

2012 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

After a quick meeting of the handicap and competition committees late on Saturday, an adjustment to the scoring and format was instituted before play began on Fathers' Day Sunday. The requirement regarding strokes on any hole was that they be called out on the specific tee box, prior to anyone hitting their shot on that hole. Year to date totals were brought up to date through small adjustments to prior individual matches, which will be evident in the ensuing charts and graphs. But as play began on Sunday, Ray maintained his 2 ½ point lead over Pete, a bit more distance between himself and Matt and Phil. The day was misty, contrary to weather predictions, overcast with a little chill in the air. Following a lesson with Joe Felder, Phil was trying to shorten his backswing to add more control...and the money would prove well spent in the next two plus hours. Phil was short on ten, Pete off in the woods, Ray in the fairway and Matt down by the bunker. Phil hit a good approach just short of the green in the rough, Pete punched between trees to stop on the fringe, while Ray went long with his wedge and Matt pushed a bit right. The two lesser tee shots ended up saving their pars with good chips and putts, halving the hole and pushing a skin to eleven. Phil was short of the green on eleven, Ray to the right in the trap, while Pete hit a very solid shot to the left side of the green to match Matt. Ray could not save par, Phil did not hit his best chip but made a twelve footer for his three, and watched as Pete missed his downhill putt but Matt made his sidehill for a matching three. Phil chose to use a shot on twelve and hit a nice tee shot down the right side, Pete longer in the rough, Ray to the left and Matt a bit longer and in the fairway. Phil found the sand on his second and could not recover for par, but his stroke gave him a net four. Pete missed his birdie putt from the back, Matt also missed from the side but fours were in the books, leaving Ray a chance to win the skins with a birdie. But his putt lipped out and curved around, so another hole was tied. Matt bounced out of the woods and stopped just to the right of the road, while Pete ran up the road to the elbow and into the fairway, past Ray. Phil's second shot was short, Matt had to lay up to the right. Ray hit his usual excellent second shot on thirteen and ended up off the back of the green, Pete's second shot on the downside fringe. Ray flopped a very nice shot to six inches and tapped in, leaving Pete to match after a first putt that went by the hole, leaving a downhill tester. With Phil and Matt rooting him on, Pete sank his par putt to tie another hole. Phil again chose to use a stroke on fourteen but got in trouble off the tee. Ray was in the rough, Matt in the fairway and Pete longer with his best drive. Matt's second shot faded right and left him an interesting third from just outside the hazard, the ball a foot above his feet. Meanwhile both Pete and Ray hit nice second shots, leaving themselves good approach shots to the elevated green. Pete hit a low line drive that went just through the green while Ray hit his to five feet. Pete went three feet past the hole with his downhill first putt, giving Ray an opportunity to make birdie and take the skins, but also putting pressure on himself to make the comeback putt to tie if Ray missed. Ray came close but missed his birdie, and again with Phil and Matt rooting him on, Pete made the uphill putt to tie and carry over five skins to the fifteenth, making it worth six and ensuring a victory for the day for the next winner of a skin. Phil chose to use his last available shot from the tee on the par three fifteenth, but thought he had wasted it when his tee shot went into the right side trap. Pete was left in the rough, Matt hit his hybrid to the back of the green and Ray hit the best shot when he stopped about ten feet away. Pete hit a good chip, Phil was not happy with his bunker shot that left him almost twenty feet from the cup, Matt's long birdie attempt stopped a couple of feet short and it looked like Ray had another chance to win the skins. But Phil, possibly mistaking this hole for the eighteenth where his long putt prowess is legendary, stroked a gorgeous par-saving putt that dropped into the hole and gave him a net two. That put Ray in the position of needing his birdie just to tie, but he could not sink his own tester and Phil won the hole, six skins, and three points locked up for the day. Second and third places were left in play as we walked up the hill. Pete hit a big drive to the middle of the trap, Matt bounced off a tree on the left, Ray was in the left rough and Phil with a nice drive toward the right side of the fairway. Phil and Ray each hit nice second shots onto the green and past the pin while Pete hit his first bad shot of the day and Matt stayed left of the fairway. Phil and Ray both had long birdie putts, made good attempts but both settled for par and sending an extra skin to seventeen. Phil went left on seventeen, as did Pete who had to take his second shot from under a tree, both men chipping out and not able to salvage the hole. Ray hit a nice second shot toward the green, stopping short and chipping onto the green. Matt hit the longest drive and a good hybrid that stopped just off the left side of the green, from where he hit his best putt of the day to within a foot and making par. Ray could not convert his ten-foot putt after his chip to tie and Matt won two skins and second place for the day. Pete and Matt were under the trees on eighteen, with Ray in the same line but a bit farther out. Ray hit the best shot, rolling onto the green and stopping about ten feet from the cup. He needed that putt to win the hole and the final skin for third place as the others had saved par, and once he was told of the situation and realized the importance, he focused under the pressure and calmly rolled his ball into the hole for birdie and a win for the hole.

Sunday, June 17

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Ray	-	-	-	-	-		-		1	1
Pete	-	-	-	-	-		-			-
Phil	-	-	-	-	-	6	-			6
Matt	-	-	-	-	-		-	2		2

	Ray	Pete	Phil	Matt
1	0.5	2.0	2.0	3.0
2	3.5	4.0	3.5	4.0
3	4.5	7.0	5.0	6.0
4	7.5	8.0	6.5	8.0
5	10.5	10.0	8.5	8.5
6	13.5	11.0	10.0	10.5
7	14.5	11.0	13.0	12.5

<u>Total # Skins Won</u>		<u>Total Skins Points Won</u>	
Ray	8	Ray	5.5
Pete	7	Pete	7.0
Phil	6	Phil	8.5
Matt	13	Matt	7.5
<u>Total Stableford Score</u>		<u>Total Stableford Points Won</u>	
Ray	59	Ray	9.0
Pete	40	Pete	4.0
Phil	23	Phil	4.5
Matt	45	Matt	5.0

