

Wide World of Hickory – 2020

A summary of world hickory golf events.

Europe and Australia

We are grateful to the various scribes of the British Golf Collectors Society and other European and Australian hickory organizers whose reports on several championships were the basis for the following brief summaries. The year 2020 was a large number of cancellations and reduced attendance for those events that did go forth.

MARCH

13 – BGCS, Match v. Royal Worlington & Newmarket GC

Nigel Notley reports: Usually the Worlington fixture heralds the advent of spring and the resumption of proper golf. Although it was suspected, we did not realise that we would be off games for so long, over a month at the time of writing. Worlington however was in good order. A period of cool dry weather had the course running well and the greens putting beautifully.

The BGCS was represented by Nick Yeats, Nick Gould, Lawrie Kingsnorth, Lorne Smith, Tony Hunt, Claire Johnson, Harry Mallace, Bob Kirk, Chris Walker and captain elect Carolyn Kirk. Royal Worlington fielded Club Captain Richard Palmer, President David Robson, Jeremy Baldwin, Michael Baigent, David Gilchrist, Mike Morrison, Tim Greet, Philip Truett (on loan) and match manager Nigel Notley. All bar two of the home team played with hickory clubs.

This Worlington team is close to the calibre put out against the Society, University and Moles and unsurprisingly they won but only by a single point.

The golf was followed by a delicious lunch.

Nigel Notley, as match manager of both sides, thanked the Club's officials and the BGCS Captain on his year of office.

MAY

Open Danish Hickory Championship

Cancelled for 2020.

JUNE

6 – Polish Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020.

20 – Czech Hickory Championship, Golf Club Semily, in Slana



Reported by Dalibor Prochazka: This year's championship is history! At the end we were lucky as for the weather - after a couple

of rainy days the rain ceased in the very morning of the championship day and the play wasn't disturbed by it at all. The Jizera river rose threateningly over the night but in the end it stayed within its regular banks. The course was rather wet but playable and got better every minute and the conditions remained fair for all participants.

There were couple of withdrawals in the morning but despite these the field still consisted of respectable 38 players with a strong away field from Germany, Austria and Poland. Due to injuries and other reasons we lacked some traditional home players but a couple of newbies filled their places more than honorably.

The Semily golf course was celebrating its 50 years anniversary and it showed to

CZECH HICKORY PLAYERS, above, and at right, the 2020 champion, Petr Vošvrda.



all players that the length is just one and not necessarily the prevailing factor in the golf game. Many struggled with the peculiarities of the course. Eventually the winning score of +16 was enough for taking the title only 5 years ago in Prague-Motol. Nevertheless all have enjoyed the play and many funny situations arising from the crisscrossing holes.

The title stayed literally home as it was taken by a local matador Petr Vošvrda who cashed in his knowledge of the course and proved his overall playing abilities despite this being his very first hickory experience. Congratulations!

20 – Hickory Triangular – Walton Heath GC

Philip Truett reports: This match took place, after all, but behind closed doors and without the usual crowd. The BGCS was represented by Jonny Firth and Philip Truett. The R&A was represented by Tim Leonard and Charlie Pepper. Walton Heath was represented by Robert Dyson and Nick Cardozo.

The result was as follows:

1st - WHGC 2 points

2nd – BGCS 1 point

3rd – R&A 0 points

All matches finished on the 18th green, so no ¼ points were involved.

Pretty much as ever, the club won yet again. (Aggregate score for 9 years – WHGC 8 / R&A 1 / BGCS 0).

Neither of the players in the winning team had their own clubs and one of them was playing with hickories for only the second time. But they both played beautifully. A socially distanced lunch was taken at a nearby single storey residence and glasses were raised to 'absent friends'.

JULY

3-5 – International Hickory Open, Kitzbuehel CC, Kitzbuehel, Austria

Although the Austrian Hickory Open was cancelled for 2020, there was a wonderful tournament in GC Schwarze Kitzbuehel, the second

annual International Hickory Open. Kitzbuehel is the site of the world-famous downhill alpine ski event "The Race." The

award ceremony took place in the glamorous Kitzbuehel Country Club. The tournament was organized by Giunto Schalkenberg, president of the Hickory Golf Club from the region of Burgenland. The winners for 2020: Gross –women Gabriele David, men Peter Wimmer; Net women Christa Allitsch, men Martin Panosch; closest to pin Alfred Allitsch; longest drive men Fabian Harbig and longest drive women Gertraud Hofer.



INTERNATIONAL HICKORY PLAYERS, above, and at right, Martin Panosch was a delighted men's net winner.



AUGUST

11 – Spanish Hickory Open, Real Nuevo Club de Golf SS Basozabal

Gonzalo Retana Ardanaz reports: It was the second consecutive year for the event with all players using bags and clubs provided by Freddy Lilly and Iain Forrester.

In addition to the members of the club of Basozabal, the field included a professional representation led by Jose Maria Olazabal, who designed the course and turned in a 77. (The tournament was won with a 75.)

Gonzalo Retana, Freddy Lilly and the Basozabal Golf Club organized the event under the rules of the Society of Hickory Golfers (SoHG). All the players offered good results in spite of not being familiar with clubs from more than a hundred years ago. The organization was accompanied by Golf Inteligente, Z1 Golf Academy, AZEN Projectos y Obras and Iain Forrester from Holland; and Tad Moore from

WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2020



THE PLAYERS, ABOVE, at the 2020 Spanish hickory open. At right, Iain Forrester, left, with Jose Mariz Olazabal.

USA. The absolute winners of the tournament were Freddy Lilly and Rafael Ortiz de Urbina in the professional category and Guillermo Retana in the amateur category. In the ladies handicap category, Cecilia Bronte won for the second consecutive year and Cecilia Retana was runner-up. In men, Valentin Hernandez from Madrid took the victory over Gonzalo Retana who was runner-up.

All the players were transported to the origins of golf for a day, an experience they undoubtedly wish to repeat next year.



14-16 – German Hickory Championship

Played on Golfanlage Kallin, near Berlin. Christoph Meister reports:

Despite all the adverse circumstances in these strange times, a total of 42 players gathered for the the German Hickory Open in Kallin from Aug. 14-16. As in the previous year, the kick-off on 14 August was a four-ball best-ball match play in the “Germany vs. Rest of the World” competition. The Rest of the World won again with a 5-3 victory over Germany.

On Saturday, 36 players from 11 nations (England, Finland, Mexico, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Germany) competed for the championship over 36 holes.

In the professional ranks were seven participants from six nations (England, Finland, Mexico, Scotland and Germany), who competed for a total prize money of EUR 5,000.

The final could hardly have been more exciting, as Iain Forrester, the three-time German Open hickory champion (2009, 2013 and 2015) showed his best golf and took the decisive shots with 73 strokes on Sunday, to just defeat Brian Gee.

The result was: 1. Iain Forrester 76 + 73 = 149; 2. Brian Gee 72 + 79 = 151;

Davey van Mulken 78 + 81 = 159

Iain Forrester, a Scottish pro who has been working in the Netherlands for several decades, was delighted to receive a prize money of EUR 2,500.00.

Thirteen-year-old Louis Dudzus (Hdcp. 7.1) played the best amateur round of the weekend (79 strokes) on Sunday after a subdued opening round (89 strokes) and thus defeated last year’s winner Alexander Huchel from Munich (87 + 86) and the Hickory Altmeister Toni Kammerer (85 + 86) from the GolfClub Garmisch-Partenkirchen, who was leading after the first day.

In the late afternoon Louis received the traveling trophy of the German Open Amateur Champion, the “Tanfani-di-Montalto-Pokal.” This cup is the amateur cup of the German Open, which was played in Baden-Baden in 1912 and was won in the professional player competition by the five-time Open winner John Henry Taylor. The Italian baron had won the trophy at the time for a young British officer named Hugh Gardner Worgan Bradley presented as an amateur honorary prize.

In the women’s event, Tatjana Thoss from Wiesbaden won the Lilien-Pokal, which was donated in 2019.

Rainer Ersfeld from the Country Club Schloss Langenstein near Konstanz won the net ranking of the men (net 70 + 73 = 143), while the women’s classification was won by the Potsdamer Petra Dudzus from the Golf- und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee (net 72 + 75 = 147) was won.



GERMAN HICKORY OPEN PLAYERS Brian Gee, left, Iain Forrester and Davey van Mulken.

Swedish Hickory Championship

Pehr Thermaneus reports: There was no championship this year. Many other events were also abandoned, including the Golf Historians’ match against Bro Bålsta GK, Annika Sörenstans club, for the Anders Janson Memorial trophy. Anders Janson was our founder secretary. This is a team match with four foursomes in the morning and four fourballs in the afternoon. Normally, this match is a high quality event at the end of the season, complete with its very own ginger beer trolley, (below).



SEPTEMBER

2 – Scottish Hickory Championship and Kilsplindie Hickory Open

Ian Hislop reports: In these strange times, our first stop on the East coast was at Winterfield GC on the west side of Dunbar on 2nd September.

Light rain early on gave way to dry conditions which allowed clubs and waterproofs to dry out. There were 22 competitors. Jamie White won the Colville Trophy with a scratch 72 and the Bowden Quaich winner was Claire Johnson with 42 points. A hearty 3 course meal followed in the clubhouse.

Next day it was a short trip to Kilsplindie GC to play for the Scottish Hickory Championship and the Kilsplindie Hickory Open.

Conditions were very windy on the par 69 course reaching over 20 mph but with the big plus that all 31 entrants finished before the rain arrived. Scratch winner was Neil Gascoigne with a 76. He also finished 2nd scratch in the Hickory Open. Scottish Champion was Ben Burrows who had made the long journey from West Sussex scoring an excellent scratch 78 net 63 in the wind. Ben also won the Kilsplindie Hickory Open handicap. A fine socially distanced two-course meal was held afterwards in the clubhouse.



BGCS CAPTAIN Carolyn Kirk with Scottish Championship scratch winner Neil Gascoigne.



BGCS CAPTAIN Carolyn Kirk with Scottish Champion Ben Burrows.

4 – England v Scotland Hickory Championship

Ian Hislop continuing his report: Following on the Scottish Hickory Championship, Friday took the players south over the unmanned border for the annual England v Scotland hickory match at Goswick GC just south of Berwick-on-Tweed.

The match consisted of 7 x 4 ball better ball handicap matches instead of the usual six. The course was in excellent condition with the greens exceptional. It was windy but not as strong as at Kilsplindie. However, it was a wise decision to play from the green tees rather than yellow. Again we managed to finish the match before the rain arrived.

The match went to the last game with Scotland winning 4-3. The two teams plus supporters finished off the day with a clubhouse meal.

Australian Hickory Shaft Championship

Cancelled for 2020



IAN HISLOP, Scotland Team Captain, left, receiving the Archie Baird Trophy from England Team Captain John Pearson

WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2020

International Dutch Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020.

OCTOBER

1-2 – 23rd English Hickory Championship – Rye Golf Club

It was with great relief that we managed to stage this event. It has been a dreadful year for the Society, but having experienced at first hand the way we can operate, at the excellent event in East Lothian for the Scottish earlier in September, a watered down event was held and enjoyed by all. Despite several late withdrawals, the result was a very competitive field of 30. A special word of thanks too for Ingvar Ritzen, the only Swede who could make it.

Thursday is the curtain raiser on the Jubilee. Normally this is GB V World but that would have been harsh on Ingvar. Four foursomes ventured out, playing just for fun on a glorious sunny afternoon. The weather on Friday was brutal. Storm Alex was parked over Sussex with very strong winds and rain. Jimmy James, the Rye secretary came up with a great solution, delaying the start by an hour and allowing play from both the 1st and 10th tees. The field effectively still got the winds but with much less rain. It was still extremely hard.

As a consequence we ended up eating together in the Dining Room on tables of two instead of the usual communal tables, but we could hold the Prize Giving, an unexpected bonus.

This year's English Hickory Champion (Stableford off handicap for the Founders Salver) is Chris Walker with a fine 35 points. Second was Ben Burrows with 33 and third your scribe with 32.

Once again the Rye professional Matthew Holland triumphed with a 78 gross to retain the Tony Hawkins Scratch Trophy for the third straight year. He does not get to keep it as would have been the case 100 years ago! Jenny Hunt scooped the ladies prize with 30 points.

One sadness was the retirement of Rye secretary Jimmy James, who made the following comments: "I am pleased that all went well for you and all of the players. In a calendar year there is nothing that matches the enthusiasm I see from the hickory players, not only are they prepared to enjoy the traditions of the game but also true camaraderie!"

9-10 – Swiss Hickory Golf Championship – Golfplatz Ascona / Golfplatz Losone



Rick Adams reports:

Leonardo Bono, a native of Locarno in the Italian-speaking section of Switzerland and a second-year student at the

University of South Carolina – Aiken in the U.S., ran away with the gentlemen's stroke play title at the Swiss Hickory Open golf championship ... in his first-ever hickory event. Bono fired five-under-par in the first round at Golf Club Patriziale Ascona, which was shortened to 15 holes by recent flooding, then cruised in the final round at Golf Gerre Losone to a 12-shot victory over three players, including his

SWISS HICKORY PLAYERS, above, and at right, the 2020 champion, Leonardo Bono.



NIGEL NOTELY with the 2020 English Hickory Scratch Champion Matthew Holland.



NIGEL NOTELY with the 2020 English Hickory Champion Chris Walker but without the Founders Salver which is still in Sweden.

instructor, Paolo Quirici (the 2013 World Hickory Open champion and winner of the 2020 Swiss Hickory Match Play), another Swiss PGA pro, Roberto Francioni, and Andreas Ahlm, who took low net amateur honors.

Bono also teamed to win the Swiss Hickory Open better-ball competition with Constantino Rocca, best known as the only European player to beat Tiger Woods in a Ryder Cup singles match and for his miracle 60-foot putt from the Valley of Sin at St. Andrews' 18th to force a playoff with John Daly in the 1995 Open Championship. Rocca placed 6th in individual SHO strokeplay.

The Swiss Hickory Open attracted nearly 50 players, and enjoyed excellent autumn weather. The four-star Belvedere Hotel, which overlooks Lake Maggiore, hosted a welcome reception and two superb dinners for the hickory contingent.

The Stableford ladies (gross) winner was Annelies Tschan of Appenzel, who plays to a 13.6 handicap. The ladies' net winner was Silvia Hefli of Alvaneu.

The men's Stableford gross winner was Nick Hofer of Limpachtal. Net leader was Felix Degen of Gällivare Malmberget.

North America

Please note that full accounts and photo galleries for many of the following events are available on the "Tournament Results" pages of the Society of Hickory Golfers website, at www.hickorygolfers.com; and from the websites of the various regional groups hosting these events.

JANUARY

17-19 – Winter Park Hickory Classic – Winter Park GC, Winter Park, Fla.

The Winter Park Golf Course was rebuilt in 2016 with the idea of revitalizing its role as a community treasure. The event marked the first round in the season of the Florida Hickory Golfers. Mike Stevens, teaching pro, hickory champion and leader of the FHG, was the victim of the only sour note of the weekend, as an errant drive on number nine sent a Titelist No. 1 crashing through the rear window of his SUV. It was not by a hickory golfer, by the way. It was a fine time for hickory golf on a lovely course surrounded by old brick streets, historic homes and shady oaks. Our hosts provided a warm reception in the old clubhouse with videos of historic golfers set to 1920s "flapper" style music. A modest swap show was held, too, one that included the exceptional replica clubs crafted by the one and only Tad Moore, who was a welcome part of the weekend. Congratulations to winners Tim Anderson (Open), Richard Boggs (Net); and Natalie Wells (Open), and Marci Likens (Net).

FEBRUARY

22-24 – U.S. Professional & Amateur Hickory Championships

Played at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club in Temple Terrace, Fla. Boca Raton, Fla. golf professional Jeremy Moe, a four-time U.S. Hickory Open champion, captured his second consecutive U.S. Professional Hickory Golf Championship and the John Shippen Cup. His 72 bested the field by five shots. The course played its usual tough challenge as only five pros managed to score in the 70s. Dylan Malafrente finished second with 77.

Eddie Peckels was also in good form, firing a 73 to become the first player to win both the professional championship (2015) and now the amateur crown. Peckels wins the trophy named for Oscar Bunn, a Shinnecock Indian who played in the first U.S. Open in 1895. The U.S. Hickory Amateur Championship is sponsored by United States Golf Teachers Federation.

In the Heritage division, Scott Bowles brought his "A" game to the course, scoring a net 65 to take the top prize.

In the Mike Stevens Challenge, contested the day before the U.S. Pro & Amateur, four teams battled for the "Spirit of Hickory" trophy.

In a playoff, after both teams posted 122, Bob Boss, Pat Sheffield, Rober Propper, and Patrick Potter outlasted Mark Hollingsworth, Steve Haigler, Kirby Wilson, and Jim Antos in a playoff. Following were the teams of Mike Tracy, Earl Hines, and Beth and James Chambers at 129; and Mike Stevens, Scott Bowles, Rosemary Pabst, and Dave Dunigan at 139.

29-March 1 – The Arizona Desert Hickory Classic

Played on the Grandview & Pebblebrook Golf Courses in Sun City West, Ariz. A record 90+ players from across the USA, Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark, participated. The tournament supported a field for Championship, Senior, New To Hickory, Super Senior, and a division of Lady players. The scoring provided some spectacular performances with 36 rounds posted in the 70s during the two-day competition. In the Championship Division, David "Digger" Johnson was the overall Tournament Champion, shooting a two-day performance of 75/74, and John Kienle of Rio Rancho, N.M., took second, posting 78/73.

The Senior division winner was Bill "Ernie" Ernst with a two below par 70 on the first day and 75 on day two. Jim Von Lossow came in second shooting 78/78.

WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2020

The New-to-Hickory Division winner was Keegan Ketterlin with 82/87 and the New-to-Hickory Runner Up was David Culberson with 86/86. The Super Senior Division was won by Dennis Scott with 80/79. Runner Up in Super Senior was Joe Bradshaw who shot 81/79.

The Ladies Division winner was Banet P. Flore, shooting 75/77 and our Runner Up was Fran Zinger with 92/98. Special mention goes to Rylee Stovall who recorded 77/79 securing 1st place net.

The 2020 "Willie Noble" Hickory Humanitarian Award was given to Bill "Ernie" Ernst for his support and leadership to promote the hickory golf experience.

MARCH

Onion Creek/Swift Trophy

Cancelled for 2020.

APRIL

Southern 4-Ball Hickory Championship

Cancelled for 2020.

MAY

Mid American Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020

Alexander Findlay Hickory Open / Massachusetts Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020

JUNE

11-12 – National Hickory Championship

As the coronavirus prevented its customary June gathering in Ohio, the National Hickory Championship came up with its own solution. Host Pete Georgiady allowed contestants to "play in place," as it were, using their own local courses, with McIntyre gutty balls, and to a length that as much as possible matched that of the original Oakhurst Links, the first home of the NHC.

Three divisional champions played in the "remote" NHC at three different sites from among the 24 sites in use. John Lavendoski, Bainbridge Island, Wash., was crowned the Champion Golfer of the Year when he carded a 71-75 = 146 to win the Open Division. In Miamisburg, Ohio, at the Mound Golf Course, where the NHC had been contested the past two years, Dave Shultz, Portsmouth, Ohio, recorded a net 134 after handicap. Women were led by Rylee Stovall, Litchfield Park, Ariz., with a net 165. In all three cases the winners were playing in their first NHC.

The Championship was contested for the 23rd time this year. Playing on 24 different courses the equalizing factors were the use of McIntyre balls, exclusively, and course set-up template that simulated the nine holes measuring 2,235 yards at Oakhurst Links in West Virginia, the birthplace of the NHC.

13-14 – Pacific Northwest Hickory Championship

Martin Pool reports:

Thirty-five hickory players challenged the Eagle's Pride Golf Course, formerly known as Fort Lewis Golf Course, a hickory-era military course in Dupont, Wash. Heavy rain on day one gave way to sunshine and warmth on day two.

In the Open Division, Andrew von Lossow wrested the title away from three-time champion Jeff Olsen with a 75-76=151 on a long and difficult course. His father, (do we dare say "Old"?) Jim von Lossow captured the title in 2015 and 2016. The legend of Young Tom Morris and Old Tom Morris lives on here in the Great Northwest via Young Von and Old Von. In the Senior Division, Tom Tracy from Idaho recaptured his title from last year's champion John Henry Williams with a score of 81-79=160. In the Statesmen Division, Steve "Dog" Franich won with a spectacular round of 87-94=181. In the Women's Division, Sue Tracy won for the third time in a row with 99-96=195.

Open Division:

Champion: Andrew von Lossow Runner-Up: Jeff Olsen

Net Champion: Jimmy Bucher Net Runner-Up: John Lavendoski

Senior Division:

Champion: Tom Tracy Runner-Up: Brian Pollack

Net Champion: Tracy Skinner Net Runner-Up: Bill Pedersen

Statesmen Division:

Champion: Steve "Dog" Franich Runner-Up: Dennis Scott

Net Champion: Craig Healy Net Runner-Up: John Wise

Women's Division:

Champion: Sue Tracy Runner-Up: Paula Anderson

Net Champion: Sandy Bucher Net Runner-Up: Roberta Robbins.

JULY

9-11 – Gearhart Hickory Classic, Gearhart Golf Links, Gearhart, Ore.

Thirty-one players met for the 8th annual Gearhart Hickory Classic. Contestants found the weather near perfect with partly cloudy skies, temps in the 60s early, breaking into the 70s by mid afternoon. Evenings cool with dew and maybe a drizzle did not keep the greens from running to 13 on the first day and 12 on the second.

Eventual winner and new champion was Gabe Tonan who shot 74/81 for a 155 total. Second place went to Jeff Olsen, defending champ, who shot 78/80 to finish at 158. First-time hickory player, Sean Free, playing with a borrowed set, shot 86/82 for the third place total of 161.

In the Ladies Division, Roberta Robbins was crowned the champion and Sandy Bucher as runner up. First-time player Emma Guenette finished third. In the Senior Division, John Henry Williams finished with an 88/75 for 163. Besides doing spectacular club restoration work, he can play! Runner-up was Peter Yagi with 177, followed by Bill Pedersen at 178. The Super Seniors were led by champion Dennis Scott at 179, followed by Tom Driscoll with 181 and Mike Kosich at 187.

Defending U.S. Hickory Open Champion Rick Woekener traveled all the way from Ohio, presumably to check the 2021 U.S. Hickory Open venue, and happily, he played well after all the travel.

10-12 – Heart of America

Played at the Bright-Grandview GC in Des Moines, Iowa. This marked the 43rd playing of the tournament begun by Warren "Ole" Olson. After a tough start, the tournament went forth with alterations for health and safety. Tournament winners were as follows:

Open Medal Champion – Gary Youngberg of Ames, Iowa, 74-71 for 145. Youngberg's sons, Kirk and Kyle, tied for second, both shooting 154.

Ladies Open Medal Champion was Jeanne Swenson, who defended her 2019 title with a 175.

Gold in the Open Reserve Division was won by David Hanson of Gowrie, Iowa, with 139. Rick Sanders took Silver with 141 and Kirk Watson took Bronze with 150.

In the Senior Division, the Open Medal Champion was a repeat by Scott Rosheim who turned in 153. Mike Needleman took Silver with 167, and Daniel Norstedt claimed Bronze with 171.

Senior Reserve winners were Mark Larson of Rushford, Minn., with 130 for the Gold; Chris Hardy of Port Byron, Ill., with Silver with 142; and John Ausen of Hyperion Field Club as the Bronze champ with 147.

In the Statesman Division, it was Jim Fisher of Boone, Iowa, who took the Gold with 163. Calvin Whitman of Galesburg, Iowa, was the Silver medalist at 175. Jim Koss of Wisconsin was the Bronze winner with 183.

Kelly Kirk Gay, of Des Moines, took Gold in the Statesman Reserve with 127.

The Scramble team of Rives McBee, Gary Proctor, Dereck Hannah, and Terry Hannah shot a 124 for Silver. They were outgunned by Texans Scott Pilgrim and Gary Krupkin and their partners Braid Baird of Wilmette, Ill., and John McKenzie of Des Moines, who shot a Scramble record for this tournament of 118.

16-18 – Wisconsin Gutty Challenge

Played on the Eagle Springs Golf Resort in Eagle, Wisc., c. 1893. Greg Smith reports: Near a dozen stalwarts gathered to test the smoothies against Dave Brown's replica Park gutty balls.

"It was a small group, but competitive," Greg says. "We all played the Park ball from the same tees. The best part of our event is honoring Mike Just with our Keeper of the Spirit trophy posting all past champions on it. We also honor the individual who possesses Mike's traits, who carries on the spirit of the game as Mike did. This year's honoree is Jim "Wally" Koss."

Ernie Ernst took was the Open Division champion followed by Steve Simer. The Senior Champion was Greg Smith, followed by Tom Mehigan.

"The weather was hot and humid but a strong breeze kept us cool. Saturday we finished just as it started to rain. We had food prepared by chef Doc Eike. Fortunately we could gather together in a large pavilion where we each had our own table.

AUGUST

14-15 – Foxburg Hickory Championship

Played on the historic Foxburg Country Club, est. 1887. The course played at 2,400 yards, with three ball types being played – Park, Braid, and Ouimet from the McIntyre-Brown line. The event is 36 holes, with Open and Senior Divisions for the Park and Braid users. Our weather was excellent.

Open Champion John Lavendoski posted a strong first round 80 in the Open Division where participants are required to use sand tees, play the ball down, and play the McIntyre Park ball (supplied by Dr. Dave Brown and the McIntyre Golf Ball Company).

The Braid Division winner for the second consecutive year was James Kaiser, with a tremendous round of 79. Breaking 80 on this par 73 layout is extraordinary.

In the Fownes Division, Mr. J. W. McMath led in our growing post-1900 field

WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2020

with 84 from the rear tees. Mr. McMath finished with a 79 for Saturday's second round to earn the medalist honors, and another Foxburg title. J. W. is the 2015 Foxburg Open Champion.

Tim Flynn finished with a well-played second round to earn Senior Open honors.

Excellent results were posted by the following Division Champions:

Silver Putter Award	Jim 'Wally' Koss	Low Member
Reserve Winner	Bob Mirt	Across All Divisions
Fownes Division Champion	J. W. McMath	Post-1900 Equipment
Braid Division Champion	James Kaiser	Pre-1900 Equipment
Open Senior Champion	Tim Flynn	Pre-1900 Gutter
Open Champion	John Lavendoski	Champion Golfer

12-14 - Canadian Open Hickory Championship

Played at the Legends G.C. Sherwood Park, Alberta. Ron Lyons and Chris Ream report: With the ongoing worldwide pandemic we were fortunate to be able to still run a modified Canadian Open Hickory Championship. With quarantine rules in effect, sadly we weren't able to accommodate the many enquiries we had from the U.S. and Europe, but we were happy to have a total of 68 participants over the three-day event with 61 teeing it up for the Friday Championship.

Wednesday featured a four-person scramble. The top four teams finished in the money with two teams tied at -10 and two teams at -9.

Thursday would normally feature the annual Ryder Cup competition between Canada and the U.S., but with the border closed, U.S. players couldn't travel, so the Thursday format was a two-person scramble with a team minimum handicap total of 20. This proved to be a popular event with 60 entries.

Top five scores were:

- 65 — Ben Plaunt/ Craig Hosford
- 67 — Andrew Ram/ Curtis Kucey
- 69 — Rob Taylor/ Dave Taylor
- 69 — Terry Bader/Ross Horton
- 70 — Mike Germaine/ Johnny Bago

On Friday the Canadian Open Championship was reduced to 18 holes from the usual 27 with tee times instead of a shotgun start. The Open Division was won by newcomer Mitch Mitchell with a sparkling 73 followed by Ross Kenny and Terry Bader at 77 with A.J. Cook at 78.

The Senior Division featured a close competition with five players within three shots. The low score was from another newcomer, Andrew Ram with a 76. Kenn Looten was second with 77 followed by Dennis MacIntyre, Chris Ream and Ross McLean.

The Ladies Division was won by Elizabeth Ream at 82, followed by Fran Looten, Lori Ehnes and Carole Sperling. The Junior Division low score went to Taren Plaunt with Keith Hosford second and Ethan Ream third.

15-16 - Vermont Hickory Open, Golf Club at Equinox

Peter Knowlan reports: The Golf Club at Equinox is a historic Walter Travis designed course nestled between the western slope of the Green Mountains and the eastern slope of Mt Equinox. Rick Woeckener, the reigning U.S. Hickory Open champion, is now also the Vermont Open champion. Jack Crosby is the reserve champion. Jeff Blomstedt, is the champion of the Statesman division; and Allen Johnson is its reserve champion.

29 - Michiana Hickory Open

Played on the South Bend CC in South Bend, Ind. Forty-five golfers from seven states, including three First Tee players, participated in the 2020 Michiana Hickory Open held at the South Bend Country Club in South Bend, Ind. The course had been drenched by the previous night's heavy rains and large puddles remained throughout the waterlogged course. It was cart paths only. This and strong winds made scoring difficult for all but a few. Open winner Mike Callahan of Michigan turned in the low score of 80 for the victory. The day began with a trade show of clubs, books and other gear in the clubhouse dining room. In a year when many events have been cancelled or postponed, it was good to get out and enjoy some great hickory golf and camaraderie. Thanks to hosts Jim Jeselnick, Spike Abernethy and the South Bend CC.

SEPTEMBER

17-19 - The Wisconsin Hickory Open

Played on The Links course at Lawsonia in Green Lake, Wis. The ninth annual Wisconsin Hickory Open featured a hickory course record of 65 posted by eventual Champion Peter Flory on the first day. The weather this year was as perfect as you could ask for. The course was in excellent shape and a turnout of 31 golfers enjoyed it all. The Fish Fry and camp fires at night all added to a very enjoyable weekend.

Medal winners:

Open Division
Champion – Peter Flory 65/71
Runner Up – Rick Woeckener
3rd – Jeff Guerard

Net winner – Doc Eike
2nd Net – Rob Kress
3rd – Rob Retzlaff

Senior Division
Champion – Steve Simer
Runner Up – Dan Moore
3rd – Bert Coghill

Net Winner – Ed Horvat
2nd – Joe Guerard
3rd – Ernie Ernst

Legends Division
Champion – Jim Griffen
Runner Up – David Boyd
3rd – Mark Larson

Net Winner – Cal Whitman
2nd – Bill Murphy
3rd – Dan Norstedt

The McNabb Cup

Cancelled for 2020.

Iowa Hickory Classic

Pretty much rained out, though a reduced-field casual round was held on another course in the Des Moines area. Those who did travel were treated to a banquet and good company.

Johnny Goodman River City Hickory Championship

Cancelled in lieu of the U.S. Hickory Open.

Golf Heritage Society Annual Championship

Cancelled for 2020

OCTOBER

4-6 - The 13th U.S. Hickory Open, Happy Hollow Club, Omaha, Neb.

Taylor Jones of Decatur, Ala., and the 2018 USHO champion, played steady golf, gradually pulling away from the field. Standing on the 16th tee he had a two-shot lead from the penultimate group. His short birdie putt got him to just 1 over for the day. Closest competitors Moe and Rick Woeckener (Garrettsville, Ohio) each bogied the 16th, giving Jones a comfortable four-shot lead. Though 17 proved a bit dicey, Jones managed a miraculous up and down for par to all but seal the win. HHC Director of Golf, Mike Antonio, shot 76 to pull into a tie for second with Moe.

On the senior side, Simer shot a brilliant 77 to tie Youngberg at 157. It took three playoff holes to decide the outcome with Simer eking out the victory. Bert Coghill finished third at 159. Super Senior Hudson shot 84 to claim victory with Mike Kaus (Cave Creek, Ariz.) in second and Jim Griffen (Neenah, Wisc.) in third after a scorecard playoff over Joe Bradshaw (Cave Creek, Ariz.).

Susan Marchese (Omaha, Neb.) took first place gross with a 167 and that Pat Linson (Papillion, Neb.) took the first place net. Marchese is an 18-time Nebraska Amateur Women's champion and is the current city and state women's hickory champion. Julie Hall (Norfolk, Neb.) and Jeanne Swenson (Kelley, Iowa) finished in a tie for third place gross. Rylee Stovall (Litchfield Park, Ariz.) was the second place net winner. At 13, Rylee was the youngest in the field, but this is her second USHO, the first being at Del Monte in 2017. Jeanne Swenson had a 154 finish, and Julie Hall at 158 finish in the net department. They were followed by Barbara Fulbright (Omaha, Neb.) with a 192 net.

The John Fischer Low Amateur Award was claimed by Rick Woeckener with 157.

The C.O.W. Cup

Cancelled for 2020

The North Texas Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020.

The Indiana Hickory Open

Cancelled for 2020.

11-13 - Monterey Hickory Classic

Cancelled for 2020.

Interstate Hickory Championship

Cancelled for 2020. Sad news, too, for this tournament is leaving the schedule. Long-time hosts Peter and Debs Herrington have moved to Florida and no others were available to take up the reins. It had been held for many years on the Old Kinderhook GC at Camdenton, Mo.

WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2020

NOVEMBER

2-4 - *Mid Pines Hickory Open*

Played on the Mid Pines Golf Course in Southern Pines, N.C.

The 17th annual Mid Pines Hickory Open was a subdued affair, partly because of the pandemic and partly because of heavy Sunday rains that produced a one-hour delay to the start. Regardless, the indomitable Rick Woeckener pulled through to claim his third Mid Pines title with a 77-75 for 152.

The Senior and Super Senior Divisions both had first time winners in come-from-behind fashion. Tim Anderson fought to a 83-81 -164 score to win the Senior Division. Deal Hudson shot an equally impressive 82-85 -167 to claim the Super Senior title. Barbara Kopec, a familiar name among women hickory golf champions, repeated as Ladies Champion with 93-99 -192.

