

## GOLF.

### HEAVY BALL TEST AT HOYLAKE.

One hundred and twelve players took part in the official test of large, heavy golf balls on the Royal Liverpool links at Hoylake on Saturday. Most of them were Royal Liverpool members, but scratch players from other Cheshire and West Lancashire clubs accepted invitations, and interest in the event was increased by the presence of C. J. H. Tolley, the amateur champion. The aim of the several similar tests which have been arranged is to discover a type of ball which will restrict flight and call for greater skill in the registration of good scores than is required with the small ball now in use.

The balls played with on Saturday were of a minimum diameter of 1.705 inch compared with the present minimum of 1.62, and the weights varied from 28 to 32 dwts. Nearly all the players used the "31," and although a few expressed the opinion that the larger ball has not the same carrying capacity the majority formed an opposite opinion. The general conclusion was that the increased size was counter-balanced by the heavier weight and that the flight was not diminished.

Tolley played a "32" for nine holes and a "31" for the remaining nine, and with both hit tremendous distances. Despite a pronounced pull he was on most of the greens in two shots. At the third hole he drove 350 yards, and had he been putting as well as usual he would have had a good score. As it was, he was round in 80—39 out and 41 home. Although less successful with the lighter ball he expressed a preference for it. A remarkable experience befel C. Hammersley, of Hesketh. He reached every green but one in two shots, but took 50 putts on the round.

Only two scratch scores of under 80 were put in, and both were by Hoylake players—T. F. Ellison and P. W. Leathart, each of whom was round in 79. Leathart tied with H. H. Robinson, 86—7—79, for the gold medal for the best handicap score.

John Ball, whose score was 83, was emphatic in the opinion that a "floater" is the only possible standard ball which will retain the art and science of the game, and G. F. Smith, of Southport, expressed a similar opinion, which was backed by many young scratch players of the hard-hitting school.

P. O'Hara won the 54 holes North and South golf championship of America at Pinewood with a score of 220. C. Hackney was second with 224, J. H. Kirkwood and P. Doyle tied for third place with 226, J. Barnes was fifth with 228, and "Jock" Hutchison sixth with 229.