



HICKORY
GOLF MASTERS

Press Release No. 6

Hickory Golf Masters SA

The Hickory Masters 2026 is being led by Quirici, with Brier and Nyman close behind

Villa d'Este, 13-05-2026

The first round of the Hickory Masters 2026 has now finished. With a score of 68 (one under par), 2013 Hickory World Champion Paolo Quirici (Switzerland) is leading the field at Villa d'Este in Italy. Legends Tour professional Markus Brier (Austria) is in second place, one stroke behind. Per Nyman (Sweden) is a further stroke behind.

However, ahead of Thursday's final round on 14 May, Tour professionals Thomas Gögele (Germany, 72), Andrew Marshall (England, 73) and Emanuele Canonica (Italy, 75), as well as two-time Hickory European champion Iain Forrester (Scotland), are still harbouring hopes of victory in the first major Hickory golf tournament and of winning the 'Silver Rake Niblick'.

In perfect weather conditions (light winds and sunshine), 37 Hickory golfers from 16 countries competed on the superbly prepared, 100-year-old Lake Como course today. The Hickory Masters is played exclusively with clubs that were handcrafted before 1935. Only the official tournament ball is permitted, enabling players to experience the game in its original form. The course layout for the Hickory Masters 2026 is based on that of 1926, when the course was built and the club was founded.

The difficulty of playing with historic equipment is underlined by the fact that only one player remained below the course standard of 69: the hickory shafts are softer than modern tour shafts and the clubheads are significantly smaller, offering no margin for error. "The birdie on the 18th was naturally my highlight," said Paolo Quirici after day one. He recorded a total of four birdies in the opening round and will start the second day as the 'leader in the clubhouse'.

The final round, which starts on Thursday 14 May at the Circolo Golf Villa d'Este at 10 am from tees 1 and 10, promises to be an exciting battle for the title. A total of 30,000 euros in prize money is also up for grabs in the professional rankings. The outcome is still undecided in the two amateur categories (Amateurs and Seniors) too.



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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

13th & 14th of May 2026

Circolo Golf Villa d'Este, Lake Como, Italy

Visitors are welcome. Free entry.

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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