

2010 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

August 1, 2010	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Phil - Ray	-	1	1	2	1	2	1	-	1	won
Pete - Matt	-							-		

Matt arrived at the course just after 5:00, expecting to be second in the customary Sunday slot, but was surprised to find another early bird golfer unloading his bag and moving the group to third. This is usually not a problem, and gave Phil some more time to get started after a full week of travel and a glamorous society wedding reception the prior day, but we were looking ahead to Ray's schedule tee time for the "Father-Daughter Tournament" at Winged Foot, an event not taken lightly by the participants. The teams were the same as Saturday, Ray and Phil against Pete and Matt, the only change being the weighted club being lugged around by Matt as he looks for any answer to his swing woes. Ray was down the middle on ten, with Pete and Matt toward the left side. Pete and Ray both found the green, Ray on the back and Pete to the side, and both made their pars to halve the hole. Nobody found the green on eleven, and only Ray got up and down from the fringe to save his par and win the hole for an early advantage. Pete was long down the fairway, Ray shorter and Phil shorter still, but everyone his very nice approach shots onto the green and two putted for their respective pars to halve the hole and keep Ray and Phil one up. Again, Ray was shorter than Pete in the fairway on thirteen but hit his hybrid stiff to the hole, stopping about two feet away. This forced Pete to try to hole his chip from the greenside rough, which he almost did as his ball stopped inches away, forcing Ray to make his putt...and Ray was up to the challenge, making a difficult birdie on a difficult hole. Pete was on the fourteenth in three as was Matt when he hit a wedge from the edge of the hazard to ten feet. Pete's two putt par gave Matt a free shot at birdie, and this time he took advantage by converting to cut the lead in half. Matt hit his typical tee shot on fifteen, dragging his playing partner down with him, and Ray's chip to gimme distance for par won the hole and took the advantage back to two. Ray was in two traps on sixteen and made bogey, as did Phil, and it was Pete who played the whole the best as he found the green from the fairway bunker and two putted for par, sandie and a win. Pete hit his second shot to the rough on the right side of the seventeenth green after Matt crushed a three wood close to the front edge, while Ray found the green in regulation but was very far from the hole. Matt and Pete chipped to opposite sides of the hole, Ray putted short and it was six foot putts that would decide the hole. After Pete gave Matt a free chance, he capitalized again by sinking his par putt to win the hole and tie the match going to eighteen. Pete was blocked out off the tee on eighteen while Phil was in the fairway but short, Matt and Ray down farther to just inside one hundred yards. Pete found the greenside bunker and Phil got to the green but just on the front right side with a very long putt. Ray mishit his approach but Matt hit his well and stopped about eight feet past the cup, looking like he had the best chance to win the hole and the match. But it was Phil, from over 50 feet, that rolled his putt dead center of the cup and with good speed to make a birdie, and when Matt rolled his putt wide to the right, it turned out to be the winning shot as Ray and Phil won the match, one up.

SHOT OF THE DAY- It should be no surprise to the reader what the shot of the day was for Sunday. A final exclamation point on the match, an unlikely putt from more than fifty feet to not only win the hole, but also to win the match...a match that had gotten away with losses on the sixteenth and seventeenth holes and an opponent poised at about ten feet to sink a birdie. Congratulations, Phil, on making what might be the longest putt of the year.

<u>POINTS</u>	Ray	Pete	Phil	Matt		Total Points
Ray		18	15	21		27
Pete	8		15	11		17
Phil	5	15		14		17
Matt	9	9	12			15

<u>INDIVIDUAL WON-LOST</u>	Ray	Pete	Phil	Matt		Overall
Ray		8-3-2	7-2-1	9-3-3		12-4-3
Pete	3-8-2		6-6-3	5-4-1		7-9-3
Phil	2-7-1	6-6-3		6-5-2		7-9-3
Matt	3-9-3	4-5-1	5-6-2			6-10-3

<u>TEAM WON-LOST</u>	Won	Lost	Halved
Ray-Pete	4	1	1
Ray-Phil	5	2	2
Ray-Matt	3	1	
Pete-Phil	1	3	
Pete-Matt	2	5	2
Phil-Matt	1	4	1

