

1957

CHESHIRE UNION'S FIXTURES

The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Feb 12, 1957;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Guardian and The Observer

pg. 9

Golf

CHESHIRE UNION'S FIXTURES

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs is to hold its championship meeting during the last week in June at Prestbury, the home club of its president, H. C. Humphreys, who won the championship when it was last played there in 1951.

There is an additional fixture this year, against a Yorkshire Colts team at Bramhall Park in August. The programme is:

March 24: Colts trial, at Delamere Forest

April 7: County trial, at Mere, 27: v Lancashire Colts, at Hillside.

May 11: v Cumberland and Westmorland, at Seascale, 18: Northern Counties championship, at Mere; 26: v Derbyshire, at Prenton

June 2: v Shropshire at Sandiway, 22: v Yorkshire, at Fixby, 26-29: County Championship at Prestbury

July 13: v Lancashire at Royal Birkdale; 14: v Derbyshire Colts, at Burton and High Peak

August 24, v Yorkshire Colts at Bramhall Park 25: v Worcestershire at Wilmslow 31: Victory Trophy, at Ringway

September 15, v Staffordshire at Sale, 22. H. C. Humphreys's team v Royal Liverpool, at Royal Liverpool

October 13: County v Colts, at Warrington, 28-29 County Foursomes, at Royal Liverpool.

LATE SLUMP BY CHESHIRE

By a Special Correspondent

Cheshire and Staffordshire had an eventful match at Sale when the two counties finished all-square, each with eight wins and two halves, in Cheshire's final fixture of the season.

At one time in the afternoon it seemed that the home county, fortified by a lead of two points in the foursomes, would succeed for they were successful in four of the first six singles. Thereafter, however, there was a serious slump and only two halves from G. M. Edwards and A. J. Cliffe saved the side from defeat. Cliffe did have a chance of at least saving a point in his meeting with G. C. Marks but after a perfect tee shot at the eighteenth he cut his second badly. C. Stowe, after a heavy defeat in the morning in partnership with G. Gibberson, beat P. Clark, the Cheshire champion, 3 and 2, and in doing so gave a further example of his mastery of second shots. Stowe and Gibberson were the victims of L. J. Rannells and A. E. Billington before lunch and each Cheshire player played soundly later when they defeated Gibberson and M. B. Morgan, respectively. Rannells, one up at the turn, had a three at the tenth, a two at the thirteenth, and another three at the fifteenth.

G. V. Keith was overwhelmed by E. Perry, the most powerful striker on the Staffordshire side. Perry struck an early blow by clearing the first hole—275 yards—with his tee shot and then holing out for a two with his chip. Afterwards, in spite of taking three putts at the second, third, and fifth, he had the creditable score of one under fours. Details (Cheshire names first):

Foursomes.—A. E. Billington (Stockport) and L. J. Rannells (Presbury) beat C. Stowe (Penn) and G. Gibberson (Drayton Park), 6 and 5; P. Clark and S. Ball (Mere) beat S. Sangster (Trentham) and M. B. Morgan (Bloxwich) 4 and 3; S. Mettam (Sale) and J. T. Lambie (Warrington) lost to W. Dale and E. Perry (Sandwell Park), two down; G. V. Keith (Mere) and I. M. Worrall (Romiley) beat J. Beddard (Penn) and P. Squire (Bloxwich) 3 and 2; W. V. Hughes (Sandiway) and C. Newton (Crewe) lost to J. Breton and I. Ferneynhouse (Whittington) 5 and 4; G. M. Edwards (Bromborough) and A. J. Cliffe (Brackenswood) beat G. J. Woodhouse and G. C. Marks (Trentham), one up.

Singles.—Clark lost to Stowe, 3 and 2; Rannells beat Gibberson 4 and 2; Lambie beat Morgan 4 and 3; Mettam lost to Sangster, 3 and 2; Ball beat Beddard 2 and 1; Billington beat Dale 2 up; Edwards halved with Breton; Keith lost to Perry, 5 and 3; Hurley lost to Squire 2 and 1; Worrall lost to Ferneynhouse 5 and 4; Cliffe halved with Woodhouse; Newton lost to Marks one down.

CHESHIRE'S EASY TASK

A Special Correspondent

The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); May 27, 1957;

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pg. 10

CHESHIRE'S EASY TASK

gular Scip

By a Special Correspondent

Cheshire gained an overwhelming victory, almost as convincing as that of last year, over Derbyshire at Prenton yesterday when they won by 15½-2½.

A. E. Billington, the Cheshire champion, was involved in the only halved match, and he did well to save it because he had to win the last three holes to rescue himself from defeat. M. J. Pearson, S. Mettam, J. T. Lambie, and D. H. Shone all succeeded with a few holes in hand.

Mettam, Cheshire's captain, was in great form with his putter. T. Burton was unable to hole anything of note either in the morning or the afternoon, and it was largely because of this that he faced destruction just after the turn. None of the foursomes was decided before the sixteenth, and there was some splendid golf in each. Billington and Raneil's were hard pressed by Bennett and Burton on the outward half. Three down at the eleventh was not a pleasant prospect, but 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 4 by the Cheshire pair from that point put them ahead for the first time. The co-operation of Pearson and Lambie in the second foursome was of sufficient strength to put them three holes ahead at the fourteenth. Then Mason and J. B. Flanders won the fifteenth and sixteenth, but that was the last challenge they could make. Details (Cheshire names first):

Foursomes.—A. E. Billington and L. J. Raneil's beat H. Bennett and T. Burton, 1 up; M. J. Pearson and J. T. Lambie beat D. Mason and J. B. Flanders, 1 and 1; S. Ball and P. Clark beat P. Brocklehurst and E. L. Edwards, 1 and 2; S. Mettam and W. V. Husher beat J. Sadler and B. Kelly, 3 and 2; E. Cronin and J. L. Yooden lost to I. R. Mackenzie and J. McDowell, 2 down; D. H. L. Shone and G. M. Edwards beat K. D. Smith and P. Irvine, 1 and 1.

Stages.—Billington halved with Bennett; Pearson beat Mason 5 and 4; Raneil's beat Brocklehurst, 1 up; Lambie beat Mackenzie, 4 and 3; Ball beat Kelly, 3 and 1; Mettam beat Burton, 5 and 4; Cronin beat Sadler, 3 and 1; Clark beat Smith, 4 and 3; Husher lost to Flanders, 2 down; Shone beat Edwards, 4 and 3; Yooden beat Irvine, 2 up; Edwards beat McDowell, 2 and 2.

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By Tony Goodridge

Yorkshire beat Cheshire by 104 to 74 in a county match at the Huddersfield Golf Club at Fixby on Saturday. Since the singles matches were evenly shared Cheshire may in part at least attribute their defeat to an inadequate performance in the foursomes, in which they lagged sadly behind Yorkshire and were as a result saddled with a deficit of three points for the rest of the day.

Huddersfield is the home of Yorkshire golf, and a very worthy one it is. In spite of the protracted dry spell of recent weeks the course, without the aid of any of the plumbing devices with which most courses are equipped nowadays, played finely, and it was particularly good to see that there is no pandering to the weak or to the idle. There is plenty of rough about, proper penalising rough to catch the wayward and unthinking, but not the straight or the thoughtful.

Before turning to the distinction conferred upon the day by Lee, the Yorkshire champion, in his singles match with Billington, the Cheshire champion, it is as well to trace the general pattern of the play. On a damp, raw morning Yorkshire were substantially better than Cheshire in the foursomes. In the third game, however, Hall and Powell, although dormy two on Ball and P. Clark, were held to a half, and in the last match the Cheshire pair, Chew and Worrall, who was playing for his county for the first time, fitted in well together and being three up at the turn were able to return Cheshire's only win.

Margin too great

That morning deficit was too great a blow to allow of Cheshire's recovery, but they made a reasonable effort to do so. In the top singles Lee's victory put Yorkshire four points ahead, but in the next match Rannells, who had a fine battle with Brough, clinched matters by holing out from the mound behind the eighteenth green—the only hole to be won by either since the turn, where Rannells was one up. Ash promptly put Yorkshire four ahead again, but the successes of Ball and Mettam and the halved match between Stokes and P. Clark left a margin of only two points. That, however, was as near as Cheshire were allowed to get.

The match between Lee and Billington was a remarkable one. During the first five holes Lee contrived to be bunkered three times and lose a ball at the fifth where he failed to make the carry across the wood. He was five down after seven holes to the utterly competent but not devastating figure of Billington. But at the short eighth hole Lee had a two, which apparently was the incentive he required for from that point to the end he was eight under four with figures which read 2, 4, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 3, 3, 3. Billington, who apart from misjudgments of distance at the sixteenth and eighteenth, had done nothing radically wrong, not unnaturally failed to live up to the

