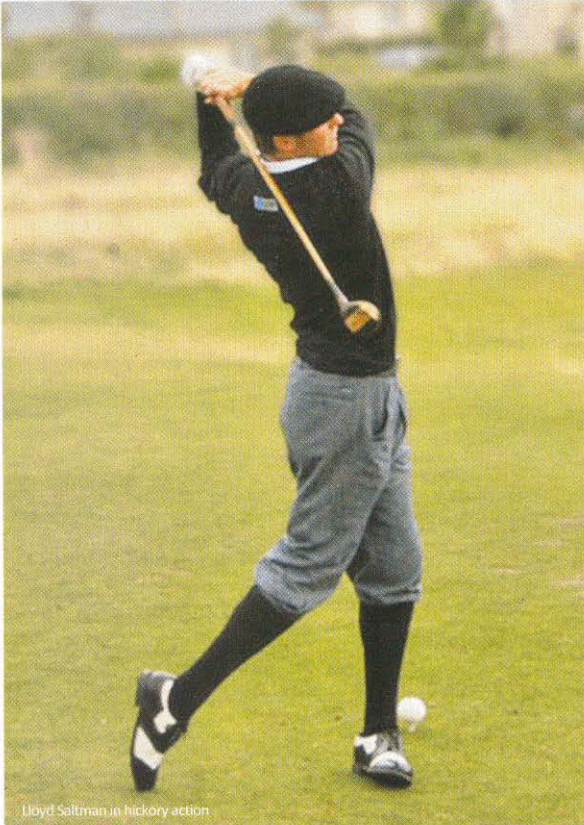


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Lloyd Saltman in hickory action

Hickory golf attracts worldwide interest

Those behind the inaugural World Hickory Golf Open have revealed plans for a new event linking hickory with the world's oldest playing golf course.

Following the successful staging of the fourth PGA World Hickory Open (WHO) at Craighielaw, plans were unveiled for a new International Hickory Challenge to be held over the historic Old Course at Musselburgh.

At the hickory staged golf events, players enjoy golf the traditional way wearing old-fashioned golf clothing and using the hickory clubs of old.

Already the event, open to professionals and amateurs alike, has attracted interest from golf enthusiasts USA, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Australia and other countries around the world, desperate to try their hand at playing a tournament using the traditional methods.

The two-day event, due to be held on September 20 and 21 this year, will feature a handicap medal-play event on day one. The top 20 players, respectively representing Scotland and overseas, from the handicap-medal play round will then qualify for the second day, which will proceed in a Ryder Cup style format which sees Scotland's players take on those from the Rest of the World.

"The economic and cultural benefit to the local community, as well as to the area, of this Challenge are potentially significant," said Ewan Glen, Director of both St Andrew Golf Company and WHO.

"With the management team of The PGA World Hickory Open combined with Musselburgh's historical contribution to the game of golf, stretching back over four hundred years, we believe we are giving the Challenge every chance of becoming a successful annual event."