

CHESHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

From our Special Correspondent

DELAMERE FOREST, WEDNESDAY.

Cheshire's experiment in sending out competitors in threes for the qualifying rounds of the county golf championship here to-day was not as successful as had been hoped. It was a painfully slow process getting them round and allowing even for the many blind second shots that have to be faced on this delightful course it was puzzling to find a reason why nearly four hours should be occupied in completing eighteen holes.

On the whole the scoring was much above the average for the opening day: nearly half the entry of 98 managed to get a reasonable start in the seventies and just as many others succeeded later in doing something similar. G. L. Johnson (Delamere Forest) had seemed certain to lead the 32 qualifiers with his fine total of 147 (73-74) until towards the end of more than twelve hours' golf. R. T. Robinson (Royal Liverpool) tied with him though Johnson becomes the holder for the first time of the Darlington Trophy for the lowest aggregate because he had a better first round by four shots. Robinson caught him with the exceedingly creditable score of 70, one that beat the par of the course by three strokes and one also that was two shots in front of the 72s with which J. T. Lambie (Sandiway), S. J. Chew (Bramhall), and W. V. Hughes (Sandiway) had been able to fortify their appetites for lunch.

Robinson is 24 and a former Oxford Blue. He is a meticulous golfer with the quality to put behind him the slips that come to most. Thirty-six to the turn was nothing out of the ordinary, but it was obvious then that if he could change his luck on the greens coming home a good score was ahead of him. The rewards came to him in two excellent spells, threes at the eleventh and twelfth and further threes at the fifteenth and sixteenth. He

was then four under fours and just failed to get his par figures at the last two holes which would have won him the leading position.

This is only Johnson's second attempt to win the championship. His knowledge of the course undoubtedly assisted him in playing so steadily throughout the day for the greens, which altered swiftly in pace as the drying wind began to have its effect, needed the most expert judgment.

There was nothing more encouraging in the day's golf than the performances of some of the county's young players. Apart from Robinson seven won a place in the first of the match-play rounds to-morrow. T. B. Taylor (Wilmslow) had two 76s and he proved that he was capable of dispelling the indiscretions of an outward half of 42 in the afternoon by coming home in 34. Something similar happened to I. M. Worrall (Dukinfield) in the morning. He did the last nine in 33 with four threes for his score of 75. Leading scores:

- 147—G. L. Johnson (Delamere Forest), R. T. Robinson (Royal Liverpool)
- 149—S. Mettam (Sale), W. V. Hughes (Sandiway)
- 150—S. J. Chew (Bramhall), I. M. Worrall (Dukinfield)
- 151—L. J. Ranella (Prestbury), E. Crimes (Bidston), J. M. H. Brown (Wallasey)
- 152—H. C. Humphreys (Prestbury), J. T. Lambie (Sandiway), P. Clark (Merce), T. B. Taylor (Wilmslow), P. T. D. Taylor (Wilmslow)
- 153—I. R. Patey (Upton-by-Chester), S. Ball (Merce), A. H. Burgess (Ringsway), S. Martin (Merrica)
- 154—J. H. M. Thomas (Wilmslow), W. A. Boughey (Alderley Edge), H. C. Branch (Runcorn), J. L. Youdale (Upton-by-Chester), P. H. L. Sidebottom (Stockport), M. J. Pearson (Royal Liverpool), W. J. R. Richardson (Sandiway)
- 155—R. A. Murray (Stockport)
- 156—J. L. Padkin (Didsbury), A. E. Billington (Stockport), J. A. Graham (Royal Liverpool)
- 157—A. Lawrenson (Sale), P. R. Harris (Sandiway), J. W. Howard (Wallasey)

First Round Draw.—Johnson v Mettam, Boughey v Hughes, Ranella v Martin, Burgess v Humphreys, Howard v Lawrenson, Branch v Patey, Richardson v Graham, Billington v Sidebottom, Pearson v T. B. D. Taylor, Chew v Crimes, Worrall v Padkin, Lambie v Brown, Youdale v Clark, Murray v Thomas, Robinson v Harris, Ball v T. B. Taylor.