



Member Profile
Lionel Freedman
Musselburgh, East Lothian
Scotland

Lionel was born in Chiswick, London in 1934. He attended boarding school from 1940–51 and was in National Service from 1952–54. His basic training was in the Suffolks, where he was attached to the 17th Training Regiment of the Royal Artillery, with the rank of Sergeant. He entered the London Stock Exchange in 1954 and became a Member in 1961. He retired in 1970 but could not sit still and by 1974 ran several different companies. “I could possibly be considered an entrepreneur,” he says.

Lionel plays out of golf clubs in London, Surrey, and Berkshire-Wimbledon Park, Roehampton, Henley, Coombe Hill, St Georges Hill and Wentworth where his residence is on the 15th on the West course.

He retired to Scotland in 1995, was divorced 1997. He remarried 1998 to Beth Lady. “An article in the Scotsman described me as marrying a ‘Musselburgh Lass’. We have between us two sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren.”

He is Captain of both The Musselburgh and Musselburgh Old Course. He was Musselburgh Old Course Secretary and Treasurer in 1999–2005 and is considered to be “the man who revived the Old Links.”

Lionel is a member of the British Golf Collectors Society and, recently, “a proud board member of the SoHG.”

Lionel founded the World Hickory Open in 2005 and is currently a member of Craighielaw Golf Club in Aberlady, East Lothian. He was Captain of the club in 2007–09.

He is editor of World Hickory Golfer (www.worldhickorygolfer.com), which he began in September 2010 as a monthly on-line magazine.

How often do you play hickories?

Not, I'm afraid, that much. Usually the Scottish at Musselburgh Links and Gullane 3. I toured Sweden when the Grail was held. Played only once in the WHO. I find it difficult to play when running an event. I also try the annual match between England and Scotland and have played for both sides.

What's in your play set?

1925 Nichols matched set, Ernest Bradbeer. 1930 Cochranes – Edinburgh. Sadly both sets were recently stolen. I still have a set of Tom Stewart replicas by St Andrews Golf Co.

Favorite course for hickories?

Kilspindie and Gullane 3.

Favorite club?

Baffy

Favorite hickory tournament?

The World Hickory Open.



Lionel Freedman is a proud family man, excellent golfer, editor/writer and champion of Musselburgh Old Course.

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

Henry Cotton, who I lost to in the 1961 Gleneagles-Saxone at the last in a scratch foursomes knock out. And a singles match against Bobby Locke where I was beaten 3/2. I also took lessons from Richard Burton, the last winner of The Open before the war (1939). I have great memories of games with Ken Bousfield, a six-time Ryder Cup player, as well as Syd Scott who was runner up to Peter Thomson in the 1954 Open and the 1955 Ryder Cup.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The people you meet and the playing of hickories that brings back our many traditional courses built in the late 19th century and through to the Second World War. Hickories allow us to play these courses in the way they were set up and meant to be played.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

I hope to promote hickory golf through my membership on the board of the SoHG, by promoting and expanding my tournaments – the Musselburgh Challenge, the World Hickory Open – and by continuing my work on worldhickorygolfer.com.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I have very large selection of golfing books and to choose is very difficult. Instructional books are a struggle, however, Harvey Penick's “Little Red Book” is outstanding. Anything by Darwin, Longhurst, and Warren Wind. Modern authors Dodson and Sampson as well as fiction by Mark Frost. With sincere apologies for not mentioning plenty of others.