Matches leading up to the Final. Team vs team results are listed in the Appendix.]

Hoffman Cup Threeppeat: Arcola Slams It in 2019



The 2019 Red Hoffman Cup Champions, from Arcola CC (L to R):

Front row: Xavier Dailly, Brendan Jonlan, Ryan Chin, Mike O'Connell and Grant Sturgeon.

Back row: Mike McBride, Jr., Dan Macdonald and Captain Trevor Randolph.

The five finalist clubs in the 2019 Red Hoffman Cup Matches came together at beautifully prepared Ridgewood Country Club. Defending champ Arcola CC convincingly proved they are now an official Hoffman Cup dynasty with a 5-under par total of 279, six shots ahead of Black Oak Golf Club. This is Arcola's fourth title win in the past five years.

Arcola won behind the sterling play of Captain Trevor Randolph and Mike O'Connell (68) and Xavier Dailly and Mike McBride, Jr. (69) on the lush, challenging par-71, 7100 yard Ridgewood classic. Not far behind them was the team of Ryan Chin and Grant Sturgeon (70) and Brendan Jonland and Dan Macdonald (72), exhibiting a combination of excellence and balance that no other team in the Hoffman Cup can match.

Black Oak again proved it is among the best collections of golfers in Northern New Jersey, with Co-Captain Mike Deo and partner Dennis Murphy tied for the low round of the day with a splendid 68. Co-Captain Brian Komline teamed with Nick Clessuras to fire an even-par 71, followed by Todd Peluso and Chris Markham at 72. David Glenz and Justin Roscigno completed Black Oak's team score with a 74 for a total of 285.

Rockaway River CC proved the surprise team of the Finals, coming in third at 6-over 290. The team was led by its seniors, Kelly Tripucka and Greg Baker with an impressive 70 over a decidedly young man's course. The teams of Captain Mike Ruccio / Mark Lane and Pierce Gascoigne / Kevin Richards contributed 73s, while Tyler Boyle and Mike DeSantis came in with 74, an overall well balanced team showing at 290.

Essex County CC was led by Captain Mike Guli and Ryan Fennelly at one-over 72. A team of considerable talent, ECCC just didn't have a good day striking the ball. Kieran Purcell / Ken Suarez and Tom Collins / Scot Pasquale both fired 74, and Chris Blake and Brian Waldron completed the scoring with 77, for a total of 297.

Somerset Hills, the team that captured the BYE out of group play into the Finals, never reclaimed the magic it had early in the Hoffman Cup. Nonetheless, the sophomore team should take pride in its performance. Led by Chip Campbell and Nico Donaldson with a 72, the squad proved that it has another year to jell. Brian Folks and Eric Lefante turned in a 73, followed by Patrick Bosworth / Daniel Joseph (75) and Captain Jake Ward / Tyler Gaffney (81) for a 301 total.

Ridgewood was the epitome of hospitality, treating these forty players to great golf and a wonderful reception. We extend grateful thanks to Rob Mannion from Ridgewood's Board of Directors for his personal attention to

our event, the excellent pro shop staff led this day by Cody Endress, magician Todd Raisch, Ridgewood's Course Superintendent, and the exceptional food and beverage support from the Club. What a great day!

2019 Finals, June 1 at Ridgewood CC

Arcola Country Club -- 279

Black Oak Golf Club -- 285
 Rockaway River Country Club -- 290
 Essex County Country Club -- 297
 Somerset Hills Country Club -- 301

Team; Club	Players	Score
#1 Arcola	Xavier Dailly / Mike McBride, Jr.	69
#1 Somerset Hills	Patrick Bosworth / Daniel Joseph	74
#1 Black Oak	David Glenz / Justin Roscigno	74
#1 Essex County	Kieran Purcell / Ken Suarez	74
#1 Rockaway River	Greg Baker / Kelly Tripuka	70
#2 Arcola	Mike O'Connell / Trevor Randolph *	68
#2 Somerset Hills	Brian Folks / Eric Lefante	73
#2 Black Oak	Chris Markham / Todd Peluso	72
#2 Essex County	Tom Collins / Scot Pasquale	74
#2 Rockaway River	Mark Lane / Mike Ruccio *	73
#3 Arcola	Brendan Jonland / Dan Macdonald	72
#3 Black Oak	Nick Clessuras / Brian Komline *	71
#3 Somerset Hills	Chip Campbell / Nico Donaldson	72
#3 Essex County	Chris Blake / Brian Waldron	77
#3 Rockaway River	Tyler Boyle / Mike DeSantis	74
#4 Somerset Hills	Tyler Gaffney / Jake Ward *	81
#4 Arcola	Ryan Chin / Grant Sturgeon	70
#4 Essex County	Ryan Fennelly / Mike Guli *	72
#4 Black Oak	Michael Deo * / Dennis Murphy	68
#4 Rockaway River	Pierce Gascoigne / Kevin Richards	73



2019 Hoffman Cup Intragroup Play

The 2019 Hoffman Cup teams were divided into nine four-club groups. To make it to the playoffs, a club had to win more points than any other club in its group.

Group A	Group B	Group C
Arcola CC	Baltusrol GC	Manasquan River CC
Morris County GC	Mendham G&TC	Ridgewood CC
Canoe Brook CC	Echo Lake CC	Trump National GC Bedminster
Deal G&CC	Liberty National GC	Forest Hill FC

Group D	Group E	Group F
Rumson CC	Black Oak GC	Hollywood GC
Rockaway River CC	Bayonne GC	Hamilton Farm GC
Metedeconk National GC	Fairmount CC	Upper Montclair CC
North Jersey CC	Hackensack GC	Essex Fells CC

Group G	Group H	Group I
Spring Brook CC	Mountain Ridge CC	Essex County CC
Plainfield CC	Somerset Hills CC	Knickerbocker CC
Spring Lake GC	Montclair GC	Navesink CC
Bedens Brook C	Alpine CC	Roxiticus CC

The first weekend of the Hoffman Cup Matches is never dull, and 2019's version has been no exception. Great story lines emerged – particularly among our newer clubs – as some of our perennial giants struggle and old standbys reassert themselves.

In Group A, defending champ **Arcola CC** continues to lead the pack, despite a surprising 6.5-5.5 loss to **Canoe Brook CC**. Another big surprise in the group is newcomer **Deal G&CC's** 12 points placing them in second place. Truth is, Group A is anyone's game with both CBCC and **Morris County GC** having two matches next week. We could be in for another surprise.

Group B makes little sense. Mighty **Baltusrol GC** has yet to win a match, tying newcomer **Liberty National GC** and losing decidedly to **Echo**

Lake CC. ELCC and **Mendham G&TC** lead the division with 14 points each, which places Baltusrol in an unaccustomed spoiler role in next week's match against Mendham.

#4 seed **Forest Hill FC** leads Group C with 14 points, an impressive feat for a club in its first Hoffman Cup. They took down last year's finalist **Manasquan River GC** and just squeaked past **Trump National-Bedminster GC**. This Group still remains wide open, with **Ridgewood CC** and Trump each having two matches next weekend.

Group D is also unsettled, with all four clubs sporting only one completed match so far. **Rockaway River CC** barely leads 2018 finalist **Rumson CC**, with perennial contender **Metedeconk National GC** and rookie **North Jersey CC** not far behind. It's simply too early to say anything coherent about this Group.

Per usual, #1 seed **Black Oak GC** leads the pack in Group E, but Sunday's tie with resurgent **Fairmount CC** exposes a chink in its armor. **Bayonne GC**, Fairmount and **Hackensack GC** each remain in the hunt, but can make the playoffs only with a big win.

Hollywood GC continues to prove it's for real, leading Group F with 10 points after only one match. However, **Hamilton Farm GC**, **Essex Fells CC** and **Upper Montclair CC** – all strong teams – have also each completed only one match, and this group continues to be a toss-up.

Bedens Brook C has lashed its competition and leads decidedly in Group G, ambushing its opponents behind its #4 seed. **Spring Brook CC**, **Spring Lake GC** and **Plainfield CC** trail, with Spring Lake having the chance to upend the BBC juggernaut.

Montclair GC leads Group H, but it should not sleep lightly. Last year's semifinalist **Mountain Ridge CC** is just behind, and both loaded **Somerset Hills CC** and Alpine CC have two matches set up for next weekend. This group is still too early to call.

The Group I match on Saturday between top seeds **Essex County CC** and **Knickerbocker CC** is setting up to be a barnburner, with ECCC currently holding a 16-11 lead. However, KCC still has *two* matches left, including one with **Navesink CC** on Sunday. **Roxiticus GC** will also play Navesink next weekend but is angling for a 2020 #1 draft pick.

Group Standings After Two Days:

Group A: Arcola - 14.5; Deal - 12; Canoe Brook - 6.5; Morris County - 3
Group B: Echo Lake - 14; Mendham - 14; Liberty National - 11; Baltusrol - 9
Group C: Ridgewood - 14.5; Forest Hill - 14; Trump National - 10; Manasquan River - 9.5
Group D: Rockaway River - 9; Rumson - 8; Metedeconk - 4; North Jersey - 3
Group E: Black Oak - 15.5; Fairmount - 13.5; Bayonne - 12; Hackensack - 7
Group F: Upper Montclair - 16.5; Hollywood - 11.5; Hamilton Farm - 11; Essex Fells - 9
Group G: Bedens Brook - 17; Spring Brook - 11; Spring Lake - 10.5; Plainfield - 9.5
Group H: Somerset Hills - 28; Montclair - 25; Mountain ridge - 11; Alpine - 8
Group I: Essex County - 24.5; Knickerbocker - 14.5; Navisink - 12; Roxiticus - 9

Group Standings Upon Completion of Intragroup Play:

Group A: Arcola - 25.5; Deal - 19; Canoe Brook - 11.5*; Morris County - 4*
Group B: Echo Lake - 19**; Baltusrol - 19; Liberty National - 18; Mendham - 16
Group C: Forest Hill - 25.5; Manasquan River - 18.5; Ridgewood - 17.5; Trump - 10.5
Group D: Rockaway River - 22; Rumson - 21; Metedeconk - 15.5; North Jersey - 13.5
Group E: Black Oak - 26; Fairmount - 23.5; Bayonne - 13.5; Hackensack - 9
Group F: Upper Montclair - 22.5; Hamilton Farm - 20.5; Hollywood - 17; Essex Fells - 12
Group G: Bedens Brook - 25; Plainfield - 19.5; Spring Brook - 31; Spring Lake - 14.5;
Group H: Somerset Hills - 28; Montclair - 25; Mountain ridge - 11; Alpine - 8
Group I: Essex County - 24.5; Knickerbocker - 14.5*; Navisink - 12*; Roxiticus - 9

** Did not complete matches; ** Won head-to-head tie breaker*

The 2019 Hoffman Cup Semis -- Lots of New Blood

The heart and soul of the Hoffman Cup Matches -- the 108 Group matches -- are in the books. As happens every year, new clubs advance to the playoffs, but this year set a new standard for change.

For starters, sophomore squad **Somerset Hills CC** took the most points in Group play, with 28, two points head of **Black Oak GC's** 26. This distinction is particularly important this year, for with it, Somerset Hills earned a "bye" directly into the Finals.

Other Group winners on the Road to Ridgewood include surprising rookie club **Forest Hill FC** (25.5 points); two-time defending champion **Arcola CC** (25); awakened-from-outta-da-blue **Bedens Brook C** (25), making the playoffs for the first time in a decade; veteran playoff contender **Essex County CC** (24.5); and **Upper Montclair CC** (22.5), **Rockaway River CC** (22), and **Echo Lake CC** (19), each making its first visit to the Semis. Yes, that's right -- only Arcola, Black Oak and Essex County have ever played in the Semis before!

The big question is whether any of these new clubs can successfully take on Arcola, perhaps the strongest team to play in the Hoffman Cup Matches, and Black Oak, the two-time champ that has never missed the playoffs. All this new blood only increases the uncertainty.

So, the four Semifinals matches, to be played the weekend of May 18 and 19, are:

- Black Oak v. Echo Lake
- Forest Hill v. Rockaway River
- Arcola v. Upper Montclair
- Bedens Brook v. Essex County

The four winners of these matches will advance to the Finals and join Somerset Hills in a medal play Hoffman Cup finale at splendid Ridgewood CC on June 1.



Semifinal Results (May 18/19):

[BYE Club: Somerset Hills (28 pts)]
Black Oak (7.5) vs. Echo Lake (4.5)
Forest Hill (4.5) vs. Rockaway River (7.5)
Arcola (7.5) vs. Upper Montclair (4.5)
Bedens Brook (4.5) vs. Essex County (7.5)



Appendix – 2019 Intragroup Match Results

First Day of Matches, Saturday, April 27

	Results of April 27 Matches
Group A	Arcola (9) vs Deal (3) Morris County (0) vs Canoe Brook (0)
Group B	Baltusrol (6) vs Liberty National (6) Mendham (7) vs Echo Lake (5)
Group C	Manasquan River (3) vs Forest Hill (9) Ridgewood (7.5) vs Trump National (4.5)
Group D	Rumson (5) vs North Jersey (7) Rockaway Riverl (9) vs Metedeconk National (3)
Group E	Black Oak (9.5) vs Hackensack (2.5) Bayonne (4.5) vs Fairmount (7.5)
Group F	Hollywood (9.5) vs Essex Fells (2.5) Hamilton Farm (8.5) vs Upper Montclair (3.5)
Group G	Spring Brook (6) vs Bedens Brook (6) Plainfield (8.5) vs Spring Lake (3.5)
Group H	Mountain Ridge (7.5) vs Alpine (4.5) Somerset Hills (8.5) vs Montclair (3.5)
Group I	Essex County (9.5) vs Roxiticus (2.5) Knickerbocker (0) vs Navesink (0)

Second Day of Matches, Sunday, April 28

	Results of April 28 Matches
Group A	Arcola (5.5) vs Canoe Brook (6.5) Morris County (3) vs Deal (9)
Group B	Baltusrol (3) vs Echo Lake (9) Mendham (7) vs Liberty National (5)
Group C	Manasquan River (6.5) vs Trump National (5.5) Ridgewood (7) vs Forest Hill (5)
Group D	Rumson (8) vs Metedeconk National (4) Rockaway River (9) vs North Jersey (3)
Group E	Black Oak (6) vs Fairmount (6) Bayonne (7.5) vs Hackensack (4.5)
Group F	Hollywood (2) vs Upper Montclair (10) Hamilton Farm (5.5) vs Essex Fells (6.5)
Group G	Spring Brook (5) vs Spring Lake (7) Plainfield (1) vs Bedens Brook (11)
Group H	Mountain Ridge (2.5) vs Montclair (9.5) Somerset Hills (8.5) vs Alpine (3.5)
Group I	Essex County (6.5) vs Navesink (5.5) Knickerbocker (11) vs Roxiticus (1)

Third Day of Matches, Saturday, May 4

	Results of May 4 Matches
Group A	Arcola (11) vs Morris County (1) Canoe Brook (5) vs Deal (7)
Group B	Baltusrol (10) vs Mendham (2) Echo Lake (5) vs Liberty National (7)
Group C	Manasquan River (9) vs Ridgewood (3) Trump National (.5) vs Forest Hill (11.5)
Group D	Rumson (8) vs Rockaway River (4) Metedeconk National (8.5) vs North Jersey (3.5)
Group E	Black Oak (10.5) vs Bayonne (1.5) Fairmount (10) vs Hackensack (2)
Group F	Hollywood (5.5) vs Hamilton Farm (6.5) Upper Montclair (9) vs Essex Fells (3)
Group G	Spring Brook (2) vs Plainfield (10) Spring Lake (4) vs Bedens Brook (8)
Group H	Mountain Ridge (1) vs Somerset Hills (11) Montclair (12) vs Alpine (0)
Group I	Essex County (8.5) vs Knickerbocker (3.5) Navesink (6.5) vs Roxiticus (5.5)

