

September 9 promised to bring triple digit weather to the region. So, what do degenerate golfers do? Schedule a match for the 2026 club championship! That is exactly what Dave S and Chris R did at Ancil Hofman. The 9:40am tee time guaranteed the two would feel the heat.

Dave played the white tees, Chris the Blue/White combos. Chris gave 10 strokes.

No pops on the opening hole, both only managed bogies even with good drives. All square.

Dave got a pop on hole number 2, however didn't need it as he bogeyed the hole. Chris doubled after a trip through the woods. Dave +1.

Chris came right back on the third after Dave's journey through the woods. All square.

Chris popped up his drive, Dave hit a low screamer down the left side that not only managed to stay in bounds, also bounced off the banking onto the cart path for some extra yardage. Both missed the green on their second shot. It took Dave 3 to get down, Chris only 2, but Dave had his second pop. Remains all square.

No pops on the par 3 fifth hole. Chris hit his tee shot left to pin high, Dave came up short (twice) then nearly holed it on his 3rd to leave him a tap in 4. Chris however carded a 5 much to his chagrin. Dave +1.

On the par 4 sixth hole Chris took an adventurous route through the right trees to save a par. Dave managed a bogey after a good drive but typical poor approach. However, the pops once again spoiled Chris' effort. Dave +1.

7 & 8 were again pop holes for Dave which he took advantage of posting a par and bogey to match Chris. Dave +3.

No pops on the 9th. Dave hits another low burner that rolls up on to the green pin high, 20' to the right. Chris pushed his tee shot left into the green side bunker (bunkers were in ok shape). Chris chips out 10-12' to the left. Dave nearly holes the birdie putt, but it rolls by a few feet. Chris 2-putts, Dave sinks the putt. Dave +4.

Both bogey the 10th. Dave +4.

On the difficult 11th Dave uses the cart path on the right again to add yardage, Chris flirts with the trees on the left and has to lag up to about 100 yds. Dave's approach comes up a little short, Chris' 3rd catches the bunker. We all agree that Chris ended up with one of the worst possible lies in a bunker, about 6" from the lip at the top on a severe slope. The crew were tuning up the bunker, and it was very fluffy! Chris took 4 more shots to finish the hole. With a pop on the hole, Dave can take an 8 to push the hole, he gets a bogey. Dave +5.

Dave gets pops on 12 and 13, uses one on 12 to push Chris' bogey. Dave +5.

Both hit good drives on 13, Dave comes up short (again), Chris pops up his approach. Dave ends up with a gimme bogey, Chris can not get up and down to continue the round. Dave wins 6 & 5.

Other than the heat, I think we had a good . A young fellow named Nick joined us and provided some good conversation and good golf. I ended up shooting a 90 (net 68) so it was obviously a sandbagging day for me. Looks like the next match on this side of the bracket is going to be a high-handicap semi-final event.