

# THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

Volume XXVI

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## Special Edition



Featuring  
Fake News  
Jackwagons  
Sandbaggers  
Hobbits Redux  
Angry Leprechauns  
Sweetheart Sightings  
and more . . . .

The Sweetheart of the Golf Trip, Robin Wilhoit

# HE SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE

## TEMPLETON FINALLY CLAIMS THE TURTLE.

### NARROWLY MISSES THE TURTLE SLAM.

*Sunday, April 24, 2016. 12:33 PM EDT.*

*By Chuck Dumbass, Publisher, and  
Norman "The Total Package" Templeton,  
Staff Writer.*

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Templeton found solace in the Turtle

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD) – ~~4~~ years after saying that good players can't win the Turtle, Norm "The Total Package" Templeton disproved his own theory today in the Southern Pines Invitational. Firing a stellar final round of 32 points on the tough Mid Pines layout, Templeton won his first Southern Pines Invitational Championship. With the win, The Package lays claim to the most coveted (to all but him) prize in sport, the Terrapin Travelin' Trophy, often referred to in hushed tones as simply "The Turtle." Templeton's final score of plus 12 on the week was enough to hold off a resurgent Richard "The Envy" Matlock by 3 points. Ironically, in most years Templeton's week-long total of 118 points would have claimed Norm's most desired trinket, the Templeton Cup. The Cup eluded Norm for yet another year, however, despite his career best, due to the record total of 127 points posted by Sam "Stovepipe" Pressley. Stovepipe's appearance was a bit of a one-off, as he was added to the line up following the retirement of Dennis "Wilford Brimley" McClane. The addition of Stovepipe meant that the Cup would once again elude Norm's grasp. But winning the Turtle was fair consolation to the man who said it couldn't be done.

The Tournament came in with a full slate of competitors after two players were added at the eleventh hour. The withdrawals of Mark "Q-Ball" Kimmet and Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson left huge holes in the lineup until shortly before the scheduled start. After all, how do you replace the winner of the Turtle in three of the past four years? Q-ball decided that three Turtles in four years are enough for any man. After suggesting the Turtle be nicknamed "Q, Jr.," Kimmet magnanimously hung up the clubs to give others a chance at Turtle glory. Fortunately Michael "The Chairman" Wood regained possession of the fabled reptile before Q's departure, alleviating fears the golf icon would return to obscurity.



Cool Breeze



Q-Ball

With the retirement of Q-ball, his partner, Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson, opted for retirement as well, choosing to chase grandchildren over dimpled orbs.



Evidently old age and general infirmities finally caught up with Wilford Brimley McClane, who chose the big oatmeal bowl over the Turtle. Thus the door was opened for Stovepipe to enter the fray.

With the departures of these regulars, the search for replacements began. Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley had been partners with Brimley for so long that they had begun to resemble one another. Fortunately the Stove did not have to look far to find his new partner, his son, Sam. Stovepipe was making his first competitive appearance in the Southern Pines Invitational, but had been there before. As a noncompeting marker in 2012, Stovepipe carded a breezy 72 on Mid Pines without pulling a driver. Recently completing his college golf eligibility, Stovepipe considered a shot at the Web.Com Tour. Thus coming in with a record initial quota of 36, it seemed a foregone conclusion that the younger Pressley would easily win the Cup, which he eventually did. The only question was how far back the other players would be. With a few birdies, some surmised Stovepipe might even compete for the Turtle Slam. His dad and playing partner Depot Stove was well poised to challenge for the Turtle with a low opening quota and number-one-ranked PPM.



Depot and Brimley began to resemble one another



New Look Depot Stove



Stovepipe



Mayhem



The Senator

For a while it looked as though no replacements for Q-Ball and Cool Breeze would be found. But after a nationwide talent search, Jonathan “Mayhem” Greer, playing out of York, PA, was tabbed to replace Q-Ball. Mayhem teamed up with PA Senate compatriot, Carlton “The Senator” Logue. The Senator returned for his second cut at the Turtle after teaming with his dad, Greg “The Loguemeister” Logue, in 2015.

Bucking the exodus trend were Toby “Hoss Cartwright” Hyke and Greg “Stone Cold” Goddard. They elected to forego a badminton team event in Knoxville to join this year’s Turtle Hunt. Despite not having played since the previous November, Hyke turned in a respectable performance in 2015. He hoped to parlay that fourth-place finish into a Turtle victory in this year’s event. 2015 saw the Templeton Cup wrested from Goddard’s grasp. It appeared he would be hard pressed to challenge Stovepipe for the Cup this year, but he’s, well, Stone Cold, so he’s always in contention.



Hoss Cartwright



Stone Cold Goddard



Hoser Moser



The Loguemeister

Returning in 2016 was Michael “The Hoser” Moser after a one-year hiatus. Newly single, the Hoser looked to reclaim the form that brought him a close second-place finish in his last appearance. Moser paired with The Loguemeister, who eschewed his offspring in favor of his usual partner. After flirting with becoming the nonplaying tournament director due to injury in 2014, Logue bounced back in 2015. He won outright on Moving Day and finished fifth overall to claim Comeback Player of the Year. He sought to build on that performance in 2016.

Tracy “Tiger” Thompson came in with high hopes after claiming his first Templeton Cup in 2015. He edged Stone Cold by one point to break the Goddard/Pressley stranglehold on the Cup. It looked like he might have a shot at a repeat if Stovepipe faltered, and hoped to build on his third place finish in last year’s Turtle Hunt. Tiger’s partner, Jon “Hairball” Lawler, had played well of late with good recent RVF numbers. He hoped to translate those into contending for the Turtle in 2016.



Tiger Thompson



Hairball Lawler



Grizzly Adams



The Envy

Turnabout was fair play last year for Mike “Grizzly Adams” King. After being awarded the Turtle by Kimmet in 2014, King awarded it back to Q-Ball in 2015. King hoped to rebound in 2016 after a pedestrian performance the prior year. Following years of middling finishes, King’s partner, Richard “The Envy” Matlock, hoped to recapture the spark that last brought him the Turtle in 2007.

It’s not Turtle soup we’re talking about here. No one knows that better than Michael “The Calcutta Chairman” Wood, whose desire for the reptile is second to none. The fire may still be burning for The Chairman, who last tasted Turtle in 2006. He will go to any length to capture the beast. Abe “The Ghost” Wood rejoined the Turtle Hunt with his dad, reprising their 2015 team. Young Abe acquitted himself well in 2015, overcoming an opening round minus 6 to play even the rest of the week. With a year of experience under his belt, big things were expected from The Ghost in 2016.





The Chairman



The Ghost



The Total Package



Dan The Man

With the arrival of Stovepipe, Templeton had suggested handicapping the Templeton Cup, grouching that Stovepipe competing for the Cup was like Jordan Spieth competing in a Senior Tour event. The Competition Committee nixed that notion because the Turtle is already a handicapped award. It appeared that Norm would be relegated to competing for the Turtle instead which, as it turned out, he did admirably. His partner, Dan “The Man” Moore rode a Mendoza Line initial quota to a second place finish in 2015. The resulting point increase looked insurmountable for him in 2016.

The field thus assembled, most of the players appeared at the first Calcutta on the Tuesday before the Trip. The occasion was marked by the solemn retirement ceremony for Wilford Brimley McClane, who offered these parting words in absentia:

Greg and Friends:

Over the years, I have enjoyed the fellowship of this outstanding group of men. Thank you to Michael and Greg--the two towers who lord over the Trip. I will miss the golf, the Calcutta, Dan and the Dimpled Orb, and the lies that are told about each of you. Most of all I will miss the Turtle--the most coveted trophy in all of sports. I leave to the Loguemeister a small parting gift to share with the group. I hope you sons of bitches will find this gift--*precious*.

DRM



Grizzly engineered the fake news



Logue reading Brimley's Farwell



Brimley's Precious

To commemorate the event, Brimley donated to the Golf Trip a special collector's edition DVD of *The Lord of the Rings 3-Film Collection*. It later turned out that the whole thing was fake news, engineered by Grizzly Adams. When last seen, Brimley had been kidnapped by the Orbettes and forced to march with Robin Wilhoit in the Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes during the Golf Trip weekend.



The Orbettes brought it



The Chairman stares down a bidder

The Orbettes furnished their usual array of outstanding delicacies for the Calcutta luncheon, which the Players munched on during the longest five minutes in Golf, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Slide Show. As always, the Orbettes brought their finest cuisine. Following the slide show, The Chairman commenced the first Calcutta. Bidding was vigorous for a first-day event. Reflective of their Day 1 PPM rankings, The Chairman and Depot Stove drew the most bidding interest. Eventual Day One winner Matlock was the bidding bargain.



Moser tees off in Maggie Valley



Logue shows pretty good form on this one

The Calcutta thus concluded, the Players readied for departure to Southern Pines. Most headed directly to the Tournament site on Wednesday. The Logue group, including Moore, Moser, and Templeton, stopped for a mid-morning practice round on the mountainous Maggie Valley track. Following their traditional Greensboro layover on Wednesday night, the Logue group matriculated into Southern Pines on Thursday morning.





There really is no better setting than the opening round of the Southern Pines Invitational at the Pines Needles course. The conditions are usually glorious, and this year was no exception. Taking advantage of prime scoring conditions, Matlock wasted no time serving notice that he was here to play, firing a blistering opening round score of 18 points. His plus 8 on the Day bested Templeton by 2 and Depot Stove by 3. Templeton was magnificent in grabbing 31 total points, the highest point total of the Day, exceeding Stovepipe's total by 2. As is the case for many first time players, Mayhem Greer struggled at minus 13.



Lawler prepares to race Matlock's drive



Hyke muscles one on the 4th

Following the opening round, the players sojourned to the Pine Needles dining room. It was then and there that Tournament Director Logue welcomed the newcomers, Greer and Stovepipe. Uttering words of encouragement, The Loguemeister awarded the new players their certified Golf Trip lanyards and medals, making them official members of the Golf Trip. Both players were pleased to be admitted to the group.



Mayhem seemed pleased with the investiture



Day Two Calcutta kicks off

That evening's Calcutta found Depot Stove garnering the most interest yet again. Despite the upward adjustment of his quota, his plus 5 on the Day suggested there was still meat on the bone. Lawler also drew scrutiny despite his opening round plus 1. The amounts on Thompson and Calcutta Chairman Wood were probably the results of shill bidding, as their Day 1 performances could not justify their bidding levels.

## Franklin Templeton Ranked #1

by *Baron's* for its funds' total return performance, #1 out of 45, for the 10-year period ended 2011

Based on U.S.-registered Franklin Templeton Funds – not available to residents outside of the U.S.

“Well done is better than well said”

-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Day Two opened on Mid Pines under an overcast sky with a hint of fog in the air. Scoring conditions seemed ideal, but the performance by the field belied that impression. Only three players managed positive points on the day. Moore easily outpaced the field at plus 6 to win the Day by 5 and grab the overall lead. Logumeister scratched out a plus 1 to find himself even after two Days. Tiger Thompson was the only other player on positive ground at plus 1. But that coupled with his Day One minus 4 could get him no purchase in the overall standings. Matlock's minus 2 left him at plus 6, a stroke behind Moore. Depot Stove's minus 1 and Templeton's minus 2 left them tied for third at plus 4. Mayhem had one of the worst rounds ever recorded by someone who actually finished the round. His 2 points were reminiscent of the Myrtle Beach days when, legend has it, the Calcutta Chairman was known to use a putter off the tee.



A chill was in the air at the start of Day Two



Scoring was difficult

That evening Depot Stove and the Chairman regaled the dinner group with a tale of Chairman Wood's adventures at the Golf Augusta Store in Southern Pines. Following his horrible second round, as is his wont, Wood was shopping for new clubs. Believing that a vinyl Callaway sign was hanging loose, he decided to take a full swing at it with a brand new driver. Unfortunately, he didn't notice that the sign was mounted on a solid metal frame. The resounding clang from driver hitting metal could be heard three blocks away and was nearly enough to set off the fire alarm. After helping the salesman up off the floor, Wood found himself the proud owner of a brand new, slightly blemished, Callaway driver.



Depot Stove toasts the Chairman's new driver



The Day Three Calcutta saw Depot Stove maintain his stranglehold as the favorite. With the Stove's PPM still above 3.5, it was no wonder. The Calcutta Chairman's inglorious (none dare call it sandbagged) minus 7 on Day Two had dropped his quota to 16 points. As a result, the Chairman had to hold off a fierce bidding war to finally buy all of himself at a premium.



Lawler sizzled on Moving Day . . .



. . . Matched by Wood with his new driver

Moving Day brought fine weather and prime scoring conditions on the Pine Needles course. The field did not disappoint, as several players made serious moves. Both Hairball Lawler and The Chairman posted incredible plus 9 rounds to share the Calcutta pot, proving Wood's purchase of himself and a new driver to be prescient. The moves were not enough to get them higher than 6<sup>th</sup> place however, as the previous Day's debuckles took their toll. Depot Stove posted a fine plus 6 to roar past Day Two leader Dan the Man into the overall lead at plus 10. Stone Cold Goddard's plus 6 vaulted him into a tie for third with Moore at plus 7. Meanwhile, the Package maintained his quality play. His plus 4 on the Day put Templeton at plus 8 overall, tied for second with Matlock, who eased in with a calm plus 2. When the dust settled, five players were within 3 shots of the lead, all with reasonable chances to claim the Turtle on the final Day.



The Orbettes kidnapped Brimley for the JDF Walk



The Orbettes with the Annual Sweetheart Sighting

In what is becoming a new tradition, during the third round, the Orbettes phoned in their annual encounter with Robin "The Sweetheart of the Golf Trip" Wilhoit at the Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes. This year's edition was extra memorable, featuring a video of The Sweetheart exhorting Dan the Man and the Loguemeister to "bring home the Turtle." Wilford Brimley also made a cameo appearance as the Orbettes' hostage.

Following the round, Tournament Director Logue confirmed that the Day Four pairings would find Depot Stove and Stovepipe in the final group with The Package and Moore. Goddard and Hyke would play in the next-to-last group with Matlock and King.

The Package and Moore later headed back out for an afternoon round at Pine Needles. At the first tee they learned that someone from The Golf Trip had canceled the group's tee times. A foursome showed up and tried to tee off while the Package attempted to correct the error with the starter. This did not sit well with The Package. The Angry Leprechaun (as Norm's wife sometimes calls him) emerged, and Templeton was ready to duke it out with a jackwagon trying to purloin the tee time. In the end, it was all sorted out. Templeton and Moore got underway and left the interlopers in the dust.



By the time Templeton and Moore made it back to the Ross Lodge, prior quiet discussions regarding the standings had grown louder. Before beginning the Calcutta, Chairman Wood openly marveled at the Leaderboard, which showed Depot Stove on top at plus 10, Templeton and Matlock at plus 8, Moore and Goddard at plus 7, Lawler at plus 5, The Chairman at plus 3, and The Senator back in positive numbers at plus 2. Based on recent history, all 8 had at least a shot at claiming the Turtle. With 5 players within 3 points of the lead, the final round was shaping up to be one of the most dramatic in memory.

Player	Day 1 Pts	Day 1 ±	Day 2 Pts	Day 2 ±	Day 3 Pts	Day 3 ±	Day 4 Pts	Day 4 ±	Total Pts	Total ±	Rank
Pressley, D	27	5	23	-1	30	6			80	10	1
Templeton	31	6	25	-2	30	4			86	8	2
Matlock	18	8	10	-2	13	2			41	8	2
Goddard	28	2	26	-1	33	6			87	7	4
Moore	14	1	19	6	15	0			48	7	4
Lawler	20	1	14	-5	26	9			60	5	6
Wood, M	19	1	11	-7	25	9			55	3	7
Logue, C	13	2	9	-3	14	3			36	2	8
King	14	2	6	-7	14	3			34	-2	9
Logue, G	14	-1	16	1	13	-2			43	-2	9
Moser	25	4	20	-3	19	-3			64	-2	9
Wood, A	16	-6	18	-2	21	2			55	-6	12
Thompson	22	-4	25	1	21	-3			68	-6	12
Hyke	15	3	7	-6	8	-3			30	-6	12
Pressley, S	29	-7	32	-2	33	0			94	-9	15
Greer	8	-13	2	-17	13	-4			23	-34	16

As expected, Sam Pressley held a solid lead for the Templeton Cup, with 94 points through three rounds. With 29 points in the final round, Sam would break Stone Cold Goddard's record of 122. Goddard was sitting in second place for the Cup with 87 points, 7 shots behind Stovepipe. Templeton was a mere one point back of Goddard. Depot Stove was another 6 points back in 4th place with 80 points.





The Players gathered for a group photo on the last night of the Trip

The morning broke with beautiful weather for the final round at Mid Pines. Templeton and Moore chose to warm up on the Ross Lodge practice tee at Pine Needles. They had planned their departure to leave time for the practice green at Mid Pines. But after loading The Package's Denali, misfortune struck. The battery on the vehicle was completely dead. Now, it was scramble time, and because the Denali has a power lift gate, they couldn't open the back to get their clubs out. It took a lot of grunting and pulling from the back seat into the rear cargo bay to extract the clubs, but they finally managed. They then realized they would have to hoof it to make their tee time at Mid Pines. Away they went, bags over their shoulders, across Midland Road and up through the woods to Mid Pines. Thankfully, they arrived, although a bit winded, at the first tee just after the next-to-last group had teed off and was heading down the fairway.



Despite the misadventure, The Package was prepared to play. After a good drive on No. 1, Templeton hit a 9 iron to about 12 feet and just lipped out his birdie try. Stovepipe made a routine par, while Depot Stove was driving it left to make bogey. Moore struggled with the approach shot and wound up with a double.

After a solid iron shot on the par-3 second hole, the Package rolled in the birdie putt with a confident stroke. Both Pressleys made solid pars, and Moore bogeyed for a point. Up ahead Goddard had also birdied No. 2 after a par at the 1<sup>st</sup>, so the race was on! Matlock doubled the 1<sup>st</sup>, but got a point with a bogey at No. 2.

The demanding third hole at Mid Pines proved once again to be a challenge for the field (it has been one of the most difficult holes on either course). In the final round, 8 of the 16 players made double there, with 7 others making bogey. The lone par came from the Loguemeister. Off the tee, The Package pull-hooked it left almost into the creek that guards the left side. Dan the Man found the hazard on the right. Depot Stove did the same, blocking his well-struck tee shot into the trees. Stovepipe followed The Package with a wicked hook to the left into the trees across the creek. Moore and Depot Stove both made double, and after punching out from the left, Stovepipe made an uncharacteristic double of his own. Templeton was not nearly as far left as Stovepipe, but nevertheless had no chance to hit the green in regulation due to overhanging trees. After a well-struck punch shot, Templeton hit a nice pitch and gave himself a chance at par, settling for bogey when his putt just slid by.



Matlock had also scratched out a point on No. 3. Meanwhile Goddard made his own double-bogey there. Chairman Wood was off to a good start and was making some noise, following a bogey at the 1<sup>st</sup> with a birdie at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and another bogey at the 3<sup>rd</sup> to post 5 points in the first 3 holes on a quota of 18. Up further ahead, The Senator was having trouble getting any traction with doubles at 1, 3, and 4, sandwiching a par at No. 2. He made a nice par at 5, however, so he was hanging around with 4 points through the first 5 holes, but would need to get on a run to challenge for the Turtle.



Templeton went toe-to-toe with Stovepipe for the Cup

Templeton followed his par-birdie-bogey start with a nice tee shot on the testy 4<sup>th</sup> hole. After a flip wedge to about 4 feet, he rolled in another birdie. Moore struggled with his approach to the sliver of a green and made double. Depot Stove again pushed his tee shot right into tree trouble, which led to bogey. Stovepipe followed his uncharacteristic double at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, making a gritty par at the 4<sup>th</sup> with a nice up and down after missing the green. Goddard, Matlock, Lawler, and the Chairman all bogeyed No. 4.

Following excellent tee shots, Templeton and Stovepipe both reached the par-5 fifth hole in two, and both two-putted for birdie. Depot Stove made a routine par, and Moore pointed with a bogey. Up ahead, Goddard had birdied the 5<sup>th</sup> as well, with Matlock pulling another point with a bogey. Michael Wood and The Senator made solid pars, and Lawler made a bogey for another point.



As usual, the par-5 sixth hole proved to be much more difficult than the 5<sup>th</sup>, with no one in the field making a birdie on the tough-to-hit green. Templeton, Moore, and Depot Stove all made routine pars, but Stovepipe uncharacteristically struggled on the 6<sup>th</sup>, managing to salvage a bogey. The only other player in the field to make par was Moser, with Goddard, Matlock, Lawler, and The Senator all making bogies.

The 7<sup>th</sup> at Mid Pines is another challenging par 4. Only five pars were recorded under the pressure of the final round, with Templeton, Stovepipe, and Lawler among those making par. Depot Stove, Goddard, Matlock, and The Senator all made bogies, and The Chairman and Moore both made double.

Surprisingly, only 5 competitors made par on the testy, downhill, par-3 eighth, with 7 players making double. Templeton was one of those, as were Depot, Goddard, and Lawler. The Chairman continued his solid play, making par at the 8<sup>th</sup>. Matlock, Moore, The Senator, and Stovepipe all made bogies.

Templeton made a routine par at the 9<sup>th</sup>, while Depot Stove made bogey. Through the outward nine, The Package was in control with his even par total of 18 points. Depot Stove had been off just a bit from the opening tee shot, and was struggling to find his game, with just 10 points after 9 holes. At the turn Templeton had also halved Stovepipe's 8 shot lead in the Cup chase.



Matlock surged to grab second in the Turtle Hunt



Goddard claimed a tie for third with Moore

Goddard birdied the 9<sup>th</sup> (for his third birdie on the front nine, equaling Templeton), to shoot a 40 and finish the front with 14 points, slightly less than ½ of his quota of 29. Lawler and The Senator had stalled a bit, but both Matlock (8 points on the front on a quota of 12) and The Chairman (12 points on a quota of 18) were sitting at 2/3 of their point quotas halfway through the round and were still clearly in the Turtle Hunt. Moore had managed only 5 points on the front nine, but was hitting the ball better than that and was simply throwing away strokes on and around the greens.



The back nine at Mid Pines can be brutal and offers no quarter, particularly in the final round of a major tournament with the Turtle and the Templeton Cup hanging in the balance. As has been said, it is often the graveyard of Turtle dreams.

Templeton and the younger Pressley both got off to shaky starts on No. 10, with pulled drives that found the woods on the left. After punch outs by both, the Package missed the green but got up and down to save par, with Stovepipe safely hitting the green in regulation and making a routine par. Moore made a solid bogey, and Depot Stove continued to struggle a bit, making bogey as well. Goddard and The Chairman both made a solid pars at the 10<sup>th</sup>, but Lawler and The Senator both made double, leaving then all but done in the Turtle Hunt.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, both Templeton and Sam Pressley made routine pars. Moore followed a beautiful tee shot with a very nice putt for a birdie to put a spark in his round. Depot Stove missed the green and made another bogey. Up ahead, Goddard and The Chairman made pars on 11, with Matlock getting back on track with a bogey. At this stage, The Chairman looked to be in control of the Turtle chase, having carded 16 points through the first 11 holes, needing only 2 more to hit his quota. Close behind, Matlock now had 9 points on a 12-point quota, with 7 holes remaining. Templeton was continuing his solid play, having accumulated 22 points through 11 holes on his quota of 28 points.

The 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, holes would be pivotal down the stretch. After a strong tee shot down the left side of the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway, Templeton hit his approach to about 7 feet. Both the Stove and Stovepipe also hit very nice tee shots, but both shots fed off the front left corner. Templeton sensed an opportunity for a two shot swing for the Cup if he could roll in the birdie putt and if Stovepipe couldn't save par. Sam hit a quality chip, and after The Package lipped out his birdie try on the high side, Stovepipe deftly rolled in his 6-footer for par. Templeton knew he had just missed bigly in the Cup chase.





The 12<sup>th</sup> proved to be the start of a very difficult stretch for the earlier groups. Beginning with the 12<sup>th</sup>, The Chairman would double-bogey 5 consecutive holes before bogeying 17 and paring the difficult 18<sup>th</sup> to finish with 19 points, 1 point over his quota. In similar fashion, starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, Matlock doubled 4 consecutive holes before righting the ship and finishing bogey, bogey, par on the three difficult closing par 4's to complete a 13-point round, also plus 1 overall. That stretch was the determining factor in the Turtle Hunt for both players.

The man-sized Par 3, 13<sup>th</sup> hole would prove to be a separator in the chase for the Cup, as Stovepipe carded a par. Moore made bogey, and Depot Stove continued his struggles with a double. Up ahead, Goddard also made bogey. Templeton's tee shot went dead straight into the face of the back right bunker. Facing a lengthy baseball-swing bunker shot from the steep slope, The Package left it in the sand and a double-bogey ensued. The two-shot difference on the 13<sup>th</sup> gave Stovepipe the comfort he was looking for in the Cup chase.

Templeton, Stovepipe, Depot Stove, and Goddard all made pars at the 14<sup>th</sup>. Tiger Thompson was the only other player in the field to make par at 14. Moore ground out another point on 14 with his bogey.

The par-5 15<sup>th</sup> would be the stage for the final heroics by Stovepipe to clinch the Cup. Templeton's only chance to overcome a 6-shot deficit to Stovepipe over the last 4 holes would be to make an eagle on 15. Instead, it would be Stovepipe who would seal the deal with two brilliant shots and a great putt. Stovepipe had the honors, and striped a beautiful tee shot right down the middle, likely his best of the day. Trying to match it with a monster drive, Templeton came over the top, running it into the trees on the left. Templeton hit a punch shot in the fairway short of the green, and waited to see what Stovepipe would do. Stovepipe's mid-iron approach was a thing of beauty, never leaving the flag, landing about 4-feet away from the hole, in position for an eagle. Still fighting, Templeton hit his gap wedge to about 6 feet for a birdie try. Templeton's putt was downhill and sidehill and while well-struck, it spun out. Stovepipe's eagle putt was an extremely slick downhill with some break, but he bravely rammed it in the back of the cup and the race for the Templeton Cup was all but over.



Stovepipe tees off on 16 with the Cup in his pocket

With the chase for the Cup having been decided, Templeton turned his full attention to winning the Turtle. Having just met his quota of 28 points after 15, Templeton liked his Turtle chances with playing companions Depot Stove still at minus 9, and Moore still at minus 4. Unaware of the struggles by Wood and The Envy up ahead, Templeton believed that Matlock, Stone Cold, and The Chairman were his only remaining obstacles to the Turtle.

The 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> at Mid Pines present a great stretch of demanding holes to finish a round. Each of those par 4's presents different challenges. Goddard carded a double on the 16<sup>th</sup>. With a bogey, par finish, Goddard totaled plus 1 on the Day, with an overall total of plus 6. Stovepipe cruised in with a nifty up and down par at 16, followed by a routine par on 17. A

blocked tee shot on 18 left him serious tree trouble, resulting in bogey. That left Sam with 33 points, even for the Day.

Depot Stove became another casualty of the last Day weight of the Turtle, finishing bogey, double, bogey for a 19-point round of minus 7 on the Day. After a double-bogey on 16, Moore rallied to bogey 17 and par the demanding 18<sup>th</sup> to finish minus 1 on the Day. Templeton got up and down to save par on 16, bogeyed the 17<sup>th</sup> from a greenside bunker, and bogeyed the 18<sup>th</sup>, to finish with 32 points. That plus 4 final round gave Templeton a total of plus 12 for the Tournament, winning him the Turtle for the first time. Templeton once said it couldn't be done, but he did it.



Depot fell to eighth overall



The Senator showed well enough to tie for fifth

With his plus 1 final round, Matlock finished 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Turtle with a total of plus 9. Goddard and Moore finished tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> at plus 6. The Chairman, The Senator, and Hairball Lawler all tied for 5<sup>th</sup> at plus 4. Depot Stove's final round struggles left him at plus 3 for the Tournament, with the remainder of the field in minus territory for the week.

Sam Pressley won the Templeton Cup with a new record of 127 total points for the Tournament, breaking Stone Cold's previous mark of 122. Once again, The Total Package finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the chase for the Cup that bears his family name, with 118 total points. Templeton's total was the third highest in the history of the Tournament, but it was only good enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> this year due to Sam's sterling play. Goddard finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Cup standings, three shots behind Templeton with an impressive 115 total points.

Templeton is thus left to ponder what could have been in the Cup chase, and to look forward to trying for it again next year. In the meantime he can find solace in the knowledge that good players really can win the Turtle. Certainly they can, and Norm proved it yet again this year. Another exciting finish for both the Turtle and the Cup! Congratulations to the winners.



Templeton readies for the next Cup chase





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