

**2014 GRIFFITH HARRIS
EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Sunday, May 5, 2014

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

Warmer weather and a 7:00 proposed tee time were the background for the first match of May, pitting Pete and Ray against Phil and Matt. Phil started with a good tee shot which was matched by Matt and Ray, Pete going a bit toward the right and short of the tree. From there, all Pete could do was aim for the front left side of the green while the others all have good approach opportunities. Phil landed on the right fringe while Ray and Matt hit very nice shots to ten or twelve feet from the cup, birdie putts coming up. But neither could convert their birdies after both Phil and Pete recovered to make par and give their respective partners free looks, so four pars halve the first hole. Phil faded his tee shot on eleven, coming in from the left side bunker and bouncing onto the green and up toward the hole, while Matt hit the road on the right and was out of the hole. Ray was short of the green and Pete was in the bunker on the left. Although Ray could not save par, Pete hit his sand shot about six feet above the cup and saved his team with a good putt, matching Phil's two-putt par. The twelfth hole was a bit ugly, Pete just to the top of the hill, Matt to the right, Phil far left and Ray a bit left as well. Nobody found the green in regulation and it looked like bogeys for everyone until Ray stroked a fine downhill eight footer to save his par and win the hole. Winning the tee box, Pete led off but was in the left side hazard, but his partner was long and in the fairway. Matt was shorter in the fairway as was Phil, who was getting a stroke on this hole. Phil used that stroke well, playing smartly and laying up to one hundred yards in the fairway, then hitting his wedge to the same spot as Ray's approach, a bit to the right. Ray hit the better chip and had a tap in, but Phil equaled the score after a downhill four-foot putt went in. Matt was longest on fourteen, but everyone was in good position off the tee. Phil almost went too long to the left with his second but his ball stopped in the rough. It ended up being Pete and Matt with the best chances on their third and both hit decent shots, Matt short by fifteen feet and Pete on the back edge. Pete went five feet past the cup with his downhill while Matt went three feet left on his curler, but both made the second putts for par to halve the hole. Pete hit a nice tee shot that got caught in the wind on fifteen, only making the front of the green, while Ray was off to the right. Matt hit a poor tee shot but Phil was all right, a bit short and left. Phil followed with a great chip shot that ran to just one foot from the cup, halving the hole after Pete took two putts for his par. Pete and Ray were still on up as the group started the hike up the hill. Pete pulled his tee shot into the trees on sixteen and his partner was in the fairway. They reversed shots after that, Pete hitting a beautiful five wood that stopped about hole high on the right side of the green while Ray did not get on in regulation. Phil and Matt were on the right side after their tee shots and Matt hit a low approach that went to the back of the green. Matt's long putt looked to be right but it curled back just past the hole for a tap in par, while Pete's birdie putt was just to the right and a few inches short...hole tied. Pete hit the container on the forward tee on seventeen while Phil went far left, but Ray and Matt were in the fairway. Matt pulled his second shot far left, leaving himself under the trees on the other side of the cart path. He recovered well with a low wedge that stopped ten feet past the cup, while Ray chipped his third to the left fringe. Ray nailed his sideways putt, looking like it might be short and then looking like it might be high, but gravity worked perfectly and the ball dropped in the left side. Matt evened the score with a good par putt of his own, sending the match to the eighteenth with Pete and Ray holding a one-hole lead. Pete split the fairway with his tee shot, putting a lot of pressure on the opponents. Although Matt also hit the fairway, he was not able to find the green into a suddenly stiff wind while Pete used an extra club and was on the green, although a bit long. Pete ended the match with a very nice first putt, stopping less than a foot outside the cup and he was conceded his par.