

Warned for the Walker Cup

Choosers, Chosen and the Critics

By Berwick Law

hour is of only about 20 minutes' duration, and the golfers' trial extends over two full days, it may be arguable that the golfers' test is the more severe. From now till May is no longer time than is necessary to attain the physical condition without which the quest is vain.

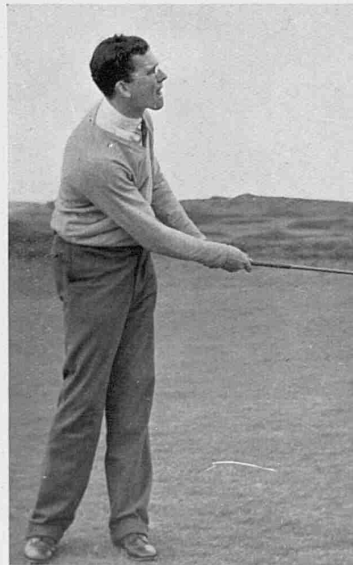
THE announcement of the names of sixteen players who have been warned to hold themselves in readiness for the Walker Cup trials at St. Andrews early in May, has, needless to say, started that favourite amusement selector-baiting. This pastime has its fascination. For one thing, it is so easy and puts no undue strain on even a moderate intelligence; then, in addition, an audience can always be attracted by vehement denunciation of anybody who has been told off to do a public job. But I cannot bring myself to believe that our chances of success at St. Andrews will be enhanced thereby.

I think, perhaps, that the announcement did not make clear enough that the ultimate choice will not necessarily be made exclusively from the sixteen players mentioned. They have, as I imagine, taken eight or so names, who at the moment seem to them like being the most likely candidates, and from them they will form at least a nucleus. It seems possible that they have made up their collective mind to rule right out several who have been tried in the past and whose records are already well known, and to concentrate on a likely young team. Should these prove wanting the old choices are still there.

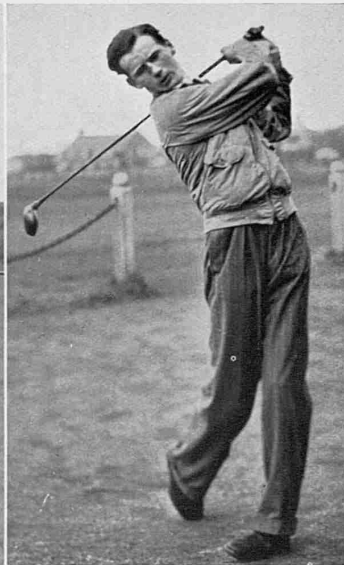
I confess that I was rather surprised that the name of D. H. R. Martin did not appear among the elect. He has, to be sure, the reputation for being a score-play golfer rather than a match-player, but he is at his best over 36 holes, and it seemed to me that his early selection might have given him just the needed confidence to acquire the winning spirit. The self-denying ordinance appears to debar C. J. H. Tolley from the side, but those who saw him win (at last) the Putter must wonder how we can afford to do without him. As this team is a representative one the selectors have quite rightly ignored territorial representation, but I am rather surprised that there are only four Scotsmen in the sixteen and Ireland, I fancy, will feel an injustice in the exclusion of J. Fitzsimmons.

Importance of Captaincy

One selection, in any case, has been received with unanimous applause, and that is that of John Beck, as captain, to whom I referred in last



THE UNKNOWN? E. Bromley Davenport, of Wilmslow, has been selected among the 16 Walker Cup "Probables," and many are asking why. May we remind them that Bromley Davenport took Charles Sweeney to the 19th hole in last year's Amateur Championship and has already a great local reputation along that string of magnificent courses in Cheshire and Lancashire?



BEARER OF A FAMOUS NAME: The late Jack Graham was one of the greatest golfers that ever came from Hoylake, and young J. A. Graham (Hoylake) his nephew, and a son of Alan Graham, who reached the final of the Amateur Championship at Hoylake in 1921, is following in the family tradition. The Walker Cup Selectors are giving youth its chance to show its worth this time.

week's issue. Some time ago I suggested that a little Carthusian spirit in our Walker Cup team would be an asset. That spirit Beck is admirably equipped to infuse into four men.

Things are being done rather differently this time from before. In past years our record has not been impressive: perhaps this time the tide will turn. If it does not then we can all explain how it should have been managed. Certainly this early notice is wholly commendable. It is as necessary to be fighting fit and in the pink of condition to play in golf of such quality as it is in order to row in the boat-race (that incredible public feast) and in fact since the wet bobs' little

selection. The great thing is to get into the competitive frame of mind so as to come to the final test with no overwhelming sensation of the importance of the occasion.

With regard to practice it is perhaps worth mentioning that our best amateur since the war, Sir Ernest Holderness, was the most persistent practiser, and probably played fewer actual rounds than anyone in his class. Naturally, each of us has his favourite golfing doctor when things go wrong. Presumably each of the chosen sixteen will put himself in the hands of his own particular mentor forthwith and get down to hard work at once. In conclusion, let us appreciate that the selectors are doing their best and let the men they have chosen know that we are ready to believe in them.

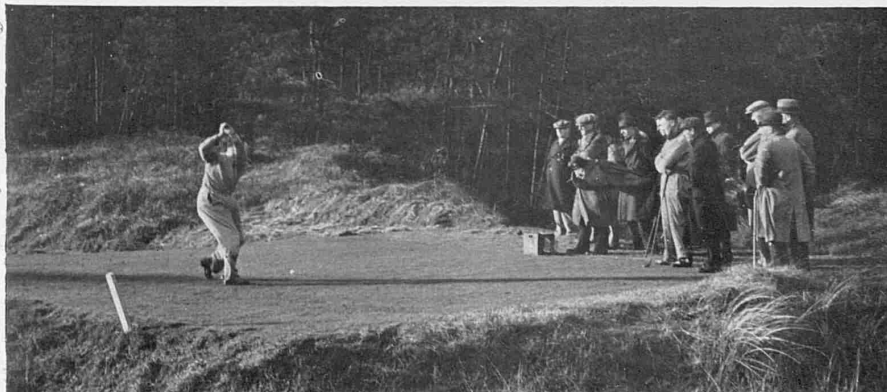
An Example

One of the elect told me the other day that he has cut out tobacco and drink until he knows his fate. "If I don't get my place, or, having got it, fail to win my match it will not be on the score of condition." Admirable man: surely the prize is worth the sacrifice? It is a very high compliment to represent your country in any capacity, and this gentleman, for one, appreciates it. As he might well have represented his country at other even greater sports his example should carry considerable weight.

Some people have the strength of mind to carry out a self-imposed duty; those who doubt their ability to keep to a regular régime should put themselves in the care of a competent trainer who will keep them at it. The fit man will always beat the unfit man, especially over 36 holes, and the American team will most certainly be a fit man.

Competitive Practice

Training and practice, of course, depend on the individual requirements of each player, but all of those who have so far been selected should take every opportunity of playing in matches and competitions whenever possible until the day comes. It should, too, be made clear that failure in such events will not prejudice their chance of eventual



THE SPALDING CUP: C. Timmis and J. Adams, of Royal Liverpool, won the Spalding Cup at Formby, beating Wallasey (G. Sleater and W. H. Davies) in the final by 4 and 2. This is the Liverpool district four-somes championship. C. Timmis, with his very full swing, is driving from the 6th tee in a corner of the pine woods which were planted to prevent the encroachment of the blown sand which was threatening to bury the course.

Right: FULL IRON: J. Adams, the Hoylake professional, also uses a very full swing, even with his irons. Here he is playing his tee shot to the ninth.

