

THE NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

was established in 1998 to bring together golfers who enjoy playing golf in historic conditions, the way it was played before the turn of the century. Playing according to 19th century rules and using authentic 19th century equipment makes the NHC the sternest test of hickory golf contested anywhere. Open to all, the NHC draws the most ardent and accomplished wood shaft golfers from across America and Canada. Competitive, yet fun, it is America's hickory championship—the ultimate test of hickory golf.

The three 2015 champions pose on the 9th green with their trophies, the Allegheny Mountains in the background. L-R: Stephen Busic (Hickory, NC) Reserve Div.; Caty Goidel (Signal Mtn, TN) Women's Div., Bobby Sly (Kingston, Ont.) National Hickory Champion.



The National Hickory Championship is conducted over historic Oakhurst Links, first used in the early 1880s. Contestants in the Championship play 36 holes in two days. Clubs must be original 19th century or approved replicas (available for rent if you don't have your own set) and all players use the same modern-made, low-compression gutta percha-type balls with line cut covers available through the Championship. Tee shots are struck from sand tees. No golf bags are allowed so players carry clubs under their arm in the manner of the 19th century. There is a simple dress code. Although period costumes are not required, many golfers dress appropriately and prizes are presented to the "best dressed." The NHC is like no other hickory golf tournament here, in Britain or anywhere else in the world; it is authentic, competitive, historic, truly unique and, above all, fun!

2016 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

*The most authentic and
challenging hickory golf
competition in the world*

*Nineteenth Year
June 9-11, 2016*

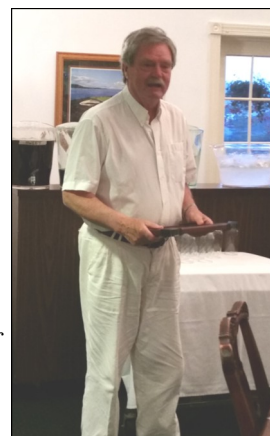
*Historic
Oakhurst Links
White Sulphur Springs,
West Virginia*

*NHC Tournament Office
PO Box 981
Kernersville, NC 27285
(336) 996-7836*

*nhc-golf@earthlink.net
www.hickorychampionship.org*



Leif Einarsson, Hestra, Sweden, expresses his thanks to the NHC group at dinner. He was just presented with the Dundee Prize, the Championship Director's recognition for meritorious service to hickory golf and the NHC.





The Championship offers competition in four divisions. The **Open Division** is a 36-hole scratch competition playing for the title of America's National Hickory Champion under 19th century equipment and rules. The **Men's Reserve** and **Women's Divisions** also use 19th century equipment and are scored on a handicap basis for 36 holes. The **Sporting Division**, open to men and women, features two nine-hole rounds for seniors and those not wishing to climb the hills twice in the same day. Additionally, the Elmore Just Foursomes Competition is staged on the practice day (Thursday) prior to the Championship rounds. Two-player teams play the historic format of alternate stroke for fun, prizes and an appreciation of how golf was played in the early 19th century. Practice time is also available on Thursday afternoon. Rule books are provided containing the 1891 unified code, the first general set of golf rules (with local Oakhurst provisions added). A welcome reception on Thursday and the Championship Dinner on Friday provide for socializing.



Left: Junior interns from *The First Tee* — Marsalis Davis (Liberty, North Carolina), Andy Windsheimer (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) & Garrett Beaver (Export, PA); Leif Einarsson (Hestra, Sweden) and Bob West (Kingston, Ontario), hickory golfers, pose next to a shagbark hickory tree; John Crow Miller (Dallas, Texas) and Bern Bernacki (Pittsburgh, PA) putt on the 9th green; US Open, Open Championship and PGA Championship winner Lee Trevino made a visit to the Thursday reception, chatted with golfers and posed for photos; **Above:** Ross Snelings (Augusta, Georgia) takes a turn cooking sausage dogs on the grill; Caty Goidel (Signal Mountain, Tennessee) and Gillian Alexander (Carmichaels, PA) on the putting green; **Right:** Frank Rosenzweig (Pittsburgh, PA) works at extricating his ball from the tall rough.



2016 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment Guide—19th Cent. Divisions (Open, Reserve & Sporting Divisions)

There is no limit to the number of clubs that can be carried.

Antique Woods:

Long nose, semi-long nose or bulger style; splice head; should have marks and shape (significantly elongated—**minimum 3" wide at narrowest part of the club face**) consistent with 19th century clubs/makers. Please think twice about using a valuable antique wood driver.

***No short head splice or socket woods allowed.

Replica Woods:

As above. Approved long head wood clubs available from Louisville Golf Co., Tad Moore or Heritage (St. Andrews).

Antique Irons:

Must be smooth faced and attributable (by markings) to 19th century origin. Irons with no markings must be inspected and approved before the tournament, or at prior GCS, SoHG or CHGA events.

Niblicks should be not greater than 2" high x 2.5" wide measured on the flat area of the face.

Replica Irons:

Oakhurst and Tad Moore. Must be smooth faced. Others approved by the committee.

Antique Putters (wood):

Any wood-shaft era (pre-1935) wood-headed putter in the long nose, semi-long nose or transitional shape that is heel-shafted is allowed. This includes splice head and later 20th century socket head putters as long as they are made in the 'mallet,' long nose or semi-long nose shape of the old style and heel-shafted.

Replica Putters (wood):

Louisville Golf Company long nose wood head/wood shaft putters allowed. Others by committee approval, following inspection.

Antique Putters (metal):

Metal head (steel or gun metal, i.e. bronze) blade putter or putting cleek only allowed if proven to be of 19th century origin by maker name or cleek mark.

***No Otey Crisman putters or aluminum head putters (Mills and other similar types) permitted.

***No Schenectadies, wood or aluminum

Common clubs categorically allowed:

(must be smooth faced)

- ◇ Tom Stewart irons with NO registration legend under the pipe mark
 - ◇ Stewart irons with serpent mark
 - ◇ All B.G.I. irons or semi-long head spliced woods
 - ◇ All Willie Park irons or semi-long head spliced woods (including Compressed Patent)
 - ◇ Spalding made irons—from these model series
 - SPALDING (name only in block letters)
 - "The Spalding"
 - Clan
 - SMC.
 - "Spalding Special" (script or block letters)
 - Vardon
 - Morristown (w/ no baseball mark)
 - ◇ Forgan with Prince of Wales plume mark
 - ◇ Irons by Willie Wilson, Robert Wilson, Robert White, John Gray and F&A Carrick
- ***No Non-wood shaft clubs allowed.
***No Otey Crisman putters allowed.
***No Callaway Hickory Sticks allowed.
***No Rubber slip-on grips. Leather wrap only.

Clubs made in the period 1900-1905 that have the characteristics of 19th century clubs may be eligible to obtain a special exemption and be approved for NHC play upon application to the Championship Director/Equipment Committee. Photos required.

GOLF BAGS

Open Division:

NO GOLF BAGS ALLOWED IN COMPETITIVE PLAY

(allowed in practice or Foursomes)

Clubs to be carried under arm, without bag.

Reserve/Sporting/Women's Divisions:

GOLF BAGS PERMITTED IN TOURNAMENT PLAY

ONLY with medical waiver from Championship Director

(allowed in practice or Foursomes)

Clubs to be carried under arm, without bag.

All equipment used in the NHC Tournament is subject to authentication and approval by the equipment/rules committee. If in doubt, contact the Championship Committee as far in advance of the tournament as possible for a ruling.

2016 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP DRESS CODE

GENTLEMEN:

OPEN, RESERVE & SPORTING DIVISIONS

Trousers—Long trousers or Knickerbocker trousers with knee socks (preferably solid color socks) only. Knickers are knee-length and fairly tight. Prefer **No** plus-fours (i.e. baggy, 1920s-style knee-trousers please!) or plus-sixes.

Kilts - permitted. Don't forget the sporran!

Shirt—Long sleeve shirt (roll up sleeves if you get warm). **No** knit golf shirts.

Tie (required for men)—Bow tie, neck tie, ascot or cravat.

Accessories—Vest or waistcoat allowed; (modern) golf glove permitted.

Shoes—Any style golf shoe permitted. Soft spikes, please.

Hat—Must be appropriate for period. Wide brimmed straw or felt hat, top hat, bowler or derby, flat cloth cap (Hogan cap) or short-billed games or cricket caps. **No** baseball-type caps or modern visors.

Note: Overly floppy plus-fours and argyle socks are not permitted in the Open Division and are discouraged from use in the Reserve Division. These are more commonly seen in the 1920s.

Apparel outlined in this guide is required for the rounds of competitive golf. At all other times (Foursomes, practice, Thursday reception, Friday dinner, etc.) casual clothing is allowed and encouraged

LADIES:

WOMEN'S & SPORTING DIVISIONS

Skirt or dress—Approximately ankle length.

Blouse or shirt—Please try to use period style. **No** knit golf shirts.

Hat—Attempt to maintain a period appearance. **No** visors.

Accessories—Vest, jacket, sweater or scarf allowed. Shoes, gloves, ties permitted as outlined for gentlemen. Since many lady's outfits have small or no pockets a small sack, satchel, basket or handbag is permitted for balls and 'necessary' accoutrements.

Apparel Philosophy:

The National Hickory Championship is a golf tournament not a costume party. Apparel is not expected to be authentic 19th century but merely to replicate the general type of clothing worn by golfers of the period. Please exercise good judgment but also be as comfortable as possible. Summer temperatures can be quite warm. In many of the past years' events media outlets—newspapers, magazines, TV/film—have been present and appreciate the 19th century image of the NHC.

*Prizes are presented for the best dressed man and woman at the NHC. **Friday** is photo day and you may choose that day to look your best if you bring more than one outfit.*

2016 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

SECTION 1 – Championship Entry (June 10-11, select one division)

Open Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes contesting for the title of **National Hickory Champion**.
Scratch stroke competition.

check here

Reserve Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes Net Stroke competition. Prior NHC handicap info required.

check here

Ladies Division

Fee: **\$400** 4 x 9 holes, Net Stroke competition. Hcp. info required from new players.

check here

Sporting Division

Fee: **\$325** 2 x 9 holes Stroke competition. Prizes for men & women (9 holes per day or 18 holes in one day)

check here

Amount



CONTESTANT INFORMATION

RETURN THIS FORM (OR COPY) WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ (please indicate Day, Evening or Cell)

E-Mail address _____

****First time players (only)**:**

Handicap or slope index: _____

CLUBS: Check one:

☐ I will bring my own 19th century clubs*

☐ I will rent McIntyre Clubs (\$100)

(19th Century clubs subject to equipment committee inspection & approval)

Name of non playing wife attending

(indicate metal shaft, wood shaft, or SoHG hcp.)

SECTION 2 – Practice Competitions; June 9

No Fee

“Elmore Just Foursomes Competition”: Alternate stroke competition on Thursday. Partners assigned by blind draw on first tee; stroke play = 9 holes, match may be = 9 or 18

Included with entry

Select style of play; *Clan Match* for teams of family-related players. (Match Play Eights contestants receive individual invitations)

****Course open for practice after Foursomes****

check here

Clan Match

check here

Stroke Play Foursomes

check here

Match Play Foursomes

SECTION 3 – Purchase a color ad in the 2016 Championship Program

Program Advert

(optional – receive extra copies)

DEADLINE March 15, 2016

Honor Roll @ **\$5.00**

check here

Business Card @ **\$10.00**
(Include card or we'll create one)

check here

1/2 Page **\$20.00**

check here

Full Page **\$40.00**

check here

Amount



NOTE!!

SECTION 4 – Friday Evening Dinner, June 10

NHC Dinner: Friday night buffet-style dinner with cash bar. Included in entry fee for players. Indicate additional number of places required for spouse, kids or friends:

Price: **\$60.00ea**

Number

Amount



SECTION 5 – Donation: The NHC donates clubs and fees to the “The First Tee” for junior participation. Your optional donation of \$10.00 (or more) helps defray our program costs. Thanks!

Amount



SECTION 6: Order Approved Golf Balls

Indicate the number of Brown-McIntyre “Park” balls you desire to purchase. Returning players may use balls from past NHCs (line cut gutties – “Park” or “Oakhurst”/“NHC”). McIntyre balls available from Dave Brown on line or on site.

*****PLEASE read the “balls” item in Newsletter #1*****

Price: **\$12.00 each Park.....**

Price: **\$5.00 each Braid.....**

(NO Oakhurst-style balls available for purchase this year)

Number

Number

Amount



Please make check or money order payable to “National Hickory Championship.”
Once entry is processed fee is non-refundable.

Total Amt. Enclosed:



THE 2016 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

Oakhurst Links
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
June 9-11, 2016

For 18 years the most authentic, complete and rigorous hickory golf competition in the world

- Players wishing to bring their own clubs must follow the specifications provided in the **Equipment Guide** and have clubs validated by the Equipment Committee before the commencement of play;
 - Rental clubs available – Contact Pete for details
 - NHC entry fee includes 18 or 36 holes of tournament play as well as Elmore Just Foursomes Competition, practice time, lunches, refreshments, prizes;
- Competitors may order balls on the entry form. Consult the Championship Committee for a list of approved ball types;
 - Appropriate dress is required (outlined on the accompanying page labeled **Dress Code**);
 - Divisions of competition include Open, Reserve, Women, Sporting
- “Elmore Just Foursomes Competition” is a separate event with prizes, which precedes the start of the Championship;
 - The Championship dinner is planned for Friday night at the Elks Club, Lewisburg, with spouses, friends and families welcomed. Foursomes prize and awards presentations following dinner;
 - Entry confirmation is subject to the approval of the NHC Championship Committee which shall determine eligibility as well as decide all questions regarding the rules;
 - Official NHC rule books are supplied to all golfers in arrival packets
- First-time players must supply hcp information from their home club, assn., or from Society of Hickory Golfers;
- To compete in the Reserve Division golfers should have two years prior NHC scores or established SoHG hcp.
 - **Confirmation of entry acceptance will be communicated within 30 days of entry receipt**

Waiver

By completing this entry form, the contestant releases Oakhurst Links, the Greenbrier Resort Company, the National Hickory Championship committee and event sponsors from all liability

Oakhurst Links is America's oldest documented golf course, first played in the early 1880s. It is the site of America's first recognized golf competition, the Oakhurst Challenge, and is on the National Register of Historic Places



THE NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

is an open championship comprised of two days play. It is the only competition that truly replicates golf of the 19th century and serves as America's national championship of wood shafted golf.

Mail Entry Form and Fee to:

National Hickory Championship

PO Box 981, Kernersville NC 27285-0981

Questions? Phone (336) 996-7836 or e-mail <nhc-golf@earthlink.net>

www.hickorychampionship.org

19th YEAR!!

**NATIONAL HICKORY
CHAMPIONSHIP**

June 9-11, 2016

Oakhurst Links

White Sulphur Springs, WV



Newsletter #1, January

MAJOR CHANGES IN APPROVED GOLF BALLS

Very Important. Please Read!!

The 2016 NHC will be the transition year for approved golf balls. The former Oakhurst/NHC ball is no longer available from the manufacturer in England. In 2013 the NHC approved the Brown-McIntyre ball for use and from NHC2016 on we will continue the transition to make this ball NHC standard equipment (Open Division). Being a domestically-based company whose owners are involved with the NHC makes Brown-McIntyre a more convenient vendor.

Please take a minute to understand what golf ball options are approved for 2016:

OPEN DIVISION — The two approved ball models for 2016 are the Brown-McIntyre “Park” ball and the former Oakhurst/NHC line cut ball from past years. It is the NHC’s intent to only approve the “Park” ball for use in the Open Division in 2017.

RESERVE / SPORTING / WOMEN’S DIVISIONS — In 2016 these balls are approved for play.

- Brown-McIntyre “Park” ball
- Brown-McIntyre “Braid” ball (provisional approval for 2016, pursuant to final decision after the Championship)
- Oakhurst/NHC line cut ball (foursomes and these divisions only)

Ball development continues and after the 2016 NHC the Championship Committee will evaluate the results from NHC2016 as well as technological developments from Brown-McIntyre as well as other ball makers. However the “Park” ball will be approved for the foreseeable future.

Brown-McIntyre balls are available from the company through their web site. Please let Dave know you will be playing in the NHC. Dave will also have a full inventory with him at Oakhurst for NHC2016. If you use the NHC entry form to order pre-paid balls (payable with entry fee) they will be packaged and awaiting you at Oakhurst before/during the Championship. Eventually, as the existing supply dwindles, the Oakhurst/NHC ball use may only be permitted in Foursomes and by Junior interns. <https://www.mcintyregolf.com/>

2016 NHC Agenda

Monday-Wednesday, June 6-8
Oakhurst Course open for green fee play

Thursday, June 9
Elmore Just Foursomes Competition, 11:00 AM
Course open for practice after Foursomes
Welcome reception 6:00-8:00 PM
Clubhouse Grounds

Friday, June 10
NHC Competition 7:30 AM-5:00 PM
Championship Dinner
Elks Club, Lewisburg 7:00 PM

Saturday, June 11
NHC Competition 7:30 AM-5:00 PM
Award Ceremony following golf

ANOTHER BALL ISSUE

If you have any number of Oakhurst/NHC balls in your inventory and you don't plan to use them in 2016 please let Pete know how many you possess. Because we cannot acquire this model ball any longer we want to re-purpose them in the most productive way. This may be through continued use in the Reserve Division, Foursomes, or with Junior interns. There may be a resale forum for those who want to sell/trade them.

Please let Pete know what number you have so we can ascertain applicable usage.

Hotel List Lewisburg, WV: (About 8 miles from Oakhurst Links)

Fairfield Inn 304 645-7999

Hampton Inn 304 645-7300

Holiday Inn Express . 304 645-5750

Quality Inn 304 645-7722
(Pet Friendly)

General Lewis Inn ... 304 645-2600
(Built 1834)

Greenbrier State Forest Cabins
(Caldwell, WV)...**304 536-1944**

Make your reservations early, weddings, reunions and other gatherings fill local hotels quickly as summer approaches. There is no single NHC hotel. Use the brand that best suits your awards program participation.

Golfers participating as part of the NHC Junior Intern program: Gillian Alexander (seated), Marsalis Davis, kilted Seth Lomison (nice flex in that shaft, Seth!) and Andy Windsheimer, playing from Oakhurst's earthen teeing grounds.



The trophy table ready for the awards presentation

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