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Tee-off for World Hickory Open

TWENTY Tartan Tour golfers competed for the Musselburgh International Hickory Open at the Old Links on Sunday – believed to be the first professional competition held there since the Musselburgh Open in 1906.

An array of talent entered the event which requires the use of hickory clubs, including past PGA champion Andrew Oldcorn and former Italian Open Winner Dean Robertson, but the eventual winner was Robert Annott from Bishopbriggs Golf Club with a score of 71.

In second place was Lindsay Mann, Carnoustie, with 73; and joint third was county native Fraser Mann from Musselburgh, next was Klas Ohlsson, Sweden, and Perry Somers, Australia on 74. Amateur scratch winner was

Craigielaw's Alan Minto on 77 and the handicap winner was Boris Leitow, (Germany) with 76.

The event was supported by East

Lothian Council and Scottish Home-

coming. In the professional contest, golfers played an 18-hole medal on a bright and breezy day on the links, which had been prepared to a very high standard.

The following day, saw an exciting match between the pros and amateurs

in a Ryder-Cup format of nine holes fourballs, nine holes foursomes followed by nine holes singles.

After the first nine, the amateurs

were leading by five points and the second nine holes gave the amateurs a lead of 12 points to eight.

However, after the final nine holes singles, the Pros redeemed themselves and the final score was professionals 22, amateurs 18.

All the competitors and guests were entertained to a dinner in the

Old Weighing Room Bistro at Musselburgh Racecourse.

Prizes were presented by Provost Sheena Richardson of East Lothian Council with guest speaker Professor David Purdie, of Royal Burgess, Sunningdale and Pine Valley G.C.

Grace and benediction was given by Archie Baird, the well-known golf historian who was accompanied by his wife Sheila – a grand daughter of four-time Open Championship winner Willie Park Sr.

The £12,500 PGA World Hickory Open was due to begin yesterday (Thursday) at Gullane.

The ProAm was due to take place yesterday while the Open tees-off today (Friday) at Gullane Golf Club on course one.

