



The SoHG Annual Mike Brown Award

Purpose: This award is developed to honor the memory of Mike Brown and his many contributions to hickory golf.

Background: Mike Brown died suddenly in February 2010 in his home town of Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 61. His untimely death left a void in the hickory golfing community, a vacancy on the SoHG Board and a sense of personal loss to everyone who ever came in contact with him.

At the time of his passing, Mike was serving on the SoHG Board; he was active in the SoHG Executive Committee; and he was Chairman of the Equipment Standards Committee. He worked tirelessly to promote hickory golf and was constantly bringing new people into the hickory playing community. Once you met Mike, you gained a friend for life. Mike was exceedingly knowledgeable about the history of hickory golf and was a strong voice in maintaining the ancient traditions of the game.

The Award: The Mike Brown Award shall be presented annually to a hickory player who shares Mike's:

- **Respect** for the traditions of hickory golf;
- **Dedication** to growing the game of hickory golf; and
- **Passion** for promoting lasting friendships through hickory golf.

The physical award shall be Mike's favorite Tom Stewart mongrel mashie which will be housed in a case on permanent display at the Mid Pines Golf Club in Southern Pines, NC. Annual awardees shall have their names engraved on a plaque and will receive a specially engraved SoHG gold medal recognizing the award. The award will be presented in conjunction with the Mid Pines Hickory Open which is the oldest SoHG sanctioned hickory tournament.

Eligibility: Annual awardees should be current or former members of the SoHG who are recognized as part of the hickory playing community and have made substantial contributions to hickory golf. Awardees shall clearly exemplify the respect for the traditions of hickory golf; dedication to growing the game of hickory golf; and passion for promoting lasting friendships through hickory golf. No one shall win the award more than once.

Nominations: The President of the SoHG shall annually request nominations for the Mike Brown Award. Any current SoHG may nominate one or more eligible players by submitting the form developed by the Award Committee. Those making the nomination shall clearly and concisely document specific instances of the nominee's contributions to SoHG and to the game of hickory golf and persuasively make the case why this nominee should come under consideration.

The Award Committee: The chair of the committee shall be the current SoHG president. The president shall select two current SoHG members to fill out the three person committee for the 2010 award cycle. In future years, the two committee members shall be previous winners of the Mike Brown award. Those serving on the committee are ineligible for consideration in the year in which they serve.

Nominations shall be submitted directly to the committee chair. The chair will forward nominations to the committee members. All proceedings of the committee are secret and nothing shall ever be published or divulged regarding nominees or the proceedings of the committee except essential files which are intended to pass on to subsequent award committees. The committee shall decide, on its own discretion, who is to receive the award. Deliberations and final decisions should be made before mid-September so as to ensure sufficient time to order, personally engrave and receive the SoHG gold medal from Scotland.

The award committee shall also draft up an appropriate announcement for posting on the SoHG website and for inclusion in a future issue of the Wee Nip.

