

2013 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, August 31										
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Pete - Ray									-	TIED
Phil - Matt	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	TIED

Saturday, August 31

Matt arrived at the course at 5:00 on Saturday, wanting to play as early as possible to accommodate family plans for later that morning. But Dave Ayres was already sitting in his car, reading the newspaper having but his bag on the tee box and collected range balls for later use. And Stan was already back in his car, sleeping and waiting to play second. So it would be the third tee time for the group, playing a match pitting Pete and Ray (not having played for two weeks) against Phil and Matt. Phil started with a short drive, characterized by a cynical Jack as a senior's tee shot, followed by Matt's drive that rolled just into the left rough. Pete was a bit longer and Ray was to the left. Phil hit the best approach, flying a one hundred fifty yard shot to ten feet from the pin, while the other three hit good shots but not as close. Ray two putted for par, giving Pete a good opportunity that he ran just past the right edge for his par. Matt left his putt on the left edge for his par, but Phil capitalized for his team by rolling in his birdie putt to grab an early lead. Three good tee shots on eleven, Pete bouncing just off the back edge, Phil and Ray off the front edge, and Matt in the trap. Ray hit a beautiful putt that was tapped in for par, but Pete could not take advantage and settled for par as well. Matt came out of the bunker to eight feet above the hole, and needing to roll his par putt into the hole to tie, hit a good stroke and did just that. Phil popped up his tee shot on twelve, Matt going just over the cart path on the left. Pete hit his long down the fairway, and Ray went into the left side woods, the ball never to be found. Pete tried to roll his ball up to the green and stopped off the front edge, Matt pulled his approach to just off the left side and Phil recovered to the fairway and was about ten feet away in three. Matt chipped four feet past the cup, and Phil and Matt needed to make their putts after Pete hit the flagstick with his third shot and tapped in. Both players were up to the challenge, though, and both came away with pars. Phil hit a rocket of a three metal off the thirteenth tee, the longest drive of the group. Ray was in the trap, Matt in the rough and Pete longer but also in the rough. Ray did not hit his usual good approach on this hole, but the other three all hit very nice approach shots to the difficult green. Ray almost came back by coming close to dunking his chip shot for four, but settled for bogey. Matt's long putt slid by the hole and had four feet for par, Pete coming nicely down the hill and settling eighteen inches away while Phil missed his par putt but made bogey for a net par. Both Pete and Matt rolled their tricky putts in as well, and the hole was halved. Phil hit a short tee shot on fourteen and had to pitch out to recover, while Matt also was short and fortunate to get down the hill with his second, bouncing wildly left from the road side to the left side of the fairway. Ray's second shot was too long and into the hazard while Pete went into the right side hazard. Matt hit a very nice approach onto the green, putting pressure on Ray. But Ray calmly hit from the hazard onto the green and pars from the two halved that hole as well. Matt was short and Phil toward the road on fifteen while both Ray and Pete were on the green from the tee. Matt's chip came up short of the pin and Phil's chip went past the hole, giving an opportunity to Pete and Ray. Both missed their birdie putts narrowly and tapped in for par, and after Matt hit the lip but stayed out with his putt for three, the pressure was on Phil with a downhill tester. Phil was up to the test, and rolled in his putt for three to maintain a one hole lead for his team. Matt was just all right but in the fairway on sixteen, Ray to the left and Pete with his first non-perfect tee shot as well. Pete hit a very nice second from one hundred eighty to just short of the green, followed by Matt's nice hybrid onto the green and past the pin, then Ray with a good shot onto the green as well. Pete chipped to within two feet and saved his par, matched by Ray and then Matt. Phil hit a very nice tee shot down the middle on seventeen, followed by both Ray and Pete with drives down the fairway. Matt recovered to the fairway, Phil hit a good second toward the left side cart sign, Ray a bit short and Pete to the right. Ray hit the best chip and made the first par, but Phil matched with a very lovely second chip shot to about a foot to tie the hole. Needing to win the eighteenth to even the match, Ray hit a gorgeous tee shot down the fairway, matching the tee shot that Matt had already placed in the center. It was head to head, and Ray hit much the better approach, landing his ball on the green and having an opportunity for birdie. He would not need the birdie, though, as Matt pulled his approach into the trap and could not get close enough to save par. Pete and Ray won the eighteenth with pars, evening the match and leaving everyone with a single point for the day.