

# The AMERICAN GOLFER

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## THE BRITISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

BY OUR BRITISH CORRESPONDENT.

Another amateur championship has been lost and won, and, strangely in one sense, but not in another, the victory has gone to Mr. John Ball of Hoylake. It is strange because this magnificent veteran has now won the championship on no fewer than eight occasions whereas no other player has won it more than three times. It is not strange because on the display that he made he was a thoroughly worthy winner, and never has any championship been won by harder or more exciting play. Mr. Ball is now in his forty-ninth year, and not for that fact alone, but because it seemed impossible that any one man could win more championships after having bagged seven of them and an Open Championship besides, it was not seriously considered at the beginning of the meeting that he could be made a best favorite. Yet the championship was not very far gone when he was such a favorite.

It was played for the first time on the links at Westward Ho! and all the arrangements made by the Royal North Devon Club were perfect, while for nearly all the time the weather was very fine indeed. There were 134 entrants, an unusually small proportion of these being from Scottish clubs, 11 in fact, and this was

chiefly due to the great distance of Westward Ho! from the northern half of the kingdom. Mr. Robert Maxwell and Mr. J. E. Laidlay were the chief absentees in the British representation. In addition to Mr. Fred Herreshoff who went over some time in advance to make a very serious bid for the championship Mr. W. D. Vanderpool was an American entrant.

Play began on Monday, June 3, when, in addition to the few matches in the first round among players who had not drawn byes, a part of the second round was worked off. None of the results were of first-class consequence. It happened a little curiously that the luck of the draw had brought it about that the first ball had to be driven by Mr. Horace Hutchinson, who was the first amateur champion in this country and also learned his golf at Westward Ho! His opponent was the Hon. Denys Scott, another Westward Ho! player and the latter won by 2 and 1. One big surprise in the play on this day was the defeat of one of the Scottish favorites, Mr. Robert Harris, by Mr. J. Crabb Watt by six and four. Mr. Harris was putting badly.

On the following day, when the second round was completed, there were some results of consequence, and

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one of them was the defeat of Mr. Herreshoff by Mr. D. A. M. Brown, who entered from the Royal Isle of Wight club but is really a player on home for holiday from the Straits Settlements. It is not unfair to Mr. Brown to say that he is no more than an ordinary championship competitor, but there was no great confidence before the match that Mr. Herreshoff would win. For several days previously he had been showing very in-

hole. However, he squared at the second, but he lost the next two, and after this never looked like doing anything to save the situation. His short game let him down all the time, and though he did some good driving Mr. Brown was often past him from the tee. In such circumstances it would be little use describing the match in any close detail, and it is enough to say that Mr. Herreshoff just managed to keep things going to the seven-



Mr. John Ball, winner of the British amateur championship.  
Taken on the first tee at Westward Ho!

different form, about which he himself was quite candid. While staying at North Berwick he was doing fairly well in hard matches, but when he came south his short game went wrong and it never got right again. He played in the St. George's Vase competition at Sandwich, an important scratch event, and made a very poor show in it. His putting and approaching were particularly weak. He was rather unlucky at the very outset of the match, for a half stymie was laid him and this cost him the

teenth hole. He has made himself very popular during his stay here, and there was general regret that he should disappear from the competition so very early, lasting no longer than Mr. Travers did when he played in the championship at Muirfield. About the same time Mr. Vanderpool, who entered from the Morris County Club, went down to Mr. H. Nicholls, one of the Westward Ho! golfers, and as he was defeated by nine and eight, losing every hole but one that was halved, it is no use wasting time over

that match either. Mr. Vanderpool, however, did not come along to the championship as a serious entrant. He told me that he just happened to find himself in England for a holiday and thought that he might as well enter. It is difficult to give any good reason for their display which must be very disappointing to their American friends. The course was in magnificent condition and made a perfect test. Mr. Herreshoff told me that he regarded it and the course of the Prince's Club at Sandwich as the best he had played on in this country. The only thing I can say in the defence of American players who are used to a bracing climate is that Westward Ho! is an extremely relaxing place, but I do not think they would try to excuse themselves on such grounds, in fact they offered no excuse, but their own inferior play and took their defeats in the best sporting spirit. It was simply not their day, that's all. There were some fine victories and notable defeats in the matches in the rest of the round, the chief of the latter being the overthrow of Captain Hutchison by Mr. C. B. Macfarlane. The complete results in the first and second rounds were as follows:

## FIRST ROUND.

Hon. Denys Scott, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. H. G. Hutchinson, Royal North Devon, by 2 and 1.

Mr. J. E. Tomkinson, Woking, beat Captain H. Hinde, Royal North Devon, by 1 up.

Mr. C. F. Yeomans, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. C. J. Hamilton, Mid-Surrey, by 3 and 2.

Mr. F. S. Bond, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. F. Douglas Gardner, West Lancashire, by 7 and 6.  
Mr. B. Knyvet Wilson, Royal Norwich, beat Mr. D. Stoner Crowther, Coombe Hill, by 5 and 3.

Mr. F. W. H. Weaver, Royal Liverpool, beat Mr. Percy Clough, Keighley, by 6 and 4.

## SECOND ROUND.

Captain H. A. Boyd, Portmarnock, beat Hon. O. Scott, R.N., Devon, by 2 and 1.

C. A. Palmer, Handsworth, beat C. W. Limouzin, Wallasey, by 1 up.

L. B. Stevens, R. Cinque Ports, beat F. E. Barritt, Adelaide, by 6 and 5.

A. Mitchell, Cantelupe, beat J. O. Fairlie, Bishop's Stortford, by 5 and 3.

A. H. Holford, Leasowe, beat Captain H. E. Hambro, R. St. George's, w.o.

J. G. Simpson, Scotsraig, beat A. J. Boyd, R.N., Devon, by 6 and 5.

L. O. Munn, Dublin, University, beat C. Bryce, R.N., Devon, by 3 and 2.

W. B. Hunter, Prestwick, beat R. A. Riddell, Weston-super-Mare, by 7 and 6.

C. Ball, R.N., Devon, beat A. Mays-Smith, Surbiton, by 4 and 3.

H. C. Ellis, R. and Ancient, beat H. IT. Spencer, w.o.

P. C. Quilter, Mid-Surrey, beat D. M. Smith, Sandy Lodge, by 4 and 2.

F. A. Woolley, King's Norton, beat T. H. P. Kolesar, Sandy Lodge, by 5 and 4.

C. E. Dick, R. Liverpool, beat W. E. Fairlie, Royal and Ancient, by 6 and 5.

H. H. Hilton, R. Liverpool, beat L. G. Elger, R.N., Devon, by 6 and 5.

D. Ramsey, Rodway Hill, beat J. P. Stableford, Lytham, by 1 up.

W. Dod, Huntercombe, beat Lord Linlithgow, R. St. George's, at the nineteenth hole.

D. A. M. Brown, R. Isle of Wight, beat F. Herreshoff, National Golf Links, United States, by 2 and 1.

A. V. Hambro, R. St. George's, beat A. S. Reed, R. St. George's, by 3 and 2.

G. K. Willis, Newquay, beat J. P. Milton, by 2 up.

G. M. Scott, Chester, beat C. Flower, R.N., Devon, by 1 up.

J. S. Matterson, Portmarnock, beat W. Trask, R.N., Devon, w.o.

M. Copland, Royal, beat E. A. Lassen, Lytham, by 1 up.

M. W. Mossop, Ashford Manor, beat A. N. R. Jager, R. Liverpool, by 3 and 2.

B. Darwin, Woking, beat J. R. Remer, Birkdale, by 2 and 1.

C. C. Aylmer, W. Surrey, beat G. C. Munsie, R. Blackheath, by 1 up.

A. Tremby, Sandy Lodge, beat E. F. Boothby, Bleakdown, w.o.

H. E. Taylor, Richmond, beat D. Brown, R. Liverpool, by 1 up.

A. MacBeth, La Boulie, beat Lord Berkeley, R.N., Devon, by 7 and 5.

H. M. Hepworth, Headingley, beat D. E. Landle, Sunningdale, by 1 up.

W. Wright, Hendon, beat Captain Farquhar, New Zealand, by 3 and 2.

H. L. Nicholls, R.N., Devon, beat W. C. Vanderpool, Morris County, United States.

N. F. Hunter, Hon. Co., beat W. Doleman, Glasgow, by 7 and 6.

S. G. James, Walmer, beat W. H. Fowler, R.N., Devon, by 4 and 3.

John Ball, R. Liverpool, beat H. M. Cairnes, Portmarnock, by 3 and 2.

Edward Blackwell, Royal and Ancient, beat J. H. Todd, N. Manchester, at the twentieth hole.

J. W. Prentice, Johannesburg, beat C. H. Alison, Stoke Poges, by 4 and 2.

E. M. Smith, R. St. George's, beat J. H. Devais, Minchinhampton, at the nineteenth hole.

G. L. Smith, Gulong, India, beat E. W. Scratton, R.N., Devon, by 6 and 5.

O. C. Brown, R. St. George's, beat Captain Prideaux Brune, R.N., Devon, by 3 and 2.

G. M. Bennett, Sandy Lodge, beat B. Schofield, W. Herts, by 6 and 5.

Hon. D. Scott, R.N., Devon, beat J. E. Tomkinson, Woking, at the nineteenth hole.

F. S. Bond, R.N., Devon, beat C. F. Yeomans, N. W. Devon, by 3 and 2.

F. W. H. Weaver, R. Liverpool, beat B. R. Wilson, R. Norwich, by 3 and 2.

### THIRD ROUND.

R. W. Crummack, Lytham, beat W. B. Charles, R. Liverpool, at the twentieth hole.

A. C. M. Croome, R.N., Devon, beat J. B. Pease, Alnmouth, by 4 and 3.

E. Lockhart, Prestwick St. Nicholas, beat W. Blackwell, Royal and Ancient, by 3 and 2.

Hon. M. Scott, R.N., Devon, beat J. S. Worthington, Mid-Surrey, by 1 hole.

P. F. C. Elwes, R.N., Devon, beat J. Crabb-Watt, Singapore, by 3 and 2.

T. M. Crick, R. Norwich, beat S. H. Fry, R.N., Devon, by 1 hole.

C. B. Macfarlane, Bushey Hall, beat Captain C. K. Hutchison, Hon. Co., at the nineteenth hole.

H. S. Colt, Sunningdale, beat P. C. Thornton, Burnham and Berrow, by 1 hole.

F. H. Mitchell, R.N., Devon, beat H. D. Gillies, Woking, by 1 hole.

J. L. C. Jenkins, Troon, beat P. E. Ogden, N. Manchester, by 5 and 3.

Captain H. A. Boyd, Portmarnock, beat C. A. Palmer, Handsworth, by 1 hole.

A. Mitchell, Cantelnepe, beat J. B. Stevens, Cinque Ports, by 1 hole.

J. E. Simpson, Scot's Craig, beat A. H. Holford, Leasowe, by 1 hole.

L. O. Munn, Dublin University, beat W. B. Hunter, Prestwick, by 1 hole.

H. C. Ellis, Royal and Ancient, beat C. Bell, R.N., Devon, at the nineteenth hole.

F. A. Woolley, King's Norton, beat P. C. Quilter, Mid-Surrey, by 3 and 2.

H. H. Hilton, R. Liverpool, beat C. E. Dick, R. Liverpool, by 2 and 1.

W. Dod, Huntercombe, beat D. Ramsey, Rodway Hill, by 6 and 5.

A. V. Hambro, R. St. George's, beat D. A. M. Brown, R. Isle of Wight, by 4 and 3.

G. K. Willis, Newquay, beat C. M. Scott, Chester, by 5 and 4.

M. Copland, Rye, beat J. S. Matterson, Portmarnock, by 2 and 1.

B. Darwin, Woking, beat M. W. Mossop, Ashford Manor, by 2 and 1.

C. C. Aylmer, W. Surrey, beat A. Tremby, Sandy Lodge, by 5 and 3.

H. E. Taylor, Richmond, beat A. MacBeth, La Boulie, by 3 and 2.

W. Wright, Hendon, beat H. M. Hepworth, Headingley, by 1 hole.

H. L. Nicholls, R.N., Devon, beat Dr. J. Williamson, Richmond, by 4 and 2.

E. Blackwell, Royal and Ancient, beat N. F. Hunter, Hon. Co., by 5 and 4.

John Ball, R. Liverpool, beat S. G. James, Walmer, by 5 and 4.

J. W. Prentice, Johannesburg, beat E. M. Smith, R. St. George's, by 3 and 1.

G. L. Smith, Gulong, India, beat O. C. Brown, R. St. George's, by 4 and 3.

G. M. Bennett, Sandy Lodge, beat Hon. D. Scott, R.N., Devon, by 1 hole.

F. S. Bond, R.N., Devon, beat F. W. H. Weaver, R. Liverpool, by 7 and 6.

On the Wednesday the fourth and fifth rounds of the tournament were played off, and there was one great surprise anyhow. Mr. Hilton was a hot favorite at the beginning of the championship and on Tuesday morning not more than four to one could be got against him. Until he met Mr. Hambro in the fifth round he had been going very strongly indeed, and it seemed almost certain then that he was going to be in another final, and the only question was who would oppose him there. However, he was defeated by Mr. Angus Hambro, who is a Member of Parliament and has the reputation of being one of the strongest drivers in the country. Mr. Hilton was not on his game at all and lost three of the first five holes and ought really to have lost another of them. He was two down at the turn and putting up no fight afterwards, was beaten by five and four. Much attention came to be directed to Mr. Ball now. He was playing very steadily all the time, and so was the Hon. Michael Scott and Mr. Abe Mitchell, who used to be a gardener and is now a chauffeur. Mr. Ball had a fine game in the morning round with his old rival, Mr. Edward Blackwell, and beat his man by three and two. The results for these two rounds were:

### FOURTH ROUND.

Mr. A. C. M. Croome, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. R. W. Crummack, Lytham and St. Anne's, by 1 up.

Hon. M. Scott, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. Gordon Lockhart, Prestwick St. Nicholas, by 1 up.

Mr. T. M. Crick, Royal Norwich, beat Mr. P. F. C. Elwes, Royal North Devon, by 2 up.

Mr. C. B. Macfarlane, Bushey Hall, beat Mr. H. S. Colt, Sunningdale, by 4 and 3.

Mr. J. L. C. Jenkins, Troon, beat Mr. F. H. Mitchell, Royal North Devon, by 8 and 6.

Mr. Abe Mitchell, Cantelupe, beat Captain H. A. Boyd, Portmarnock, by 3 and 2.

Mr. J. Gordon Simpson, Scotsraig, beat Mr. Lionel O. Munn, Dublin University, by 3 and 2.

Mr. H. C. Ellis, Royal and Ancient, beat Mr. F. A. Woolley, King's Norton, by 2 and 1.

Mr. H. H. Hilton, Royal Liverpool, beat Mr. W. Dod, Huntercombe, by 8 and 6.

Mr. A. V. Hambro, Royal St. George's, beat Mr. J. K. Willis, Newquay, by 3 and 1.

Mr. B. Darsvin, Woking, beat Mr. M. Copland, Rye, at the 19th hole.

Mr. H. E. Taylor, Richmond, beat Mr. C. C. Ayltner, West Surrey, by 3 and 2.

Mr. H. L. Nicholls, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. W. Wright, Hendon, by 3 and 2.

In the semi-final on Thursday morning there was an extraordinary match between Mr. Ball and Mr. F. S. Bond, in which the fine fighting qualities of the latter were shown at their best. In the first half of the match Mr. Ball was weak with his wooden club play and it was chiefly due to this that he was four down at the turn. Losing another hole immediately afterwards he became five down, and his case then seemed hopeless.



Mr. Ball, putting on the seventh green in the final.

Mr. John Ball, Royal Liverpool, beat Mr. E. Blackwell, Royal and Ancient, by 3 and 2.

Mr. J. Webster Prentice, Johannesburg, beat Mr. G. Leslie Smith, Galmarg, by 3 and 2.

Mr. F. S. Bond, Royal North Devon, beat Mr. Guy M. Bennett, West Herts, at the 21st hole.

#### FIFTH ROUND.

Hon. M. Scott beat Mr. A. C. M. Croome, by 4 and 3.

Mr. Macfarlane beat Mr. Crick by 1 up.

Mr. Abe Mitchell beat Mr. Jenkins by 3 and 2.

Mr. J. Gordon Simpson beat Mr. H. C. Ellis by 1 up.

Mr. A. V. Hambro, M.P., beat Mr. H. H. Hilton by 5 and 4.

Mr. H. E. Taylor beat Mr. B. Darwin at the 19th hole.

Mr. John Ball beat Mr. H. L. Nicholls by 4 and 3.

Mr. F. S. Bond beat Mr. Prentice by 1 hole.

Mr. Bond became dormy three, but he had trouble with wild drives all the time after that, lost all the last three holes and then lost the nineteenth. So Mr. Ball passed into the semi-final and Messrs. Mitchell, Hambro and Macfarlane with him, and in that round the first and second named easily went through and Messrs. Ball and Mitchell were left to play the final off together.

#### SIXTH ROUND.

C. B. Macfarlane, Bushey, beat Hon. M. Scott, Royal North Devon, by 2 and 1.

Abe Mitchell, Cantelupe, beat J. Gordon Simpson, Scots Craig, by 6 and 4.

A. V. Hambro, M.P., Royal St. George's, beat H. E. Taylor, Richmond, by 3 and 2.

J. Ball, Royal Liverpool, beat F. S. Bond, Royal North Devon, at the 19th hole.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND.

Mitchell beat Macfarlane by 5 and 3.

Ball beat Hambro by 3 and 2.

THE FINAL.

The final was the most extraordinary game ever seen in the championship. Again in the latter half of this thirty-six holes match, all the others being over eighteen, Mr. Ball seemed quite beaten. Mr. Mitchell is a very long driver but equal to the other man in the short game. The former had generally the upper hand in the morning round when the golf that was played was rather poor stuff, each man being frequently bunkered, and it turned out that at noon Mr. Ball was three down. In the afternoon, however, it was a very different sort of game. The match was squared at the fifth, and though Mr. Mitchell got away again, it was squared at the turn. After several the next. Mr. Ball got himself out of a stymie difficulty at the sixteenth, while at the eighteenth, when Mr. Mitchell had a four feet putt for the

halves Mr. Ball took the lead for the first time at the fourteenth. Mr. Mitchell got the hole back again at championship, he missed it and the match had to go on. At the nineteenth, or thirty-seventh as it should be called, there was a half. The strain of all this sort of thing had been telling heavily on the younger player, and consequently at the thirty-eighth hole he topped his drive into a ditch in front of the tee and picked up. So it was all over.

The figures for the two rounds of the final were:

The scores in the morning round were:

Mr. Mitchell:

Out—5 4 5 6 2 6 4 4 6—42

In —4 4 4 5 4 4 3 6 4—38—80

Mr. Ball:

Out—5 5 6 4 3 4 5 6 5—43

In —4 4 4 4 6 5 4 5 4—40—83

In the afternoon round the scores were:

Mr. Mitchell:

Out—5 5 5 5 4 4 4 3 5—40

In —4 5 5 5 4 4 4 5 5—41—81

Mr. Ball:

Out—5 4 5 4 3 4 5 2 7—39

In —4 5 5 3 3 5 4 6 4—39—78

