

2014 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, April 27, 2014

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match	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Ray - Phil	-						x	x	x	
Pete - Matt	-	1	2	3	4	5	x	x	x	won
press	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Ray - Phil	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Pete - Matt	x	x	x	x	x	x	1	2	x	won

With snow and ice finally gone from the area, the start of the 2014 competition began on April 27. Small changes were made to the rules and format, with each round robin of pairs play beginning with a toss of balls on the tenth tee to determine the teams, followed the next match by a limited toss to ensure that one of the two remaining possible pairings would be played, and leading to the third pairing for the next match. Each round robin will be followed by a skins game. Presses are automatic and will begin upon a daily match being clinched on the course, regardless of hole, and the press is worth half of the original match.

Pete and Matt would play against Phil and Ray in the opening match play format. Pete started things off with a drive down the left side, Matt a bit longer and Ray also in the fairway. Pete hit the best approach of the group, stopping his ball about four feet from the cup from just over one hundred yards. Ray two putted from twelve feet, and after Pete pushed hit putt and made par, the first hole was halved. The eleventh hole was not well played, Pete with a mishit from the tee and a bogey, Matt wide to the right and also with a bogey, but those were enough to win the hole after Ray lost a ball to the right and Phil had bunker problems. Phil was in the woods on twelve and could not recover, Pete and Matt were in the right rough while Ray was in the fairway. Ray's approach left him a very long sideways putt, Pete was just on the front and also with a long putt, and Matt chunked his approach. But Matt followed with a great chip that stopped a foot above the hole, and when Ray putted well past the hole with his first putt, par won the hole for a two-hole lead. Ray and Pete were just toward the right rough from the thirteenth tee with Matt in the fairway and longer. Matt's approach missed the green to the right, but Pete hit a very nice approach to the front of the green. He hit a beautiful putt that curled just past the cup, inches for a tap in par, enough to win the hole and a three hole lead after Ray could not get up and down from the left front rough. Pete mishit his tee shot on fourteen and stayed on the tee box, but Matt hit a beautiful five wood to the top of the hill. Ray went left and had a tickler for his second, leaving him problems for the rest of the hole. Pete recovered very nicely, getting down to the creek in three, while Matt hit into the hazard on his second and had to chip toward the creek for his third. Both players hit good approach shots and although Matt made six, Pete nailed a ten-foot putt for a nicely recovered par and a victory to go four up. The wind was blowing on fifteen, requiring extra club length. Phil missed to the right and Ray was in the bunker, Pete hit a seven iron a bit thin but on the green and Matt was high and just on the fringe. Both players made par, enough to win the hole and close out the first match of the year.

The automatic press was started at the top of the hill, and Pete got things going with a good drive short of the grass bunker, followed by Matt who found that ground under repair. Phil hit a good drive but Ray pulled his to the left. Phil pulled his second shot a bit, hit a good chip but settled for bogey after missing his putt. Pete hit what looked like a great second shot, only to find his ball just on the front of the green, followed by Matt who also was just short. Two putts later for par, and Pete and Matt took the lead in the press. Pete was left of the road on seventeen, Phil hit a good tee shot and was on the left side while Ray and Matt both were in the fairway and had more than two hundred yards to the green. Pete had to chip out, Phil's second shot went left but got a good bounce off a tree into the fairway, and Ray and Matt both hit excellent fairway metals that stopped off the front edge. Pete's approach went through the green, Phil went to the back right. Matt hit a very nice running chip all the way to the yellow flag, stopping just a foot from the cup for a par. That was enough to win the hole, finish the press and secure three points for Pete and Matt to start the 2014 season.