

2012 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

May 19, 2012										
Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Phil	4	5	5	6	7	4	5	5	4	45
	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	10
Ray	4	4	5	4	7	4	5	5	4	42
	3	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	3	14
Pete	5	3	5	6	7	4	5	6	3	44
	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	6	13
Matt	5	4	6	4	5	4	5	6	5	44
	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	1	11

The first Stableford match of the season was held on May 19, a beautiful day filled with sunshine. The play would be dull and uninspired through the first eight holes, but the group came through with an exciting finish on eighteen that affected everyone's place for the day. But we needed to play the first eight holes to get there, so let's start at the tenth, with decent drives in the fairway but nobody very long. Phil approached to the front of the green, Matt rolled off the back, Pete was in the trap and Ray hit the best shot and had a birdie opportunity. He could not convert, settled for a tap in par that tied Phil, who two putted from the fringe, and beat both Pete and Matt, who made bogey. Ray and Pete were toward the front of the eleventh, Matt far to the left and Phil to the right side. Only Pete could salvage a par after a nice chip and putt, gaining three points in the modified system to tie for the early lead. Ray and Pete were down the middle on twelve, Phil shorter and Matt to the left. Pete hit his approach shot just off the back left edge, chipped to three feet and missed his par while Ray took three putts and also made bogey, tying Phil who two putted for his five. Phil lost his tee shot on thirteen, Matt and Pete were to the right side while Ray was toward the left. Ray hooked his approach and landed above the hole, just off the green, with a tricky downhill putt to come. Meanwhile Matt was off the green to the right and had an uphill chip. Both players came through, Matt first with a chip to within a foot for his par and Ray with the delicate touch that left his birdie attempt even closer, also with a par. A lot of trouble on fourteen, Pete in the woods, Phil lost a ball, Ray in trouble and all players made double bogey. But Matt's errant second shot bounced back into the fairway and he saved his hole with a six iron to pin high, missing a birdie putt but making par and earning three points. Nobody found the fifteenth green, and nobody could salvage a par, all players making bogey four and earning a single point. On the sixteenth hole, again nobody could save par after some scrambling, all players settling for bogey fives and another point. Matt was out of bounds off the seventeenth tee, Ray's approach was on the eighteenth fairway but he made a nice long approach and two putted for bogey, an important point as it would turn out. Phil was in front of the green in two, made a nice putt but lipped out his par putt, and that narrow miss would also be important as the group headed to eighteen. At this point, Ray had a one point lead over Matt, six over Pete and Phil who knew they needed birdies to catch up. Pete hit his best tee shot of the year, landing right next to Ray in the fairway, Matt a bit farther. Phil approached first, just outside the front trap, while Ray went left of the green, Matt shanked his shot toward the woods. Pete thought he chunked his approach, but it was a good shot that went past the pin and left him about twenty feet for birdie. Ray chipped onto the green about four feet away, Matt took two chips to get to four feet as well. Meanwhile Phil hit a nice first putt and tapped in for par, giving him three points. Next up was Pete, who rolled in his long birdie putt for six points. These scores changed the dynamics, forcing Matt to make his putt for third place and Ray to make his for the victory. Ray quickly hit his putt, possibly not realizing the importance, but made it and secured first place. Matt also rolled his putt in for a bogey and a single point, but that gave him third place. Nice day, not great golf from anyone, but a good format and enjoyable for the first time we played it.