



OFFICIAL COURSES.

THE movement inaugurated at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Golf Association, February 1st, is the precursor of great things in the development of golf. A movement resulted from that meeting to obtain possession of the Meadowbrook course for the purpose of holding championship tournaments and other important matches—to make it in fact the official course of the association. The proposal will be submitted to the forty-four clubs forming the association, and, in case it is approved, the association will assume the maintenance of the links and the house, and extend and put the course into perfect golfing condition. Should the scheme eventuate, it will doubtless be followed by other local leagues, and the result will be a series of official links in all of which conditions will be to a great extent uniform. This will remove the uncertainties and differences which must always exist so long as play in important matches is held indiscriminately, first on one kind of a course and then on another; and form will be capable of definite comparison.

The logic of this will react upon the National Golf Association, which would almost be compelled then to secure an official course for national championships; and it would crown the events of the year with an assurance that skill and not diversity of circumstances would rule the results.

The project is desirable and probable, but it will not take effect in time to affect the choice of Nassau as the course for this year's Metropolitan Association tournament.

A WINTER SURPRISE.

The arrival of Harry Vardon, who has three times won the open golf championship of Great Britain, has set the tongues of the golfers wagging from Maine to California, and great is the speculation as to his play under any and every diversity of conditions. That Vardon is a remarkable exponent of the game goes without saying. His play and records are household words with hundreds of golfers both amateurs and professionals, and the consensus of opinion is that he is invincible. His accuracy in his strongest point, and he is a perfect master of every club in the bag. Indeed, if reports are to be credited, and many of them are indisputable, Vardon can place a ball wherever he wishes to, with a confidence and certainty that seem to indicate a special gift.

Vardon's first appearance in an open championship was at St. Andrews, in 1895, when Taylor won with 322, and Vardon tied for sixth place, at 338, with his brother Tom, A. Toogood and Bernard Sayers. Ten dollars was what he won in cash by this achievement. The

next year, after the lead had been between himself and Taylor, Vardon won his first open championship at Muirfield. He won again at Prestwick, in 1898, although with 307 he beat Willie Park, Jr., only a single stroke. Last year Vardon won again, although Jack White beat him on one round in strokes, when the professionals met at Sandwich. The famous Scotland versus England match, which had been hanging fire ever since Park's narrow defeat at Prestwick, was also played last season, and won very easily by Vardon. Vardon began that season by taking the big open event at the Mid-Surrey Club, Richmond, England; and shortly after, he led the field at the opening of the new links at Cruden Bay, near Aberdeen, Scotland. Next, at Eastbourne, he was beaten by James Braid, the professional, who has twice missed the open championship by a stroke, by 2 up. Then, on June 8th, Vardon won the open championship from ninety-eight competitors, and by a score of sixteen strokes better than when Taylor won over the same course in 1894. During July Vardon met Willie Park, Jr., in the great home-and-home match, winning by 11 up and 10 to play.

Setting out for a tour through Scotland, Vardon in August beat Willie Bernie, at Troon, by 5 up and 4 to play; A. H. Scott, at Elie, by 10 up and 9 to play; Jack Kinnell, at Leven, by 3 up and 2 to play; Bernard Sayers, at Luffness, by 5 up and 3 to play; J. Dalgleish, at Nairn, by 4 up and 3 to play, and A. Tingey, at Portmarnock, Ireland, by 3 up and 2 to play, also winning the prize for the best score in the preliminary medal-play round.

Returning to England, Vardon lost two matches to J. H. Taylor during September. In the first, at Newquay, Cornwall, Vardon missed a stimpie, and in the attempt to negotiate it knocked Taylor's ball into the hole, losing by 1 up. Later, at Westward Ho, Taylor won by 3 up and 2 to go. In the same month the two halved a thirty-six hole match at Brancaster, after Taylor had been 3 up with but 7 to play. In October Vardon and Albert Tingey halved a match at the West Herts Club, after Tingey had been 2 up with 5 to play. Vardon met "Sandy" Herd four times in the year, winning twice and losing twice.

In 1898 Vardon's record was, if anything, a shade better than his performances last season, and, taking the two years together, the record is one that stands without a peer in golf.

Vardon is the second holder of the open championship of the world to come to this country, Willie Park, Jr., having visited our shores twice.

STATE GOLF ASSOCIATIONS.

The movement which received its impulse at the last annual meeting of the United States Golf Association to create local associations of district clubs, still goes on apace. We have recorded aforesaid the existence of several such the Metropolitan, the New England, the Connecticut, the Philadelphia Women's Association, the Pittsburg Association, the Western and the Southern, etc. To these must now, or shortly will, be added Massachusetts, Ohio, and Iowa. These territories leave still desirable gaps to be filled in the Middle States, already dotted with smaller associations. Out of this

movement nothing but good can come, and the fact of its necessity is a tribute to the width and depth of the interest in the game.

GOLF IN THE SOUTH.

On both sides of Florida, the east and west, golf has had an impetus given to it beyond precedent; and under the tutelage of some of the best of our Northern instructors, tournaments have been numerous and results beyond expectation. Golf in such a climate, in such surroundings, and amongst the class of those who visit the favored South for winter residence has been found to fill a long-felt want. It is active without exhaustion, and interesting without undue excitement. It can be indulged in by all ages and either sex, and is social to an extent that no other pastime can lay claim to. The resorts of the South are wise in their generation to foster it.

To meet Vardon on Florida links, the leading professionals of this country have been gathering on those links for some time past. Tom Dunn is in charge of the West Coast series of links. Willie Smith, the American open champion; George Low, the runner-up; W. V. Hoare and Bernard Nichols are in the State ready to play and to follow up the events just as their records will permit. Vardon's opponents in the four matches will probably be Smith, Low, who has developed considerably since the Baltimore contest; Findlay, and that stead player Arthur H. Fenn, known as the best American golfer. Fenn, like Vardon, has forged to the front by carrying out his own ideas. It is thought by many of the best amateurs in the South that Vardon's hardest match will be against Fenn.

IN THE FAR WEST.

California is fairly overrun with visitors, amongst whom golf is a recreation which they find ample opportunity to indulge in, and the home players have been no less busy. John Duncan Dunn is making a tour of the State. On Saturday, January 27th, play began on the Presidio links in the second series of home-and-home matches between teams of eight men representing the San Francisco and Oakland Golf Clubs. The Presidio course was in fair condition, though somewhat cut up by the hoofs of artillery horses which are exercised over the links. The tournament was over eighteen holes, match play, and resulted as follows:

SAN FRANCISCO GOLF CLUB.		OAKLAND GOLF CLUB.	
	<i>1st 2d</i> <i>R. R.</i>		<i>1st 2d</i> <i>R. R.</i>
H. B. Goodwin.....	0 5	E. R. Folger.....	1 0
S. L. Abbot, Jr.....	2 4	W. P. Johnson.....	1 0
R. H. Gaylord.....	3 1	R. H. Gaylord.....	0 0
H. D. Pillsbury.....	1 0	G. D. Greenwood....	0 1
Charles Page.....	2 0	F. S. Stratton.....	0 1
J. W. Byrne.....	6 0	P. G. Gow.....	0 2
E. J. McCutchen....	6 0	H. E. Knowles.....	0 1
L. O. Kellogg.....	5 0	T. R. Hutchinson....	0 2
	25 10		1 7
	35		8

The San Francisco team thus won 27 up.

As the above scores show, the play was very close and interesting. The course was wet, and the greens were slow and not quite true.

An eighteen-hole handicap among the ladies

of the San Francisco Golf Club was won by Miss Maud Mullins, with a score of 127 less 6=121, Miss Caro Crockett being second with 131 less 6=125. The competition took place on January 22d.

The first inter-club team match held under the auspices of the Southern California Golf Association began January 26th, on the links of the Pasadena Country Club. The following were the results of the first day's play over eighteen holes, match play: C. E. Orr, of Pasadena, beat R. J. C. Wood, of the Catalina Island Golf Club, 4 up, or 2 points; E. D. Silent, of Catalina, and Frank Polley, of Pasadena finished all square; J. E. Jardine, of Pasadena, beat J. H. Nicoll, of Catalina, 4 up, or 2 points;—Hostetter, of Pasadena, beat N. W. Howard, of Catalina, 3 up, or 2 points; Pasadena thus scoring 6 points.

W. Cosby, of the Los Angeles Country Club, beat C. E. Maud, of Riverside, 7 up, or 3 points; J. F. Sartori, of Los Angeles, beat B. O. Bruce 3 up, or 2 points; E. B. Tufts, of Los Angeles, beat—Roberts, of Riverside, 5 up, or 3 points; Hugh May, of Los Angeles, beat J. R. McNab, of Riverside, 3 up, or 2 points. Los Angeles thus won by 10 points.

W. Cosby, of Los Angeles, beat C. E. Orr, of Pasadena, 2 up; F. Polley, of Pasadena, beat J. F. Sartori, of Los Angeles, 3 up; E. B. Tufts, of Los Angeles, beat J. E. Jardine, of Pasadena, 4 up, and Hugh May, of Los Angeles, beat—Hostetter, of Pasadena, 3 up. The Los Angeles thus won by 8 points against 1.

In the match between the Riverside and Santa Catalina teams C. E. Maud, of Riverside, beat R. J. C. Wood 4 up; E. D. Silent and Roberts halved their match; J. H. Nicoll, of Catalina, beat J. R. McNab of Riverside, 2 up, and N. W. Howard, of Catalina, defeated B. O. Bruce, of Riverside, 4 up. The score was Santa Catalina, 3 points; Riverside, 2 points. The total score for the first day's play was as follows: Los Angeles, 15; Pasadena, 8; Santa Catalina, 3; Riverside, 2.

On the second day C. E. Orr, of Pasadena, beat C. E. Maud, of Riverside, 5 up, or 3 points; F. Polley beat—Roberts, of Riverside, 9 up, or 3 points; J. E. Jardine, of Pasadena, and J. R. McNab, of Riverside, halved their match, and—Hostetter, of Pasadena, beat B. O. Bruce 2 up, or 1 point, making seven points for Pasadena.

In the match between Los Angeles and Santa Catalina W. Cosby beat R. J. C. Wood, of Catalina, 4 up; E. B. Tufts beat J. H. Nicoll 1 up; Hugh May beat N. W. Howard 2 up, but E. D. Silent, of Santa Catalina, beat J. F. Sartori, of Los Angeles, 5 up. The scores for the whole match were: Los Angeles Country Club's 19 points; Pasadena Country Club, 15 points; Santa Catalina Island Golf Club, 6 points; and Riverside Polo and Golf Club, 2 points.

The first tournament for the Women's Championship of Southern California was held at the same time, and was won by Mrs. Jean W. Bowers, who defeated Mrs. John D. Foster, of the Los Angeles Country Club, the contest being over eighteen holes, match play. Mrs. J. W. Bowers is the champion woman golfer of Southern California for the year, and received a gold medal. Mrs. J. D. Foster won a silver medal for second place.

ARTHUR INKERSLEY.