

2007 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

May 19, 2007	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Pete-Phil	1	-	-	-	-		-	-		
Ray-Matt	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	3		won

Anticipation was evident as the players arrived for their first match in two weeks. The tone for a difficult day was set early, as the rain that we hoped would stay away until the afternoon arrived just after 7:00, lingering throughout the round and causing the players to carry open umbrellas on almost every hole. The course was already wet and the grass heavy from the heavy rains earlier in the week, making playing conditions especially tough. The competitive mood was set just after the toss of the balls, when Phil loudly proclaimed that the day's pairings gave him his best chance to get on the scoreboard, laying down a direct challenge to Ray and Matt. Phil backed up his statement, though, when he chipped stiff to the pin on the 10th hole and Pete two-putted for par to put their team one up. The euphoria was short lived, however, as Ray played a beautiful "55" on the par three eleventh that hit right at the hole, rolling only 10 feet past the pin. Two putts were good enough to win the hole and square the match. Matt, Ray and Phil all drove toward the cart path on 11, and Matt's punched 8 irons ran through the heavy grass to the side of the left bunker and onto the green, stopping about 12 feet below the cup. Again, two putts for par were enough to win the hole and give the team the lead, something they would not relinquish the rest of the round. The thirteenth hole was halved with bogeys, as Ray's "44" from the fairway ran to the back of the green, leaving him a very difficult putting situation down the side of the slope. Pete was able to two putt from the front of the green to halve the hole. Both Pete and Phil found trouble along the fourteenth, and both Ray and Matt made five to win the hole and give their team a two hole advantage. Ray made par on the 15th hole, only to be outdone by Phil's amazing birdie (see "Shot of the Day" below), which pulled his team back to within one hole. Ray won the sixteenth hole as he left his 150 yard approach shot on the fringe, but got up and down for par and a two hole lead. Matt found himself in the woods on the left side after his tee shot and was only able to play a punch shot to the fairway, from where he played his approach shot to the right side fringe, about 20 feet from the cup. His putt tracked true down the hill and into the cup, closing out the match for the team of Ray and Matt- 3 and 2. Congratulatory handshakes were shared, at which time Phil lobbied for the closing putt to be counted as the "shot of the day", but the boys would have none of it.

Shot of the Day- With two balls already on the green at 15, Phil stepped up wanting to get inside and give himself a birdie opportunity. Instead of hitting his normal high fade with a short iron, Phil chose to deloft his club and keep his shot low into a non-existent breeze. His nine iron never got six feet off the ground, if you don't count ground clearance over the swale in the middle of the hole, and ran swiftly toward the green. Any possibility that the screaming shot would go through the green was eliminated as the ball caught the taller and thick grass directly in front of the green, which slowed the ball down just enough to allow it to run onto the green and settle twelve feet from the cup. The clincher to make this the "shot of the day" was the birdie putt that Phil sank to win the hole for his team.

Quote of the Day- After the balls were tossed and Phil was teamed with Pete, he was heard to say, "Now I've got a chance to win a point." Although this quote made for good fodder, it is not the actual quote of the day. Rather, it was Ray and Matt's retort to Phil's exclamation, "Not today, you don't."

	Ray Bakshi	Pete Christiansen	Phil Kemp	Matt Boardman
04/21/07	0	0	0	0
04/22/07	0	0	0	0
04/28/07	1	1	0	0
05/05/07	0	1	0	1
05/06/07	0	1	0	1
05/19/07	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	2	3	0	3