



Member Profile

David Ellis

Zanesville, Ohio, USA

Dave “Dog” Ellis was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1950, the first of eight children – five boys and three girls. All the Ellis siblings were introduced to “the greatest of games” he says, himself at the tender age of 10 through the junior golf program at the Zanesville Country Club. “Golf has served as a bond that has kept us close through the years,” he says.

In 1968, Dave entered (The) Ohio State University and, after four years of high school golf, decided to try out for the Buckeye golf team. “When I demonstrated my golfing prowess to Coach (Jim) Brown he suggested that I take golf as a physical education course. Thus ended my college and pro golfing aspirations.” (Dave says he did receive an “A” in physical education the two terms he took golf. “I guess this validated coach Brown’s abilities to spot golf talent.”)

After graduating from Ohio State, Dave entered the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland. “I spent four wonderful years there and cut many classes to play golf in the Cleveland area with one of my classmates,” he says. After a surgical residency in Cleveland, Dave returned to Zanesville to practice podiatric medicine.

He also returned to the Zanesville Country Club where, with time and practice, he achieved a scratch handicap and won three club championships. He would play in several Ohio Golf Association tournaments and attempted to qualify for the U.S. Open and Amateur championships. “Since you have never heard of me, it is probably needless to add that I was a ‘field filler’ in these efforts,” he says.

Dave got into hickory golf about 10 years ago.

“I was bored with the modern game and disgusted with Madison Avenue’s attempt to sell me the latest and greatest titanium and graphite driver, a new version being developed every six months. I was looking for the roots of the game that infected me all those years ago in junior golf.

“My accomplishments in hickory golf are too short to count. I am still playing the role of ‘field filler’. However, the friends that I have made, the venues that I have played and the golfing experiences that I have enjoyed make hickory golf one the most worthwhile things that I have ever done.”

How often do you play hickories?

I play hickory clubs about 90 percent of my rounds.

What’s in your play set?

Currently and subject to change:

Tom Morris driver by Tad Moore
Tom Morris spoon by Tad Moore
Tom Morris cleek by Tad Moore
Star Maxwell driving iron by William Gibson
Star Maxwell mid iron by William Gibson
Star Maxwell mashie by William Gibson
Star Maxwell mashie niblic by William Gibson
Star Maxwell strong niblic by William Gibson
Star Maxwell weak niblic by William Gibson
Stewart Maiden 8 iron by Tad Moore
Fancy Face wood mallet putter by Mike Just

Favorite club?

My weak niblic that I call “little Jay” because I acquired it from one of my hickory heroes, Jay Harris. It plays well from 60 to 110 yards.

What ball do you play?

TaylorMade Penta.

Favorite course for hickories?

Across the Pond, it’s the Old Course at St. Andrews or North Berwick. Mid Pines here.

Favorite hickory tournament?

The U.S. Hickory Open at French Lick 2012 because I am tournament director this year! Please come join me, it will



The sartorially resplendent Dr. David “Dog” Ellis is an accomplished golfer and a regular at SoHG events.

be great. Otherwise, I love the Mid Pines tournament. Good news is that you can play both.

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

I’m interested in Old Tom Morris because he was instrumental in the development of golf and golf courses as we know them today and Bob Jones because he represents the epitome of the hickory golfer to me.

Best thing about hickory golf?

I believe that hickory golf represents the truest form of the greatest game man has invented. I further believe that in no other endeavor in my life have I met a better group of comrades. I could give examples but I don’t want to inflate any egos.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

The virtues of hickory golf are esoteric and counter to the body of common perception created by the considerable energies of modern golf advertising. Hickory golf is therefore a difficult “sell” and often meets with resistance when introduced to the general golfing public. I believe that certain individuals will develop an interest in playing hickory because of the novelty of our equipment or dress. Once exposed to the joy and camaraderie of hickory golf, many of these individuals will become avid participants. Therefore, the work of such men as Tad Moore and Connor Lewis is important in promoting fuller participation in hickory golf.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

Tom Morris of St. Andrews: The Colossus of Golf. I have recently reread my favorite golf book Tommy’s Honor by Kevin Cook.

Note: Dave is indeed the director for the 2012 U.S. Hickory Open and he’s been working hard to ensure a smooth and enjoyable tournament is in place for all participants and guests. As he says, come and join him!