

RSG Cincinnati 2007 – The Aftermath

Prologue

I always struggle writing the recap from my golf event. How do you describe several days' worth of memorable events and moments in time that are essentially indescribable?

In general, I find recaps of golf rounds to be incredibly boring. Hit driver here, six iron there, missed the putt, etc., etc. We've all played a lot of golf and know what it is like to hit good shots and bad shots. These events to me are much more than a collection of golf shots. These events are about renewing old friendships, making new ones, good natured trash talking, and spending time with people who share your love of the game of golf.

Special thanks to all of the people who donated prizes. Recognition to Patrick Inglis for his "boom, boom, chick" help on the website and for the birdie balls. Kudos go to Mark Koenig for the scoring spreadsheet that made everything incredibly easy. Also, special recognition to all of the RSG "rookies" who attended: Bert Robbins, Lance Brunen, Scott Headlee, Nick Mock, and David Orr.

Photos

http://www.pbase.com/jpflumjr/rsg_cincy_2007

Day One Friday AM – Hickory Woods

The day dawned much too early from the night before. I was "wheels up" out of my driveway at 6:50 for the 25 minute trip to Hickory Woods, my home course. Hickory is a nice course with a good mix of short and long, tight and open holes. The back nine is pretty hilly and can put a strain on you for the last few holes. It was a bit rainy when we got to the course but the weather radar showed it would clear up very quickly. We teed off in a light drizzle that was totally gone by the third tee.

I played in a match against Mark Koenig and acquitted myself pretty well, losing 3&2[1]. Joe Darmogray was also in our group and we had a great time, though Joe had a little bit of trouble on the back nine with the hills. We retired to the bar and watched the following groups come in. David Sneddon made a very nice 4, net 6, on the final hole (a par 5). He breached 17-3c and wasn't very happy with us when we pointed it out to him.

Joe Conte and George Buechley showed up at Hickory Woods in time to have lunch and say hello before we headed out to O'Bannon for the afternoon round.

Day One Friday PM – O'Bannon Creek Golf Club

The drive from Hickory Woods to O'Bannon is a very short 4 minutes. Not a single soul was surprised to see Thor on the driving range when we drove up. Also, there was Keith Torrence and Bert Robbins. It was great to meet Bert who had never been to an RSG event until this weekend. I have to say I was honored he chose my event to attend first.

About fifteen minutes before we were scheduled to tee off the head pro said that the tee was clear. A bunch of people had not shown up yet but we spontaneously repaired and teed off which was good and bad. Some people were able to play right away but a number of groups were mixed up and a few people were paired with complete (non-

RSG) strangers. I played with David Orr (who was scheduled to play) and a member and his guest. The member had only joined three weeks ago and it was his second round. I ended up playing caddy for him on a couple of holes and saved him at least 5-6 shots. He shot a personal best despite saying, "I know the wheels are going to fall off any minute." I told him think about the good shots and just let them happen.

We had a pop-up thunderstorm scare during the middle of the round. There was a bit of thunder in the distance and the sky looked pretty dark in places but thankfully it passed us by. Thor has dubbed O'Bannon to be "the humidity vortex of the universe." Usually it is crazy hot and humid but we lucked out this year.

Walking up to the 18th green I could see the previous groups sitting on the clubhouse veranda. Standing by the green was my good friend Dave "Thor" Collard with a freshly poured Guinness. I love that guy.

For dinner a group of about 12 of us went to the local Red Robin for beers and burgers. We had to wait about 10 minutes for our table to be ready but our waitresses were very nice.

Saturday AM – The Tournament – Elks Run

We left my house at 6:10 AM so that I could get to the course in plenty of time to do all of the pre-round host duties. There were a few people already at the course when we arrived and of course Thor was on the driving range. I settled up for the entire group at the pro shop and headed to the first tee. The starter wasn't particularly happy about 20 people standing on the first tee at one time but I think teeing off in front of the group is part of the fun of RSG events. You learn to deal with the nerves of a gallery.

I drove into the fairway bunker and I bladed my approach to the first hole into some nasty stuff. I had just put down an "X" on the first hole when I noticed there was a marshal standing next to the green. He said that it was mandatory policy on the weekend to use carts. I told him that when I had booked these tee times three months ago I was assured that I would be permitted to have walkers. I told him that there was no way I was going to ride in a cart and that I would like the head pro on duty to come out to talk with me about the situation. I figured he would prefer to talk to me than Tex [2].

Needless to say I was very angry. I felt bad for the guy since he was only the messenger and the messenger always gets shot. I proceeded to airmail the next green and hit my drive over the fairway bunker and into the lake on the hole after that. The marshal did come out and say that he had spoken with the pro and we would be permitted [3] to walk. That calmed my nerves somewhat but I didn't play well the rest of the day. I had a couple of good holes but the typical "Host Syndrome" was clearly on my mind.

The Results

The tournament scoring this year was a Stableford competition. We had both a gross and net division along with net and gross skins plus long drive and close to the pin contests. Each participant got a "Chicks dig..." Dead to Pflum shirt.

The Net Division – Full Standings

The 2007 winner and recipient of the Red Brick Trophy, the first repeat winner in the history of RSG Cincinnati..... Dave “Thor” Collard!!!!!!

Name	Net PTS
Collard, Dave	38
Pflum, Jack	37
Smith, Beauno	35
Yoshizawa, John	35
Torrence, Keith	34
Pflum, Joe	32
Armstrong, Rick	31
Hayenga, Gary	31
Stemmer, Steve	29
Easton, Terry	29
Pflum, John	29
Sneddon, David	28
Koenig, Mark	26
Darmogray, Joe	22
Headlee, Scott	21
Robbins, Bert	21
Inglis, Patrick	20
Mock, Nick	18
Orr, David	18
Brunen, Lance	17

The Gross Division – Full Standings

The 2007 champion and recipient of the Moonshine Jug, a first time gross winner and a clean sweep of both champion spots Dave “Thor” Collard!!!

Name	Gross PTS
Collard, Dave	27
Sneddon, David	26
Armstrong, Rick	25
Koenig, Mark	24
Hayenga, Gary	20
Yoshizawa, John	20
Stemmer, Steve	20
Torrence, Keith	20
Smith, Beauno	19
Easton, Terry	17
Pflum, Jack	15
Pflum, John	15
Pflum, Joe	13
Headlee, Scott	12
Inglis, Patrick	12
Darmogray, Joe	10
Mock, Nick	9
Brunen, Lance	8
Orr, David	6
Robbins, Bert	6

Other Prizes

- Long Drive – Mark Koenig (beating out Bert Robbins)
- Close to the Pin – Rick Armstrong (beating out John Pflum)
- Net Skins – Joe Pflum \$16 (one skin), Dave Collard \$16 (one skin), Terry Easton \$16 (one skin), Rick Armstrong \$32 (two skins)
- Gross Skins – Terry Easton \$20 (one skin), David Sneddon \$20 (one skin), Rick Armstrong \$40 (two skins)

Saturday PM – Meat versus Bones – Elks Run

This was the inaugural Meat versus Bones alternate shot match. I first had the opportunity to play alternate shot at RSG NW and loved it. The teams had to be shuffled at the last minute due to Steve Stemmer having to head home early. A last minute trade was made sending Mark Koenig to the Meat in exchange for David Sneddon in order to make things work better. Pairings and opponents were as follows:

Meat
Mark Koenig
Gary Hayenga/John Yoshizawa
Dave Collard/Joe Darmogray

vs

Bones
Patrick Inglis (Captains' singles match)
John Pflum/Bert Robbins
David Sneddon/Nick Mock

Mark Koenig defeated Patrick Inglis 3&2 and Team Meat routed the Team Bones in the second match 5&4. Thus the competition was tied coming down to the final group and we gathered around the green to watch them play the 18th hole. We found out that the match was all square coming to 18. Many balls were hit in bunkers and bladed across the green. There was much confusion trying to determine the result of the hole. It was finally agreed that the hole was halved. The captains would have a putt-off to decide the winner!!!

We went straight to the putting green where I chose a pretty difficult 25' side hill, down hill putt on the putting green. Mark Koenig won rock/paper/scissors and chose to go first. His first putt went a bit long and rolled past the hole into the fringe. In the end it didn't matter. Patrick Inglis calmly stepped up and drained his putt. BONES WIN!!! BONES WIN!!! BONES WIN!!!

Sunday AM – Stonelick Hills

Tee times on Sunday didn't start until 9:30 so people were able to sleep in a little bit and get checked out there hotels without rushing. Stonelick Hills was designed and built by a local businessman who loves the game. He clearly did not skimp on expenses – all the cart paths are concrete, the clubhouse is huge, and the conditions are excellent. This course would be perfect for the tournament round except it is next to impossible to walk. There is a significant hike between every green and tee – some are a couple of hundred yards at least. Even Thor hopped on the cart for most of the walks.

I was playing in the USA vs. Pesky Canadian round with Dave Collard and Patrick Inglis/David Sneddon, respectively. The match was close the entire time alternating between all square and one-up/one-down. At one point the USA was two down but we fought back to all square going into the home stretch. Dark clouds were gathering as we finished the 16th hole all square and we agreed to halve the entire match because of the incoming weather. As we were motoring back to the clubhouse the lightning horn sounded and the torrential rains came down. We all had drinks in the clubhouse.

The Shot of the Week

I'm not one to pat myself on the back but of all the shots I saw the most memorable was struck by me. It was during the USA vs. Pesky Canadian match. USA had just lost the second hole to go back to all square as we approached the 150 yard par three third hole at Stonelick Hills. (<http://www.stonelickhills.com/tour3.php>) Both Canadians and Thor put balls in the water off the tee. I aimed left of the green thinking if I stayed dry I would win the hole for the good guys.

I hit the ball reasonably well and there was no doubt it was going to be dry but I expected it to miss the green left. It took a hard right kick off the hill onto the green and started rolling towards the flagstick. Thor starts yelling, "It's going in!! It's going in!!"

at the top of his lungs as the ball edged closer to the hole. I could feel my hands start to tingle and I got goose bumps as I realized this could be the moment for my hole in one. Thor shouted, "IT'S GOING IN!" The ball slid just past the pin and ended up about 18" past the hole for a kick-in birdie to win the hole. It definitely had a good look at the hole as it went by. I think I would have passed out if it had gone in.

Epilogue

Organizing this event is a lot of work but I love doing it. The event just keeps getting better every year. Thanks to everyone who traveled many miles to come and play golf. It really means a lot to me that you would take the time and spend the money to come to my event. It is you guys who make the event special. All I do is make some tee times and assign pairings. If you have never attended an RSG event I would strongly suggest that you figure out a way to get to one. Or if it is too far for you to travel consider hosting one in your local area.

I can't wait until next year! I'm sure I'll see some of you at RSG Ohio!

[1] For the record, I was spotted a 6 up lead and was only 1 up after five holes. However, I righted the ship and at least made it respectable from then. For the record II, I'm a 15 handicap while Mark is a 1.

[2] Mark Koenig

[3] "Permitted" Ha! That is the kind of stuff that drives me nuts. They think that because you are walking you are going to play slow. I purposefully made the groups to have mixes of walkers and riders because there are some tough hikes at Elks Run. Every group made it around the course in 4:15 or less. I understand that some people have physical limitations that require the use of a cart but to force a cart on a perfectly healthy person who can and wants to walk is just insane.