

WOMEN'S GOLF

Conducted by DOROTHY CAMPBELL

Mrs. J. V. Hurd will always be glad to receive items of news, snapshots of current events, notices of forthcoming meetings, etc., from her readers for Women's Golf. All communications to be addressed "Mrs. J. V. Hurd, c/o 'Golf Illustrated & Outdoor America,' 389 Fifth Avenue, New York

IN spite of the uncertain weather there has been some exceptionally interesting golf played at Pinehurst this season. The visit of Miss Gladys Ravenscroft, the ex-British and present American National Champion and the unusually large number of Canadian players gave an international flavour to the tournaments which they have never previously had.

Miss Muriel Dod, the British and Canadian Champion, who was expected to accompany Miss Ravenscroft, was unfortunately detained in Ottawa, but Canada was worthily represented by Miss Florence Harvey of Hamilton, an ex-Canadian Champion.

When Miss Ravenscroft first started playing at Pinehurst the unusual conditions seemed to trouble her a good deal and her game was far below its usual standard. Every day, however, she knocked a few strokes off her rounds until she played consistently in the low eighties. Then a discussion arose as to whether she could break eighty, which put the Champion on her mettle and resulted in the finest round of golf which has ever been made by any woman in any country.

As everyone who has ever visited Pinehurst knows, the No. 2 course is a particularly hard one for women players. Rightly considered one of the best laid out courses in the country, it is so from the standpoint of being an ideal test for professionals and first-class amateurs. This being the case it stands to reason that at many places the bunkers are awkwardly placed and the carries from the tees very long for the average woman. That Miss Ravenscroft is far above the average woman player was amply proved a few days before she left when she started off by playing the first hole, 408

yards in length, without any wind to help her, with a drive, a mashie shot and a putt! After this magnificent start there was a feeling among the spectators that she intended to break her record and from that point until the sixteenth hole there was never a stroke

dropped or an indifferent shot played. After a bogey 5 at the second and par 4's at the third and fourth, two magnificent shots at the fifth, which is 427 yards in length, put the Champion hole high. It was an almost incredible feat for a woman and when her ball rimmed the hole for a 3 the spectators positively held their breath. This wonderful 4 was followed by a 2 at the short hole where Miss Ravenscroft holed a five-yard putt. The seventh was made in 6 and the eighth and ninth in 4 each, making a total of thirty-six, four strokes under bogey. At that point there was a feeling amongst the gallery that Miss Ravenscroft might crack, but she has shown very plainly during her tour in this country that her temperament is ideal for golf and on this occasion she displayed the most perfect confidence, laughing and talking to her friends between strokes. At the fifteenth hole she was 5 below fives, and on driving to the sixteenth she attempted the short cut to the hole by going for the left-hand end of the trap. It is a carry that few men can do and Miss Ravenscroft just missed it by a couple of yards. She

got well out with her second but topped her third through looking up and the hole cost her 6. At the seventeenth she drove into the trap guarding the green but made a splendid recovery and holed a three-yard putt for a 3 amid the cheers of the spectators. Going to the eighteenth she had to make a 5 for a 75 and although her second shot found the deep trap



Mrs. J. V. Hurd (nee Dorothy Campbell) American Champion 1909 and 1910; British Champion 1909 and 1911; Canadian Champion 1910 and 1911

GOLF ILLUSTRATED



Miss Gladys Ravenscroft driving at Pinehurst. An excellent illustration of her splendid follow-through

before the green she made a plucky putt and got a 5 in a storm of cheers from the enthusiastic crowd.

The secret of Miss Ravenscroft's wonderful play seems to be the perfect control she has over all her clubs. She attempts no fancy shots and takes practically the same swing with all her clubs, shortening it, of course, for her approaches. Unlike most long drivers she is consistently straight and in length only a few yards short of Miss Lilian Hyde. She very wisely takes a short back swing and it is her tremendous follow-through (which the picture shows), and splendid timing which gives her such great power. At Pinehurst she played her wrist shots without any cut and although it is not her usual method she was very successful with them. Report says that she sometimes putts badly, but what golfer is there who does not? There was no sign of it on that day, for she had three-yard putts on both the seventeenth and eighteenth greens and in neither case did she play to be dead but bravely went for the back of the hole. That she has the game and the grit to win many another championship is clearly seen and we wish her all success in the British this year.

After Miss Ravenscroft's departure the United North and South Championship seemed a little like "Hamlet" without the Prince of Denmark, as it was practically a certain win for her had she remained. However, it proved a very successful meeting although the qualifying round had to be postponed twice on account of the snowy weather. There was a large entry which included the names of Mrs. R. H. Barlow,

who has been Eastern Champion; Miss Florence Harvey, who holds the Championship of Ontario; Miss Louise Elkins and Mrs. Raymond Price, both well-known Pittsburgh players, and Mrs. West of Philadelphia. Among the notable absentees were Miss Lilian Hyde, the holder of the North and South title, and Miss Myra Helmer of Midlothian, who has figured prominently in the Pinehurst meetings for the last few years.

The tournament was played entirely on the No. 2 course and resulted in some very interesting golf displayed not only by the seasoned players but also by two newcomers to championship honors, Mrs. Behrend of Erie, and Miss Sarah Evans of Tedesco. Both these players qualified in the first eight and although beaten in the first round they acquitted themselves so creditably that they will certainly be heard of again in the near future.

Mrs. Barlow was the winner of the qualifying round and secured the gold medal with a score of 90. She dropped several strokes on the outward half by getting into traps, but on the inward half, which is at least 2 strokes harder, she finished with a splendid 41 against the wind. Miss Harvey, who was only 47 on the outward nine, took 55 on the homeward journey, which relegated her to fourth place. Mrs. Price, Oakmont, had a total of 95 which included some unlucky putting and Mrs. J. V. Hurd, Hamilton, Canada, had the same total which included visits to seven traps. There were three cards of 108 by Mrs. West, Miss Evans and Mrs. Ridout, Lambton, Cana-

G O L F I L L U S T R A T E D

da, and on playing off the tie Mrs. Ridout dropped from the first to the second eight. The championship eight with their scores were:

Mrs. R. H. Barlow, Merion, 49, 41-90; Mrs. J. R. Price, Oakmont, 47, 48-95; Mrs. J. V. Hurd, Hamilton, 47, 48-95; Miss Florence Harvey, Hamilton, 47, 55-102; Mrs. E. R. Behrend, Erie, 48, 56-104; Miss Louise Elkins, Oakmont, 52, 53-105; Mrs. William West, Huntington, 53, 55-108; Miss Sarah Evans, Tedesco, 53, 55-108.

There were no surprises in the first round except, perhaps, the large margin by which Mrs. Barlow beat Miss Louise Elkins. No doubt it was partly owing to lack of practise on Miss Elkins's part, as she is a player with fine shots at her command and is a good fighter.

In the semi-final Miss Harvey defeated Mrs. West by three and two, while Mrs. Barlow beat her less experienced opponent at the same hole.

The final resulted in a win for Miss Harvey and for the first time in the history of the championship the trophy was carried into the Dominion of Canada. Such are the uncertain results of this most uncertain of all games that Miss Harvey's score was really three strokes worse than Mrs. Barlow's! The methods of the two players were a strong contrast, Mrs. Barlow's swing all grace and snap and Miss Harvey's a strong slow stroke with a great deal of her back put into it. That their temperaments were just as diverse was shown by Miss Harvey's Scottish caution in always playing safe when in doubt, while Mrs. Barlow's Irish blood made her attempt carries whenever there was a possible chance of making them at all. As Miss Harvey was runner-up to Miss Dod at Montreal in September and is Ontario Champion besides, she may be said to be Canada's best player at the present time. Although Mrs. Barlow has never yet secured the National Championship she has twice been runner-up and is acknowledged by everyone to be the best medalist in the country. It used to be said that she could not play an uphill



Miss Florence Harvey, winner of the United North and South Championship, and Mrs. R. H. Barlow, the runner-up and medalist.

game, but there was no sign of this weakness in the final when she reduced Miss Harvey's very substantial lead and nearly squared the match at the last hole. For three weeks before the championship Mrs. Barlow had played so steadily and well that she was considered an almost certain winner on the day of the final. Golf is, however, a very psychological game and a slight tendency to uncertainty in Mrs. Barlow's mind cost her very dearly. She started indifferently in 6-6-5

and was all square going to the fourth where, after having the best of it, she lost the hole through a twelve-foot putt of Miss Harvey's. There is always a turning-point in a match and in this case it seemed to be there, as Miss Harvey followed it up by winning the fifth and sixth, which had the result of giving her great confidence. At the turn the Canadian player was 2 up and after halving the tenth she increased her lead at the eleventh and twelfth. After missing a short putt on the thirteenth for a win Mrs. Barlow recovered her nerve and played the rest of the round in her usual fine form. A splendid second and deadly approach gave her the fourteenth in 4 and at fifteenth she further reduced Miss Harvey's lead to two holes. Both players easily carried the pond at the sixteenth and the hole was halved in a satisfactory 5. This put Miss

Harvey in the comfortable position of dormie 2. Mrs. Barlow tried to carry the green on the seventeenth and landed in the trap so her opponent played short with a mid-iron. However, the hole went to Mrs. Barlow, who recovered splendidly, while Miss Harvey approached too strongly and overran the green. Both had beautiful drives to the last hole and again Miss Harvey, thinking cautiousness the best policy under the circumstances, played short with an iron. Mrs. Barlow attempted to carry the trap but topped her brassie shot which finished near Miss Harvey's ball. After reaching the green in three both players took two putts, which gave Miss Harvey the victory by one hole.