

Saluting Oakhurst Links

It is with great reluctance we say good bye to Oakhurst Links in 2013. Over the years since 1998 it has been the mother ship for competitive hickory golf in America. In fourteen championships Oakhurst has welcomed countless hickory players and made champions out of the best golfers.

The Keller family has proved to be the finest of hosts, supporters of the hickory game and championships. It is with profound appreciation that we leave Lewis Keller's golfing field of dreams. We have enjoyed wonderful times in West Virginia; our memories and friendships made in White Sulphur Springs will never fade. We look forward with anticipation to working with the new stewards of Oakhurst, the Greenbrier Resort, when they step forward.

With the changing of the guard at Oakhurst Links and the uncertainty that process brings, the National Hickory Championship must continue its traditions at a new venue in 2013. As Oakhurst Links returns to the golfing fold its future will include the highest level of hickory golf and we look forward to returning to White Sulphur Springs for a broad schedule of events.



Announcing 2013 in Philadelphia

The 16th edition of the National Hickory Championship shall be conducted over the Philadelphia Cricket Club's historic St. Martins Course June 6-8, 2013. "The Cricket Club" is the oldest country club in the United States, founded in 1854.

The St. Martins Course, laid out in 1897 by Willie Tucker, hosted the 1907 and 1910 US Open Championships as an 18-hole layout. Since then it has been reduced to nine holes, four of which remain virtually untouched from those Opens. The course has recently undergone a restoration to older conditions, perfect for hickory play, by architect Keith Foster.

The NHC format and the Thursday-Saturday schedule developed over the last six Championships will be maintained. The Cricket Club is excited to partner with the NHC to host this prestigious championship one week before the USGA's US Open Championship at nearby Merion Golf Club.

Full details will be available very soon. NHC contestants from prior years will be provided further e-mail notifications with entry and accommodation information.



Philadelphia Cricket Club Profile

As mentioned on the obverse, Philadelphia Cricket Club was founded in 1854. Some of the founding families were the builders of the railroad line leading north out of the city. The first course was laid out in 1895 and soon replaced by the (Willie Tucker) St. Martins course.

The club now has three golf courses. There are two 18-hole layouts near the St. Martin's clubhouse named "Militia Hill" (Hurdzan/Fry) built in 2002 and "Wissahickon" (Tillinghast) in Flourtown laid out in 1922. The St. Martin's course is in the district of the city known as Chestnut Hill. Thus the club has three courses built in three different centuries.

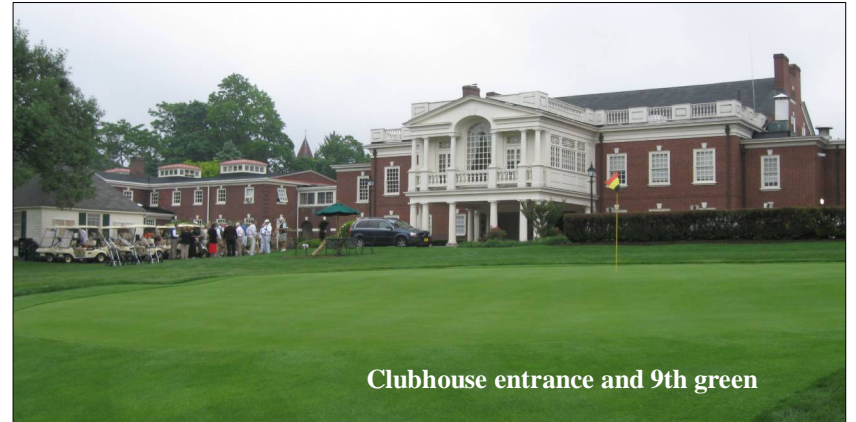
The Chestnut Hill clubhouse is a venerable and majestic building. The St. Martins course is at the front of the structure and the cricket pitch at the back side. When not being used for cricket the pitch is set up as 42 grass tennis courts.

An important historical note: Willie Anderson, only US Open champion to win three consecutive championships, was the professional serving The Cricket Club when he passed away in 1910.

The 1907 US Open was won by Alex Ross, Donald's brother.

The 1910 US Open finished with the three-way playoff between Alex Smith, Macdonald Smith and Johnny McDermott. Alex was tied for the lead after 71 holes. At the 72nd hole he drove his tee shot 254 yards onto the tiny green. However he three putted to wind up in the playoff which he won the following day.

The St. Martins course will be set up to approximately 2400 yards with the famous 9th hole (the 18th in the old days), named "The Inn", awaiting players attempting to replicate Smith's sensational drive. At around 200 yards the 9th green in front of the clubhouse entrance will make an inviting target to be followed by a walk rich in golf history.



Clubhouse entrance and 9th green



Czar driving on the 9th from the back tee with 20th century hickories