

EDWARDS DEFEATS HOWARD BY FOUR STROKES IN PLAY-OFF

By a Special Correspondent

After 90 holes of golf there is a new Cheshire amateur champion, G. M. Edwards (Bromborough), who beat J. W. Howard (Royal Liverpool) by four strokes in the 18 holes play-off at Wallasey yesterday. They had tied at the end of 72 holes with a total of 291. Yesterday Edwards had a score of 73 against 77.

In the three days of the championship which ended in the tie Edwards had rounds of 71, 77, 72 and 71, compared with Howard's 75, 69 (which equalled the course record) 72 and 75. Edwards, who is 29 and nine years Howard's junior, has been knocking at the door for the county's main golfing award since he was in the early 20s. He reached the semifinals three times when the championship was decided by match play. One of the chief features of his five rounds was his putting for only once did he take the extra shot on the green. In the play-off he was relentlessly exact, hitting the ball with great thoroughness with his woods and irons and Howard found himself under pressure soon after the start.

Edwards went ahead at the third, became two strokes in front at the fifth, was still two shots in hand at the turn, and then at the eleventh widened the gap with a two against a five. His only departure afterwards from his excellent progress was his failure to get down from a yard at the long sixteenth for a four and two shots in the sand at the short seventeenth. Howard made a play off certain by holing from 12 yards for a three at the eighteenth in his fourth round. He had completed three rounds with a lead of four strokes over Edwards, and at the time that seemed adequate

to win him the title. In the final round, however, he failed to maintain his balanced scoring of the outward half.

M. E. Wesley (Upton-by-Chester) finished third with a total of 294, his 71 equalling the best score of the fourth round. J. T. Jones, also from Upton-by-Chester, who had held the title for three years and seemed to be in a reasonably strong position as joint leader of the 40 qualifiers with E. Crimes (Bidston) to succeed again, had an unhappy third round that wrecked his chances completely. It cost him 81 and he dropped to fourth place, eight shots behind Howard. A seven at the second might have been retrieved if his putting had been of the high quality shown during the previous two days. Crimes, who went round with Jones, also was uneasy and only some good shots coming home saved him from a score in the 80s. Jones, in contrast to Crimes, did make a more convincing attack on the course in his final round but it was too late.

Reaction to the change to stroke from match play to decide the championship has been favourable. It certainly achieved one of the objects—to keep interest alive to the end—and there is a possibility that it will be repeated.

LEADING SCORES

- 291—G. M. Edwards (Bromborough), J. W. Howard (Royal Liverpool).
 294—M. E. Wesley (Upton-by-Chester).
 297—J. T. Jones (Upton-by-Chester).
 300—M. J. Pearson (Royal Liverpool), E. Crimes (Bidston).
 301—H. C. Branch (Sandiway).
 302—T. H. C. Sale (Sandiway), F. A. Griffiths (Wallasey).
 303—R. F. Parkyn (Bramhall), D. H. L. Shone (Royal Liverpool), N. D. Haward (Merre), R. P. Bullock (Cheadle), R. S. McLean (Chester).
 304—G. E. Chittenden (West Hoyle).
 305—W. Williams (Arrowe Park).