

2008 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

July 26, 2008	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Pete - Phil	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	won
Ray - Matt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	

No great surprise as teams were set on the tenth tee when Matt tossed the four balls away from the group toward the blue tee markers, hitting the wood piece with one of the balls, and Phil and Pete were paired together yet again to face Ray and Matt. Phil noted that he had studied the daily results carefully and the reason that Matt was in the lead to date was because he and Matt had yet to be paired....not sure if he was swiping at Matt or showing some self-deprecating humor. Matt was long down the middle of the tenth, while Ray was just on the left edge of the fairway. Both players hit the green but were unable to convert birdie opportunities, and the hole was halved when Phil came out of the left side trees with a second shot just over the green, from where he chipped to about five feet and saved par. The eleventh hole was an adventure, begun with Matt hitting his hybrid toward the second tee and having to yell "fore" to the front nine players. Pete was on the green from the tee, but uncharacteristically three putted and Ray tied the hole with bogey. The ice was finally broken when Pete's routine two putt par on twelve was enough to win. Lackluster play continued on the thirteenth as none of the players could manage par and bogeys halved the hole, leaving Pete and Phil one up going up the small hill. On the fourteenth hole, Pete took an unplayable lie when his tee shot was off the cart path, but he crushed a three wood up the slot and left himself well inside 150 yards to the green. He hit the green and narrowly missed a miraculous par when his putt just missed, but it was enough to save a tie because Matt three putted from the front of the green to make bogey. The fifteenth hole was almost over from the tee box because Pete hit a wonderful six iron that missed the pin by inches and came to rest inside a foot for a sure birdie. Matt knew he needed to make his chip from off the front side, elected to pull the pin, but his nine iron runner slid just under the hole, so Pete and Phil were two up going up the long hill. The sixteenth hole was halved with pars when Pete and Matt both missed birdie opportunities and settled for fours, leaving the match dormie going to seventeen. Nobody was on the green in regulation on seventeen, but Matt and Ray needed to win the hole to continue the match. Ray just missed his longer par putt, but Matt stroked a downhill putt from the right side, urging the ball to curve toward the hole, which it finally did to win the hole. Ray and Matt needed another win on eighteen, and their outlook was positive when they both striped the middle of the fairway while Pete found the left side trees and Phil was wide to the right of the trees. Pete played safe, chipping back to the fairway in front of the green. Matt hit his approach at the pin but was short by about twenty feet, while Ray was about pin high but ten feet right. Pete chipped past the hole, leaving about twelve feet for par, which he calmly converted. Ray needed his birdie putt since Matt had already missed his chance, and he made a good stroke that rimmed the cup, turning the ball 270 degrees around the cup but eventually staying out, and Pete and Phil tied the hole and won the match.

SHOT OF THE DAY- A clear choice for this prestigious award was Pete's six iron tee shot on the par three fifteenth. As it flew toward the pin, Pete knew he had hit a good shot and asked the ball to "be the right distance." The right distance it was, as it hit the green about three feet to the left below the pin and rolled JUST past the cup and stopped less than a foot past for a tap in birdie.

	Ray	Pete	Phil	Matt
04/20/08	0	1	0	1
04/26/08	0	1	0	1
04/27/08	0	0	0	0
05/04/08	0	0	0	0
05/10/08	1	0	0	1
05/24/08	0	0	0	0
05/25/08	1	0	1	0
05/26/08	1	0	1	0
06/07/08	0	1	0	1
06/08/08	0	1	1	0
06/14/08	1	0	0	1
07/04/08	0	1	0	1
07/05/08	1	0	0	1
07/12/08	0	0	0	0
07/13/08	0	1	0	1
07/19/08	0	1	1	0
07/20/08	1	0	0	1
07/26/08	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	6	8	5	9