

GOLF

O'Connor wins Cheshire title by 20 strokes

By a Special Correspondent

Although Arnold O'Connor (Hazel Grove) won the Cheshire amateur championship at Wilmslow by 20 strokes it was not a one-man race until the final afternoon when he sprinted away from the field by taking only 31 shots to the turn.

Indeed Gordon Edwards, the 1966 winner, was defending strongly before he took seven at the fifteenth hole in the third round. His second shot, having narrowly missed the green, landed in such a place that he took two hacks to get the ball on to the green followed by three putts. From that point the championship was O'Connor's, and there was a difference of 12 shots between the final rounds of the two, O'Connor taking 68 (a new record) and Edwards 80. In spite of that disastrous fourth round Edwards was awarded the runners-up trophy after a tie with three others and a card play-off according to Cheshire Union rules.

O'Connor first won the title three years ago at Delamere Forest. Then studies came before golf ambitions, and he has still to win the place he covets in the Irish international team. Perhaps his very eagerness to do well affected his golf earlier in the season. Certainly he was disappointing against Joe Carr in the Amateur at Formby.

Now he appears more relaxed, and his golf is blooming. His 68 at Wilmslow was his third course record in a fortnight, following a 67 at Hazel Grove and a 68 at North Manchester. It seems a pity that most of the big amateur events are now behind him for,

with scores like these nowing about him, he could well have won an event of major importance.

Roland West (Altrincham Municipal) made an impact on the championship with a third round of 70, at that time the best in the tournament. It was played in some of the worst weather, too. Bill Foulkes, a Manchester United footballer, also made a satisfactory start in county championship golf, with four rounds in the seventies and seventeenth place.

LEADING SCORES (with last two rounds)

281	-A	O'Connor (Hazel Grove), 71, 68.
301	-G.	M. Edwards (Bromborough), 74, 80.
		M. J. Pearson (Royal Liverpool), 81.
		73 K. R. Gorton (Stockport), 74, 77;
		D. P. Jones (Bromborough), 74, 80.
302	-N.	B. Molr (Wallasey), 73, 75 N. D.
		Howard (Mere), 80, 74.
303	-R.	West (Altrincham) 70, 79; A. J.
		Chiffe (Preston) 73, 77; J. D. Morgan
		(Leasowe), 74, 77.
304	-R.	Uren (Royal Liverpool), 75, 75.
305	-K.	P. Geddes (Sandbach), 78, 78.
306	-M.	E. Wesley (Upton-by-Chester), 73,
		78.
307	-T.	B. Taylor (Wilmslow), 75, 79.
308	-E.	Crimes (Bidston), 76, 78; R. B.
		Hinton (Preston), 76, 77.
309	-W.	J. Foulkes (Sale), 79, 77.
310	-S.	R. Buckle (Ringway), 76, 77; G. E.
		Lloyd (Ashton-on-Mersey), 79, 77;
		A. C. Pike (Leasowe), 79, 77; B.
		Armitage (Ashton-on-Mersey), 77, 78;
		E. Plumit (Hazel Grove), 79, 82; J. E.
		Behrend (Royal Liverpool), 78, 80.
311	-P.	H. Dennett (Mere) 79, 80; J.
		Barnett (Congleton) 78, 80.
312	-M.	Ramsay (Preston), 79, 76; A. N.
		Duerf (Ringway), 79, 73.
313	-T.	Warrington (Romiley) 78, 80; D. H.
		Ryan (Crewe), 73, 83; P. J. Herridge
		(Stockport), 76, 83.
314	-J.	R. Bennett (Warrington) 78, 79.
315	-J.	Hadfield (Bramhall) 79, 80; T. S.
		Adams (Ringway), 86, 77.
317	-K.	Coleman (Altrincham) 80, 80; D.
		Davies (Didsbury), 80, 84; P. D. Allen
		(Preston), 83, 80.
318	-J.	C. Halliday (Upton-by-Chester) 83
		78.
320	-F.	A. Hardy (Alderley) 87, 80.
321	-J.	A. Walsh (Leasowe) 79, 85.
322	-L.	E. Edwards (Royal Liverpool) 83
		83.