

THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

Volume XXII

April 29, 2012

Pursuing the Precious Turtle.

Hobbits.

Turtle Wax.

Tough Dogs.

Stove Spawn.

Sweetheart of the Golf Trip.

And more



Frodo ponders the Turtle

TURTLE WORTHY AT LAST!

LIKE A PHOENIX RISING, MARK “Q-BALL” KIMMET CURES THE SHANKS TO CLAIM THE ELUSIVE TURTLE.

DEPOT STOVE DEFENDS THE TEMPLETON CUP.

Sunday, April 29, 2012. 1:06 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dūmbáss, Publisher.

Dimpled Orb Digest © 2012.



Q-Ball reveling in his victory

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD). – Helped by advancements in golf technology, Mark

“Q-Ball” Kimmet overcame a severe case of the shanks to win the 2012 Southern Pines Invitational on Sunday. Firing a final round plus three, Q-Ball held off a surging Toby “Hoss Cartwright” Hyke to win the tournament by two points at plus nine. In so doing, Kimmet claimed his second Terrapin Travelin’ Trophy in eight years, last having won the coveted Turtle in 2004. That year, Michael “The Calcutta Chairman” Wood branded Q-Ball “not Turtle-Worthy,” and purloined the trophy for the entire year. This time around, with Wood having returned to Knoxville on Saturday, Kimmet was able to claim the Turtle personally at Sunday’s awards ceremony. It is thus likely that Q-Ball will retain the award until next year’s event. Overcoming severe swing anxiety and finally being worthy enough to keep the Turtle for an entire year made this victory doubly sweet for Q-Ball.





Depot Stove

While Kimmet was claiming the Turtle, defending Turtle Slam Champion Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley waited out a challenge by Norm “The Total Package” Templeton to win the Templeton Cup for the second year in a row. The Cup is awarded annually to the player with the most points overall in the Tournament. Needing a monumental final round total of 28 points to beat Pressley, Templeton fell ten shy to claim second in the overall points contest. Despite his inability to defend his claim on the Turtle, Pressley was humbled and grateful to win the Cup for a second time.

Coming off last year’s Turtle Slam, Pressley remarked on the distractions to his practice schedule brought about by his new-found fame. “I certainly would have liked to defend the Turtle this year,” he said. “But with all the endorsements, autographs, interviews, and personal appearances, I just haven’t been able to get into my normal practice routine. All-in-all it’s been a rewarding year. Now that Mark has won the Turtle, maybe my life can return to something like normal. Congratulations to Q on a fine tournament. If you would like an autograph, I will be appearing with Robin Wilhoit on May 5th at West Town Mall.”



Neely



Logue



Shelor



Hyke

The Tournament had kicked off in its customary fashion on the Tuesday before play with the first Calcutta at the Woolf, McClane law firm in Knoxville, Tennessee. The field once again consisted of sixteen players, but with a little turnover in the ranks. Prior participants Greg “Stone Cold” Goddard and Michael “The Hoser” Moser were unable to play due to injuries. Moser’s spot as Greg “The Loguemeister” Logue’s partner was assumed by newcomer and erstwhile lumberjack Andy “Leaf” Neely. Also a first-time player, Rob “No Paparazzi” Shelor stepped in for Goddard as Hoss Cartwright’s partner. The notoriously camera-shy Shelor had not been photographed in twenty years, and is rumored to be the most interesting man in the world.



---Paid for by the Democrat National Committee, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Chairperson---



Formerly Piledriver



Thompson



Gibson



Lawler

The Trip's loss was the Lord's gain, as the ever sanguine Monty "Monsignor" Walton retired the Yodeling Pickle for worthier pursuits in Divinity School. Now his biggest problem is explaining to the congregation why his nickname used to be "Piledriver." Q-Ball Kimmet took Walton's old spot with Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson, while Q's place was taken by Tracy "Tiger" Thompson. Thompson stepped off the milk carton following a nationwide search to team up with Jon "Hairball" Lawler. Hairball's nickname had lost its prior significance since he is no longer teamed with the bald-pated Q. Lawler objected and said that he preferred the name "Forrest Gump." He has, therefore, sealed his own fate to be forevermore known as Hairball on The Golf Trip.



Gump



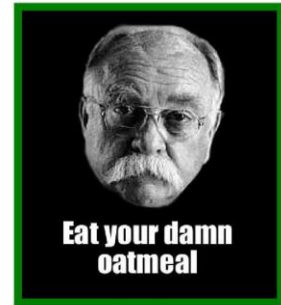
Lorax



Monopoly Guy



McClane



Brimley

Depot Stove teamed up with his usual partner, Dennis "Wilford Brimley" McClane, whose desire for the Turtle is unparalleled. It has been suggested in some circles that Brimley should be re-nicknamed "the Lorax" to commemorate his prodigious mustache, which seems to be growing by the minute. Others have suggested that McClane looks like the monopoly guy, especially after a winning day in the Calcutta. In any event, the resemblance of McClane's curmudgeonly disposition to Wilford Brimley's probably means that moniker will stick.

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Moore



Nash and Wood



Templeton

Total Package Templeton again paired with his usual partner, Dan “The Man” Moore. Back for his second trip was Nathan “The Assassin” Nash, who once again teamed up with Calcutta Chairman Wood. Nash caught Turtle fever last year and figured to be hot on the reptile's tail again this year. Rounding out the field were Richard “The Envy” Matlock and his partner, Mike “Big Boy, Jr.” King. King and Matlock both have tasted Turtle paydirt in years passed, so they definitely were players to be reckoned with.

Once the players had gathered, the opening Calcutta Ceremonies began with the Chairman’s welcome and the recital of the Calcutta Creed. The players then endured the Longest Three Minutes in Golf—the annual slide show. It takes longer to watch one of these things than it does for Mark “The Human Rain Delay” Williamson to hit a shot. This year’s edition did not disappoint.



King



Matlock

Offsetting the tedium of the slide show was the lovely banquet put forth by the Orbettes: Karen Cain, Angie Rossini, Tina “The Ice Princess” Zeits, and new recruits Tronda O’Brien and Dawn Lockmiller. Once again outdoing themselves, the Orbettes feted the players with a vast array of treats, including the Ice Princess’s incomparable Oreo Orbs. Ms. O’Brien added her signature panache to the festivities with customized name tags for the ladies. All the players were appreciative of the Orbettes’ efforts.



Rossini O'Brien Zeits Cain



O'Brien Zeits



The Calcutta

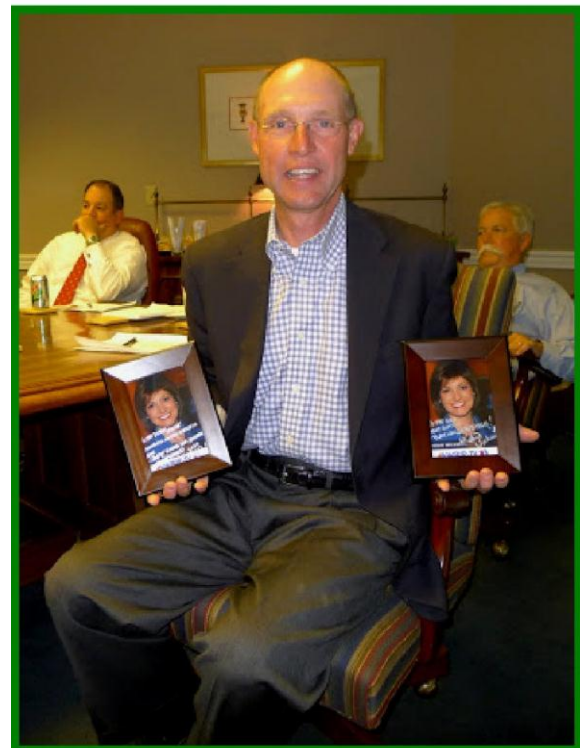
Following the slide show, Chairman Wood commenced the first Calcutta. Despite sparse wagering for the first round, about half way through, a bewildered Neely asked Logue “You mean this isn’t for the whole tournament- -we do this every day?” The early favorites turned out to be Brimley, Logue, Depot, and Q. After the Calcutta, Neely was forced to repair to his Automatic Teller Machine, as he had shown up at the Calcutta with no cash.

Apart from his phenomenal golfing skills, Depot Stove is also a cultural icon, with interests as diverse as the Symphony, Trans-Siberian Investing, and Himalayan Pilates. It was in connection with the Knoxville Symphony that Depot finally granted an interview to WBIR News Anchor Robin “The Sweetheart of the Golf Trip” Wilhoit. Ms. Wilhoit is a known admirer of The Stove’s, and had been trying to get an interview with him since his Turtle Slam Triumph a year ago.

According to Depot, Ms. Wilhoit finally resorted to buying *Lunch With The Stove* offered at a silent auction to benefit the Symphony. During the interview, The Stove presented Ms. Wilhoit with an autographed copy of last year’s *Dimpled Orb Digest*. In return, Depot appeared at the first Calcutta with an autographed picture of Ms. Wilhoit that was dedicated to all the Golf Trip Players.

That photo, and another photo personally endorsed to The Stove, were appreciated by all. The Wilhoit lagniappes were later displayed throughout the weekend perched atop the Ross Lodge mantel along with the Templeton Cup and the Turtle. The pictures motivated everyone, as The Sweetheart served as the Honorary Starter for the tournament.

A memo from WBIR management concerning the photo presentation appears overleaf.



Depot Stove with the Wilhoit lagniappes

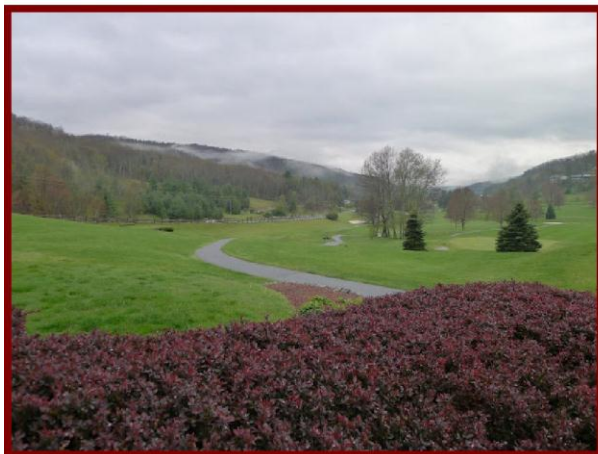
From: General Manager WBIR
Sent: Wednesday April 25, 2012
To: All Employees of WBIR
Subject: Alert – Possible Stranger in the Building

Yesterday a person who calls himself Chuck D., using the Twitter handle @OrbTweets, sent an unsolicited Tweet to Robin Wilhoit. The Tweet claimed that Ms. Wilhoit had provided autographed photos for use in a fictitious golf tournament called the Southern Pines Invitational. Ms. Wilhoit has no recollection of ever meeting this individual or anyone else affiliated with @OrbTweets or the Southern Pines Invitational. She does not remember providing any photos or autographs to this person. This man has evidently concocted an elaborate hoax, complete with a website called <http://www.dimpledorb.net>. Therefore please use caution in dealing with anyone who claims to be affiliated with this organization.

A photograph of an individual believed to be Chuck D. is attached below. We ask that everyone be on alert for this person in case he attempts to enter the WBIR facility. Please call 911 or the police, and then notify WBIR management immediately if you see this person. The police or management can then serve this person with a restraining order to prevent him from coming on or about the premises. Thank you for your vigilance.



Individual believed to be Chuck D.



A chill was in the air at Mountain Glen



Logue approaches the green at number 3

The first Calcutta thus in the archives, the players scattered to attend to their departure preparations. Most planned to leave Wednesday and take in practice rounds either en route or in Southern Pines. Logue, Templeton and Moore celebrated Earth Week with a practice round on Wednesday in Newland, North Carolina. There they enlarged their carbon footprints and communed with Gaia on the Mountain Glen Golf Club, where, despite a balmy spring, the wind farm app on Logue's phone said it was 39 degrees when they teed off. So much for global warming. By the end of the round it had warmed enough for Templeton and Moore to be tied at plus four, with Logue finally getting it together at the end to go minus one.

Wednesday's preliminary rounds found most of the other players already in Southern Pines. Eyebrows were raised when Leaf Neely turned in a 28-point practice round on Pines Needles, a course he claimed never to have seen before. Views were cast askance at McClane, whose initial estimate of Neely's golfing prowess was 17 points. Suggestions were made that the Calcutta Chairman would have to take the unprecedented step of invoking Calcutta Rule Three, with an upward adjustment in Leaf's quota. In the end no untoward adjustments were made. The burden of the Turtle restored order, as ultimately Neely never wavered by more than two points in any of the competitive rounds.



Neely's 28 points caused consternation

Wednesday also saw the passing of Pat Wood, the Calcutta Chairman's uncle. Mr. Wood had been ill for some time and finally succumbed at the age of 83. Arrangements were scheduled for Sunday in Knoxville. Several of the players decided to leave early to attend the services. The executive committee determined that those leaving early could elect to play their Sunday rounds at Mid Pines on Friday afternoon. Wood, Gibson, McClane, Lawler, Pressley, Thompson and Shelor decided they would play their second Mid Pines rounds on Friday afternoon.

At last the tournament arrived. Play began promptly at 1:00 pm on the Pine Needles track, with Robin Wilhoit looking on as the Honorary Starter. Pine Needles is the shorter of the two courses, with greens that are challenging but less severe than those on Mid Pines.

Playing in the second group, Moore and Nash were the early leaders in the clubhouse, both carding plus three's. The Assassin's round featured hot putting on the back nine, where he made three birdies. Nearly every long putt he tried found the bottom of the cup. Trying to keep up, Moore pulled 13 points on the back, including a chip in birdie at the thirteenth hole. Moore's playing partner Templeton turned in the high round of the day, with 27 points. Starting on a quota of 26, however, the Package could register only a plus one. Chairman Wood struggled on the day with a minus two that included a brief sojourn in the tulies on the fourth hole.



Wilhoit oversaw the start of the tournament



Wood showed fine form . . .



. . . but ended up in the gunch.



With decent scores posted, Moore and Nash waited anxiously as the rest of the field came in. McClane arrived at plus five, believing that he had fulfilled the promise of the first Calcutta. He had to settle for third on the day, though, as the final team of Q-Ball and Cool Breeze reported with scores of plus eight and seven respectively, easily winning the team contest.

Q-Ball's score was especially remarkable, given that his game was in total disarray with a bad case of the shanks in last year's Invitational. He had even resorted to wearing Ian Pouter's hair and taking advice from King, all to no avail. When asked following the round what explained his resurgence, Kimmet replied "I went out to GolfTEC about three weeks ago for the \$99.00 computerized swing analysis. I almost threw up when I saw the video—my head was moving up and down about a foot and the rest was all over the place. They gave me some things to work on in practice and I guess they helped." Indeed—the results spoke volumes as Q-Ball took command of the tournament on day one.

GolfTEC

GolfTEC

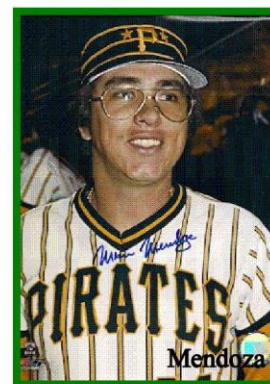
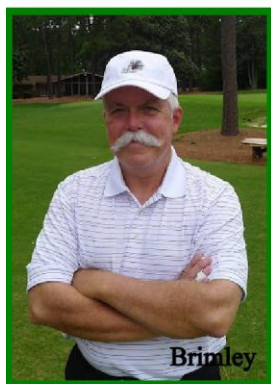
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The first round having concluded early, the players decided to hold the Day Two Calcutta immediately following the round. Inasmuch as many were scheduled to play two rounds on Friday, it was believed that they would need to turn in early after dinner. A video snippet of the ceremony is available on the Assassin's Twitter feed, @nate7vball. Your favorites for Day Two were Leaf Neely, based, evidently, on his practice round accomplishments, and Cool Breeze, coming off his strong showing on Day One. First Day leader Kimmet also showed high bidding interest, along with Tiger Thompson and Depot Stove. The players then headed for dinner with the promise of a big day on the morrow.



Friday brought great weather for the morning round on Mid Pines. Hoss Cartwright and Brimley posted scores of plus four to share the Calcutta victory, with Matlock taking third at plus two. Brimley's share of the win was enough to vault him over Gibson into the lead at plus nine. Gibson held steady at even to retain second at plus seven. Hyke's performance was enough to move him into a tie for fourth at plus two overall with Nash, Lawler and Pressley. Kimmet gave ground to the field with a minus four to drop to third at plus four overall. Matlock's third place finish on the day still left him languishing in ninth place following his minus one on Day One. Logue managed a round of plus one to make a bold move into 10th place. The rest of the field could not achieve positive numbers, which left them in the wake of the leaders. King staked his claim for 16th after falling below the [Mendoza Line](#) for the second day in a row.



Brimley and Hoss shared the Day 2 Calcutta. . .

. . . while King hovered near the Mendoza Line

Friday's afternoon round at Mid Pines proved grueling for Wood, Cool Breeze, Brimley, Hairball Lawler, Depot Stove, Tiger Thompson and Shelor, who were playing what would have been their Sunday rounds. After being photographed that morning for the first time in twenty years, No Paparazzi Shelor was forced to withdraw following the first three holes. He was unable to continue for the balance of the tournament.

Brimley went from sublime to atrocious, turning in an afternoon card of 14 points, yielding a minus six. True to his nickname, Brimley's afternoon performance prompted him to remark, "Sixty-year-old sons-of-bitches shouldn't play 36 holes in one day." The rest of the Friday afternoon group did not fare much better, as Stove and Hairball turned in minus fours, and Cool Breeze and Tiger both went minus one. The only player in the Friday afternoon group to post a positive number was Calcutta Chairman Wood, who came in at plus three.



Brimley went from sublime to atrocious

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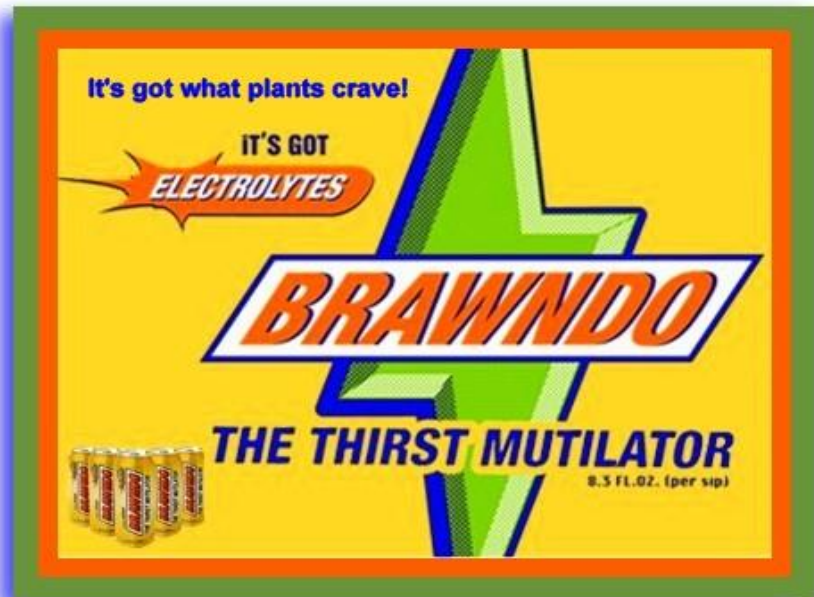



Great on Snake, Too!

The playing by some of the final round out of order posed a conundrum to the scorekeeper. A player's plus or minus score depends on his performance relative to his prior round. Because the final rounds for some of the players were turned in before their third rounds, the actual standings could not be determined until all the players had completed their third rounds on Saturday. Make sense? It doesn't to me either. Anyway, for the purposes of this discussion, the scores have been analyzed as if the rounds were played in the proper order.

While competitive rounds were being played at Mid Pines, some of the players opted for exhibition rounds elsewhere. Moore and The Package ventured to Pinehurst Number 5, where both played well. Moore had 26 points, which was the most he had ever recorded in any round on a Golf Trip. Templeton recorded 31, presaging his Saturday round at Pine Needles. Logue also appeared to right himself, posting 12 points over nine holes at Pine Needles.

With several of the players scheduled to leave after the third round on Saturday, the Calcutta Chairman conducted the final full-scale Calcutta of the week following dinner Friday evening. Despite failing to eclipse the Mendoza Line for two days running, King's proclivity for high moving day scores drew strong bidding interest. The bidders felt that Q-Ball was due for a rebound. Coming off his afternoon performance at Pinehurst, Moore was also considered a favorite.



Moving Day belonged to The Package



Depot finishes on 18 as Brimley and Hairball look on

Moving Day dawned to overcast skies and chilly temperatures. It never got above 65 degrees all day, prompting Matlock to dress more like an Eskimo than a golfer. Despite the conditions, most of the players turned in good scores in a round that did not commence until 10 a.m. Following up on his performance at Pinehurst, The Package was all business, firing a majestic 32-point, plus eight, to capture the Calcutta pot. Close behind was Depot Stove, who, at plus seven, moved into first place tie with McClane, who finished even on the day to stay at plus nine overall. Tiger and Hairball both recorded plus fives to take third in the Calcutta and first in the team competition. Hairball's score was enough to move him into third in the tournament.

standings at plus seven. Q-Ball's plus two on Saturday had gotten him to fourth place at plus six after three rounds. All of the other players were even or better except No Paparazzi, who withdrew, and Cool Breeze. The latter's disastrous minus ten was his worst round ever in Golf Trip competition, and was enough to drop him from second to a tie for thirteenth with Wood. King confounded his Calcutta expectations, achieving only a plus one on the day. Co-favorite Moore fared even worse, finishing at even with 15 points.

With his fourth round in the books, Depot Stove found himself in the clubhouse atop the Leaderboard at plus five, despite his negative score on Friday afternoon. McClane's poor showing in his second Friday round had dropped him out of the lead at plus three. The same was true for Hairball, as his minus four on Friday afternoon left him with a final total of plus three points. With the final scores for Stove, Brimley, and Hairball already posted and receding, Q-Ball knew that his plus six meant he would start Sunday with the lead. Playing the final round even would overtake the Day Three leaders. It appeared that Kimmet's most likely challenge would come from the rest of the field with rounds still to play. The Package, Hoss, Leaf, and the Assassin were bunched at plus four, two behind Q, with Matlock one behind them. It looked like the final round was wide open. As is always the case, the winner would emerge as the player who managed the Turtle pressure best on Sunday.



Hairball got as high as third only to fall back

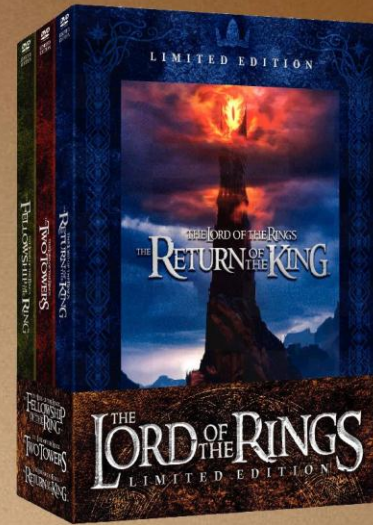


Q-Ball would start Day Four with the lead

Following the late finish on Saturday afternoon, Wood, Gibson, Lawler, Thompson and Shelor departed for Knoxville. Depot Stove stayed on to have dinner and play an afternoon round on Pine Needles with his spawn, Sam "Stove Pipe" Pressley, soon to be a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Stove Pipe was on the Lenoir-Rhyne golf team, and plays a game with which most of the Golf Trip players are unfamiliar.

McClane also hung around the Ross Lodge on Saturday afternoon, planning to leave for Knoxville early Sunday morning. Some of the players became engrossed in a rerun of "The Return of The King," on the new Ross Lodge big screen. Perhaps stung by the Turtle once again eluding his grasp, McClane retired to the deck remarking, "I don't want to hang around with a bunch of sons-of-bitches watching Hobbits." At dinner later Logue regaled the group with his interpretation of the classic, which included the description of "a shriveled-up fetus biting off some guy's finger."

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"So good that even sons of bitches on a golf trip will watch it." -Wilford Brimley

With the Calcutta Chairman having departed for points west, the baton of auctioneer for the final Calcutta was passed to Hoss Cartwright. Hoss had stood in for the Chairman on a prior occasion, to mixed reviews. Consequently, rather than a conventional Calcutta among the nine remaining players, Hoss opted for a blind draw variety. Each player drew a number to determine the order of selecting the player cards. If a selection was less than favorable, the selecting player had the option of paying a nominal "restocking fee" to make an alternate selection. The player selecting last, in this case Moore, was SOL and stuck with his pick. The contest for the final round became in essence a double blind draw, as the players also engaged in the traditional blind draw arrangement.

Due to the departure of seven players, in addition to altering the Calcutta, it became necessary to reconfigure the final day's foursomes. With nine players remaining, the tournament field was split into threesomes. Q-Ball joined up with the Logue/Neely Team. Hoss played with King and Matlock. Nash, joined by guest player Stove Pipe, made up a foursome with Moore and The Package.

Sunday morning rolled around with weather much like the previous day's, but predicted to warm in the late morning. Playing in the first group, Kimmert knew what he needed to do to overtake Dept Stove for the Turtle. With a quota of 16, Q-Ball had 15 points by the twelfth hole.

It was there that he began to feel the weight of the Turtle, going double bogey on 13. He righted himself with a bogey at 14, and closed his round with bogies at 15, 16, and 18 to finish as the leader in the clubhouse at plus three on the day, plus nine overall. There he waited to see whether any of the other contenders would overtake him.



The Starter observed as Hoss kicked off Day Four



The pursuers couldn't catch Q-Ball

Meanwhile Hoss Cartwright, playing in the group behind Kimmet, was putting together a tidy round that included a birdie on number 3, the toughest hole on the course. He added ten points on the back nine that featured a par on the difficult par-3 thirteenth. Hoss finished with 18 points, also at plus three, to take second in the overall competition at plus seven.

Leaf Neely managed a steady plus one on the day to finish fourth on the day and third in the overall competition tied with Stove at plus five. Never under his quota and never exceeding it by more two, Neely proved that steady if unspectacular play can yield positive results.

Beginning the day at plus four, The Total Package was in the hunt for the Turtle, as well as the Templeton Cup. Needing 28 points to overtake Depot Stove for the Cup, posting that number would also overtake Stove by one in the Turtle Hunt. If no one else could match that feat, Templeton would have a chance for the Turtle Slam.



Not a Hobbit—Templeton in the woods on Day Four



Stove Pipe showed how it's done

Playing in the last group, and starting strong with pars on 1 and 2, Templeton began to unravel on the difficult third hole, when he left his tee shot out to the right and made double bogey. Following that with a bogey on 4 and doubles on 7 and 9, by the turn The Package knew it was slipping away. Coming in with doubles on 12, 16, and 17, it was not to be. Finishing with 18 points at minus eight, The Package was left to ponder what could have been.

None of the other contenders could manage positive scores. The Assassin was relegated to long driving contests with Stove Pipe, registering minus seven to finish tenth. Stove Pipe, on the other had, hitting hybrids in lieu of drivers on several holes, shot a par round of 72. Matlock could never get it going, turning in a minus five to finish ninth. Logue finished even on the day at plus one for the tournament, finishing seventh.

King and Matlock did not play particularly well, but had the last laugh, drawing all four winning cards in the blind draws. Known for canny wagering in conventional Calcuttas, they cleaned up even when it was pure serendipity.

As for Q-Ball, he leaves Southern Pines secure in the knowledge that he is Turtle Worthy at last. No one can take that away from him now.



In Depot Stove's absence, Stove Pipe presented the Turtle to Q-Ball



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