



Leith Rules Golf Society 1744

The Hickory Open at Leith Links - 9 July 2022

Ten teams competed in the Hickory Open on Saturday 9th July. A beautiful day with temperatures in the low 20s, a light breeze but hard fast running fairways and the Leith links greens presented the players with challenges. The consensus of opinion amongst the players was that the low running approach was preferred over the flighted pitch.

The Hickory Open had an international flavour this year following an approach on Saturday morning from James Howard and his father Rick from The USA. Unfortunately they didn't have time to play the 15 holes but we managed to accommodate them and they played the five hole layout and got the unique Leith Links experience.



The first four teed off at 10.30am followed by the remaining matches at ten minute intervals. The format was 3 rounds medal play to determine the winners of the scratch and handicap trophies.



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The winners of the Hickory Open (below) with a gross 65 were Munro Heating, represented by Clark Munro and Josh Cairns, thus retaining their trophy.



In second place one shot behind with 66 were Andy Crawford and Richard Hewitt from Munro Bathrooms. In third place with 69s were AlandAl (Alastair Chalmers and Alex Fleming) and the MOETs - Merchants of Edinburgh Tourists, Jeff White and Geoff Harris playing for the first time.

The winners of the Handicap Trophy (below) were The Uphalliers represented by two new LRGS members Kevin Wilson and Hugh Ferguson with a fine core of net 52.





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n second place were Munro Bathrooms with a net 56 and third equal one shot behind with The 57s (below left) were MADEP (Elaine Walker and Pat Denzler) and (below right) The 59'ers (Geoff Johnston and Yves Foulis).



The full scores (net in brackets) were:

Munro Heating	65 (60)
Munro Bathrooms	66 (56)
AlandAl	69 (59)
MOETs	69 (59)
Troon C GC	73 (68)
Uphalliers	75 (52)
Merchants	76 (61)
Niblick Giblets	77 (65)
The 59'ers	81 (57)
MADEP	81 (57)



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Hickory golf is so different in many ways to our modern game, highlighted by the experience of AlandAI and their playing partners, the Niblick Giblets. On the 5th with AlandAI's tee shot, the clubhead detached from the hickory shaft and careered up the fairway; the ball did go further though not as straight! Not to be outdone, on the very next hole, the same fate befell Niblick Giblets. We don't have too many broken clubs, so to have 2 in consecutive holes was definitely a "first".



The prizes were presented to the winners by Jim Scanlon, Chair of Leith Links Community Council.

This year we were well provided with a team of six marshals lead by Charles Urquhart. Our thanks are due to Charles, Anne Bennet, Rhonan Bennett, Jim Scanlon, Ian Thompson and Ian Whyte.

As always our thanks are due to Seafield Bowling Club for their hospitality over the four days of our events. Also thanks are due to the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club for getting their greenstaff to the links at very short notice to cut the greens and tees as illness had prevented the Winterfield greenkeeper from attending.