

NEWS RELEASE ISSUED BY Carnoustie Country

DATE: Wednesday, August 10, 2016

World Hickory's Carnoustie Country Swansong

After five highly successful years in Carnoustie Country, 2016 will be the final time the World Hickory Open will be played there – at least for the next year or two!

“Never say never,” said organiser and co-founder of the World Hickory Open, Lionel Freedman. “We’ve enjoyed a wonderful five years of competing Carnoustie Country’s wonderful links courses, which are in and around the county of Angus, and we’re leaving on a high, with the World Hickory Open 2016 being played at Panmure from 10-14 October.

“Panmure, which is an Open qualifying course, is steeped in history and tradition. Panmure is the world’s 16th oldest golf club and the Medal course was the site of Ben Hogan’s legendary practice rounds before he won the 1953 Open at neighbouring Carnoustie Championship – and Panmure Medal was also where Sandy Lyle won the 2014 World Hickory Open.

“The 2016 World Hickory Open is a great opportunity for hickory golfers of all skill levels to experience the game on a top class links course, using hickory clubs similar to those used by golfers at Panmure over a century ago and, if so desired, wearing traditional clothing of the era.”

Lionel explained that The World Hickory Open, which is open to amateur and professional golfers, attracts many of the world’s top hickory golfers, including previous winners Paolo Quirici from Switzerland; Rick Valentine, who is the grandson of famous ladies golfer, Jessie Valentine; and last year’s winner, Andrew Marshall. “During our time in Carnoustie Country, our reputation has continued to grow and the World Hickory Open is now an unmissable event in the international hickory golf calendar,” continued Lionel.

Lionel revealed that hickory golf is becoming increasingly popular all over the world, with golfers enjoying the challenge of playing with hickory golf clubs and the camaraderie fostered by the hickory version of the game. “Every year, there are more entrants and we’re currently on course to reach 120 competitors,” continued Lionel. “They will be travelling to Panmure from 18 different countries, including Australia, Dubai, Germany, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and, for the first time, China and Japan.

“Carnoustie Country is incredibly popular with hickory golfers, possibly on account of the excellent links courses and rich golfing heritage of this area, where golf has been played for over 450 years,” said Lionel. “We will be sad to leave – but we’re really looking forward to our Carnoustie Country swansong in October.”

The 2016 World Hickory Open starts on October 10 with a warm-up team competition, followed by the tournament on October 11 and 12 and finishing

with a special two-day International Triangular Match between teams from Europe, Scandinavia and The Americas, which will be played at Arbroath.

“Arbroath is another links gem,” said Lionel. “Originally designed by Old Tom Morris in 1877, then by Willie Fernie and, finally, in 1931, by James Braid, Arbroath may not be one of the better known Carnoustie Country courses but when we played it in 2013, everyone raved about it.”

Entries to the World Hickory Open are £300, which includes a Gala Dinner and prize-giving reception, with an additional £150 charge for the International Triangular Match.

To find out more about the World Hickory Open 2016, or to download an entry form, visit www.worldhickoryopen.com. To find out more about the 34 Carnoustie Country golf courses within a 40-minute drive of Carnoustie Championship, including ‘stay and play’ packages, visit www.carnoustiecountry.com, ‘like’ the Carnoustie Country Facebook page or follow Carnoustie Country on Twitter.

Caption: Golfers competing in the 2014 World Hickory Open at Panmure.

Credit: Photography © Carnoustie Country

Editor’s Notes

1. There are 34 Carnoustie Country courses in and around the county of Angus, including the Carnoustie Championship Course. Carnoustie Country is Angus Council’s golf destination campaign and hosts golf tournaments, events working in partnership with the golf industry in Angus, East Perthshire and North Fife to promote the area as a world class golfing destination.