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Hickory 'almost' Open

THE £12,500 PGA World Hickory Open at Gullane on Sept 24 and 25 has already attracted entries from 30 pros and looks to be headed for a sell-out yet again.

According to Hickory Open Chairman Lionel Freedman, there are 15 places left for professionals mainly from the Tartan Tour and these look certain to be filled in the next three weeks leading up to the curtain-raiser festival of golf.

This latter event takes place at Musselburgh Old and is the first professional tournament to be held over the East Lothian classic links layout for 104 years, when the tournament was won by Harry Vardon. There are still a handful of amateur places available for this two-day opening hickory event (Sept 20 and 21) although there is a full professional entry and plenty of internationalists from the UK and overseas. Clubs are supplied.

Key entrants are past PGA winner Andrew

Oldcorn, Italian Open winner Dean Robertson, Jackie Montgomerie who is the present Captain of the Scottish PGA, Sweden's Pierre Fulke, 2002 Ryder Cup player, the French Hickory champ Perry Somers and German Hickory Open champ Iain Forrester.

In addition, Freedman expects Randy Jensen and Mike Stevens, both past US Hickory champions, to compete this year.

Previous Hickory winners Lloyd and Zack Saltman are also expected to take part.

The World Hickory pro-am over the testing Gullane 2 links has already attracted 40 teams with 45 being the maximum that the course can accommodate.

Sponsorship this year is from The Homecoming and East Lothian Council.

Further information from Lionel Freedman on 0131 665 4861 or Michael Westmacott on 0131 331 1205 or from www.worldhickoryopen.com

