

GOLF

English Close Amateur Championship.

TITLE FOR W. SUTTON.

The English Native Amateur Championship has been won by an artisan golfer, William Sutton, the 27-year-old oil worker, of the Liverpool district and a member of the West Cheshire Artisan Club, by three up and two to play, defeating E. B. Tipping in the 36-holes final at Gosforth, Northumberland. Tipping, a member of the Royal Ashdown Forest Club, has figured in the later stages of many important championships.

The crux of the final was found in the eighth hole of the afternoon round. Before that Tipping had been holing from all sorts of distances, and it is a tribute to Sutton's game that he was one up on the first round after having led by two at the seventh and again at the fifteenth. Having opened with a win in the afternoon, Tipping got in front at the fourth, and his first putting error cost him dearly at the eighth. However, he came back and squared the match there when his ball swung round the hole from a distance of 18 inches. From that moment Tipping's game was never the same.

Sutton was two in front at the tenth, and this time it was the West Cheshire man's turn to get down from six yards. He became three up with four to play when Tipping pulled his drive from the short fourteenth tee, and followed with a weak attempt to recover. Sutton made sure of the two halves which were then necessary to give him the title. Sutton undoubtedly is a player of determination, and with the exception of a word or two with his caddie to-day—Ralph Compston,—another artisan golfer whom he beat earlier in the championship, he exchanged no word with anyone throughout the 36-holes.

One of the first to congratulate Sutton on his win was Cyril Tolley, the former amateur champion. The finish of the semi-final of their match was commented upon by people in the clubhouse. Mr. George Renwick, the well-known Northumberland golfer, who was the referee in the semi-final, which was played in a snowstorm, said that Tolley asked permission to move a solid lump of snow which had been left by a heel in the line of his (Tolley's) putt. He informed Tolley that he might move it, whereupon Sutton objected on the ground that he himself had had to play through snow. Sutton said that he adopted the usual methods of studying the line of his putts, and Tolley's version of the incident was that Mr. Renwick's account was correct, and that when Sutton raised his objection he made up his mind at once to waive his claim.

"Of course," said Tolley, "the incident is now closed and forgotten. Everything is now all right."

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.

242 Entries for Muirfield.

There are 242 entrants for the British Open golf championship, the competition for which will begin at Muirfield, East Lothian, on May 9. The number compares favourably with that of recent championships, although there were 271 players in the field last year when Walter Hagen won at Sandwich. When the championship was last played on the links of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield and Ted Ray won with a score of 295 there were 215 entrants.

The entrants are divided into two sections, and one-half will play eighteen holes on the Gullane course on the first day and at Muirfield on the second, the other half playing a round over Muirfield on the first day and Gullane on the second. At the end of these thirty-six holes, eighty players and those tying for the eightieth place will compete over 72 holes at Muirfield for the championship title.

There will be a strong overseas challenge, America, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, India, the Argentine, and the Federated Malay States being represented in the field. The challenge from America is a very strong one, there being twenty-two players from the United States in the field, these including Walter Hagen, the championship holder, and his fellow players in the international match.

The number of amateur players is unusually large. There are nearly fifty, including T. P. Perkins, the amateur champion, as well as several past amateur champions. The American amateur entrants include George von Elm, Silas Newton, and Joshua Crane.

PARLIAMENTARY GOLFERS.

Heavy Defeat by Hadley Wood.

Golfers representing the House of Commons were heavily defeated in a match by singles and foursomes by Hadley Wood on the club's course by ten matches to two. The two matches won by the Parliamentarians were in the singles in the early part of the day. Captain Evan Wallace (10) beat C. E. Thompson (4) by two and one, and Captain Fairfax (12) was successful over the Hadley Wood captain, S. Battersby (5) by one hole. In the foursomes the House of Commons failed to win a game, and in the top match G. Harvey (6) and Colonel Lambert Ward (6) were beaten by G. W. Cranfield (scratch) and P. B. Berisford (4) by four and two.