

2007 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

April 28, 2007	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Phil-Ray	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	halved
Pete- Matt	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	halved

It has been eighteen days since the last match, the "Blowout on the Back Nine", and the gentlemen were ready to renew the contest and anxious for some action. The sartorially appropriate pairings would have had the "black and white clothing" team of Pete and Phil against the "blue shorts" team of Ray and Matt. But proper procedure was followed as Phil tossed the golf balls on the tenth tee, out of sight of the rest of the group, and confidently announced the teams to the rest of the field.....he was to be magically paired with Ray, the man that most recently dropped three birdies in a single nine hole match and shot 35. The match was set, with some questions still to be answered.....would a medically mandated lack of practice swings affect Phil, would the longer layoff and recent road trip affect Pete, would Matt be able to ignore memories of his recent "s" episodes, and would Mr. Birdie be able to continue his mastery of the Griff back nine? The answers would be known in the next 230 minutes.

Pete and Matt got off to a bumpy start on the tenth hole, as both of their drives found the left side of the trees and the eighteenth rough and fairway, while Ray typically found the center stripe of the appropriate fairway. However, Matt was able to punch a low iron through the trees toward the green, and even though his shot skimmed the ground without resistance and ran through the green, he was able to chip to a couple of feet and make par to win the first hole. The lead was short lived, however. Even though Matt was able to save par on 11 with a beautiful lob from the back left of the green to gimme distance, Ray was back on track and resumed his birdie quest....he hit a beautiful hybrid wood off the tee to about four feet and calmly sank the putt to win the hole and square the match for his team. The twelfth hole was halved with pars, although they were not as routine as would have been thought after Ray, Pete and Matt all had less than 100 yards to the open green after their tee shots only to have all three miss the green and need delicate chip shots to save their fours and keep the match even. Phil made a beautiful par on thirteen, barely missing the green with his second shot but able to chip close yet stay below the hole, and then make his par putt to win the hole and put his team one up. It was Pete's turn to win a hole on 15, and even though his approach left him about 35 feet from the cup he was able to two-putt and bring his team back to even. Pete followed this with a beautiful "sandie" on the par three 15th, but it was not enough as Mr. Birdie was back in action....Ray hit his six iron to four feet and again calmly stuck the dagger in his opponents' heart to win the hole. The see-saw match was again tied after Pete went just over the sixteenth green in regulation but was able to stroke a very bumpy first putt to five feet and make his par to win the hole. All square with two to go. The seventeenth hole was halved with bogeys, as Pete had to chip back onto the fairway when his tee shot came to rest directly behind a tree and Phil was able to get up and down from off the green to halve the hole and push the match to the final hole. Pete hit his tee shot too far left to allow a high approach so he ran a low shot to the right side of the green. Phil had to come through the right side trees and then approach the green. Ray and Matt had open shots from the middle of the fairway and Matt put the pressure on his opponents when he hit his sand wedge to about twelve feet and giving himself a birdie opportunity. But Ray was up to the moment, as expected, and dropped his own approach shot well within his opponents and left himself about six feet for yet another birdie....could it be a three birdie round again? Alas, and perhaps fittingly, none of the competitors was able to convert for 3 and the hole and match were halved.

Shot(s) of the Day- There were really two shots to consider for today's accolade, and since both came from the bag of Ray Bakshi the decision was easy. Ray's tee shots on 11 and 15, the two par threes that require very different tee shots, were both beautiful and each stopped within five feet of the respective holes. Making the decision easier and tougher at the same time, Ray made both birdie putts.

	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
05/20/07	1	0	0	1
06/02/07	0	0	0	0
06/09/07	0	1	0	1
06/10/07	0	1	1	0
06/16/07	1	1	0	0
07/04/07	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	6	1	5