



Member Profile

Christoph Meister

Hamburg, Germany

As a resident of Hamburg, Germany, Christoph Meister was educated at the Lausanne Hotel School in Switzerland and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), obtaining a degree in economics. As a past president of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC), he is researching and collecting the history of golf in continental Europe.

A bona fide golf historian, Christoph is the author of several articles and books published internationally. He authored the 75th anniversary book of the European Golf Association in late 2012 and, in early 2013, co-authored the centenary history book of Frankfurter Golf Club.

Christoph is a third generation golfer who began playing as a student in London, England, where he enjoyed field hockey and sailing races during his teens. He works as a commercial director for a Hamburg-based company with worldwide operations.

Christoph and his wife, Franziska, have two children and, apart from playing and organising hickory championships, Christoph spends more and more time watching his boys playing soccer, one of Germany's favorite national sports.

"I took up hickory golf when John Hanna from Northern Ireland visited Hamburg in 2007 for the annual meeting of EAGHC," Christoph says. "When I asked John to join me for a round of golf at Colt-designed Hamburger Golf Club Falkenstein I noticed that all he had with him was a nice vintage leather bag filled with roughly seven hickory shafted golf clubs. At that moment I thought it would be only fair to choose a similar number of hickory shafted golf clubs from my collection that I had accumulated over the years and give hickory golf a try.

"Ever since, I've only played one round of golf with modern equipment while joining a tournament celebrating 100 years of golf in Thuringia in late 2007."

How often do you play hickories?

I now play about three to four hickory games a month in season also depending on the number of events I enter. I never play with modern clubs as I cannot stand the sound of those modern monster drivers hitting the golf ball.

What's in your play set?

Brassie – 43 inches and 13°, maker unreadable, nicely prepared by Roger Morton in Shifnal, England
 Spoon – 41" and 20°, from Northgate Regent Park also prepared by Roger Morton
 2 iron – Ben Sayers with flanged sole, nicely prepared by Randy Jensen
 Mid Iron – Gibson, Maxwell
 Mashie – St. Andrews Golf Co. 1920's Maxwell
 Mashie Niblick – Gibson, Maxwell
 Niblick – Gibson, Maxwell
 Jigger – Maxwell jigger by Anderson
 Sand Iron – Walter Hagen Sandy Andy flat face
 Putter – Maxwell putter by Anderson or Gassiat putter

Favorite club?

The Gassiat putter.

What ball do you play?

Not that it makes a difference for my game, but mostly Precept Laddie. I also like very much the look and soft feeling of Chris McIntyre's square meshed balls and I am awaiting the day when he brings out a British-sized square mesh ball.

Favorite course for hickories?

Any traditional pre-1945 golf course without island greens or abundant water hazards added in later years.



Christoph Meister as portrayed by his friend and painter, Viktor Cleve. Though widely known for his studies of golf course landscapes, Cleve has tried his hand at portraiture, including this one of Christoph. His work can be seen at www.cleve-golfart.com.

Favorite hickory tournament?

Polish Hickory Championship for the social program and Danish Hickory Championship for the golfing.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

I read extensively about past players and events, especially about the development of the equipment including the ball.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The people. The friendship. True gentlemen and rounds of golf that usually take not more than four hours. No carts.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

The SOHG does a great job setting up equipment guidelines, publishing the "Wee Nip" and the regular newsletters and also running a very up-to-date website with short response times. Hickory golf is a worldwide affair and SoHG should continue to be a sort of worldwide hickory golf organisation. With more and more national hickory golf societies (i.e. Austria, Denmark, Germany) appearing it might also be appropriate for the SoHG to become a sort of mother organisation for these national hickory entities.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I am usually reading several at a time. Currently I am reading Alfonso Erhardt's magnificently presented book on Spanish Golf Architect Xavier Arana as well as Paul Daley's Golf Architecture Vol.VI (which also includes my article on Colt & Co. working in Germany.)

Note: Christoph has been the organizer of the annual German Hickory Championship since its inception in 2009. He is currently captain of the German Hickory Golf Society, established in May 2013 on Brioni Island, and expert delegate of the German Golf Union at the Deutsches Golf Archive in Cologne where the history of golf in Germany is collected.