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2020  U.S. HICKORY OPEN™
at Happy Hollow Club



2020

NEHGA

Johnny Goodman River City
Hickory Golf Championship
Hall of Fame Banquet

SPONSORED
BY:





Defending Champion Craig Christensen

PAST CHAMPIONS

2014: Field Club - Kevin Cawley

2016: Happy Hollow Club - Kevin Cawley

2017: Omaha Country Club - Brian Frevert

2018: Champions Run - Trevor Kula

2019: Happy Hollow Club - Craig Christensen

MR. MIKE STEVENS



Teaching Experience:

Started teaching golf part time while serving in the Army in 1973
Became a member of the United States Golf Teachers Federation in 1995
Began teaching golf full time at MacDill AFB in 1996
Started Guaranteed Golf School in Florida in 1997
Site Director for The First Tee of Tampa Bay 2000-2008
Florida's Golf Newspaper top ten teacher '99 - '02
MacDill AFB Services Contractor of the Year - 2001
World Golf Teachers top 60 Golf Instructor
Inducted into the World Golf Teachers hall of Fame - 2011
Featured instructor on Tampa's News Channel 8 Golf Segments
Teaching Junior Golf Programs at MacDill AFB for 30 years
Three Time Hillsborough Country High School Golf Coach of the Year

Hickory Golf Experience:

1997 Started playing Hickory Golf at first National Hickory Championship
1997, 1998 Dunedin, FL Hickory Champion
2005, 2010 and 2012 National Hickory Champion
2008 Southern Hickory 4 Ball Champion
2009 Originated the Florida Hickory Golfers with Kody Kirchoff
2009, 2011 & 2014 U.S. Hickory Golf Team Member
2014 World Hickory Open - 5th Place
2017 Received Mike Brown Award for contributions to Hickory Golf
2018 North American Hickory Team Captain
Originated the US Professional Hickory Golf Championship in 2011
Added the US Amateur Hickory Championship 2015
Past Society of Hickory Golfers Board Member

Writing Experience:

Former Golf History writer for Florida Golf News
Freelance Writer award finalist by International Network of Golf
Golf articles published in Publinks Magazine, Golf Illustrated and American Golf Pro
Weekly golf tip published in Tampa Tribune '03, '04 and '05
Contributing Writer for World Hickory Golfer 2011
Contributing writer for SOHG Wee Nip Magazine

MR. JORGEN LINSE MR. PEER THIERMAE NIUS



Thank you for inviting us to become members of the Hickory Golf Hall of Fame. It is an honour for us to accept your invitation.

The idea of starting the Swedish Hickory Championship came to us one evening when we stood talking in the garage of the Swedish Golf Federation at Kevinge in Stockholm in 1997. Earlier that day we had been drawn to play each other in the autumn meeting of the Society of Swedish Golf Historians. Pehr came with his steel shafts, not knowing there was a hickory player taking part. But Jörgen had brought his hickories. We soon put away Pehr's bag and played out the match with Jörgen's clubs. Then, when we stood in the garage in the evening, we said, "We must start a Hickory Championship!"

And so we did and we soon found that we had struck a rich vein of golf pleasure, just waiting to come to the surface. Years later, on Championship days, we would pause in the middle of our duties and look around for a moment. What we saw was a golf course full of smiling golfers walking happily with their smart bags on the shoulder. Never did we enjoy this sight more than on the Sunday after the Grail match in 2009, when the Falsterbo links was crowded with players from Sweden, Europe and America. Play was slow and groups piled up on tees. But the players seemed not to mind and golf talk flowed freely.

And we said to each other: "Look at this, it was our idea?"

Yes, the idea was ours, but what made it a great idea was the enthusiasm of the golfers who came to play in the Championship and later in many other hickory events around the country. The Swedish Hickory Calendar is now packed with the 36 events during 2019.

Thus your invitation to us has a wider significance. We take it as recognition of the growth of hickory golf and of hickory golfers in Sweden. Thank you so much.

MR. JOE B. LAUBER



The Swiss Hickory Golf Club was born at a pub in St. Andrews, Scotland in 2012, formed by eight friends who made the pilgrimage to The Old Course. Today, there are about 400 golfers playing with the hickory-shafted clubs in Switzerland.

It was Joe Lauber's idea to use hickories in Scotland after he saw a vintage photo of Scottish players wearing knickerbockers, long-sleeve shirts and ties. He thought it was quite appropriate "to play this historic course as it was originally designed." Prior to the journey, Lauber (who plays left-handed) managed to assemble a set of four irons, a wood and putter. "I have never played with as much respect, joy and pride as I did on the Old Course that day," he recalls.

As the hickory spirit spread in Switzerland, Joe diligently searched for playable clubs "with straight shafts," until 20 club members had sets. In the process, he got to know hickory club experts such as the late Mike Just of Louisville Golf, Bob Georgiade, Mike Stevens, Dave Brown, Tad Moore and Jeremy Wright. "These gentlemen provided answers to my questions about the restoration of hickories, and with regard to quality issues."

A master watchmaker by profession, Joe thrives on attention to detail and perfection. After restoring or building around 1,700 clubs to date, he says, "I still find work steps that I can improve."

In his quest for the perfect club, Joe developed his own signature set of irons, modeled on a classic George Nichols design. The JBL Swiss Hickory Golf Club Manufactory delivered its first stainless steel forged-head replica clubs in 2017.

Two years ago, Joe crafted a hickory set for 2013 Masters champion Adam Scott. The Australian, who was struggling with his game, had been encouraged to give hickories a try by Sandy Lyle, winner of the 1985 Open Championship, the 1988 Masters, and the 2014 & 2016 World Hickory Opens. Lauber tailored the JBL hickory set to Scott's 100-mph swing speed with a 5-iron, and met the pro and his father at Switzerland's Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club, site of the Omega European Masters. "I couldn't believe anyone could hit a hickory iron like this," Joe remarks, watching Scott artfully shape 1-iron shots of more than 225 yards. Two weeks later, back on his game, Scott fired a final round 65 for a top-5 finish at the FedEx Cup.

DR. DAVID HAMILTON



Born on a Scottish West Coast island, I played golf there from age 5, later graduating in medicine at Glasgow University in 1966. I then trained as a surgeon during the early days of organ grafting, starting with kidney transplantation. In addition to medical writing, in the early 1980s I wrote a tourist guidebook to Scottish golf and then, with my interest in golf history developing, I wrote a full history of golf in Scotland. Finding difficulty publishing other golf history works of niche interest, I set up a printing shop, using two old letterpress machines and printed from metal type and wood engravings. A series of limited edition ‘Earl Golf’ golf titles resulted under my Partick Press imprint. Obtaining a supply of raw gutta percha, and using a 19th century mould, I revived the methods for production of the older ball, but play with them did not find favour.

I played in the early pioneering Scottish Hickory Championship (founded in 1985) and in 2000, with Ralph Livingstone III, we organised a Hickory Grail match, the first such international event, at Kilspindie links near Edinburgh, and it continues.

In retirement, Jean and I moved to St Andrews in 2004 and, as a member at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, I served on its Heritage Committee; I am also a long-standing member of the United States Golf Association Museum Committee. I was captain of the British Golf Collectors Society in 2012, twice winning their Murdoch Medal (for published works), and I was president of the European Association of Golf Collectors and Historians in 2018. I write regularly for our British Golf Collectors Society’s journal *Through the Green*.

Selected Bibliography:

‘Early Golf’ Series from 1985, *Scottish Golf Guide* (editions from 1982), *Golf - Scotland’s Game* (1998), *The Healers - A History of Scottish Medicine* (1981), *The Monkey Gland Affair* (1986), *The First Transplant Surgeon* (2017-Alexis Carrel) and *Waiting for the Urine* (2019 - memoirs).



2016

Johnny Goodman
Alexander Findlay
Randy Jensen



2017

Sam Reynolds
Gary Wiren

PAST INDUCTEES



2018

Bill Reed
Warren Olson



2019

Tad Moore
Ralph Livingston III
Roger Hill
Rob Ahlschwede