



THE GOLFER

By "Follow Through."

POSSIBLY the most gratifying feature of the recent English amateur championship was that it once more, after a long period of years, provided the Royal Liverpool Club with a champion. They have gone through some rather lean years at Hoylake, in so far as furnishing the world with first class players is concerned, though they can still put a wonderfully strong team into the field, and have only once

the Amateur Championship on his own course in 1921, but it was generally felt that Mr. T. F. Ellison was the most likely of the younger school to make a really big name for himself, and his success last week was no surprise to those who knew his game three or four years ago. Little has been seen of him during the last two years, but unless he had entirely lost his game it was obvious that he must be seriously considered in any championship that was played over Hoylake. His selection to play for England against Scotland in 1922 at Prestwick was pretty severely criticised at the time, but I felt sure then, as I do now, that he is obviously a golfer of international class. Some find fault with his play on the point that he is a natural hooker, which he undoubtedly is, but granted that he is playing with confidence he seldom lands himself into trouble with his hook. During the final round against Mr. S. Robinson he did seem to be a little bit afraid of this hook, and consequently did not play "all out." He was therefore not so powerful off the tee as he can be.

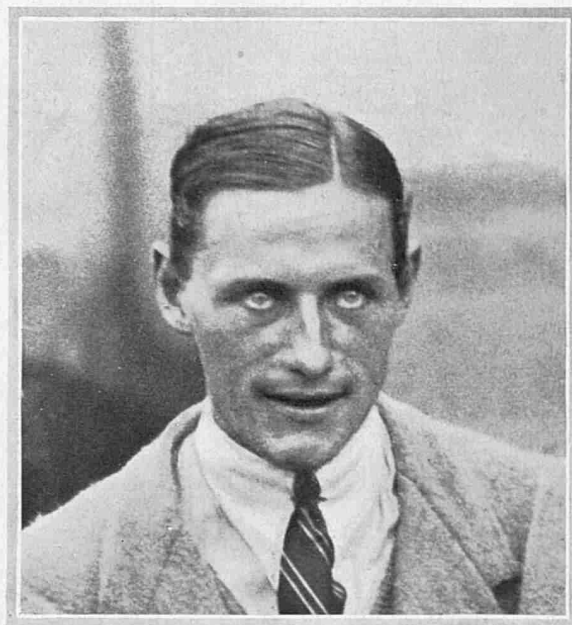
had played some rather erratic golf in his previous rounds, but had always managed to thrust his most deadly blow at the right moment. It is the habit to refer to this rather loose kind of golf as typical of Mr. Tolley, which is an injustice to this great golfer, for Mr. Tolley, in practice, during the last year or so, has developed a considerable measure of steadiness, while still retaining his tremendous power. At Hoylake, however, he was definitely erratic and loose in his play, and it was well recognised



MR. TOLLEY OBLIGES.

In the English Close Championship at Hoylake the other day, Mr. C. J. H. Tolley was unexpectedly beaten in the fifth round by Mr. S. Robinson, who went on in the competition to lose a most exciting final to Mr. T. F. Ellison.

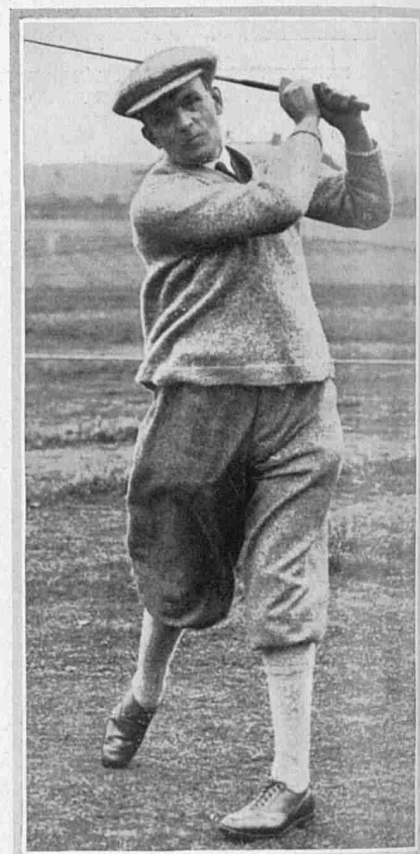
been beaten on their own course by the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society in 1920. It is by no means so illustrious as it was in the days when they had Mr. John Ball, at his best, Mr. Harold Hilton, Mr. Jack Graham, Mr. C. K. Hutchings, and Mr. C. E. Dick to lead off for them. That was a collection of giants that might well make any visiting team quail, as, in fact, it invariably did. Possibly when once those heroes were no longer so effective, though still remaining heroic, the Hoylake golfer who most successfully carried on their traditions was Mr. W. B. Charles, though he has never taken the place in big golf that his undoubted talent entitles him to. Then came the war, and after it there was much searching and inquiring for the new blood. Mr. Alan Graham worthily upheld the honour of his family by insinuating himself into the final round of



THE FIRST ENGLISH CHAMPION: MR. T. F. ELLISON.

Defeating Mr. Samuel Robinson at the 36th hole at Hoylake last week, Mr. T. F. Ellison, of the Royal Liverpool Club, won the final of the first English Close Championship of golf.

He was not, however, driving against a very strong hitter, and he knew that he had one or two shots up his sleeve, or in his bag, which were outside the compass of his opponent. These were the strong, forcing iron shots which Mr. Ellison plays particularly well, and of which he produced a sufficient number just to turn the match in his favour. Perhaps when he gets nearer to the hole he pitches the ball up into the air a little more often than is associated with the old Hoylake "school," but the course now demands more shots of the all-air-route type, and whether he is dutifully following the sacred precepts of his forerunners or not, he plays the strokes very well and very successfully. He is still young, thirty, I believe, and so should have several triumphs yet in store for him. Mr. Sam Robinson is a very much better player than he is given the credit of being. He is not a flashy golfer, and there is a suggestion of crampiness in his arm movements, which is not beautiful to watch; but he is a most stolid, steady hitter of the ball. His wooden club play must be written down as short—short, that is, in a field which includes so many long hitters—but he is deadly accurate, and can wind the ball either way in a manner worthy of Mr. Hilton. He, like Mr. Ellison, putted splendidly in the final round, banging the ball firmly time after time into the back of the hole. It was Mr. Robinson, of course, who provided the real tit-bit of the meeting when he beat Mr. Cyril Tolley, who was confidently expected to win the championship. Mr. Tolley



MR. TOLLEY'S VICTOR: MR. S. ROBINSON.

Having already once met and beaten Mr. C. J. H. Tolley at Prestwick in the Amateur Championship of 1922, Mr. Samuel Robinson repeated his victory in the first English Close Championship at Hoylake last week. Playing through to the final, Mr. Robinson was then only defeated at the last hole by Mr. Ellison.

that if he wished to return Mr. Robinson the compliment offered him at Prestwick in 1922, he would have to give up all his extravagances of direction, and produce his very steadiest and best game. This he did not do, he played, in fact, rather badly, and so was beaten for the second time by an opponent over whom he held an almost limitless advantage in power. He undoubtedly lost the match at the eighth hole, which he lost instead of won when he was already one up. It is charitable and true to say that his ball lay close when he put a chip shot into a bunker under his nose, but the explanation is understood by every novice who has been implored times without number to keep his eye on the ball. Mr. Robinson in the end won only on the last green, which he certainly deserved to do. As a whole the meeting was as successful as such a limited entry allowed, and was a most enjoyable gathering.