

## **2010 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP**

It was a brutal winter for local weather in 2010-2011 and the expectation for significant damage to our beloved Griffith Harris Golf Course was high. As temperatures slowly rose and workers were able to get onto the course and deal with damage, many players took out their weighted clubs and started swinging in their driveway. Of course there were two notable exceptions.....Pete did not swing at all, in fact waited the morning of the first practice round to flex his muscles and test his old ailments....and Ray probably had many swings in the basement simulator with ten foot ceilings, air systems designed to draw cigar smoke cleanly away from the house, and high definition replay of his smooth swing.

The course actually opened on a March date, but the first weekend date was April 2 and the foursome was back on the course in 35 degree weather and a delayed opening. The first weekend was designated for practice and the gentlemen took off with high hopes for improved games, exciting competition and good camaraderie. It had been agreed at the annual Rajen Bakshi awards dinner that the format would be tweaked just a bit and pairing predetermined, as well as formats. But the first two days were non-competitive and designed for fun. Plus, Phil had to get off the course early to make a 10:15 tennis match, showing his priorities quite well.

Everyone played nicely the first weekend and there were even some birdies in the group, as they looked forward to April 9 and the start of competition. But that was not to be, as the earlier forecast for temperatures in the low 40s proved inaccurate and the group arrived at a frost covered course and a projected ninety minute delay. Weekend chores remained to be done at home, so the first match was postponed due to cold weather and rescheduled for Sunday. Here's hoping for warmer weather.