

**Golf**

**CHESHIRE TITLE**

**Qualifying Rounds Completed**

By a Special Correspondent

WARRINGTON, WEDNESDAY.

Rain threatened early in the morning to damp the spirit of the '93 competitors in the Cheshire county amateur championship on the Warrington club's course at Appleton to-day, but a westerly wind, although blowing from a teasing direction across the holes, did police duty by keeping the clouds moving and sent the rain about its business in other quarters. Warrington had had rain with the exception of one day for the past week, however, and the course was playing long. The greens, normally slow, were almost defiant of the putter's strength; the undulating course is studded with trees, ominous sentinels beckoning to the ball hit off the line, and to the golfer things of beauty only after they have been safely passed. All told, the conditions were so difficult that early 76's wore more than a respectable air, and finally an aggregate of 163 for 36 holes failed to qualify for the match-play stages, which begin to-morrow among the 32 survivors.

While we were trying to compute a qualifying aggregate sufficiently generous to forgive the lapses of the competitors A. Walker (Delamere) shattered our speculations by bringing in a first-round card of 71, four strokes under par, which led the returns by three strokes from K. B. Taylor (Wilmslow). Walker began auspiciously with an eagle three; his second shot to the first green (433 yards) was five yards past the pin, and he holed his putt. The second hole tried to intimidate him—he was bunkered and finally missed a five-foot putt for his five,—but this was the only six on his card. He was out in 35 and home in 36, and when the greens eluded his second shots he chipped with such judgment that he had single putts at no fewer than eight holes. In addition to his eagle, he had five birdies, and his round remained unchallenged throughout the day except by a great effort in the afternoon by E. B. Davenport.

Taylor's 74—39 out and 35 in—was stalwart and steady, but it had its weaker moments with three putts at the fourth, seventh, ninth, and tenth holes. W. Sutton (Mere), who has already had his fill of championship victories—he has won the Cheshire title three times,—was close behind the leaders with 75, which equalled the scratch score and was the result of consistently good play, with an excusable six at the fifth (520 yards) as the only departure from championship standards. But 76's were still able to command respectful notice.

Among the five cards returned in the first round at this figure was that of the champion, H. E. Walker (Sale). Walker was out in 39, equal to par and he would have done much better than his 37 coming home but for a six at the short eleventh of 180 yards—called Coronation though it scarcely served to crown the champion's efforts. He pulled his tee shot into a big bunker, hit the ball out too cleanly over the green and under trees, hacked his way back in four, and belatedly took the regulation two putts. The other three short holes he did in 2, 3, 3, so that he collected a somewhat mixed bag, the variety of which was enriched by three putts on four greens.

**A Rousing Finish**

A 76 was attained by G. Sleath, of Wallasey, in a finish which touched the heights and depths of golfing emotion. At the sixteenth he drove into a bunker he had forgotten was there, tried to get out with a heavy iron, and stayed where he was; three putts gave him a seven in sight of the clubhouse. At the seventeenth his tee shot was only two yards from the pin, and he sank the putt for a two, balm to his wounded spirit. On the same level as Sleath was P. Clarke, a Sale player still in his teens; as youth must be served it had better be stated now that Clarke improved by one stroke on this round in the afternoon, going out in 39 and home in 36, exact par figures and thus finished prominently among the qualifiers.

Two former champions, J. Abraham (Prestbury) and J. Braid, jun. (Ringway), played together, and with rare companionship shared an adventurous round which brought Braid back in 80 and Abraham in 80. In spite of the presence of four short holes, the first three the pair produced was an eagle by Abraham at the 473-yard thirteenth; he got his bogey at the short seventeenth, which also kindly presented Braid with his only three of the round. The Ringway golfer was present on behalf of his club team, and though he was safely in the qualifiers he did not claim his place.

Re-entering competitive golf after a fairly long absence, J. Woollam, English champion in 1933 and 1935, laboured under the handicap of a recent illness and took 79 in the morning. He improved in the afternoon with 74, which contained as its attractive interludes three threes and a two at the seventeenth; Woollam was one of the few players who conquered this difficult hole.

Bringing in another 71, A. Walker led the qualifiers with a total of 142, being six strokes ahead of Davenport. This time the third was the only blemish on his outward journey, but the ground lost by his six there was recovered by a two at the 257-yard long sixth and a birdie three at the eighth. He was cut in 35 and home in 36. He was playing with Davenport, and even his excellence was dimmed by the brilliance of his partner's homeward half. Davenport from the turn reached the last tee four under fours. His 12-yard putt for a four at the last hole hit the hole for a 69. Tragically, he missed the four-foot return putt and the four became a six.

Twenty-seven players with scores up to 162 qualified. Six players tied at 163 for the last five places; a play-off hung over them, but G. Few, of the home club, in obliging a fellow-competitor with a lift to Stockport also obliged his rivals. He was given until 8 30 to turn up, failed to do so, and the other five were in without having to play nine more tiresome holes.

**THE SCORES**

	1st rd.	2nd rd.	Tl.
A. Walker, Delamere	71	71	142
E. Bromley-Davenport, Wilmslow	77	71	148
G. Sleath, Wallasey	76	74	150
F. Clarke, Sale	76	75	151
H. E. Walker, Sale (holder)	75	76	152
J. Woollam, Hooton	79	74	153
K. B. Taylor, Wilmslow	74	79	153
W. Sutton, Mere	75	80	155
T. R. Holmes, Warrington	76	80	156
E. A. Murray, Stockport	76	80	156
W. Kinsey, Bomley	75	81	156
J. Abraham, Prestbury	82	75	157
W. Fraser Lee, Bramall Park	79	79	158
R. Hollingrake, Prestbury	81	77	158
S. Meenam, Sale	82	77	159
A. Bennett, Warrington	81	79	160
H. L. Holden, Bowdon	79	81	160
A. J. Ashworth, Sandiway	77	83	160
H. Harding, Heaby	81	80	161
E. Caville, Stockport	81	80	161
L. G. H. Copley, Sandiway	77	84	161
L. A. Leach, Warrington	82	79	161
E. D. Jones, Bramall Park	81	80	161
J. Bennett, Warrington	81	80	161
J. Godfrey, Sandiway	79	82	161
A. Taylor, Arrowe Park	81	81	162
F. G. Bryant, Helsby	79	83	162
H. S. Thomson, Lymm	77	86	162
H. G. Rylands, Warrington	84	79	163
E. Rickett, Stockport	82	81	163
A. Morris, Warrington	83	80	163
E. P. Pearce, Warrington	83	80	163

**OTHER SCORES**

163—G. Few, Warrington, 81-82, retired.  
 164—H. Humphreys, Alderley Edge, 99-75; A. J. Potter, Warrington, 84-80; H. A. Greenwood, Ringway, 84-80; T. J. Lawton, Wilmslow, 84-80.  
 165—G. S. Holmes, Lassowe, 82-83; W. L. Hunter, Ringway, 82-83; H. E. Burd, Marple, 83-82.  
 166—N. Williams, Northenden, 84-82; B. South, Mere, 87-79; W. E. Ashbrook, Sale, 84-82.