1046-N1-1236   **Roland Minton*** (`minton@roanoke.edu`), Department of Mathematics, 221 College Lane, Salem, VA 24153. *G.H. Hardy's Golfing Adventure.* Preliminary report.

A classic argument in golf is whether it is better to attempt risky shots or to play it safe. Surprisingly, this problem was examined by the great G.H. Hardy in a 1945 paper called "A Mathematical Theorem about Golf." He defines a golfer who is capable of excellent, normal and poor shots. An excellent shot lowers the golfer's score by one, while a poor shot raises the score by one. These occur with equal probability p. In this talk, Hardy's work is extended to compute mean scores and analyze competitions between golfers with different strategies. A risky golfer has a relatively high p-value and a cautious golfer has a relatively low p-value. Competitions include stroke play, match play, best ball team play and skins games. (Received September 15, 2008)