

INTER-ALLIED CHAMPIONSHIP**AN INTERESTING COMPETITION AT VERSAILLES**

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PARIS

SHORTLY AFTER the signing of the peace, a golf tournament was held at Versailles that had been planned, or at least thought of, for a long time previously. It was a tournament in which players who had fought with the allied armies were alone eligible to compete, and it was held on the course of the Société de Golfe de Paris, where in days gone by Americans have won French golf championships and which is within a distance of a few wooden club shots from the place where peace was signed. On this course, which though inland, has some of the historic flavour of a St. Andrews of France, being virtually the headquarters of golf in this country, and the club from which the game in it has largely sprung, many of the most prominent figures in the war, including Foch himself, have played during the period of the great struggle.

The idea which resulted in the Inter-Allied Championship, as it has been called, was more or less obvious, but in the circumstances it was the sort of idea that it was difficult to carry out with any degree of perfection, and perhaps it would have been better to have called the competition a tournament rather than a championship, for the latter term presupposes that at least a fair proportion of the eligible and most prominent candidates, those with the best chances of winning,

should be among the entrants. For military and other reasons it is impossible, even after peace is signed, to draw men from the forces for the best part of a week for such a purpose. They are too scattered. By this time indeed many had gone home and had done with their army business. France, on the spot, had obviously an advantage, and England was next best situated to her. As to how far the American representatives in this tournament, good as they were, really stood for American golf in its full quality, or that part of American golf which took its place in the fighting forces, readers may be left to their own judgment. It was a good idea, and was pleasant enough in execution, but it were well not to glorify it too much in the titular way.

Both the American and British teams were patched together rather hurriedly at the last moment. Strange tales are told of the manner in which the British side was got together. Without communicating in any definite form with him, it appears to have been assumed that Harry Fulford, the genial professional who was until recently Quartermaster-Sergeant with a fine record and is now installed as professional at Le Touquet, would collect the side and nobody else bothered about it. Fulford duly appeared at La Boulie ready to take his part in the

match; and, seeing him alone, the British subjects present who were in any way interested asked him where the side was and where he was keeping it. They had thought he would bring it with him. In such circumstances the resourceful Fulford exerted his utmost endeavour to get a side together at the last minute, or there would have been no British team. He did well in these difficult circumstances, but the team was a poor one in comparison with what might have been. Of course, most of the British professionals had by this time been demobilized and had gone home. Using the telegraph and telephone, Fulford secured the services of A. Tingey of Fontainebleau, the brothers Boomer of St. Cloud, with their assistant La Folley, and Lieutenant Wally Marks. Getting into touch with the British Embassy in Paris he drew a good amateur in Mr. E. Martin Smith and another named Weatherby who is an eight handicap man, but both of these had to play with borrowed clubs. He himself completed the side. It was arranged that singles and four-ball matches should be played between the English and American sides, and that the winners should play France. The results of the play between the former were as follows:

FOUR-BALL MATCHES

AMERICA	Matches
Davis and Rautenbush (1 hole).....	1
Walton and Hurley (4 and 2).....	1
Hart and Norse (5 and 4).....	1
Pierson and Middleton.....	0
Total	3
ENGLAND	Matches
P. Boomer and A. Boomer.....	0
H. Fulford and A. Tingey.....	0
E. Martin Smith and Weatherby.....	0
La Folley and W. W. Marks (3 and 2).....	1
Total.....	1

SINGLES

AMERICA	Matches
Rautenbush (3 and 1).....	1
Hurley (1 hole).....	1
Hart (4 and 3).....	1
Norse (4 and 2).....	1
Davis.....	0
Walton.....	0
Pierson.....	0
Middleton.....	0
Total	4
ENGLAND	Matches
P. Boomer.....	0
Tingey.....	0
Martin Smith.....	0
Weatherby.....	0
A. Boomer (3 and 2).....	1
Fulford (2 holes).....	1
La Folley (2 and 1).....	1
Marks (5 and 4).....	1
Total.....	4

After this France, with really something like her full professional strength available, had little difficulty in disposing of the American representatives, and so won "the team championship."

This unsatisfactory event was followed by an individual "championship," which was at least more interesting than the other, though it was, of course, as little representative and was really a gift for France from the start. It was decided to have a qualifying competition to begin with, and that the best sixteen, after two rounds of score play, should then compete in matches in the usual way. In the first round the best return was that of Jean Gassiat, who put in a card of 74, with G. Golias next with 75, Arnaud Massy and Bomboudiac in the next two places with 77 each. Marius Daugé, the famous French long driver, was fifth with 78, so that the Frenchmen occupied the top five places. Other scores were: Percy Boomer (England), 79; Rautenbush (America), 80; Gomier (France), 80; Golian

(France), 80; Cavallo (France), 81; Walton (America), 81; Bartlett (America), 81; Hurley (America), 81; Davis (America), 82; Hart (America), 82; Pierson (America), 82; A. Boomer (England), 83; Koth (France), 83; Reid (America), 84; Warren (England), 84; Bernard (England), 85; Davidson (America), 90; Middleton (America), 91; Vagliano (France), 91; Greene (America), 92; W. Marks (England), 94. In the second round Daugé with 76 made the best return, and Gassiat and Gomer with 78 each were the only two others who were inside the eighty, Massy being 82. The top twelve aggregates were as follows:

Jean Gassiat (France)	74	78—152
Marius Daugé (France)	78	76—154
R. Golias (France)	75	80—155
Gomier (France)	80	78—158
Arnaud Massy (France)	77	82—159
Rautenbush (America)	80	80—160
Bomboudiac (France)	77	85—162
Bartlett (America)	81	82—163
Walton (America)	81	84—165
Davis (America)	82	84—166
Hurley (America)	81	86—167
Cavallo (France)	81	87—168

The matches that were subsequently played were over thirty-six holes. Some of them were inclined to be very one-sided. Massy, who was in great form, was ten up on his American opponent at the end of the first round and was the victor after playing six more holes in the afternoon, while Jean Gassiat had an even easier conquest. The complete results in the first round were as follows:

Arnaud Massy (France) beat Hart (American) by 13 up and 12 to play.
Bomboudiac (France) beat R. Golias (France) by one hole.
G. Golias (France) beat Cavallo (France) by 4 and 3.
Gomier (France) beat Hurley (America) by two holes.

Jean Gassiat (France) beat Pierson (America) by 15 and 14.

Davis (America) beat Rautenbush (America) by 5 and 3.

Walton (America) beat Bartlett (America) by 3 and 2.

Daugé (France), w.o. La Folley (England) scratched.

The best game in the second round was between Daugé and Walton, and it produced a great finish. At the end of the first eighteen holes the American was four to the good, but Daugé played up well in the afternoon and drove of his best, with the result that he squared at the end of the round. Going out again, the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth were halved, Daugé and Walton each in turn missing short putts at the last two to win. At the fortieth hole Walton topped his tee shot and Daugé drove into the rough, both players seeming to have a slight attack of nerves. However, from the rough Daugé put his second on to the green and, getting a 4, won the hole and the match. The results of the round were:

Arnaud Massy (France) beat G. Golias (France) by 3 and 2.

Jean Gassiat (France) beat Bomboudiac (France) by 7 and 6.

L. Gomier (France) beat Davis (America) by 7 and 6.

Marius Daugé (France) beat Walton (America) at the 40th hole.

Thus by the time the semi-final was reached, all the international interest had departed, inasmuch as none but Frenchmen were left in the tournament. Massy then beat Gassiat and Daugé overcame Gomier, while in the final the former was five up on Daugé at the end of the first round and in the end won by five up and four to

play. Thus Arnaud Massy has the distinction, for what it is worth, of being the one and only Inter-Allied Champion, and certainly none could be better fitted for the honour than the premier golfer of France, who is the

only one who has ever won the British Open Championship, and has done his full share of the war. He seems to be playing an excellent game at the present time, and one that is quite as good as it was in 1914.

