

HICKORY SHAFT GOLF TOURNAMENTS

How good would you look all tricked out in turn of the century (the other century, 1900) golfing regalia? That's what I'm talking about! Oh Yes! You're the man! The spitting image of Bobby Jones, Bagger Vance, maybe even Old Tom Morris. But why you ask would I dress like that when it's not Halloween? Because you can! You just know you would be the best dressed duffer around. And there are numerous opportunities across this great nation of ours to participate in hickory shafted golf tournaments. What an incredible excuse to travel to some awesome golf courses and rub shoulders with likeminded extroverts.

You might need to bring in your resident shopping expert however. The experience they bring to the table in the shopping realm would be invaluable. And getting them involved would help support your explanation for the need to participate in these gatherings. In addition to which perhaps the better half might be an exceptional player in their own right and want a piece of this costume action. The tournament dress code is probably somewhat flexible considering plus 4's, knickers, Argyle knee socks, V neck sweaters, pork pie hats with matching or not bow ties may take a little getting used to. The comfort factor of a golf shirt versus being tied down necessitates some adjustment.

Oh that's right! What about clubs? The dress code is one thing, but coming up with a complete set or two of original Hickory sticks is another issue. Well I for one have been incredibly fortunate. Grand Pa's old set was stored for decades up in the garage, the odd club picked up on E-Bay, the antique store, and summer auctions have filled my needs. There was an article suggesting having a backup set and it was absolutely spot on as my first time out I broke two clubs. Over the years the wood has become brittle, so taking a little velocity off the swing and using lower compression balls will help the longevity of your clubs. Broken clubs make great display clubs for your man cave.

There are companies on line that specialize in marketing antique clubs as well as reproductions. Bags and period balls can be purchased, but be sure to check out the tournament rules as some have different registration requirements regarding the authenticity and different categories of new versus ancient clubs. And yes they do check. Rewrapping the leather grips and rewhipping the string don't seem to be an issue. A heavy dose of linseed oil may help.

Here is an incomplete list of the names of clubs before they became numbers and a wild guess at that a few might equate to.

Baffy	Cleek – 4W	Ginty	Mashie Niblick	Push Iron
Benny	Driver – 1W	Jigger	Midiron – 3	Spade Mashie
Brassie – 2W	Driving Iron	Lofter	Niblick – wedge	Spoon – 3W
Bulldog	Driving Mashie	Mashie	Putter	

Following are a few web sites offering tournaments. Of course if you type in some combination of hickory, shaft, antique golf club and tournament there are plenty of sites for both tournaments and places to acquire clubs.

Hickorygolfers.com

Hickorygolfassociation.org

Foregolftournament.com

Here are the first 5 of 12 tournaments listed under the hickorygolfers.com site as an example

U. S Hickory Open	Bay Course – Seaview Resort	Galloway, N. J.
The Heart of America	Field Club of Omaha	Omaha, Neb.
Swedish Hickory	Landskrona Golf Club	Landskrona, Sweden
Catskill Hickory	Catskill Golf Club	Catskill, N. Y.
Hickory Kummel Cup	Lawsonia Links	Green Lake, Wisc.