Encouraging Britain's Youngsters

Junior Championships Serve to Bring to the Fore Several Promising Young Players

By Arthur S. Draper

London, October.

Two juvenile championship have just been decided in England and the play in these tournaments was exceedingly heartening to those who have been worrying over the future of British amateur golf. The new crop of boy and girl players is a large one and among those who have been distinguishing themselves in these tournaments are several who are almost certain to figure prominently in a few years in the major championships.

Miss Winifred Sarson, of Cooden Beach, who is a tall, powerful young lady of nineteen years, is the new girl champion, and though she may not be quite in the class of Miss Cecil Leitch today, she is making marvelous progress to the highest rounds. Just a little more than two years ago she started playing under the tutelage of Tom Gillespie and in the last year she has received instruction from Arnaud Massy and Fred Robson. In the championship over the Stoke Poges course she romped through the field, defeating Miss Muriel Parkinson in the final round by 6 and 3, after having disposed of Miss Audrey Croft, the favorite, by 6 and 5. Though she adopts the half-swing she hits the ball with a terrific punch and has a complete follow-through.

Miss Sarson has a great future in the golf world. There was nothing fluky about her victory in the championship. Her only weakness was with the brassie, and as soon as she found she could not control her shots she depended on her iron and with good results.

Scotch Lad Victor

Donald Mathieson, a Scotch lad of 15 years, is the champion boy golfer of Great Britain, having established his claim to the title on the 37th green of the Royal Ascot Club in the final match of the tournament with Guy Lintott, who was defending the honor of England.

Young Mathieson, who attends Edinburgh Academy, has a great future ahead of him in the opinion of the many judges who saw him win this year's championship. He has the perfect golfing temperament and that asset sufficed to give him the decision over end he got his reward. Outdriven badly by Master Lintott, Mathieson was satisfied to play an iron where his opponent used a brassie and eventually the English youngster beat himself.

This championship for British boys has brought out much to encourage golfers over here. With the youngest entrant just turned eleven and the oldest just under sixteen, with the majority in the neighborhood of fifteen, the play was notably good. The majority of these boys are pupils of well-known professionals, and it was interesting to note how closely they imitated their masters though needless to say there was much less restraint in their swing and as a rule a far greater daring in their shots.

At least ten of the boys played well enough to get low handicaps in a tournament where age is no bar. Mathieson, Lintott and D. A. Ibbetson, who carried the ultimate champion to the twentieth hole in the semi-final round, would be handicapped close to scratch in most clubs. Lintott drives well over two hundred and twenty-five yards consistently and frequently he was nearly three hundred yards from the tee. Mathieson was at his best near the green, his pitching and putting being above criticism.

Missing a Wee One

Describing the Ibbetson-Mathieson match, where the former missed a tiny putt on the 20th green, George Greenwood said in the Daily Telegraph: "It reminded me of a tiny putt that the Earl of Dudley, when Viceroy of Ireland, missed in a match when he was once playing with Andrew Kirkaldy. He turned to his caddie, a famous character named Flanagan, and asked, in tones of astonishment, 'How did I do that?' 'Begorra, your highness,' said Flanagan, 'you missed it before you hit it.'"

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In the last important amateur event of 1921 neither Cyril Toller, the champion of 1920, nor Roger Wethered, who tied for first place with Jock Hutchinson in the British open, was able to reach the final round. Playing for the Queen Victoria Jubilee Vase over the New Course at St. Andrews, Tolley, fresh from his victory in the Welsh amateur championship, was defeated by Percy C. Quilter, who is rapidly forging to the front rank of amateur players, while Wethered, who halved his match with the veteran Edward Blackwell in the fifth (Continued on page 33)
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round and drew a bye in the sixth, was eliminated by R. H. Montmorancy by a margin of 3 and 1 in the next semi-final round.

Professional Note

F. C. JEWELL, the professional at the North Middlesex Golf Club, near London, will never forget his experiences in the recent qualifying competition for the News of the World championship, the chief British tournament in which the pros. meet in match play.

Porter’s Park was the course selected for the elimination contest in the Southern section and the total number to qualify was set at 25. It was a fine field with all the leading masters excepting Abe Mitchell, George Duncan and Harry Vardon competing. The two days play was crowded with incidents, including the failure of J. H. Taylor, five times open champion, to qualify, and James Braid’s 69 in the second round for a new course record. Sandy Herd’s son led the field on the first day and then, alarmed at his own brilliancy, fatted completely out of the picture. Jewell was one of eight in a tie for the last six places. One withdrew and the seven started out to play-off for the first nine holes. Jewell and another pro tied for sixth place. Again they played over eighteen holes and ended in a tie. For the third time they started out, but over the nine hole route Jewell, improving with each round, broke the record for the first nine holes by turning in a 34 against his opponent’s 42. Jewell had to play 81 holes to get into championship proper, while nineteen other players qualified after a 36-hole battle. * * *

Arthur Havers, who is regarded as a future British champion, played marvelous golf in a recent match with Harry Vardon over the Royal Norwich course. When Havers was four—he is now 23 years old—he saw Vardon, who is 52, play a match on the same course. Havers went round in 68, against Vardon’s 77. Six feet two inches tall, Havers combines a perfect style with immense hitting power. In Vardon’s opinion Havers will win the crown of the golfing world within the next three years. During the summer his play has been as sensational as any thing that George Duncan showed when he was first breaking into the limelight.