

GOLF.

NEW CHESHIRE CHAMPION

STOCKPORT MAN'S SUCCESS.

The semi-final round of the **Cheshire** championship competition was played yesterday morning on the links of the Stockport Club at Torkington, and as G. Tweedale, of Wilmslow, the holder of the title for two years, was then beaten it was left to I. Sidebottom, of Stockport, and M. Schunck, of Hale, to decide who should be the new champion. Victory fell to Sidebottom, who won by two up after being three down with six to play.

The semi-final round provided two close games, in one of which G. Tweedale was beaten by Schunck. Tweedale has the idea that he is more likely to win a match if he be down at the turn than if he possesses a lead there, and in this game he was beaten after securing a lead of two holes when playing the first nine. Play up to then had been equal, and Tweedale gained his lead by laying Schunck two half-stymies. Tweedale, however, lost the tenth through a stymie, and when he was bunkered at the eleventh the match became square. Schunck holed a four-yards putt for a half at the next, won the thirteenth in four, and secured another four and another win at the fourteenth by holing out from five yards.

Tweedale won the short hole, but got into trouble from the seventeenth tee, and was beaten two up and one.

K. Stoker (Royal Liverpool) and Sidebottom were level at the turn, only every third hole having been halved. Sidebottom won the tenth, and by laying his mashie shot to the twelfth almost dead became two up. At the thirteenth, however, he drove into the rough, sent his second into a bunker, and when Stoker reached the green with a fine iron shot the Stockport man knew that the hole was lost. At the fourteenth Stoker bunkered his drive, but his third finished two yards from the hole, and a successful putt gave him a half. At the fifteenth Sidebottom nearly beat a stymie when putting for a win, and he became dormy by holing a four-yards putt for a two at the short sixteenth.

The final was a queer mixture of styles and of good and bad play. Schunck sends the ball great distances with little preparation and with a very quiet swing, while Sidebottom, who has, perhaps unconsciously, adopted the methods of "Sandy" Herd, waggles the club either behind or over the ball many times before each shot—the waggles sometimes number nearly 20,—and just before he makes the hit he lifts up his shoulders and swings back at a fast pace. Sidebottom is no believer in the "slow-back" theory, and if style and ease of hitting had decided yesterday's final Schunck would have been an early winner. It was another case of "handsome is as handsome does," and when Schunck began to make mistakes when he seemed to have a safe lead Sidebottom took full advantage of them, and, aided by his "local knowledge," gradually assumed the mastery. He seemed to be lucky with his second shot at the seventeenth—a critical hole,—but he must be given full credit for fighting an uphill game with great courage, especially as he has always been regarded as a better player in stroke competitions than in matches.

Sidebottom avoided defeat at the first two holes by requiring only one putt. He was in the rough twice at the first, where Schunck used three strokes on the green, and he saved the second by an excellent mashie shot over a bunker. Schunck won the third by getting down in three, but he was too much to the right from the fourth tee, and was beaten when Sidebottom chipped dead from the back of the green. At the fifth Schunck made a mistake he committed at three of the four short holes. He played his tee shot without vim, and was out of bounds, following which he was again short, with the result that Sidebottom became one up. At the long hole Sidebottom paid the penalty for getting into the rough twice, and was also beaten at the seventh by pulling his drive after his opponent had almost reached the green, 330 yards away. Schunck, however, played the eighth badly, only to regain the lead at the tenth, where he ought to have been beaten easily. He took four to reach the green, but Sidebottom, who was over in two, missed his third, was strong with his fourth, and after playing his fifth was beaten by a stymie.

Schunck played a perfect tee shot at the short eleventh, and, having narrowly missed a two, saw Sidebottom knock his ball in when trying to play against a half-stymie. The Hale man became three up after playing a tremendous drive at the twelfth and reaching the green with an easy iron shot, but then Schunck lost accuracy and was beaten at three holes in succession. He drove into the rough at the thirteenth, and saw his second caught by a bunker; at the fourteenth he was unlucky to be bunkered on the right, and at the fifteenth his second was too strong. All square, they halved the sixteenth, where Sidebottom took three putts, and then the Stockport man became dormy one. Playing his second in front of a high bunker bank, he just skimmed the top, and reached the green to secure a win in four to five. They both drove into the rough at the eighteenth, but whereas Sidebottom reached the green with his second, Schunck was short, and when he had missed with his first putt he gave up.

SEMI-FINAL.

M. Schunck (Hale) beat G. Tweedale (Wilmslow), 2 and 1.

I. Sidebottom (Stockport) beat K. Stoker (Royal Liverpool), 2 and 1.

FINAL.

In a second division competition the following were the leading returns:—

	G.	H.	N.
R. Beatty, Stockport	86	12	74
J. A. McKie, Hazel Grove	87	11	76
D. Shaw, Ringway	89	13	76
F. Mackay, Stockport	86	9	77
C. R. Snape, Prestbury	95	18	77
E. White, Stockport	86	10	78
C. W. Lambert, Ashton-on-Mersey	89	11	78
J. B. Smith, Timperley	89	11	78
H. Lee, Hurdfield	91	12	79
R. H. Lowe, Congleton	93	14	79
R. E. Hancock, Stockport	93	14	79
H. A. Kimberley, Runcorn	92	12	80
F. F. Cowley, Bramhall	94	14	80
G. A. Orme, Stockport	98	18	80
S. Beatty, Wilmslow	98	18	80

S. S. Potter and I. Sidebottom, of Stockport, have won the **Cheshire** county golf foursomes, for which 29 couples, representing over 20 clubs, entered. In the final at Delamere they beat A. H. Reynolds and W. Taylor, of Wallacey, by 3 up and 1. The Stockport Club have therefore taken all the honours in connection with the **Cheshire** Union of Golf Clubs, as, in addition to taking the individual and team championships, members of the club won both the first and second division handicaps at the meeting this week on their own course.

CHESHIRE v. LANCASHIRE.

For the county match against Lancashire to-day on the Stockport course at Torkington the following have been selected to represent **Cheshire**:—I. Sidebottom, G. Tweedale, M. Schunck, K. Stoker, J. E. Hassall, D. Berry, A. J. Graham, D. Brown, A. H. Reynolds, A. Macbeth, G. B. Farrar, and A. H. Holford.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP.

DIEPPE, FRIDAY.

Michael Scott, the Westward Hol golfer, who won the French open amateur championship in 1912 and again last year, to-day qualified to defend his title against Lieutenant Colonel G. T. Hannay, a veteran entered from the Addington Club (Surrey). In the semi-final round Colonel Hannay beat G. R. McCall, a young Oxford University player, on the last green. Scott beat by 4 and 3 the American, P. Bingham, who entered from St. Cloud, Paris.

A Stand v. Bramhall golf match (2nd Division), played at Stand, resulted in a draw, each side winning four matches.

On Wednesday Arthur Green, a member of the Davyhulme Park club, holed out from the tee at the 18 (180 yards).

Britain will be represented in the Canadian and American ladies' championships by Miss Edith Leitch, who left London yesterday for Canada. Miss Leitch will probably be the only representative of this country in these events.