

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NOTES

BY WILLIAM PITT.



The past month has been given over largely to club championships in this district. In fact at almost every local club the title holder for 1914 has been decided. At several of the clubs new talent has developed and in consequence, there is a new champion. In most instances, however, the scratch man won out.

The Allegheny Country Club and the Oakmont Country Club, the two largest clubs in Western Pennsylvania, do not hold a club championship, no doubt on account of the fact that Mr. E. M. Byers, at Allegheny, and Mr. W. C. Fownes, Jr., at Oakmont, are undisputedly the best players. The Oakmont Country Club will, later in the season, hold a club tournament, but it will be played under handicap, so that the winner will not be the club champion.

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The annual championship of the Stanton Heights Golf Club furnished some interesting matches. Mr. J. B. Crookston won the title, after some hard and also some easy matches. In the final round he disposed of Mr. J. Graham with ease, winning by 7 and 6. His match in the first round with L. W. Phelps was a different matter, and it was only after 21 holes had been played that Mr. Crookston was

the victor. Mr. Graham rather surprised everyone by defeating Mr. R. C. Long in the semi-final. Mr. Long had been going well and was picked as a likely winner.

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The first annual invitation tournament of the Sharon Country Club, which was held last month, was a decided success. The entry list contained over 100 players, among whom were some of the best in Western Pennsylvania. As this was the club's first experience in handling a big tournament they did surprisingly well. The club has just completed its new \$75,000 club house and added nine holes to the course, giving them 18 holes, almost 6,000 yards long. The new nine holes were still a little rough, the greens in particular, but no one seemed to mind and took it all very good naturedly.

Mr. James B. Crookston, of the Stanton Heights Golf Club, captured the trophy for the first sixteen, fighting it out in the final with his club-mate, Mr. R. C. Long. Crookston won 5 and 3, neither man playing up to his usual form. Mr. Crookston disposed of a good man in the semi-final round, Mr. E. E. Giles, of Oakmont, winning by 4 and 2. Mr. Long won in the semi-final from Mr. D. T. Felix, of Thornburg.

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The 1914 amateur championship is now a thing of the past; most of the State championships have been played, and the United States Golf Association will soon be asking for

the handicap lists of the various associations, so that the national handicap list for 1915 may be made up. And when the 1915 list does appear it is hoped that the U. S. G. A. will see fit to give the Western Pennsylvania district a better representation than she had this year. No matter what changes the national association decides to make in the handicapping system, should they change the limit from four to five, there certainly should be more than five Western

and these only, are the scratch men on the Western Pennsylvania Golf Association handicap list. Next comes Mr. G. A. Ormiston, of Oakmont, with two, and then Mr. J. B. Crookston, of Stanton Heights, with three. The fifth man who is on the national, Mr. R. C. Long, of Stanton Heights, and by the way his name was spelled Lacy, has a handicap of five on the local list.

These handicaps are based on the par of the Oakmont Country Club,



THE NEW CLUB-HOUSE OF THE SHARON COUNTRY CLUB.

Pennsylvanians on the list, as there were this year.

The fact that only five players from Western Pennsylvania were on the national list this year is not so much the fault of the national committee as it is to a misunderstanding as to the difference in our way of handicapping in relation to theirs.

Western Pennsylvania has had two national champions, Mr. W. C. Fownes, Jr., of the Oakmont Country Club, and Mr. E. M. Byers, of the Allegheny Country Club. These two,

and are *not* based on the relation of one man's play to another, which is the impression the U. S. G. A. seems to be laboring under. Because Mr. Fownes is scratch on the local list and receives three on the national is no reason why Mr. Ormiston who has two on the local list should have three strokes added to his handicap on the national, giving him five.

Should the United States Golf Association continue to rate the players in relation to each other and not as to the par of Oakmont, there still

should be more Western Pennsylvanians listed, in view of the fact that Mr. Fownes and Mr. Byers are rated too high on the national. To prove this Mr. Fownes wins the qualifying round in the national championship, breaking the course record, and having the lowest score for the 36 holes ever turned in in a national championship. He then goes to the semi-final and loses to Mr. Ouimet by only one hole. When Mr. Fownes won the national championship he was placed at scratch. Since then his showing in the national has not been so good and he was raised to three. Was it fair to give him three? He has certainly shown that his game has not deteriorated since 1910. And then take Mr. Byers. He eliminated Mr. Evans at Ekwanok, the only man handicapped at one. With Mr. Fownes and Mr. Byers rated at two instead of three, some ten or twelve local men would have had their names on the national list.

Considering the difficulties of the Oakmont course, the par of which is 76, and comparing the local players with some of those from other districts who are rated, it seems only fair that all those players whose handicaps are less than six, or even the six handicap men on the local list, should be given ratings on the national. Local players who are not rated and whose handicaps are five or under are:

- J. E. Porter, Allegheny 3
- J. H. Childs, Allegheny 4
- E. E. Giles, Oakmont 4
- Davidson Herron, Oakmont 4
- R. L. James, Allegheny 4
- G. J. McKee, Oakmont 5
- A. K. Oliver, Allegheny 5
- J. I. Crawford, Stanton 5
- William Frew, Allegheny 5
- L. C. Liddell, Field Club 5
- A. G. Kay, Golf Club 5

The Oakmont Country Club will hold its annual invitation tournament for women October 6 to 10. Although the tournament carries no title with it, it is the only big tournament for women in Western Pennsylvania, and as most of the good players enter, the winner is practically the champion of Western Pennsylvania.

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Mr. R. C. Long recently broke the amateur record of the Stanton Heights Golf Club with a fine 68. The par of the Stanton Heights course is 73, 36 out and 37 in. Mr. Long was out in 33 and back in 35. The former record of 69 was held by Mr. J. B. Crookston. Mr. Long's card:

Out—5 3 4 3 4 4 3 4 3—33
 In —4 4 4 5 5 3 4 3 3—35—68

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A member of one of the local clubs, who is a most enthusiastic player, has five holes on his lawn. None of them is very long, but it gives him a chance to practice his iron shots and to putt. One day he was instructing his wife, who had only played a few times, in the use of the mid-iron. After dubbing five or six shots, she happened to hit a good one. The ball went through a window in the front of the house, came out of a back window and landed in an automobile which was standing on the driveway. He now takes his wife to a regular course when he wishes to give her a lesson.

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The annual golf tournament of the Altoona Cricket Club, on August 26-28, was won by S. W. Sargent (Merion), who beat H. W. Perry (Harris-

burg Park) in the final at the nineteenth hole.

The best score in the qualifying round was returned by L. H. Canan, of the home club, with a 76.

The second sixteen flight was won by A. W. Herron (Oakmont), who beat Winthrop Sargent (Merion) in the final, by 3 and 1.

The third sixteen division went to F. D. St. Clair (Kiskiminetas), who beat J. D. Findley (Altoona), 1 up.

The beaten eight division of the first sixteen was won by S. D. Herron (Oakmont), who beat G. W. Butts (Altoona), by 4 and 3.

The second sixteen consolation went to L. C. Schmertz (Greensburg), who beat T. V. Devine, Jr. (Harrisburg Park), 1 up.

The handicap event was won by E. J. Miller (Bellevue) with 83—12—71, the medal for the best gross score going to J. H. Thomas (Altoona), with 73.

The first match of the four-city team match between teams of eight men representing Scranton, Binghamton, Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre, was played at the Wilkes-Barre course, for a silver cup donated by Mr. Alexander Coxe Williams, of the local club. The conditions called for four-ball matches, a point being allowed for each match won and $\frac{1}{4}$ point for each bye-hole won additionally.

In the morning Scranton played against Wilkes-Barre and Binghamton against Williamsport, Wilkes-Barre winning 29 holes up, $11\frac{1}{4}$ points to Scranton's 0, the other match going to Binghamton by 32 holes, $11\frac{3}{4}$ points to Williamsport's 0. In the afternoon the Wilkes-Barre team beat Binghamton 15 holes, $5\frac{3}{4}$ points to Binghamton's 4 holes, 3 points. In the Scranton-Williamsport match the former had a walk-over, winning all matches.

