



HICKORY  
GOLF MASTERS

Press Release No. 7

Hickory Golf Masters SA

# First major champion in Hickory golf in history: Markus Brier wins the Hickory Masters 2026

Villa d'Este, 14-05-2026

**Markus Brier won the Hickory Masters 2026 at Circolo Golf Villa d'Este in Italy, becoming the first major champion in hickory golf. The Austrian tour professional, who has two wins on the DP World Tour and two on the Legends Tour, won by a single stroke ahead of overnight leader Paolo Quirici (Switzerland), the 2013 Hickory World Champion. Quirici shared second place with German tour professional Thomas Gögele.**

The two days could not have been more different in terms of weather: sunshine and a light breeze in the first round and rain and thunderstorms on the final day. Today's final round was interrupted twice due to lightning and thunder. The 37 hickory golfers from 16 nations faced an additional challenge.

Paolo Quirici, arguably the "world's best Hickory golfer" according to Claus Mühlfeit, the event manager of the Hickory Masters 2026, was still in the lead at the second weather-related interruption. Playing in the final flight, he and his closest rival, Markus Brier, had two and a half holes left to play. Quirici put himself in contention with a birdie on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Brier managed to keep up with Quirici thanks to a chip-in for par, and then made a series of birdies on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes. He ultimately secured the 'Silver Rake Niblick' by a single stroke.

The Hickory Masters 2026 marks the beginning of a new tradition, and a new chapter in golfing history that will continue to be written in the years to come. It is the first major tournament in the history of hickory golf, and it more than deserves this title. Perry Somers (Australia), the 2010 Hickory World Champion, enthuses: 'This is the first tournament ever where hickory golf is experienced in its entirety. The same rules apply as 100 years ago: original clubs, no replicas, everyone using the same ball and wearing a shirt and tie or bow tie. I love it.'

More information and pictures of this historic event will be available soon.

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## ABOUT HICKORY GOLF MASTERS SA

Hickory Golf Masters SA (HGM) is a Swiss company devoted to honoring golf's earliest traditions. From materials to etiquette, we uphold the authentic spirit of the game – without compromise. Through its four divisions (museum, tournaments, club, shop), HGM upholds hickory golf's rules of play, etiquette, materials, and cultural heritage, while building a global community that shares its devotion. We do not merely preserve history; we continue it.

HGM was co-founded by Paolo Quirici, Switzerland's most accomplished professional golfer and 2013 World Open Hickory Champion. His deep passion for hickory golf defines our vision. Alongside him stands Sergey Sarkisants, fellow enthusiast and strategic mind behind the company's development. Together, they embody our dual pursuits: heritage and excellence.

### Hickory Masters 2026

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2026

Circolo Golf Villa d'Este, Lake Como, Italy

[www.hgm.golf](http://www.hgm.golf)

For further details and information, please visit the website of Hickory Golf Masters SA <https://hgm.golf/press> or contact:

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