



Member Profile

Dr. Dave Brown

Omaha, Neb., USA

When he is not repairing knees or attending to sports-related injuries, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Dave Brown might be either manufacturing replica mesh golf balls – he is the owner of the McIntyre Golf Ball Co. – or playing hickory golf at his club in Omaha.

Born in Detroit, Mich., Dave was reared in Wauwatosa, Wisc, the oldest of eight children. He began playing golf at age 10 on public links courses in Milwaukee. “After scoring a hole in one at age 13, I was hooked,” he says. “I would ride my bike all over town with my clubs slung over my back.”

Though he played high school golf, there was little time for the sport through university, medical school, and residency. That would change in 1993 when a medical meeting took him to Pinehurst, N.C. The golf atmosphere of the historic old village rekindled his interest. Following his re-immersion into the sport, Dave joined a modern golf club, Champions Run, and won several senior club championships. Something was missing, though. “I tired of the handicap gamesmanship of the modern game,” he says.

In 2007, a friend, Don Kavalac, introduced him to hickory golf. “Since I love history, especially Bob Jones, this seemed a natural fit,” Dave says.

“My first tournament at Belvedere was so much fun, the players such gentlemen (I played with Dr. Jay Harris and Chuck McMullin), that I knew my golf future was with hickories,” he says.

Looking for an older, more traditional club to suit his hickory game, Dave changed his membership to the Happy Hollow Golf Club in Omaha, a William Langford design. “I now have eight hickory buddies there,” he says.

Dave tries to play in at least six hickory tournaments a year.

“I was recently introduced to gutta play by Chris McIntyre and am now afflicted with the same virus for that game,” Dave says. “Chris recently sold me the McIntyre golf ball business, which we now operate from Omaha.”

The company manufactures replica balls for both gutty and traditional era hickory play.

Dave also serves on the Board of the Cox Classic, a Web.com tournament in Omaha, “now my sole connection to the steel and titanium form of the game.”

He and his wife, “longtime sweetheart” – Nancy, have been married for 39 years and have three grown children and three granddaughters.

How often do you play hickories?

I play hickory golf about 2-3 times per week at my home course, Happy Hollow, a 1925 William Langford design.

What's in your play set?

Spalding A910 brassie, 12-degree loft, (I have the driver, but only use that on windy, dry days.)

Ernest Sayles Spoon (Sunningdale), 16-degree loft, my go-to club

Louisville cleek, 21-degree loft

Nicoll Precision Zenith irons

1 iron, 20 degrees

3 iron – bent to 25 degrees

4 iron, 30 degrees

4X iron, mid-mashie, 32 degrees

5 iron, mashie, 36 degrees

6 iron, spade mashie, 40 degrees

7X, mashie niblick, 45 degrees

Tad Moore, 53-degree niblick

Benny putter (with lots of tungsten and lead on the back)

Favorite club?

My spoon. I had it weighted by Randy Jensen to a D2 swingweight. I use it so much I am starting to get a wear spot on the face.



Dr. David Brown, shown at the Royal Birkdale golf course in Scotland, is an SoHG board member and owner of the McIntyre Golf Ball Co.

What ball do you play?

Of course, one of the McIntyre balls. I really enjoy the mesh design. Currently, I am playing the Ouimet mesh, a three-piece, 50-compression ball.

Favorite course for hickories?

I love any links course, but my favorite is Sandhills Golf club in western Nebraska, designed by Crenshaw and Coore. It is like playing in Scotland, without the long flight.

Favorite hickory tournament?

Belvedere. Great course, great members, usually nice weather.

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

I love Bob Jones and Francis Ouimet. My bucket list is to play all of the courses where Mr. Jones won major tournaments – with my hickories, of course. I have played the Old Course, Liverpool, Royal Lytham & St Annes, Minikahda, and Interlachen. Remaining are Merion, Oakmont, Winged Foot, Brae Burn and Scioto. I try to get to one a year.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The players. Every tournament I get paired up with at least one person who becomes a good friend and with whom I look forward to seeing again on the course.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

I'd like to focus on promoting the SoHG through attendance and participation.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

“Playing Hickory Golf” by Randy Jensen.

Note: In addition to his many other activities, Dave serves on the board of the Society of Hickory Golfers.