

Here's tae ye!



An' may ye git safely owre  
the "bunkers" o' the comin' year

# WORLD HICKORY



## A SUMMARY OF WORLD HICKORY GOLF EVENTS

We are grateful to the various scribes of the British Golf Collectors Society and other European and Australian/Asian hickory organizers whose reports on several championships were the basis for the following brief summaries. This is our 20th year of reporting on global hickory golf events. All tournament directors across the world are invited to send us their reports for inclusion in this summary. The report is not meant to be exhaustive. We cannot possibly include every hickory golf outing that occurs; rather, we hope to offer a precis of such national contests and hickory opens that have a large regional influence. Our apologies in advance for any omissions or errors in reporting. We have done our best to work with regional tournament directors to compile the following report.

## Europe and Asia/Pacific

### MARCH



AND THE DAY BEFORE WAS QUITE NICE. Above left, Tim Greet and his snow removal unit at Royal Worlington. At right, Mike Baigent shows great poise in the snow.

#### 13 – BGCS v Royal Worlington

To prove that inclement weather will not stop a BGCS match, please see the attached from our recent match against Royal Worlington. No result was recorded. Indeed we were very lucky not to run out of balls. The lunch that followed the golf was, as always, superb and we thank Nigel Notley for organising the fixture which followed one the previous day at Fleampton which was, although we did not know it at the time, played in relatively good weather.

#### 13 – NZ Hickory Open

Peter van Eekelen reports:

The 2023 New Zealand Hickory Open had a stellar beginning with an opening competition for the Anzac Flask, a team event between New Zealand and Australia. With a USHO champion, Alan Grieve, and three Australian hickory champions on the Australian team it was always going to be a big ask for New Zealand, but the result was a tightly fought match with Australia the victors 108 vs 110. The day concluded with the Australian team having an intimate one-on-one with Sir Bob Charles, 1963 Open Champion, in the Charles room at the Christchurch Golf Club.

Sir Bob is one of the key people leading the renaissance of hickory golf in New Zealand. The NZ Hickory Open is a testament to his belief that hickory golf is the game for the people. As member of the NZ Hickory Open committee, he was key in setting up the course to represent the historical significance of Prestwick's 12 hole

NZ HICKORY OPEN CHAMPS. The winning Australian team for the Anzac Flask, a preliminary contest in advance of the NZ Hickory Open. Sir Bob Charles, fourth from left, posed with the winners. From left, Alan Grieve (2011 U.S. Hickory Open champion), Alan Baker, Peter Monk, Sir Bob, Darron Watt (holding the Anzac Flask), Bruce Collins, and Greg Mellifont.



Open Championship layout 150 years ago.

As for the New Zealand Hickory Open, the day opened with 12-year-old bagpiper Oscar Browitt piping in the day and international players being driven to the starting area in vintage cars. Sir Bob took honors, followed in second by Mark Larson and Catherine Bell in third. "It was a special moment seeing Sir Bob receive the coveted NZ Hickory Open Trophy," van Eekelen said.

#### 31-April 2 – BGCS Welsh Weekend

Windy drizzle and pale sunshine for the 2023 Welsh Weekend at Borth and Ynyslas GC on March 31. The best individual score was by Ian Hislop, with 39 Stableford points, followed by Howard Plush on 37 and then Ulf Jagaeus also on 37. Mikael Martinsson had the best scratch score on 80, one ahead of Ulf, while the best team score was 80 points, by Athole Marshall, Erik Brandstrom and Tomas Bjorkman. The following day's match against



#### WELSH WEEKEND

CHAMPIONS. With BGCS Captain Bob Chadwick, from top left: Scratch Medal winner Neil Gascoigne; Welsh Hickory Champion Jason Dolman; and Ladies prize winner Jenny Hunt, left, with Liz MacDonald.



Aberdovey was played in warm sunshine. Sunningdale adjustments kept all matches close. For the second successive year, the match ended in a tie in terms of aggregate holes up. Neil Gascoigne reprised his efforts of 2022 with a remarkable 73 in the Welsh Hickory Championship the following day, to win the Scratch Cup, a full four shots ahead of his nearest rival, Jorgen Isberg. Jenny Hunt won the ladies prize with an excellent 31 points, while the 2023 Welsh Hickory Champion was Jason Dolman, with a remarkable 40 points.

### APRIL

#### 2 – South Australian Hickory Championship

Andrew Baker reports:

Early April 2023 saw the inauguration of the two-day South Australian Hickory Shaft Championships. Preceded by state hickory championships in Queensland, Tasmania, and New South Wales, the South Australian Hickory Shaft Championships



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

are the fourth state-level championships to exist. The foursomes championship was held Sunday 2 April at Victor Harbor Golf Club, followed by the individual championship



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HICKORY SHAFT CHAMPIONSHIP.** *The players in the inaugural championship.*

at The Royal Adelaide Golf Club the next day. Both events were played on cloudless autumn days with temperatures in the mid-twenties.

The individual championship was contested by 16 players. The winner, with an exceptional round of 79 off-the-stick, was Bendigo Golf Club (Vic) 2-marker Justin Ryan. He outplayed PGA professional from Sydney's Eastlake Golf Club (NSW), Alex Sutherland, by a solitary stroke. In third place was Lang Lang Golf Club (Vic) member Stephen 'Mango' Maguire.

The individual handicap event was won by Ross Haslam from Nudgee Golf Club (Qld) with a score of 77 playing from a handicap of 14, followed by Alex Sutherland with 80 strokes playing off scratch. The youngest player in the field, local Glenelg Golf Club (SA) member Nick Lambos, was one shot further back.

On the previous day, the long and tree-lined Victor Harbor Golf Club layout provided a strenuous test of foursomes golf. Played in the Canadian variation of the game, the winners were Justin Ryan from Bendigo Golf Club (Vic) and Terry Thornton from The Royal Adelaide Golf Club (SA) with an off-the-stick score of 83. They finished five strokes ahead of Royal Queensland Golf Club (Qld) pairing Ross Bishop and Bradley Tatnell. Third place was won on countback by Queenslanders Philip Akes and Ross Haslam who finished one stroke further behind.

## The 2023 Season – Hickory Golf in Japan

Alex Bruce reports: The year 2023 was the best year ever for hickory golfers in Japan. We had four major events and the first official PGA Hickory Golf two-day tournament for professional golfers.

The first major event in April was **The Japan Hickory Golf Championship** event at Kobe Golf Club. The winners



**JAPAN HICKORY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP** at the Kobe Golf Club.

were: Champion, Ryuji Asano; Ladies Champion, Hiromi Aratani; and Senior Champion, Hisashi Aratani. The Japan Hickory Golfing Society hosted this event.

The second major event in June was **The Japan Hickory Golf Masters** event at Taiheiyō Golf Club Yachiyo Course. The winners were: Champion Scott Nakase, Ladies Champion, Jun Yamamoto, and Senior Champion Kazuhiko Kawamoto. Taiheiyō Golf Club hosted this event.

The third major event in December was **The Ladies and Gentlemen Hickory Golfers Friendship Championship** at Naruo Golf Club. The winners were: Champion Yuji Yasuda, Ladies Champion Mariyo Miyamoto, and Senior Champion Akira Fujiwara. The Japan Hickory Golfing Society hosted this event.

The fourth major event in December was The Japan Hickory Classic Open at Ono Golf Club. The Japan Hickory Golfers Club hosted this event.

The fifth major event was the PGA official Hickory Golf two-day tournament, with results reported under the DECEMBER heading.

## MAY

### 27 – Open Danish Hickory Championship

The 10th annual Danish Open Hickory Championship was played at the Royal Copenhagen Golf Club. Christian Joel, president of the Danish Golf Historical Society, reports that that 39 players were entered, including players from Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Norway. "All in all a wonderful day in the most fantastic summer weather. The Royal Copenhagen Golf club was really at its best, fast greens, okay fair-

ways and not too much rough. As the course is inside the Queen's hunting grounds there are many regulations regarding what is possible in respect of maintenance etc." Congratulations to Andreas Olsen, the overall winner and to the others who played around the deer and turned in such good scores.



**DANISH OPEN HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP.** *The players in the championship.*

### 17-19 – Scottish Hickory Championship

First day was a visit to Gullane 3 for the Colville Memorial trophy. Forty-two golfers teed off seeking to get their name on the famous trophy. The winner was Per Nyman with an excellent 2 over 69. The 2023 winner of the Colville Trophy was Björn Petersson with 43 points. Second day was across Aberlady Bay to Craigielaw GC to play for the inaugural Czeslaw Kruk Memorial Quaich. The sun was occasionally shining with a light westerly breeze as the 37 golfers started their rounds. Scratch winner for the second day was Per Nyman with a sub par 70. The winner of the Quaich was captain Bob Chadwick with a sensational 45 points. The third day was an even shorter trip to Kilspindie GC for the 39th Scottish Championship as Kilspindie



**2023 SCOTTISH HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP.** *From left: organiser Ian Hislop, scratch winner Per Nyman, captain Bob Chadwick and Colville Memorial winner Bjorn Petersson.*

is literally over the fence from Craigielaw. 47 golfers had another fine day with virtually no wind. A rare day indeed. Scratch winner for the third consecutive day was Per Nyman with a scratch 70. The Scottish Champion for 2023 was our handicap expert Neil McGarva with a net 61.



*From left: 2023 Scottish Hickory Champion Neil McGarva receives trophies from Bob Chadwick; Czeslaw Kruk Memorial scratch winner Per Nyman and Kate Chadwick; Bob Chadwick receives the Czeslaw Kruk Memorial Quaich from wife, Kate.*

## JUNE

### 4 – BGCS Central England Hickory Championship

This event, which also includes the BGCS Seniors Championship and John Hanna Tankard, was staged at Luffenham Heath GC. The weather was fine, the course in superb condition. The winner was Claire Johnson with a score of 37 points. Winner of the BGCS Seniors Championship for aged 60+ was Howard Plush also with a score of 37 points. Claire Johnson won the John Hanna Tankard for aged 70+. The Scratch prize was won by Jonathan Sanders with a gross score of 77 which is the lowest round achieved in the six years the event has been played at Luffenham Heath.



*Photo at left: Beverly Roebuck, BGCS Captain Bob Chadwick and Scratch Prize winner Jonathan Sanders. At right, Claire Johnson (r) is presented the Tony Thorpe Trophy by Beverly Roebuck, Ladies Captain of Luffenham Heath.*



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

## JULY

### 15-16 – Liermoen Hickory Invitational

Hosted by the Liermoen Hickory Golfers of Norway and played on the Kongsvingers Golf Club.



Photo at left: The Club Match Trophy, contested by the Bro-Bälsta GC of Sweden vs. the Kongsvingers GC of Norway, was won 2 up by the Swedish team of Britta Nord & Claus Maeland. Photo at right: The team of Sune Heimdahl, left, and Pär Svensson won the Peter Nordwall's Hickory Challenge event. Svensson also won the 2023 Challenge Trophy "Henry Cotton's Jigger" for best gross score.



**LIERMOEN CHAMPIONS.** Peter Beurling, Pär Svensson, and Michael Edin, all from Sweden, took the men's honors. Britta Nord (Sweden), Wenche Narvesen (Norway) and Hilja Noer-Johansen (Norway), were the female winners.



### 29 – Czech Hickory Championship

Played on the historical Podebrady course (40 km east of Prague). It was a full field and a great tournament on a lovely course. Peter Chajda was the winner of the gross division for men. Libor Jirasek took the net honors. Petra Dudzus won the women's division.



## AUGUST

### 5-6 – Swedish Hickory Championship

The 20th Swedish Hickory was played on the Växjö Golfklubb. Per G Nyman was the winner, his third Swedish Hickory Championship. He also won in 2009 and 2010. Madeleine Tham Johansson won the ladies Championship on her first try, and Lars Norén won the seniors (65+) competition.

73 gentlemen, nine ladies and 15 seniors entered the Championship, played in Växjö in southern Sweden. It is a stroke play competition, scratch over two rounds. Players who do not make the cut after 18 holes can play in Svenska Hickorykannan, a handicap stroke play competition on the second day.

Per G Nyman returned an impressive score, two under par, even though players suffered in heavy rain on the second day. He was all of nine strokes ahead of former



**2023 SWEDISH CHAMPIONS.** From left: Lars Norén, Madeleine Tham Johansson, and Per G Nyman.

champion Johan Moberg and David Kirkham. The 2024 Swedish Hickory Championship will be played at Lundsbrunn Golfklubb on 3-4 August. Lundsbrunn is situated in southern Sweden.

### 10-12 – Canadian Hickory Open



**2024 CANADIAN HICKORY OPEN.** The players in the championship.

Canadian Ben Plaunt, who also won the 2023 Gearhart Hickory Open title, added the Canadian Open Hickory Championship title to his successes for the year. Always blessed with a great turnout, this year's event hosted 94 players, many of whom enjoyed the two-day pre championship golf trip. Beautiful weather, good times and lots of wonderful hickory spirit and friendships.

### 11-13 – German Hickory Open Championship



**TOP PLAYERS AT THE 2023 GERMAN HICKORY OPEN.** From left: Claus Mühlfeit, Markus Kümmerle, Hendrik Hilgert, Klaus Sasse, Alexander Huchel, Tatjana Thoss, Britta Nord, Louis Dudzus, Perry Somers, Brian Gee, and Iain Forrester.



**SCRAMBLE CHAMPS AT THE 2023 GERMAN HICKORY OPEN.** The Czech team, from left: Libor Jirasek, Dalibor Prochazka, Andrea Hoffmannová, and Vita Hoffmann.

During the second weekend of August 2023 a total of fifty-nine hickory golfers from eight nations met during three days at Golf Club Rhein-Main in Wiesbaden to crown the 2023 German Open Hickory Champion. The Hickory Scramble on Friday was won by the Team from the Czech Republic consisting of Andrea Hoffmannová, Vita Hoffmann, Libor Jirasek and Dalibor Prochazka though securing the Trophy of the Honorary Secretary. For the 36-hole stroke play championship played on Saturday and Sunday the par-72 course in the Hessen state capital Wiesbaden with its differences in elevation, slopes and tricky greens proved to be a real test also demanding every player fit-ness.



**PLAYERS AT THE 2023 GERMAN HICKORY OPEN**

The ladies title and the 2019 Lily-Trophy was secured by 15-year-old Marie Kauder from Golf- und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee with 177 strokes for thirty-six holes ahead of the five-time title holder, Sweden's Britta Nord from Bro-Balsta with 192 strokes.

The gentlemen's competition proved to be much closer. After a very close finish, 16-year-old Louis Dudzus (Golf- und Land-Club Berlin-Wannsee) won with 152, one stroke ahead of Australian professional Perry Somers and former European Tour Player Heinz-Peter Thül (both 153 strokes). Louis became the proud winner of the historic Tanfani-di-Montalto trophy dating from 1912. The "hickory junior golfer" had already secured the title of German Amateur Hickory Amateur Hickory Champion in 2020 and 2021 finishing the competition as the best Amateur player.

The 2024 German Open Hickory Championship will be played Aug. 16-18 at Royal Homburg Golf Club near Frankfurt, which celebrates its 125th club anniversary in 2024. For information, please check <http://www.german-hickory.com>



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

## 25 – Scotland v England Hickory Championship

Held at Goswick. The course was in excellent condition, running firm with slick greens, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The match was played in sunshine, punctuated by some early, brief showers over a championship links that was manageable with hickories off the men's green tees. England were in the lead after the first match but it was their last point with Scotland winning all remaining five to regain, comfortably, the Archie Baird Trophy.

**CHANGING HANDS.** John Pearson, left, of the English Team hands the Archie Baird Trophy to Scottish Team captain Ian Hislop.



## SEPTEMBER

### 1 – Spanish Hickory Open, Real Nuevo Club de Golf SS Basozabal



Gonzalo Retana Ardanaz reports:

For the sixth consecutive year we enjoyed hickory golf at the Real Nuevo Club de Golf SS Basozabl. The main sponsor of the event has been COSTA DEL SOL MALAGA – COSTA DEL GOLF. The professionals played individual scratch mode and the amateurs played scramble in teams of four. Among the more than 40 players were members of the Basozabal club, from other clubs throughout Spain and four players from the Austrian golf team. In the middle of the tour, we tasted knife-cut ham courtesy of Torres Cortés accompanied by wines from the Rioja Ramón Bilbao winery, Mahou beers, San Miguel beers, Solan de Cabras water and at the end of the tour Gin Tonic based on Martin Miller's. And as the culmination of the day, the magician Aitor delighted us with his magic tricks.

The team that won the scramble prize was Gabriela and Cecilia Retana, Fernando Berridi, and Guillermo Arrieta. In the professional category, the winners were Luis Miota, Rafael Ortiz de Urbina (second) and, third, Freddy Lilly.

### 3-5 – Australian Hickory Shaft Championship and Inaugural Asia/Pacific Championship



**2023 AUSTRALIAN HICKORY SHAFT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS, above.**

At right women's and champions Catherine Palmer and Richard Macafee with James Sutherland (far right), the champion golfers are also holding a plaque and medals for winning the inaugural Asia Pacific Hickory Championship sponsored by the Society of Hickory Golfers.



The 28th playing of the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship was played on Melbourne's world renowned sand belt courses. Hickory players from around Australia, as well as, for the first time, contingents from New Zealand and Japan, competed for the Championship and handicap trophies.

The new Sandy Links course hosted the Foursomes on Day 1. The weather was

superb and the course was in great condition. There were some fine scores and with an excellent 72, New Zealanders Catherine Palmer and Mark Lawson took home the trophy. Runners up were Mike Clayton/Terry Thornton on 76. Darryn Watt/Andrew Baker won the handicap section with Net 70.6.

The main Championship event was played over 36 holes with round one at Woodlands GC and the final round at Kingston Heath GC.

Players braved the conditions, some recording excellent scores. The early start for the final round at Kingston Heath was bleak, cold, and wet, but as one player noted "these are the conditions they play in all the time in Scotland!!" and nothing could deter playing on one of the world's best courses. A superb second round of 74 by Richard Macafee giving him a record low of 148, secured the Men's Championship Trophy over NSW's Tim Sayers on 162.

In the Women's Championship, the first day at Woodlands was New Zealand's Catherine Palmer's first full round with hickory clubs, but she didn't let that stop her from taking the title with an impressive score of 169. The handicap section was a close contest with Justin Ryan on 154 edging out Mango Maguire on 155.

The inaugural Asia Pacific Hickory Championship, sponsored by the Society of Hickory Golfers (SoHG) was played in conjunction with the Australian event. Richard Macafee and Catherine Palmer continued their winning ways to claim the men's and women's titles. Australia won the Teams Event.

### 5-8 – BGCS Hickory Grail

The 13th edition was played at Belvedere Golf Club, Charlevoix, Michigan, USA. The tricky William Watson design, from 1925, was in sublime condition albeit being a bit green and lush with very true and fast greens. Wednesday's matches were abbreviated by thunder and lightning. Some matches were cancelled and rescheduled to the following day. Team USA won the foursomes 5½–1½. Team USA also won the fourballs session by 4–3 making the total 9½–4½ going into Friday singles. On Friday, the USA team took the singles 8½–5½ making the final score 18–10. After three consecutive European wins, Team USA won the Grail, making the total match series score 7 – 6 to USA. The 14th Hickory Grail is scheduled for Rya GK, Helsingborg, Sweden, in mid-September 2025.



**POSING WITH THE HICKORY GRAIL TROPHY ARE** Rick Woeckener, left, of Team USA, and Jonas Fack, of Team Europe.

### 16 – International Dutch Hickory Open

The 12th International Dutch Hickory Open was played on the Ullerberg Golf Course. The course manager, Lilly Waller, each year goes over the special rules and regulations of the old and ancient Heide Golf Baan. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the Heide Golf Baan. Perry Somers won the men's division and Lilly Waller was the 2023 Ladies champion.

**2023 IDHO WINNERS,** Lilly Waller and Perry Somers.



## OCTOBER

### 5-6– English Hickory Championship – Rye GC

A large field of 48 competed in the England vs. The World match on the Jubilee Course in excellent autumn weather on the Thursday, with The World coming out on top 8-4. This was followed for the first time by a champagne reception in the Clubhouse and a dinner in the Dining Room, a very rare occurrence at Rye. Friday on the Old Course was a stern test. Only the winner Erik Brandstrom, mastered the conditions with 37 points to win by 4 from Jorgen Isberg. The Tony Hawkins Scratch Salver was won by American Jonathan Sanders with a gross score of 74.

**ENGLISH HICKORY WINNERS,** Erik Brandstrom, left, is the 2023 English Hickory Champion. Jonathan Sanders is the Tony Hawkins Scratch Salver winner.





# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

## 9-12 – World Hickory Open



**2023 WORLD HICKORY OPEN CHAMPIONS.** Tatjana Thos, left, and Olle Widegren are shown with WHO host Hamish Ewan. Above right, the Japanese Archie Baird team winners.



**2023 WORLD HICKORY OPEN CHAMPIONS.** Winners in other divisions include, from left: Bruce Collins, net amateur champ; Deal Hudson, Honorable 70 champ; Rie Mitsuhashi, Ladies net champ; and Jarmo Maunu, top amateur champion.

Played over four courses in Ayrshire, Scotland. The Archie Baird Trophy team event was held on the Dundonald Links Golf Course. This event is a four-person team event with two better ball scores to count, one from each pair. The team from Japan took the honors with 87 points – Yoshihiro Okubo, Ryuji Asano, Kazuyo Hasegawa, and Khoruko Hagaya. Over the next three days, the field was split into groups to play Prestwick Golf Club, Western Gables, and Kilmarnock Barassie. Ollie Widegren (Sweden) finished as top professional (240); Katsuyoshi Nakashima (Japan) was the top senior (over 50) at 256; and Deal Hudson (U.S.A.) was the Honorable 70 Champion with 270. The top amateur was Jarmo Maunu (Finland) with 243; the men's amateur net champ was Bruce Collins (Australia) with 197. The Ladies champion with 299 was Tatjana Thos (Germany). The Ladies net champion was Rie Mitsuhashi (Japan) with 235.

## 13-15 – Swiss Hickory Open Championship



**2023 SWISS HICKORY OPEN.** Players in the competition, above. At right are men's champion Paolo Quirici, with trophy, and women's champion Carmen Sagarra, along with Marus Lauber, left, and Adreas Ahlm, right.

Played at Golfclub Lugano. The field featured almost 90 players from eight countries and almost a dozen former and upcoming professionals, led by former Italian Ryder Cup player Costantino Rocca, the Austrian DP world tour player Markus Brier, the French European tour member and current senior tour player Raphael Jaquelin, and the Swiss hickory golf legend Paolo Quirici. The

player field was extended by a selection of strong amateurs.

The golf club Lugano, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, was the ideal host. The golf course was in superb condition and challenged the players with lightning fast greens and tough pin positions.

The four headliners of the tournament scored within four shots on the first day. Local professional and multiple Swiss Champion Paolo Quirici bested the rest of the field with a brilliant level par final round and a total score of +1 to once again claim the title. The large ladies field was led by Carmen Sagarra from Golfclub Niederbüren, who claimed the title after a tie with Szilvia Karpati at 25 Brut Points.

A great highlight of the event was the opening Skins game that featured Costantino Rocca, Markus Brier, Raphael Jaquelin and the rising Swiss professional Fiorino Clerici. The old master and Ryder Cup legend Rocca showed some magic hands on the last green where he holed a 12-footer for birdie and secured a large part of the prize pot of 5'000 CHF.

They were followed by a large number of spectators all in good old-fashioned clothes, large camaraderie in an enchanting atmosphere.

## DECEMBER

### 8-9 – Japanese PGA Hickory Golf Tournament

Alex Bruce reports: The PGA Hickory Golf Tournament Taiheiyo Club Cup 2023, Japan's first PGA-sanctioned hickory golf tournament (total prize money 8 million yen) was held at the Taiheiyo Club Yachiyo Course. The tournament was played with hickory shafted golf clubs; all players wore knickerbockers.



Norio Shinozaki won the tournament with an even-par score of 144 over the two days to collect the 500,000 yen first-place prize money. The Best Amateur Award went to Scott Nakase, a member of the Taiheiyo Club, who shot a 77.

At the award ceremony, the president of Taiheiyo Club Corporation, Mr. Shun Han, announced, "We are determined to continue this tournament for the next ten years," to the delight of all the hickory golf players.

## North America

Please note that full accounts and photo galleries for many of the following events are available on the "Tournament Results" pages of the Society of Hickory Golfers website, at [www.hickorygolfers.com](http://www.hickorygolfers.com); and from the websites of the various regional groups hosting these events.

## JANUARY

### 21-22 – Winter Park Hickory Classic – Winter Park GC, Winter Park, Fla.

A full field took to the historic 1914 Winter Park 9, listed as one of the top ten 9-hole golf courses in the United States. The two-day event, Jan. 21-22, consisted of 18 holes on day one and nine holes where only four clubs were allowed on day two. Former tour pro Wally Armstrong of Maitland, Fla., fired a 73 to win the day while Sanford's Richard Boggs was the net leader with 68. The lady's champ was BJ Hayden from Middleburg, Fla., at 82; with Marci Likens of Winter Springs, Fla., at net of 66. Handicap adjustment might be in order.

The 4-club challenge, called the Marci Maximus, brought in some blustery wind, but it did not effect Gil Feagin of Myrtle Beach who toured the links at even par 35 while Jim Davis of Grand Rapids, Mich., netted 30. For the women, BJ Hayden took low with 43 and Marci Likens was net with 36.

## FEBRUARY

### 20-21 – U.S. Professional & Amateur Hickory Championships

Played at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club in Temple Terrace, Fla. The weather was magnificent for the 13th annual U.S. Professional Amateur Hickory Golf Championship. The weekend is hosted by hickory golf champion and professional golf teacher Mike Stevens. On Sunday, five teams competed in a shamble format as part of the historic golf weekend celebrating the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club's 100 years of golf. The four-person shamble resulted in a win for Jim Wilhelm, Blair Heppe, James Chambers and Dan Capaz.

On Monday, Feb. 21, for the U.S. Professional & Amateur Hickory Golf Championships, South Carolina's Mark Harman broke through with a score of 76 to capture the John Shippen Cup, named in honor of America's first golf pro. Winter Spring's Eddie Peckels won the Oscar Bunn Trophy as top amateur for the second consecutive



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

year with an even par 72. Bill Geisler also of Winter Springs took home the Heritage Trophy with a net 68, edging out Peter Herrington of the Villages by a single shot.

## 24-26 – *The Arizona Desert Hickory Classic*

Played on the Grandview & Pebblebrook Golf Courses. Playing pre-1935 hickory shafted clubs, 99 players came from across the USA and Canada, and a few international contestants. The tournament supported a field for Championship, Senior, New To Hickory, Super Senior, Legends 77+ and a Division of Lady Players. Course conditions were excellent. In the Championship Division (59 & younger); Matt Stovall of Litchfield Park, Ariz., was our overall Tournament Champion, with a two-day performance of 74 / 80; winning a scorecard playoff over Ben Plaunt of Beaumont, Alberta, Can., who was the runner-up at 77 / 77. Among the various honors and prizes, tournament host Ken Holtz awarded the annual Willie Noble Humanitarian Award to Cal and Janet Whitman for their efforts in promoting hickory golf around the world.

## MARCH

### 25-27 – *Onion Creek/Swift Trophy*

Played over the Onion Creek Golf Course in Austin, Texas. Pete League reports: In the Swift Cup Results on March 25, the Texas Team beat the North American Team by 20 to 11. Texas Team Captain was Ken Jackson; Dennis MacIntyre for the North America Team. Five teams competed in the Texas First Tee Hickory Championship with the Dallas Chapter taking the victory. Players on that team included Jacob Lewallen, Brooks Fietas, David Pyle, and John Tijerina.

In the Onion Creek Championship, Lori Wallace was the ladies champion, followed by Lou Ann Brossman and Jill English. Ken Jackson was the Senior champion, followed by Dave Hanson and Danny Holcomb. Doug Shackelford took the Statesmen title, followed by John Hutton and Deal Hudson. And in the Championship Division, Cole Houghton was the victor, followed by Robert Cox and Bill Houghton. Our Scramble competition victors were the team of Scott Pilgrim, Blair Philip, Gary Krupkin, and Michael Sloan. The Tad Moore Award for a younger player with playing ability and respect for the traditions of the game went to Ryan Galloway. The Johnny Henry Award for a member of the Golf Heritage Society with the low net score in the 60+ category was John Drake. And the Russ Fischer Award for the outstanding volunteer also went to John Drake.

## APRIL

### 14-15 – *Oddball Hickory Classic*

Played at the Hillcrest Golf Center in Washington, Ill.; perhaps, the only place on the planet where long-nosed clubs and feather balls were in play at that particular moment. Some 30 men and women had come from around the American Midwest at the invitation of Denny and Cathy Lane, feather ball makers and hosts of what they are pleased to call “The Oddball Tournament.” A feather ball round is played on Day One followed by a gutty tournament on Day Two. Tom Kerckhove won the matchplay contest on the feathery day. Joey Piatek was the top player on the gutty ball day. The matchplay contests are improvised scoring against “bogey” scores posted by a much maligned mascot known as Francis the Squirrel.)

### 20-22 – *Southern 4-Ball Hickory Championship*

Played on the Highland Park Golf Course in Birmingham, Ala. Over three days of perfect weather 65 players competed in a Championship division with Will Peterson and Ted Kopec winning with 134. The Stableford division was won by Fred Niles and Mike Crouch with 159. Next year's event will take place April 18-20.

### 22 – *Sunflower Hickory Match Play*

Mike Needleman reports: The Kansas City Area Hickory Golfers completed its third annual Sunflower Hickory Match-Play at the Falcon Lakes Golf Course in Basehor, Kan. The field consisted of 31 enthusiastic golfers. Match winners earned a gold medal for their winning ways, while opponents were honored with the silver medal for their effort. And all topped off with that famous Kansas City style BBQ at the end of play ensured success and a good time had by all. This year's outing drew participants from seven states and was comprised of a diverse group; young, older and several newbies to the hickory game.

World Hickory Golf Day was celebrated in a the best way possible in San Clemente, California. Participants came from around Orange and San Diego counties to join in the festivities.

## MAY

### 7 – *World Hickory Golf Day Celebration*

Rick Perrault of San Clemente, Calif., got into the spirit of World Hickory Golf Day by inviting his hickory golf playing friends to enjoy the finer things in golf at the San Clemente Golf Club. Twelve players took him up on the offer and together they

treated themselves to a great day of golf, with a two-person team competition, lots of laughs and good fun.

Designed in 1928 by William P. Bell, San Clemente is a beautiful muni course that styles itself as the “Pride of the Pacific.” The course is about a mile from the Pacific Ocean and features ocean views from a number of holes.

Perfect day, perfect setting with good friends – with all that going for them, every day is a World Hickory Golf Day for the San Clemente group.

### 11-13 – *Wisconsin Hickory Kohler Challenge*

A two-day event played on the Irish and Straits Course at Whistling Straits, Haven, Wisc. Event host Ernie Ernst reports: Players started their week with a practice round on the Straits course (home of the 2020 Ryder Cup) and then continued their Kohler adventure with a round on the Meadows course Friday and the Irish course on Saturday. Friday, after the Meadows round, players went out on the par 3 Baths course for some fun and adventure. There was enough golf for all.

In the Legends (Super Senior) Division: Doug Shackelford was our champion (82-85). In the Net division our winner was David Boyd followed by Angus Rollo who made the trip from Finland to join us.

In the Senior Division our Champion was Mike Brown (88-88) in a scorecard playoff over Bert Coghill. Our Net winners were Larry Cracraft in first and Wisconsin's own Doc Eike.

Our Ladies Champion this year was Baily Wiegandt from Louisville, Ky. Our Net Ladies Division winner was Jeanne Swenson from Iowa.

In the Open Division, Ernie Ernst was our Champion (85-82), edging out Jared Beggs who finished second. Our Net Champion was Jacob Bengston.

### 19 – *The Spud Cup*

The inaugural Spud Cup hickory event was held at River Birch Golf Course in Star, Idaho. Twenty-seven diehard or just curious players competed in both team and individual events on a warm, sunny Idaho afternoon, followed by a “Spudfest” blowout with prize giving, dinner potato bar (of course), drinks and laughs.

Seven teams played in a one-gross, two-net per hole comp, with the “Bakers” team of Spensky, Ahlschwede, Nero and Baker (really) edging out the “Au Gratin” of Von Lossow, Bavelock, Driscoll and Nero.

The top gents' gross award went to Burke Spensky, a qualifying medalist in last year's U.S. Mid Amateur. Burke fired a stellar two over par 75.

Ladies' low gross went to Sue Tracy, the reigning World Hickory Open champion, but only by one shot over another newcomer, Diana Sellers.

Low net for the men and ladies were won by Eddie Johnson and Roberta Robbins, respectively.

The assistant professional at River Birch, Jon Albright, also shone in his first hickory event, nearly holing out for an ace to garner the KP award and winning the long putt prize as well, proving that even professionals can get greedy.

Special congratulations to the other big winners:

Men's Runner-Up Gross – Eric Larson

Runner-Up Net – Tom Tracy

Ladies' Runner-Up Net – Bev Banner

### 19-21 – *Mid American Hickory Open*

Played at the Soangetaha Golf Club. The field included 24 players from around the Midwest and one intrepid golfer from Finland, Mr. Angus Rollo, who often travels with his golfing and musical partner Cal Whitman. The two also tied in their Statesman division, but Cal was given the victory on a playoff.

Here are the results of the golf competition:

1st Place	Open Div	Gary Youngberg	score 161
2nd Place	Open Div	Chris Wenger	score 165
1st Place	Senior Div	Bert Coghill	score 156
1st Reserve	Senior Div	Mike Brown	net 142
1st Place	Statesman	Joe Deets	score 157
1st Reserve	Statesman	Cal Whitman	net 142 (playoff)

### 21-22 – *Washington State Hickory Championship*

Played at the at Walla Walla and Wine Valley golf courses. Defending his 2022 title, the 2023 champion is again Jim Von Lossow. Here are the champs in the various divisions:

Open Division: 1st – Jim Von Lossow, 156; 2nd – Steve Henneuse, 163

Open Net: 1st – Richard Yagi, 180; 2nd – Shawn Baker, 197

Senior: 1st – John Henry Williams, 171; 2nd – Peter Yagi, 176

Senior Net: 1st – John Quickstad, 157; 2nd – Eddie Johnson, 160

Statesman: 1st – Lyle Rowland, 175 (coin flip); 2nd – John Wise, 175

Statesman Net: 1st – Franz Schwarm, 150; 2nd – David McDonald, 165

Womens: 1st – Roberta Robbins, 218

Womens Net: 1st – Pam Rowland, 167



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

## JUNE

### 8-10 – National Hickory Championship

Played on the Mound Golf Course in Miamisburg, Ohio. Twenty-four players from around the Midwest and further afield for the 2023 NHC. Jason Kronenberger, a young golf professional from Dayton, shot a two-day 159, to continue his dominance of gutty golf championships with a masterly seven-stroke victory over Mike Craig of Red Bank, Tenn. Since 2021, Jason has won two NHC titles and two Foxburg Hickory Championship titles. Caty Goidel, with her Women's victory, has now NHC women's title 11 times since 2000, five times in succession from 2005-09.

Here's a brief competition recap of the 2023 NHC:

Open division – 1) Jason Kronenberger; 2) Billy Wardwell

Reserve Division – 1) Glen Fast; 2) Bob West

Women's Division – 1) Caty Goidel

Sporting Division – 1) Jimmy Sherrill; 2) Emily Moth

Vintage Division — 1) Dirk Wonnell

International Feathery Challenge – 1) Billy Wardwell; 2) Bill Fields

### 15-17 – Belvedere Hickory Open

Played on the Belvedere Golf Club in Charlevoix, Mich. It was a tight battle between great players, but Peter Foory managed to hold on to beat Rick Woeckener and Joey Piatek for the championship. Here is a list of the divisional winners:

Leo Diegel Net Champion: John Cova & Greg Wise

Leo Diegel Champion: Ernie Ernst & Jim Eike

Alexa Sterling Flight Champion: Donna Kuhn – Indianapolis, Ind.

Jock Hutchinson Net Flight Champion: David Wilson – Gladwyne, Pa.

Horton Smith Net Flight Champion: Doug Kuhn – Indianapolis, Ind.

Tommy Armour Net Flight Champion: Marty Joy – Charlevoix, Mich.

Gene Sarazen Gross Flight Champion: Jerry Esselman – Naples, Fla.

Walter Hagan Gross Flight Champion: Ernie Ernst – Neenaw, Wisc.

Sam Snead Gross Flight Champion: Jeff Hunt – Bloomington, Ill.

Belvedere Hickory Open Runner Up: Rick Woeckner – Garrettsville, Ohio

Belvedere Hickory Open Champion: Peter Flory – Glencoe, Ill.

### 21 – 11th annual Nickel & Dime of the Metropolitan Hickory Society

Played at the Ridgewood CC, New Jersey. Bill Martin reports:

Designed by golden age architect A.W. Tillinghast, RCC has held numerous PGA Tour & U.S. Amateur events. After the initial threat of thunderstorms, the dark skies cleared and we were treated to spectacular course conditions. Lighting fast greens in tandem with the Sunday pin positions would have given hickory era great Bryon Nelson a run for his money! The results are as follows:

1st Gross: Michael Stevens (82)

2nd Gross: Brian Schuman (84)

1st Reserve: Jared Paletti (net 72 with a gross of 88 )

2nd Reserve: Ed Desalvio (net 75 with a gross of 107)

### 24 – Smith-Collett Hickory Open

Played at the Shennecossett Golf Course in Groton, Conn. Jacob Orcutt reports:

Early foggy and wet conditions yielded to humid and hot weather after the turn, adding another degree of difficulty. The format was a modified Stableford scoring. Our overall champion was Jeff Blomstedt of Gill, Mass., with 31 Stableford points on his way to a 76. Louis Falcone of Cranston, R.I. came in second with 29 points and a 78. Our net champion was Louis Falcone, who netted 37 points and taking 1st place by matching cards. In the senior division, Bill "Wardy" Wardwell of Turners Falls, Mass., took home the honors with 22 points.

### 26-27 – Pacific Northwest Hickory Championship

Played at Bear Creek Country Club in Woodinville, Wash. Martin Pool reports: Twenty-three hickory players teed it up at the 9th annual Pacific Northwest Hickory Championship. Festivities began the day before when 15 club members joined us for a Member Mixer team event. In a two-best-net-of-four format, the team of Kurt Jones, Matt Stearn, Jeff Lefferts, and John Quickstad finished first with a score of 8-under 136. In the tournament proper, Jeff Olsen, now a five-time winner, defended his Open title with 155 on a course renowned for its difficult greens. Full results are as follows:

Open Champion: Jeff Olsen 77-78=155

Open Net Champion: Shawn Baker 75-81=156

Senior Champion: Bill Pedersen 85-85=170

Senior Net Champion: John Quickstad 77-78=155

Statesmen Champion: Kyle Marvin 96-90=186

Statesmen Net Champion: Omar Arambul 88-80=168

Women Open Champion: Roberta Robbins 131-126=257

## JULY

### 13-15 – Keeper of the Spirit Gutty Challenge

Played at the Eagle Springs Golf Resort in Eagle Springs, Wisc. Greg Smith reports: Eagle Springs dates to 1893 and has been in continuous use and owned by the same family since its beginnings. There are several unique holes, but the Volcano, a par 3 miniature Mt. Vesuvius of but 134 yards is the memory you will be sure to take away. I thought this was a great event with fantastic players. Can't wait till next year. Speaking of which, 2024 will be the 10th anniversary of the event and I'm planning something special. For one the food will be prepared by the same caterer with a special desert of his own creation. Congrats to Tom Johnson, our overall winner; to Ernie Ernst and Deal Hudson in the Open Division; and to Fred Boetcher, Cal Whitman, and George Galligan in the Reserve Division.

### 17 – Tri State Hickory Open

Held at the Clearview Golf Course in Canton, Ohio. Bob Glass reports: With the gracious hospitality of Renee Powell and the new Clearview clubhouse and museum it was a great day to be a hickory player. Renee's father, Bill Powell, built Clearview after World War II. Renee had a hall of fame career with the LPGA and continues to golf and teach at the club. Our Open Hickory Champion of 2023 was Rick Woeckner with 74 at the historic Clearview GC. In second was Blake Hartford with 75 (winner of the Open Net with a 73). Blake's father-in-law to be, Rich Bubenchik, shot a round of 78 to win the Senior Open. In the Senior Net division Bill Tucholski won a "three-hole" scorecard playoff over Richard Strow. They had tied with Net 75s for the round.

### 17-19 – Gearhart Hickory Classic

Played on the Gearhart Golf Links in Gearhart, Ore. Rob Ahlschwede reports:

The Northwest Hickory Players' 9th Gearhart Hickory Classic welcomed 57 players from 10 states and Alberta in Canada. We played two rounds over the Gearhart Golf Links in beautiful weather on the Oregon coast. This year's champion is Ben Plaunt of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (80/79). Net winner was Jeff Groshell.

In the Ladies Division, the Champion was Paula Anderson.

Ed Fitzgerald was the Senior Division Champion. Net winner was John Quickstad. Super Senior Champion was John Henry Williams. The Net winner was Floyd Lockie.

## AUGUST

### 9-11 – 24th Canadian Open Hickory Championship

Played on The Legends Golf and Country Club in Edmonton, Alberta. Canadian Ben Plaunt, who also won the 2023 Gearhart Hickory Open title, added the Canadian Open Hickory Championship title to his successes for the year. Always blessed with a great turnout, this year's event hosted 94 players, many of whom enjoyed the two-day pre championship golf trip. The highly competitive Senior Division featured a first time winner, Faron Hermanson. The Ladies Division was won by repeat winner Fran Zinger. Beautiful weather, good times and lots of wonderful hickory spirit and friendships.

### 10-13 – Foxburg Hickory Championship

Played on the historic Foxburg Country Club, est. 1887. What a grand four days we had at Foxburg. Weather was terrific, the course was in great condition, food was classic, the camaraderie in full bloom. Congratulations to the 2023 Champion, Jason Kronenberger, who has now twice defended his title, winning in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The other Division winners are:

Ron Taylor, Reserve

Rob Geiger, Open Senior

Dave Long, Braid Open

Bern Bernacki, Braid Senior

John Brosnahan, Braid Reserve

Bill Reed, Statesman

Bob Mirt, Brown

Jacob Sith, Blended

### 12-13 – The Vermont Hickory Open

Played at the Brattleboro Country Club, Brattleboro, Vt. Peter Nowlan reports: Bill Houghton of Plano, Texas, is the 2023 Open champion. Jack Crosby of Concord, Mass., took first net in the Open division. The Society of Hickory Golfer's Bill Wardwell, of Turner's Falls, Mass., defended his crown as the Senior champion, with Mike Crouch, of Hickory, Ala., taking first net for the Seniors. David Beamer of North Dartmouth, Mass., is our reigning champion of the Statesman division, with Roger Dionne of Hampton, Conn., taking first net in that division. Irene Dionne, also of Hampton, Conn., went wire-to-wire to repeat her 2021 Ladies division championship.



# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

## 21-22 – Florida State Hickory Open

Played at Dubsdread Golf Course, Orlando, Fla. Mike Stevens reports:

Great weather and a great hickory course for the third annual Florida Hickory Open conducted by the Florida State Golf Association. Dubsdread GC was in fabulous condition. For the third straight year Will Peterson was too much, staving off a challenge from Eddie Peckels to take the Open Division trophy. Gary Cole topped the Stableford Division and Natalie Wells won the Ladies Stableford. Alice Brown captured the Women's Open Division. A big thanks to the Florida State Golf Association for their support of hickory golf and the origination of the event.

## 27 – Michiana Hickory Open

Played on the South Bend County Club, South Bend, Ind. Jim Jeselnick reports: The 11th annual Michiana Hickory Open again hosted a large field of golfers from around the Midwest. The overall champion was Joey Piatek whose 80 edged Rick Grassel by two strokes.

The Senior division was won by Michael West with a net 77. In the Statesman division, Bruce Markwardt's net 77 won the day. In the Scramble division the team of Micah Bosman, Herbie Klinenberg, and Bryant Murphy claimed the top prize.

## SEPTEMBER

### 10-12 – 16th U.S. Hickory Open, Inwood CC, Inwood, N.Y.

(See the SoHG website for a full report and photos).

This year, 100 years later, the sounds of hickory clubs echoed again over the storied course on which Bobby Jones outlasted Bobby Cruickshank in 1923 for his first U.S. Open title.

In 2023, it would be a young assistant pro from The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W. VA. who would take the title. Matthew Hoffman's two-day total of 146 (73-73) was eight clear of his next competitor, Grant Raffel of Palo Alto, Calif. In 1923, Jones was tied with Cruickshank after regulation play, and beat the Scotsman by two strokes in a playoff the following day, largely on the strength of a miracle shot on the 18th hole.

On the net side of things in the current competition, Richard Boggs of Sanford, Fla., secured the Open Division Net title with a net 138. James Ciganek, the 2022 USHO champion from the Mission Inn in Florida, followed him with a net 141. Ciganek's gross score of 153 won him the John Fischer Low Amateur award.

Jane Pohlman of Omaha, Neb., took the women's USHO title with a 162 to nip Rylee Stovall (Litchfield Park, Ariz.), the 2022 champion, by one stroke. Betty Hayden of Middleburg, Fla., was the net champ with a 140 (178 gross).

Mike Callahan of Michigan is the Senior Division winner. His 151 (76-75) was four clear of Canadian Hugh Cameron. The Senior Net victor was Michael O'Donnell of Newtown, Pa., with 125 (169 gross); followed by Richard Schmidt of N. Kingston, R.I. with 136 (170 gross).

In the Super Senior Division it was the SoHG's own David Brown of Omaha, Neb., who posted 166 (81-85) for the title. Following Dave in the Super Senior Division was Ron Perlman of Port Monmouth, N.J. with a 178. The Super Senior net champs were Steve Alger in first with 139 (167 gross) and Bill Martin of Perrineville, N.J., with 140 (182 gross).

The SoHG's annual Mike Brown Award was given posthumously to Dr. Jay Harris, a former Pinehurst, N.C., resident who was a legend of hickory golf in the Carolinas and widely known for his club expertise and knowledge of the game. He was the winner of the first USHO in 2008 at the Mimosa Hills CC in Morgantown N.C.

### 15-16 – The McNabb Cup

Played on the White Lake Golf Course, a 1916 Tom Bendelow design. MacDuff reports: Competitors from throughout the U.S. strove for the 2023 title, the 12th playing for The Cup, this year won for the third time by Bill Ellington. The Cup employs a Stableford scoring system. Mr. Ellington scored 41, followed by Gary Trapani, and the legendary Tad Moore. Ellington also took the low score honor with 77, followed by Scott Staudacher with 78, and John Cova with 82. It was another epic tournament whose many nuances and dramatic backstories may be found within the report on the SoHG website.

### 16 – The Gloria Minoprio Challenge

Played at the Port Townsend Golf Club and hosted by Robert Birman. A field of 20 players competed with one club (an iron cleek or driving iron) in a 9-hole event, all wearing trousers in honor of Gloria Minoprio, a British woman golfer of the early 1930s, and an amateur magician to boot, who stunned the conservative British golf world by showing up at the 1933 English Ladies Championship wearing trousers. The daring Miss Minoprio would play only one club, a hickory-shafted cleek.

The full field – men and ladies – played from the same tees, which were a blend of the course's red and white tee boxes, at just under 2,500 yards. Top honors went

to Kit Ledbetter, from Lopez Island, who shot a remarkable even par for the round, with three birdies. Second place went to club pro, Gabriel Tonan, at four-over.

Shout out to 11-year-old Silas Kane who competed for the first time with a hickory club in his first year playing golf. He's already had a modern golf hole in one.

### 16 – MHS Steam Shovel

Played at the Hackensack Golf Club in Emerson, N.J. Bill Martin reports: MHS's annual "Steam Shovel" tournament at Hackensack Golf Club bookended our 12th successful season. We especially thank Sean Cunningham for being such a gracious host. Results:

1st Gross: Ron Perlman  
2nd Gross: Frank Flood  
1st Reserve: Mike Guerrero  
2nd Reserve: Jared Paletti

Our event is named in honor of Hackensack Golf Club's architect Charles Banks. He was nicknamed "Steam Shovel Banks" due to his frequent utilization of steam shovels to move vast amounts of material to create huge, elevated greens & deep bunkers. In the style of his mentor C.B. Macdonald, he incorporated template holes at HGC including the Biarritz (3rd) & Redan (12th). The club later incorporated a Punchbowl (16th) in the spirit of Banks.

### 21-23 – Wisconsin Hickory Open

Played on The Links course at Lawsonia in Green Lake, Wisc. Bill "Ernie" Ernst reports: The 13th annual Wisconsin Hickory Open was won by Peter Flory, followed by Will Peterson. The Net Champion was Keith Hanson; Dan Moore won the Senior Division, Jim Zartman was the Senior Net Champion. Jim Griffen was the Legends Division Champ with Fred Boetcher the victory in the Legends Net Division.

### 22-23 – CHGA Open Championship

Played on the Aiken Golf Club. Great weather and a challenging course hosted the 2023 Carolina Hickory Open at Aiken Golf Club. Our champion, for the third consecutive year, is Gordon Preddy of Mount Pleasant, N.C. Preddy jumped out to an early lead on the front nine of the first round and held on for a two shot victory over Gil Feagin of Myrtle Beach, SC.

In the net competition, Rick Rechter of Hopkinsville, Ky. edged Bob Georgiade of Durham, N.C., by one stroke. Rechter also won the Senior Division gross title by three shots over Andy Moye and five over Doug Gelbert.

### 11 – Golf Heritage Society Annual Championship

Played on the Picadome GC, Lexington, Ky.

Hickory Gross

1st Kirk Watson 79  
2nd Bill Kreisher 82

Hickory Net

1st John Hutton 67  
2nd Paul Adams 70\* \*Scorecard playoff

Hickory Scramble

1st – 63 B. Robertson, B. Gettis, G. Petro, P Stein (guest G. Petro)  
2nd – 66 T. Irving, S. Abernethy, R. Dragani, B. Baird

Modern Net Mens

1st Robert Curtis 64  
2nd Frank Cantrel 66  
3rd Jim Boyd 70

Modern Ladies, played from Red tees

1st Priscilla Curtis 64

Classic Clubs

1st Bob Muir 71

### 30-Oct. 1 – Ontario Open Hickory Golf Championship

Played over the Whirlpool Golf Course and the Sawmill Golf Course. The Golf Historical Society of Canada's Fall Hickory Classic was renamed this year, but played on the same golf courses. The following is a report from George Supol, GHSC Hickory Ambassador: A total of 41 players attended, including 28 two-day players and 13 one-day players. Of the two-day players, there were four U.S. players and one player who made the trip from Alberta. Last year's Fall Classic was the precursor to the new Championship. Divisions included: Open (age 54 and younger), Senior (age 55-69), Legends (age 70+) and Ladies. Two-day players competed for the overall championship and silver and bronze gross and net divisional medals. One-day players also competed for separate gross and net silver and bronze divisional medals plus some picture prizes. All players were eligible to compete for closest-to-the-pin prizes

# WORLD HICKORY GOLF - 2023

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on the days they played.

The overall 2023 Ontario Open Hickory Golf Champion was Rick Woeckener of Garrettsville, Ohio. Rick shot an impressive gross score of -1 (142) over the two days. He has previously won several key hickory events, including two U.S. Hickory Opens and three Midpines Championships. Hugh Cameron was first in the Senior Division, Bob West first in the Legends Division, and Donna Adams the Ladies champion. In total, the Tournament Organizing Committee handed out the following 28 prizes—1 large silver, 6 silver medals, 10 bronze medals, 3 picture prizes, 6 closest-to-the-pin prizes, 1 best-shot prize (to Pat Potter), and 1 draw prize. The new Championship trophy was also presented to Rick Woeckener.

## OCTOBER

## NOVEMBER

### *1-2 – Mid Pines Hickory Open*

Played at the Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C.

The 20th annual Mid Pines Hickory Open welcomed about 75-80 golfers. The weather was glorious, said one participant. The greens were tough, said another. The event proved its share of excitement, perhaps underscored by the birdie, eagle, double bogie start to his round from Otey Crissman III who started on No. 10. His hole-in-one on No. 11 is said to be only the second for this hickory tournament in its 20 years (the first was in 2018, by Deal Hudson, on No. 2).

Cory Martin of Myrtle Beach, N.C., edged Will Peterson of Florida for the title. Bailey Weigandt of Louisville, Ky., always a tough competitor, hung on to best another hickory champion, Barb Kopec, by one stroke for the Ladies title.

## DECEMBER

### *9-10 – Florida Hickory Golfers Season Finale*

The Florida Hickory Golfers concluded another season with annual championships at Mount Dora Country Club. Once again, Will Peterson captured the Stevens Trophy. Carlos Debarros will take home the Heritage Trophy while Natalie Wells bested all the ladies for the new Rosemary Pabst Trophy. Results include bonus points earned from the year long monthly FHG events. The Mount Dora Golf Club was in fantastic shape and spectacular weather greeted us each day.