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Golf

PEARSON MASTERS CONDITIONS

Remarkable Golf in High Wind

FROM PAT WARD-THOMAS

WOODHALL SPA, THURSDAY.

Golfing journeys do not often lie eastwards. It was strange last evening to be heading across the great plain of England past the proud cathedral of Lincoln, superb in its lonely sunlit eminence, towards this enchanting place where the Brabazon 72-hole stroke play event began to-day.

Woodhall Spa is enchanting. It lies amid woods of pine, oak, and birch, like an oasis transplanted from some Surrey heath and rarely before has a course made such instant appeal, in spite, moreover, of the grey skies and driving rain that preceded the sunshine of noon. Immediately it was obvious that when playing its present length this is one of the finest tests of inland golf in all England and one that embraces many of the best features of architecture. Firstly it is a great driving course. The fairways are never cruelly narrow, but woe betide the golfer who does not find them regularly, for they are protected by heather, grasping rough, trees, and awesome, cavernous bunkers. From brassie to blaster frequently is but a matter of a yard. The greens are beautiful, if perhaps rather large, and almost all, except for those in natural glades, like the eleventh and sixteenth, which need a really fine hit to reach the fairway, savagely guarded with bunkers where a man may disappear.

And yet it is absolutely fair, for short holes and pitch holes should be tight and compel placing of the drive and properly struck second shots. There are only three

with those of Micklem and Slark gave Surrey a four-stroke lead over Cheshire in the county championship.

Micklem's score was rather disappointing, for he was out early before the wind became angry, was hitting the ball with the ease of a man in full practice and confidence, and putting well until the last few holes. M. F. Bonalack, a fine, upstanding young man, has an improved swing but hit the ball rather too high for rough air. He stood two under fours on the thirteenth tee, but could not manage the finish, which spoiled a fine score as it did for J. W. Jones, who dropped four strokes at the thirteenth and seventeenth. The seventeenth is a superb drive and pitch hole, very narrow from the tee, and behind the green is one of the straightest stretches of railway line, symmetrical beyond belief, in the land. Jones's second shot crossed it.

LEADING SCORES

- 72—M. J. Pearson (Rosal Liverpool).
- 73—W. A. Slark (Waltton Heath), K. R. Frazier (Moseley).
- 75—E. Ashmore (Buxton Artisans).
- 76—A. W. Puller (Whitington Barracks), G. B. Wolstenholme (Kirby Muxloe), M. F. Bonalack (Thorpe Hall).
- 77—E. Eustice (Ealing), J. Huckle (Sherwood Forest), P. F. Scrutton (Addington), A. Thirlwell (Gosforth), R. M. M. Robertson (Barrow).
- 78—G. H. Micklem (Wilderness), A. Slater (Wakefield), D. Dalley (Charnwood Forest), W. R. Hope (Luffenham Heath), A. Greive (Carlisle and Silloth), J. K. Tate (Alnmouth), D. Guest (Huddersfield), H. J. Roberts (Stourbridge).
- 79—J. P. A. Clymer (Great Yarmouth and Caister), J. W. Jones (Southport and Ainsdale), K. Hall (Wilderness), H. C. Humphreys (Prestbury and Upton), S. J. Chew (Bramhall), J. R. Butterworth (Worcestershire G and C), L. Jones (Woodhall Spa), W. C. Welsh (Seaton Carew), G. J. Clark (Whitley Bay), F. W. G. Church (Little Aston).
- 80—D. F. M. Pilling (Hiland), C. G. Moore (Dinsdale Spa), D. S. Piper (Rosal Cinque Ports), G. Huddy (South Staffs), K. Martin (Seaton Carew), R. J. Henderson (Worcester G and S), R. F. Cottingham (Holme Hall), P. J. Thubron (Haslings Downs), T. D. Page (Maudstone).

CARD FOR THE COURSE

Hole.	Yards.	Hole.	Yards.
1	355	10	340
2	387	11	455
3	410	12	140
4	406	13	495
5	161	14	520
6	520	15	340
7	401	16	407
8	195	17	326
9	556	18	460
	3 389		3 433

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (First-round Totals)—228, Surrey; 232, Cheshire; 234, Northumberland; 236, Cumberland and Westmorland; 239, Worcester; 242, Warwick, Yorkshire; 243, Middlesex; 244, Kent; Staffordshire; 245, Durham; 246, Leicester and Rutland; Nottinghamshire; 248, Derbyshire; 249, Lancashire; 251, Lincolnshire; 252, Norfolk; 253, Essex; 265 Shropshire.

FOUR ENGLISH GIRLS IN SEMI-FINALS

Playing in a strong wind and torrential rain, four English players reached the semi-finals of the British girls' golf championship at West Kilbride, Ayrshire, yesterday. Scotland lost all interest after the third round, and the sole Welsh representative, Miss A. Gwyther (Wenvoe Castle), fought magnificently in the deplorable conditions before losing on the last green in the quarter-finals.

Miss K. Brown (Alnmouth), an English international, played the best golf of the afternoon to defeat Miss A. Ward (Princes), last year's runner-up, and one of the favourites, by five and four. Miss Ward could not control her ball in the wind and some indifferent putting added to her problems. Miss Brown's opponent in the semi-final will be the powerful Miss B. Jackson (Handsworth), who was much too strong for Miss R. Gale (Seacroft) who is only eighteen years old, and won five and three.

THIRD ROUND.—Miss K. Brown (Alnmouth) beat Miss P. Howard (Moor Park), 2 and 1; Miss A. Ward (Princes) beat Miss P. Fretton (Ilford), 7 and 5; Miss B. Jackson (Handsworth) beat Miss M. Fowler (North Berwick Glen), 3 and 2; Miss R. Gale (Seacroft) beat Miss J. Carrie (Barnehurst), 5 and 1; Miss A. Brown (West Middlesex) beat Miss M. Nichol (Hexham), 3 and 2; Miss C. Ferriday (Moor Hall) beat Miss M. Williamson (Moor Hall), at the 19th; Miss A. Gwyther (Wenvoe Castle) beat Miss M. Walker (Downfield), at the 19th; Miss D. Winsor (Beaconsfield) beat Miss S. Armstrong (Ladbroke Park), 7 and 6.

FOURTH ROUND.—Miss K. Brown beat Miss Ward, 5 and 4; Miss Jackson beat Miss Gale, 5 and 3; Miss A. Brown beat Miss Ferriday, 4 and 2; Miss Winsor beat Miss Gwyther, 4 up.

short holes, two of them horribly tight little brutes, and the eighth, into wind, forced most people to use wood. There is, therefore, little margin of error and little scope of picking up strokes on par, which at its strictest would be 72 or 73. But how infinitely rewarding it all is to the golfer scoring well, for to do so he must be playing finely indeed.

It was not surprising that the scoring was high, for, after lunch, the wind grew increasingly strong and almost always was oblique to the angle of attack. Less than thirty players broke 80, but the standard must not be condemned, as conditions were extraordinarily testing. A professional event here would have been most interesting. The rounds of M. J. Pearson and W. A. Slark, therefore, were extremely fine and Pearson's inward half of 36 remarkable, for the finish, against the wind, destroyed almost everyone else. Pearson, a fine long driver and good putter, won the Cheshire championship this year and may be on the way back to the English team. He played very well to-day, turned in 36 and then an eight iron to within a yard of the twelfth and a brassie eight feet from the thirteenth conquered two formidable holes in five strokes and were the basis of his score.

Slark is not a long player, but has greater control than most. His 73 surprised his friends, for this certainly was not his type of day; but he is uncommonly steady and straight—essential virtues here. E. Ashmore, a Buxton artisan and thoroughly solid, compact golfer these many years, made the most of an early, although wet, start. Last of all, K. R. Frazier, another thick-set, solid golfer, stood four-square to the wind and reached the turn in 35.

Most of the internationals had to face the wind at its worst. Thirlwell, the strongest of them, was erratic from the tees and tacked considerably coming home; but a fine pitch to the fourteenth brought him a four and a chance of a good score. Then he did not reach the sixteenth fairway, a fearsome carry of 200 yards dead into wind, and found the heather reluctant to release him. J. K. Tate, whose fine swing and level head produces so few loose strokes, hit the finest of many seen to the eighth, a spoon that never left the deadline. He continued steadily. Scrutton started finely and was hitting the ball well, but twice was just off line going out, and was of course punished. Indifferent holing out prevented a good score. But, his round