

# Changes at Hoylake Course

WHEN these words appear in print the £2,000 Match Play Championship of the Professional Golfers Association sponsored by the *News of the World* will be nearly over, for the last eight players will already be known. This tournament, now officially recognised as the P.G.A. match play championship, is being played on one of the greatest links in the game—those of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake.

This is the first professional event there since 1872, when young Tom Moore won the first prize in a medal play tournament and collected the then magnificent sum of £5. He also had £2 for his expenses to come from St. Andrews. With to-day's devalued pound and the high taxation, I wonder what the real difference is between the £5 of 1872 and the £550 of these days, for this event carries the biggest first prize of the year.

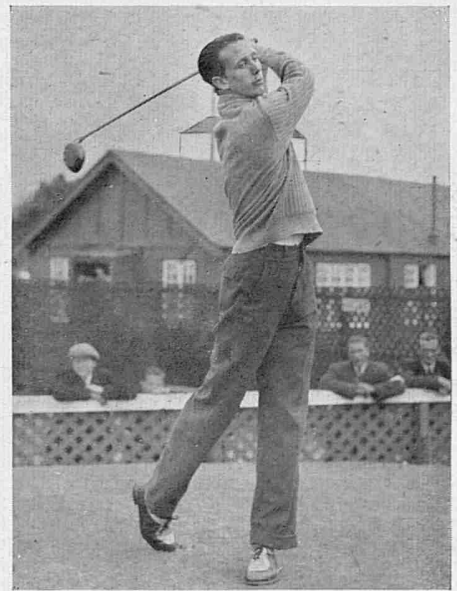
There have been quite a number of alterations to the course since Alex Kyle won the Amateur Championship there in 1939, and the 7,000 yd. long course is probably tougher now. The Hoylake of to-day is quite an inland course, for, as the years go by, the fairways seem to become more and more like those of inland courses; they are very green

and the lies very grassy; the putting greens, big and moderately undulating, were, in pre-war days, really wonderful; they were fast recovering when I last saw them a few months ago. Mr. Guy Farrar, a former chairman of the Greens Committee, has taken over the position of club secretary, and is taking much pride in getting his beloved course in super condition for this event.

Some of the schemes for the control of the anticipated crowds for the 1947 Open Championship, which goes to Hoylake, will be tried out this week and, with a Saturday final, big crowds are expected. This event, except for the Dunlop Masters event, an invitation one, winds up the 1946 tournament programme and the first year of post-war golf.

In the professional ranks, Rees, Ward, Locke and Von Nida have been outstanding. Our two lightweights leave on October 21 by boat for the States to take on all and sundry. I am sure they will do credit to our golf. Our two colonial visitors have also had a most successful season, and I should not be surprised to see them both back here next year, for the 1947 season will be greater than ever.

Next year it appears that there will be at least 15 major events, all with prize-money



**IRISH OPEN AMATEUR CHAMPION:** Mr. Joseph B. Carr, the winner of the Irish Open Amateur Golf Championship, who defeated the former British champion, Mr. Alex Kyle, by 3 and 1 in the 36 holes final at Portrush. Mr. Carr is holder of the West and East of Ireland Championships.



**UMBRELLAS WERE ESSENTIAL** to spectators watching the 72 holes four-ball challenge match for £500, played on the Southport and Ainsdale course between Dominions and British players, resulting in a win for Von Nida and Locke, who beat Dai Rees and Charlie Ward by 4 and 3.



**A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT:** The Illustrated Newspapers Invitation Golf Meeting at the Royal Mid-Surrey G.C. attracted 32 players. Mr. G. P. Jackson, playing in bad weather conditions with a handicap of two, won the Medal Round for the Sphere Challenge Cup, with a gross score of 82. The Sphere Cup is being presented to the winner by Mr. W. C. Nisbett, Managing Director of Illustrated Newspapers.

from £1,000 to £2,000; so by the time the Ryder Cup team v. U.S.A. is due to leave, our team should really be in the best possible trim. I still view with alarm the fact that we have nothing like 200 members of the P.G.A. under 30 years of age; our average age in 1,400 members is near 50 years—which is not a good sign. The Association is flourishing as never before, but new blood is needed badly.

Reverting to Hoylake again—for those who know the course intimately, the biggest change is an entirely new 12th green, built up on a narrow plateau behind a sandhill to the left of the old green. This new green is flat, quite different from the old 12th, which had a treacherous slope on it. This is a real tiger hole now, and to reach the green in 2, the second shot needs to be with a ball well up in the air—no “all along the ground” stuff.

## New Bunkers

The long third has many new bunkers on it and, as it is to-day, the long second shot needs a slight cut on it to get fairly into the centre of the green. The bunkering on this hole is under test and the results of this week's play will influence the final siting of the bunkers. The fifth green is now harder to hit, for there are bunkers guarding the left corner of the green, forcing the player to take the long casing from the tee if he wants an open green.

Some new bushes crowd the 7th hole. The short hole with the out-of-bounds on the left, have replaced some little bunkers, considered unnecessary. This is a good alteration.

In general the course is as it was, always a great test. Still, I always feel it is a pity that our great courses are not left alone so that generations to come can compare more or less the feats of other past generations playing on the same holes with the “aces” of their time.

It is a big step since the first *News of the World* event of 1903, and professional golf and golf in general owes much to the interest and support given to the game's leading players by this great newspaper.

*Henry Cotton*  
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