

2008 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

August 24, 2008	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Ray - Phil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pete - Matt	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	won

The day started ominously as Phil's 5:15 arrival appeared to place the group in jeopardy of being the fourth group out on the back nine. But fortune smiled on our players when all three bags ahead of us joined together in the first group, allowing us to be second. There were many good lines uttered on the tenth hole, beginning with Phil noting to Ray that "I really wanted to be your partner today", effectively dismissing his chances of winning if he were paired with either Pete or Matt. Phil got his wish, and the match started with Pete and Ray down the middle and long, Matt fairly short but in the fairway. Jack noted the lack of length and also Matt's recent haircut, wondering if that was the reason that Samson had lost his strength. But Matt hit the green from the farthest away, as did Pete and Ray, and when no birdie putts rolled into the cup, the hole was halved and the match was even. On the eleventh hole, Phil pulled his tee shot to the left of the trap and then hit a beautiful chip over the trap, stopping barely one foot from the cup for par. That halved the hole as Matt two putted from the fringe. Matt got a very fortunate bounce on the twelfth hole when his pulled tee shot bounced off a tree and back into the rough. From there he hit his approach shot a bit short, leaving a downhill chip to a red pin...which he rolled in for a birdie. Not to be outdone, Ray had hit a fine approach shot from the fairway to about six feet and confidently rolled in his tying birdie putt...still even. The thirteenth hole was also halved, this time with bogeys as many just missed saving par.....Phil rimming the cup after recovering nicely, Ray missing a putt after chipping from deep rough and Matt pulling a four footer after chipping from the rough as well. Pete was in trouble on the fourteenth hole but Matt made the green in regulation and two putted for par. That halved the hole because Phil hit three wonderful shots to earn a birdie try from inside ten feet, which was barely missed but par was subsequently made. The fifteenth hole was halved with pars, Matt chipping from off the front to two feet, and Phil and Ray both two putting for their pars. The teams were even going up the hill, no "blood" on any hole so far. Pete saved par with a nice chip and putt on sixteen and the first win of the day found Pete and Matt one up. Matt and Ray were both in the fairway on seventeen with a long way to go to get to the green. Matt hit first and although he had the distance, he was wide to the right and found the greenside trap. Ray was straighter, drawing nicely toward the green but stopping just short. Neither player could get up and down, though, and bogeys tied the hole. Pete hit long down the fairway on eighteen, with Ray toward the right side. Ray's approach landed on the green but he was unable to make a birdie, settling for par. Pete, needing only par to halve the hole and win the match, hit a conservative birdie putt that left him a tap in for par and the victory.....one up.

SHOT OF THE DAY- Two candidates for today's award:

- Phil's lofted chip from the left side of the bunker on eleven to save par and halve the hole
- Matt's chip in on the twelfth (after getting very lucky on his tee shot) for birdie to win the hole

	Ray	Pete	Phi	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
08/02/08	1	1	0	0
08/03/08	1	0	1	0
08/16/08	0	1	1	0
08/22/08	0	1	0	1
08/24/08	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	8	12	7	11