

Professional Golfers' Match Play Championship Diary



THE CAPTAIN of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Mr. F. L. Orme, presents the cup to Henry Cotton, after he had won the £2,000 Professional Golfers' Match Play Championship at Hoylake.

THIS event, sponsored by the *News of the World* and endowed with a prize fund of £2,000, was raised for the first time to the official status of a championship since its inception in 1903, and it was fitting that it should be played on one of the best championship courses in the world, that of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake.

The weather throughout the week was beautiful for golf; at times there was a fair breeze to temper the belated autumn heat wave, generally making the 419 yard second hole into a drive—and my biggest iron club for me, to give you an idea of the direction and strength of the wind.

Practice day was Monday; the course was closed on Tuesday for practice, an unnecessary regulation, with only 64 players in the field, whilst we all resented the club's attitude to want to charge us, the players, 25s. each for our lady guests to use the ladies' cloakroom, when all the expenses were being paid by the promoters (*News of the World*) and the club was receiving 3s. 6d. per car parked and there were many, which must have

shown a substantial week's profit to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

First Day

R. W. Horne beaten by W. E. Booy on the 17th green. Richard Burton, playing brilliantly, slaughtered W. Shankland, the Temple Newsam professional, by 7 and 6. Shankland is finishing the holes badly this season; he gets very scared of "holing out" putts and that means golf is a difficult game for him. Percy Alliss and George Duncan, aged 50 and 63 respectively, played a fine match, finishing on the 17th green in Alliss' favour and with a three holes lead on the next couple, showing that the great players get on with the job. Little Norman Von Nida, tipped to reach the final in the top half of the draw, beat Jack Busson by 4 and 2.

The other games for the most part ran to form, Locke beating Sutton by 4 and 3, a margin not quite expected. My opponent, E. E. Whitcombe, is not quite long enough to play this course easily and I had the advantage all along and won by 3 and 2.

Second Day—Morning

The Burton brothers meet and Richard beats his elder brother by 2 and 1. Von Nida beat Haliburton, only by 2 and 1, in a match in which the luckless Haliburton was stymied repeatedly, four times in fact by Von Nida.

Dai Rees playing so badly it is hard to believe it was him—out in 44—was only 4 down to Percy Alliss, also playing poorly. Rees lost by 5 and 4.

Again few other surprises. King, Perry (who beat Compston), Daly, Adams, Locke, Smithers, R. A. Whitcombe and myself still in.

After Lunch

Sam King goes out to Burton by 3 and 2, he hooked one out of bounds at the long 8th, which got him down mentally, he confessed, a rotten shot. Von Nida beat Perry easily; this little Australian has the confidence of two people. Percy Alliss beat Max Faulkner—who, although many clubs longer than his older opponent, could not stand the pressure—by 2 and 1.

I beat Smithers by 4 and 2 in a good match, not indicated by the result, whilst R. A. Whitcombe in a ding-dong struggle went down on the home green to L. B. Ayton of Shoreham, who had already beaten Arthur Rees. This was the big surprise of this round to many, as it did look on paper as if I would have R. A. as my next-day opponent.

Third Day—Morning

Only eight players left. R. Burton beats Von Nida by 4 and 3—out in 35 and 3 up. Burton is scoring well, but mainly because he is holing out the long ones, very long ones, too!

Adams, being noticed more at this stage and being fancied by the locals, for he was at



COTTON DRIVING from the 2nd tee against Locke. This was one of the great matches of a great week, but well though Locke played he could not quite match Cotton though the battle only ended on the 18th green.



J. J. BUSSON (Pannal) putting on the 9th green in his match with Von Nida (seen on right), when the latter won by 4 and 2. This was in the first round.

The Women's Championship

Henry Cotton's report of the British Women's Open Championship, won by Mrs. Jean Hetherington, will be given in our next issue with pictures of the play at Hunstanton.