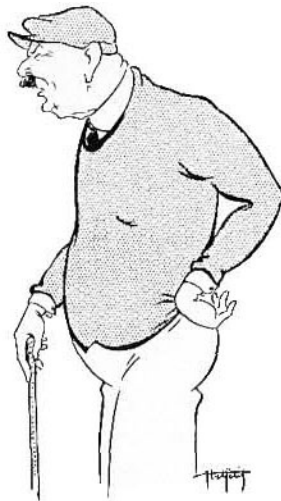


France's New Idol Is Arnaud Massy, the Open Champion

The French are completely at the feet of Arnaud Massy, their new open champion. "The remarkable performance," says *Le Golf*, "of this veteran of French golf, renewing his same brilliant success of eighteen years ago, should set an example to our young professionals who are, alas, accustomed to throw the rope after the bucket."

For five years the great Arnaud has been more or less in the shadow. As professional at the Nivelle Golf Club, St. Jean de Luz, France, he has been busy instructing young players. One has only to cite some of his pupils—Andre Vagliano, Pierre Maneuvrier, Simone Thion de la Chaume—to realize the extent and the success of his work, but nevertheless Arnaud has always looked back with a certain regret on his past success. He finally decided to take his place again as leading French professional. That was actually what he determined to do. He undertook a severe training, one

Le Golfeur du Jour



ARNAUD MASSY

result of which was that he lost about twenty-five pounds within a year. To quote again from *Le Golf*: "In the Open, he not only proved that he was—by far—the best of our professionals, but that he was the best of the world's professionals (excepting Walter Hagen). We should therefore bow before Arnaud Massy, who is a living example of integrity and good sportsmanship. Cycling has Gabriel Poulain; tennis, Decugis, and golf, Arnaud Massy. The French golf veteran has proved that the moral side of sport is not a Utopia; for that, he merits our praises."

In discussing the different phases of the "Grand Omnium," *Le Golf* says that the professionals had formed themselves into a veritable coalition to prevent the English amateur, Cyril Tolley, from repeating his 1924 success. The only amateur whom they feared was the champion, Andre Vagliano. From the very first round the play was exciting. George Duncan led with an excellent 70, and the gallery found Duncan as invincible as ever. Compston, the star among English golfers this year, made a good 72, likewise Jean Gassiat, the Chantilly professional. Massy was further down the list with 75. In the afternoon the positions changed. The scores as a whole were less satisfactory. Eugene Laffitte played well with a 71, but as he had made an 81 that morning (it may be said in his defense that he had only just arrived from Anvers, where he had won the Belgian Open) he was still far behind the leaders. Gassiat and Compston each took a 75 and Duncan 77. A young Englishman, Percy Allis, on whom his country had placed great hopes, held fourth place with two even

(Continued on page 48)

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(Continued from page 45)

74's. Massy counted a 76 and came in for eighth place.

The second day was fertile with exciting incidents. It was the apotheosis of Arnaud Massy. But throughout the day the spectators were unaware of this. They were following the four leaders, and did not dream that Massy would suddenly become "the great Massy." Therefore, imagine the surprise when, consulting the score board at the club house, they read beside Massy's name the unbelievable figure 68. They even went to the officials to confirm the score, so great was their amazement. The interest in the competition redoubled. By this superb score Massy jumped from eighth place to first, which he shared with Gassiat. The latter played badly in the afternoon round, taking several 5's and 6's, missing several easy putts and losing two balls on the thirteenth. He finished with 77. Laffitte, tired out, took a bad 82. Allis, on the contrary, took 74, the same as the First day. Boomer was 76. And it was Archie Compston who nosed in ahead of them all! This left Massy and Compston tied at 291.

The "grand finale" therefore went to thirty-six holes the next day. It was then that Massy played regular and perfect golf, and convincingly defeated the English champion. The Duc de Mouchy extended his felicitations to the happy victor and presented him the superb "Coupe Edward Stoiber," which eighteen years ago was in the possession of Massy for one year. That evening, carefully packed, the famous cup travelled toward Saint Jean de Luz where, in the golf annals of the Nivelle Club, the congenial professional will preserve the memory of one of the greatest days in his marvellous career.
