

# 2016 GRIFFITH HARRIS EARLY-BIRD BACK-NINE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Saturday, April 30, 2016**

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	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	FINAL
Ray	x	x	3	x	x	x	4	x	x	7
Pete	x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	0
Phil	x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	0
Matt	x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	0

Opening Day for the 2016 Griff Golf Back Nine season finally arrived on Saturday, the day clear and crisp with tee time temperatures in the mid-40s. Phil made it back to town, Ray made it to the tee box early and the group was set to go for another season of competition, comradery and fun. Some good tee shots to start left the green approachable but Pete found himself in the unusual spot of the left side bunker while Phil was short. That left Matt and Ray to putt for birdies, neither could make their first putts and after Ray stroked in his second from three feet the hole was halved and the first skin of the year was carried forward. Nobody hit the green on the eleventh hole, Ray far right and Pete left again, Phil short and Matt about hole high and in the fringe, going downhill. Phil hit a very nice chip shot to about four feet, a putt he would need to make to halve the hole after Matt rolled a good downhiller to just outside the cup. Phil saved his partners and the skins as he stroked in his putt for par. With confidence going to the twelfth tee box, Phil led off with a good hybrid down the fairway, only to realize after he hit his ball that he might have considered utilizing one of his handicap strokes on this hole given the carry-forward values. Ray and Matt hit good tee shots after Phil, Ray's approach stopping just short of the front edge while Matt went sideways toward the woods and was out of the hole. Phil did not reach the green on his second, but again hit a good chip and followed with a putt for a natural par, giving him pause to regret his failure to use one of his strokes before he teed off. But the regret was short lived when Ray stroked a nice downhill putt from the edge into the cup for a birdie, winning the hole and the first three skins of the year. Ray was left and the others right on thirteen, Matt in the fairway bunker. Ray's approach just missed on the right of the green, Matt was farther right in the long grass near the tree stump. He chopped his ball out and rolled through the green, stopping in the fringe above and to the right of the hole. Ray hit a good putt and had his par in the bag, so Matt needed to make the curler to halve the hole....a good stroke and the ball tracked right into the cup for a tying par. Phil claimed his first stroke on the fourteenth tee box and proceeded to hit a solid fairway metal down the fairway, causing the others to have to strategically hit driver from the forward tee box. All three hit the ball well, but the cold weather and early season softness did not allow anyone to make a good approach to the green from the landing spots. Phil found a bit of trouble and had to recover, but the others were in front of the creek in two, from which point all players hit good approach shots and took two putts to get down, halving the hole and making the fifteenth worth three skins. Pete and Ray hit good tee shots on the par three, but Phil matched them with a great chip from the far right side to about a foot, pars halving the hole and making sixteen worth four skins. Phil wasted no time in declaring his intention to take his last stroke of the day, announcing before anyone walked off the fifteenth green. But the extra stroke was to no avail, as all four players found the greenside bunker with their approaches. Ray hit the best shot from the left bunker to a couple of feet, tapping in for par and winning the four skins and clinching the daily victory with seven skins to this point, his eyes on a sweep. Scattered drives on seventeen but only Phil followed with a good second, the others far short. Ray and Matt hit good approach shots and took two putts to make bogey, tie Phil and carry one skin to eighteen. Ray and Pete hit good tee shots on eighteen, good second shots that left each long birdie putts. Neither converted but both made par, halving the hole and leaving Phil, Pete and Ray with no skins but in a three-way tie for second place and each with one point for the day.