



20th Annual Canadian Open Hickory Championship The Legends GCC Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada

The 2019 Canadian Open Hickory Championship was held the week of August 12-16 at the Legends G&CC Sherwood Park, Alberta. The hickory event included a 2-day road trip on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday Scramble, Thursday USA/Canada match (Ryder Cup format) and Friday Championship tournament.

32 players made the Monday road trip to the 18 hole Barrhead GC about an hour north of Edmonton. The Barrhead Golf Club is an 18-hole championship course designed by the renowned Les Furber. It has been included in Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play" for the last three years and is remarked as a must stop for all Central Alberta golf enthusiasts.



36 players made the Tuesday road trip to the Jack Nicklaus designed Northern Bear golf course just southwest of Sherwood Park. Winner of numerous awards, the Bear is a perfect blend of tree lined fairways, strategic bunker

placements, five lakes, and USGA standard greens.

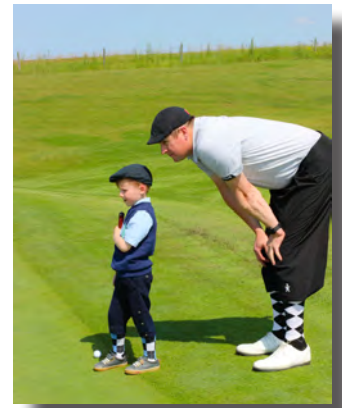
The Wednesday scramble really marks the beginning of the tournament because you get to play the home course, meet new players, pony up some cash and get the competitive fires burning.



60 players were categorized as A,B,C and D players and teams are created at random as evenly as possible.

This years team with a -13 score featured Ken Plaunt, John Collins, Gary Proctor, Fuzz Bazinet and Darcy Riopka. Ken's 3 year son Blake tagged along to read the putts! After the round, players and other invitees visited a local home for a burger and chicken BBQ, a drink (or two!), lots of tales told and a viewing of a

golf memorabilia collection.



Thursday's Casey Cup competition, with Canadian captain Gino Narduzi and US Captain Robb Howard, featured a record number of 56 players. It included 27 holes of friendly US/Canada competition in a modified Ryder Cup format with 9 holes 2-man scramble, 9 holes better ball and 9 holes singles match play. All met after the golf at the Golf Car Museum for a meal and tour of the golf car museum. Guests from the US included Bill Reed, John Auson, Robb Howard, Peter Herrington, Mike Sloan, Rob Ahlswede, Rives McBee, Gary Proctor, John MacKenzie and Jeff Lefferts. Oh, and yes, the Canadian team did manage to eke out a victory.



Championship Friday dawned with a strong northwest wind gusting to 45 miles per hour. While it impacted the scores it couldn't damper the enthusiasm and camaraderie of the 68 players. The champions division was won by Ross Kenny with Ben Plaunt finishing second. The Senior Division was won by local Chris Ream, followed closely by locals Kenn Looten and Gerald Oncuil. The Ladies Division was won by Elizabeth

Ream and the Senior ladies title went to Fran Looten. The Chinese hickory champion was Edwin Chan and Dave Racette won the First Nations Division. This year featured a popular addition with a scramble division with 8 teams vying for the title. The winners at 12 under par were Rob Taylor, Bill Taylor, Dave Taylor and Bob Maksymic.





Each year in conjunction with the Canadian Open Hickory Championship, The Legends honors an Albertan who has made significant contributions to the game of golf in Alberta. Each honoree has their image sketched by Mike Sutton - a retired CBC graphic artist, presented the following year and displayed permanently in the Legends room of the clubhouse.

This year's honoree for the 'Legends of Alberta Golf' award is Curtis Stock.



Curtis Stock was the Edmonton Journal sports and golf reporter for 30 years specializing in golf, NFL picks, horse racing and everything else. Curtis currently has a weekly golf talk show on TSN radio.

The 2020 Canadian Open Hickory Championship will be held the week of August 10-14, 2020. Many come up a few days early for the annual two day pre-tournament road trip ... sometimes at local golf courses and sometimes we wander further afield. All are welcome! For more information contact Ron Lyons at antiquegolf@shaw.ca, the golf course at 780-449-4911 or check the Legends website at www.legendsgolf.ca under the hickory tab.