

NHC 2013

Newsletter #3, March—April

Ball Rule for 2013

This is what will appear in the 2013 rule book:

Rule B-1: Two ball styles are approved for play in 2013:

Oakhurst Ball: A line-cut guttie-style ball marked "Oakhurst" or "NHC" in green, or

McIntyre/Brown Ball- A line-cut guttie-style ball produced by Chris McIntyre/David Brown

Penalty for breach of Rule B-1: Disqualification

Advisory Comments:

The player's ball should be marked for identification

Golf ball selection rules are not affected by a lost or unrecoverable ball

National Hickory Championship

Rule B-2: A stipulated NHC round is nine holes.

Rule B-3: Ball style may not be changed during a stipulated NHC round.

Penalty for breach of Rule B-3: Disqualification

The Course

On March 27 Keith Foster, the course architect who oversaw the restoration work performed last year, sent me this e-mail after visiting St. Martins to review progress.

Hi Pete,

I was at St Martin's yesterday and I am thankful to say the course is such a throw back to 1910. Rough and native will need to make a strong push although the greens, approaches and bunkers look excellent. The tees and fairways are also quite good.

Am sure you will have an excellent event.

Best, Keith



Rule B-4: Ball style for each stipulated NHC round must be identified on the player's scorecard.

Penalty for breach of Rule B-4: Two strokes

Rule B-5: Players are permitted to purchase or borrow balls from any source during a stipulated NHC round, provided the player's ball style does not change and play is not unduly delayed.

Elmore Just Foursomes

Rule B-6: Teams must hole out with the ball style played from the teeing ground. Team ball style on a hole will be determined by the player making the team's first stroke from the teeing ground.

Penalty for breach of Rule B-6: Loss of hole

A Few Quickies

CLUB RENTAL — if you need clubs please reserve as soon as possible. Chris has to ship sets from San Diego and needs advance notice. I've used his clubs and they are extremely well refurbished and very sturdy.

PROGRAM BOOK ADS — the deadline for placing an ad in the NHC program book is April 15. If you need to get Pete your copy, or want to place a display ad or business card please do so a.s.a.p.

DEPARTURE TIMES — the event is concluded with the awards ceremony around 5:00 PM on Saturday. If your travel plans require you to depart before then and you need an earlier tee time to meet your travel plans please see Pete Thursday or Friday (or write now).

Clubhouse Access

The Cricket Club has kindly allowed us access to the locker rooms in the clubhouse. Players can change clothes and use the restrooms (yes, *indoor* restrooms). Showers are available and there is an attendant in the locker room who can provide towels (so you don't have to bring your own or the hotel's). This should be very convenient for changing and cleaning up before the Thursday reception and the Friday Championship Dinner, eliminating a trip back to the hotel during afternoon rush hour.

Club Merchandise

In the starter's building at the edge of the course, the club pro shop will have a selection of club logo merchandise available for sale. There will be assistant professionals available to assist us in access to the course (early arrivers) and with merchandise sales. Director of Golf Jim Smith, Jr. has done a great deal to make the NHC welcome at the Cricket Club so look for a nice piece of apparel to take home with you. The Cricket Club logo is very distinctive. Wear it proudly.

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Dress Code

Just a friendly reminder that the dress code is in force for competitive golf rounds Friday and Saturday. Men—minimum of long pants/knickers, long sleeve shirt, tie. Women —long skirt/dress, appropriate blouse, hat.

At ALL OTHER TIMES—Thursday four-somes and reception, Friday dinner, awards, CASUAL dress is allowed (collared shirts, no jeans). Be comfortable. Friday morning on the first tee photos will be taken of all players.



Caddies

The Cricket Club has a caddie program and caddies can be made available if requested in advance. If you need one please contact Pete well before June 5.

Course Set Up

The venerable St. Martins Course has recently undergone a renovation by architect Keith Foster to bring back some authentic elements of 19th century golf. Some of the greens are now more rectangular in shape, a common motif in the earliest American courses and bunkering has been rearranged to resemble older courses.

Superintendent Dan Meersman will be prepping the course to create a fair but challenging set up. There will be thick rough (but not the waist high grass we've seen before) and the greens will be running at around 5 or less on the Stimpmeter. He'll also create earthen teeing grounds adjacent to the regular grass tee boxes for using sand tees. To accomplish this the grounds crew will scalp the fescue to get down to close to the dirt. Buckets of sand and water will be positioned at each teeing ground.

Drinking water is positioned by #3 green and #7 tee — remember that the holes run parallel to each other like a links course. We'll also have a tent near the #9 green for gathering, spectating and relaxing.

Early Arriver Golf

The St Martin Course will be available for play for early arrivers Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is a small frame starter's building at the edge of the course and parking lot where you can check in and pay the \$50 fee.