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Golf

CHESHIRE WIN COUNTY TITLE

Pearson Leads Qualifiers

FROM PAT WARD-THOMAS

WOODHALL SPA, FRIDAY.

The second day of the Brabazon tournament on this beautiful course was notable for an exceptionally fine round of 71 by A. Slater, which leaves him one stroke behind the leader, M. J. Pearson, and for a dramatic victory by Cheshire in the county championship.

The Northumberland team of Thirlwell, Tate, and G. J. Clarke, whose total age is about 70, were three of the small number who broke 80 in both rounds. Clarke, a highly promising young player, returned a fine 75 and completed a total of 466. Surrey should have beaten this, but the disappointing play of Micklem and Scrutton, whose 81s were not worthy of them, made Slark's task just too difficult. Pearson and Humphreys (a marvel of consistency and rhythm; whose scoring puts many of his juniors to shame) each returned 76s for Cheshire and Patey was left to come home in 39 for victory. Bravely he faced his task in the grey evening light and standing on the last tee needed a seven for posterity. He took it. His drive was topped into heather and the last green then must have seemed miles away. Three shots more and he was chipping from the green's edge. The ball hit the hole and spun a yard away; but Patey is far better than most at holing those when they matter. In it went, and Cheshire had won.

Play followed much the same pattern as yesterday, with the wind rising steadily and scores with it, with rain for good

the ninth and he was out in 36. He played well until the sixteenth, where a soaring slice disappeared in the woods. He was fortunate to find it, but could do no better than a six. A beautiful brassie to the eighteenth made a four possible, but he missed from six feet. Apart from the two sixes it had been a splendid round. There were several other fine scores. J. Hayes, another of those irrepresible young men from Northumberland who are going to be a force in English golf, returned a splendid 72 and H. Morfitt was only two strokes worse. E. Ashmore, with another thoroughly sound round, shares third place with Slark.

Tate played easily and struck the ball well without having much fortune on the greens, but Thirlwell was still erratic. His looseness from the tees comes amiss from a fine, compact, strong swing and a big, heavy man, he does not hole a sufficient proportion of holeable putts. Scrutton was much out of sorts, was not hitting the ball at all well, nor finding the line with his putts. He seemed lacking in spirit. Wolstenholme's round showed character, for going out his golf lacked co-ordination almost entirely. A millstone of 43 was his lot, but he started back 4-4-2 and finished 5-4-4, figures for which many would have given gold.

Almost as important, if not more so, than the winning and losing of the county championship and the trophy itself is the assistance or lack of it to the Walker Cup selectors. The match is early next year before the amateur, and this is one of the last opportunities of observing possible players in first-class competition. The chairman of selectors, A. A. Duncan, surely is the most indefatigable of watchers, has been trailing promise assiduously and except for Tate can have seen little to inspire him, though much to confirm doubt in others. Only Micklem of those here is certain to be chosen, but there are several possibles, amongst them Thirlwell, Scrutton, Tate, Wolstenholme, Pearson, and Slark.

CARD FOR THE COURSE

Hole	Yards	Hole	Yards
1	355	10	330
2	387	11	455
3	410	12	140
4	406	13	465
5	160	14	520
6	520	15	330
7	400	16	407
8	195	17	326
9	556	18	460
	3 389		3 433

measure after lunch. In these conditions Slater's 71 was remarkably fine. He is a good swinger of the club and a fine stroke player. His iron play to-day was absolutely first-class, straight and almost invariably up to or past the hole. He began with two threes, took three putts on the third after a fine second shot, lipped the hole for a two at the treacherous little fifth, and was away. A superb No. 2 iron found the heart of the eighth, two fine long shots overcame the ninth, and he was out in 33.

Much the hardest was to come, but, apart from missing a 4ft. putt on the tenth for a three and just failing to hit the eleventh fairway, which cost him five, Slater made no sort of mistake until the eighteenth. His drives and beautifully hit No. 3 iron were the only good consecutive strokes one saw at the sixteenth. The seventeenth brought a safe four and then, from the sheltered eighteenth tee, he did not allow enough for the wind, found heather, had to play for a five, and was almost rewarded by a four. His long putt hit the hole. It was an outstanding round, but nevertheless a commentary on most of the scoring. The tournament remains very open, for such can happen in 36 holes to-morrow, and Micklem and Wolstenholme, for example, may retrieve much lost ground.

The sun shone briefly from stormy skies to help Pearson, almost last out, on his way. He needed a 76 to lead and soon established an insurance against the long pull home by starting competently. He was driving straight, playing his irons confidently and holing out safely. Then a weak pitch and three putts cost a six at

QUALIFIERS

- 148—M J Pearson (Royal Liverpool), 72, 76
- 149—A Slater (Wakefield), 78, 71
- 151—E Ashmore (Buxton Artisans), 75, 76, W. H. Slark (Watton Heath), 73, 78
- 153—K R Feazler (Moseley), 73, 80; A Greve (Carlisle and Silloth), 78, 73
- 154—G J Clark (Whitley Bay), 79, 75; A W. Pullar (Whitington Barracks), 76, 78
- 155—H C Humphreys (Prestbury and Upton), 79, 76; H Morfitt (Sutton Park), 81, 74
- 156—A Thirlwell (Gosforth), 77, 79; J K Tate (Alnmouth), 78, 78, E Eustice (Ealing), 77, 79
- 157—A D Cratts (Cosmoor), 81, 76, H J Roberts (Stourbridge), 78, 79, D Guest (Huddersfield), 78, 79, S M. Samsster (Trentham), 82, 75; F W G Church (Little Aston), 79, 78, W R Sharp (Penrith), 81, 76; J Hayes (Newcastle United), 85, 72; D F M Pilling (Elland), 80, 77, D. Dailey (Charnwood Forest), 78, 79
- 158—G B. Wolstenholme (Kirby Muxlee), 76, 81, P Scrutton (Addington), 77, 81; P J Butler (Blankney Park), 82, 76, G Huddy (South Staffs), 80, 78, J P. H. Chymer (Great Yarmouth and Caster), 79, 79, J W Jones (Southport and Ainsdale), 79, 79, J B Fisher (Sandwell Park), 83, 75
- 159—D. Anderson (Southport and Ainsdale), 81, 78; L J Ranells (Prestbury and Upton), 81, 76, R J. Henderson (Worcester Golf and County), 80, 79, G H Micklem (Wilderness), 78, 81
- 160—D H. Cadman (West Bowling), 81, 77, T B Little (Cleethorpes), 83, 77; W C Welsh (Seaton Carew), 79, 81; J C Baggott (Holme Hill), 81, 78, K. Hall (Wilderness), 79, 81; H J Thirley (Ponn), 82, 78, W. R. Hope (Luffenham Heath), 88, 72

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP.—1, Cheshire 465; 2, Northumberland 466; 3, Surrey 468; 4, Cumberland and Westmorland, Staffordshire, Yorkshire 472; 7, Warwickshire, Worcestershire 480; 9, Lancashire 485; 10, Middlesex, Derbyshire 487; 12, Leicestershire and Rutland 491, 13 Nottinghamshire 495; 14, Durham, Kent 496, 16, Norfolk 501, 17, Lincolnshire 508, 18, Essex 510, 19, Shropshire 529

MISS JACKSON CHAMPION

Miss B. Jackson (Handsworth), the Midlands champion, won the British girls' golf championship at West Kilbride, Ayrshire, yesterday, when she beat her fellow English international, Miss D. Winsor (Beaconsfield), at the twentieth hole.