

Golf

JONES ON THE TRAIL AGAIN

By a Special Correspondent

J. T. Jones (Upton-by-Chester), the holder, made a determined start at Wallasey yesterday in his attempt to win the Cheshire amateur golf title for the fourth year in succession when in his first round he returned a 69, four better than par. He broke the amateur record for the course, held by F. A. Griffiths (Wallasey), by one stroke.

The method of deciding the championship has been changed from one of qualifying rounds and match play to 72 holes of stroke play. Approximately forty will qualify for the final two rounds tomorrow.

Jones is 45 and has proved once again that he is as good in strokeplay as he is in matches. He rarely wavered, hitting the ball intelligently on the narrow fairways and putting with great assurance. Only once on the greens—at the seventeenth—did he seem in danger of missing par figures. But he holed from eight feet for his three. His card read: 4, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3,—34; 4, 3, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 3, 4,—35.

Most of the established county golfers did reasonably well. G. M. Edwards, of Bromborough, is only two shots behind Jones, and R. S. McLean (Chester), who has done well for the Colts, is third with 72. Edwards was most thorough in his management particularly during the first nine holes which he completed in 35, two better than the scratch score. McLean also was out in 35 with a two at the fifth and only one five. There was some disturbance on the inward half, however, and he had fives at four holes. M. J. Pearson (Royal Liverpool), a former holder, is seven strokes behind the leader but there have been examples before of his powers of recovery. E. Crimes (Bidston) and D. H. L. Shone (Royal Liverpool), also past winners, had an encouraging start, Shone taking 75 in spite of a six at the eighteenth. A. O'Connor (Withington), who at 16 is the youngest competitor, had a 76 in his first county championship. Leading first-round scores:

- 69—J. T. Jones (Upton-by-Chester).
- 71—G. M. Edwards (Bromborough).
- 72—R. S. McLean (Chester).
- 73—H. C. Branch (Sandiway), E. Crimes (Bidston), L. Stevenson (Stockport), G. R. Chittenden (West Hoyle).
- 75—F. A. Griffiths (Wallasey), J. W. Howard (Royal Liverpool), D. H. L. Shone (Royal Liverpool), J. R. Bennett (Warrington), T. P. D. Taylor (Prestbury), A. Frazer-Thompson (Stockport).
- 76—W. Williams (Arrowe Park), M. J. Pearson (Royal Liverpool), E. M. Canavell (Royal Liverpool), J. W. Woodcock (Prenton), L. J. Ranella (Prestbury), A. O'Connor (Withington).