



## Member Profile

# John Fischer III

Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

**A** Cincinnati native, John Fischer, has been an active golfer since age 11, playing high school golf and enjoying golf with his friends. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and has practiced law as a municipal bond attorney since 1968.

Both of John's two sons are golfers, as is his wife, Lennie, who took up the game after marrying into a golfing family. She became a star in her own right, playing in regional and state events until Lyme Disease slowed her down. Her health has returned and she is considering a new golfing life as a hickory player.

### How often do you play hickories?

*I play hickory golf exclusively now, and find the good shots more enjoyable and the poor ones more disastrous. I started play as a boy with a few cut-down hickories, so I've come full circle. When I started playing hickories I changed from a Vardon grip to an interlocking grip.*

### What's in your play set?

*Most of my play set are replicas from Louisville Golf. I figure if I were playing in 1925, I'd probably have new clubs and Mike Just has made true copies. All listed below are Louisville Golf unless noted:*

Driver – Jeanie Deans replica  
Brassie – Spalding, stamped A.W. East (a relation of J. Victor East?)  
Spoon  
Mid-Iron  
Mashie  
Benny  
Jigger  
Mashie-Niblick  
Niblick  
Putter – Eskit 1 with serrated sole by Gibson of Kinghorn

### Favorite club?

*A tie between my brassie – which is good off the tee, fair-way and unfortunate lie – and the jigger, a wonderful all-purpose club I appreciate more with each round.*

### What ball do you play?

*The MGC "Victor," a 1925 mesh replica, perfect for hickory.*

### Favorite course for hickories?

*I am lucky that my home course, Cincinnati C.C., is a landlocked old course dating to the turn of the last century and originally designed for the gutty. It was rerouted and lengthened by Robert White and from the members tees is only 5,900 yards. Fairways are tight – U.S. Open width – and greens small, so it's not easy to score no matter whether you're playing hickory or modern equipment. My favorite "course" is playing seven holes at Cincinnati C.C. starting at No. 12 on the east side of the clubhouse and finishing at the 18th just in front of the "19th." I can play in an hour with my son, Leonard, and the routing includes a hole from the original design, the 15th, a 140-yard par 3 from an elevated tee to an elevated green over an active public street, short and relatively easy except for thoughts about hitting into the bank on the opposite side of the street, or worse yet, dumping the ball into the street, both of which are possible.*



**John Fischer III – gentleman golfer, writer, attorney, and Walter Hagen fan.**

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

*I enjoy reading about early golf and the clash of man and nature before courses became overwatered and manicured to a tee. I can't get enough about Walter Hagen who gave American golf a real push into the public eye, although Hagen's personality was probably the opposite of mine.*

### Best thing about hickory golf?

*Definitely the people. Everyone has so much fun and can't wait to share advice about clubs, courses and technique.*

### Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

*Word of mouth and inviting friends to give hickory a try is a start. I think we should make every effort to get media coverage of events and profiles of hickory players. Hickory golf gets a little coverage, but the hickory game is spreading – just look at the annual tournament listings – and exposure should keep pace.*

### Most recent book on golf that you read?

*I'm always reading chapters out of Bernard Darwin's books and his articles from "The Times." He's hard to beat. I recently finished Mark Frost's "The Match," an account of the Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson match against amateurs Ken Venturi and Harvie Ward at Cypress Point – it's as much biography as the recounting of a once-in-a-lifetime event.*

**Note:** John is a valued contributor both to the *Wee Nip* and the *Bulletin of the Golf Collectors Society*.