

Stage Set For The Formby 'Slaughter'

MANY GOLF UPSETS EXPECTED
ANOTHER WALKER CUP BID BY CHAMPION

By LEO MUNRO.

THE record "field" for the English amateur golf championship, which begins to-day at Formby, is probably a sign of increasing popularity. It is certainly a sign of increasing popularity.

Entrees make a total of 266, or 116 more than when the championship was last played on a Lancashire course, in 1928, at Royal Lytham and St. Annes.

Only one prophecy can apply to the golfing scene now at Formby—many players, many surprises. There is no certainty of match-play progress through such a crowd.

Even the two Walker Cup team nominees who have entered the Hon. Michael Scott and H. G. Bentley, are not outstanding on a longish list of amateurs.

The draw is brief, with well-known names such as "Iremont" drawn that seventy-six matches must be decided to-day and fifty-two more tomorrow before we reach the end of the first round.

Public interest to-day will centre on John Woolam, the title-holder, who is drawn to oppose J. C. Wood, of Freshfield, a next-door neighbour to the Formby course.

MANY SUPPORTERS

Woolam has many supporters for a place in the Walker Cup team. His recent victory over A. H. Padgham in the amateurs v. professionals match strengthened their faith.

They are surprised, that the selectors should turn to the further ten of the English championship.

It may be a severe test, for the way points barreling toward a great match between Woolam and that determined fighter L. G. Crawley, who won the English amateur in 1922, 1923 and 1924.

A foot down the draw, section by section, shows how hard and hot-headed may be the road to the final next Saturday.

Harry Bentley appears comfortably placed, up to a point in the draw, but even his numerous neighbours among them either W. Sutton, English champion in 1929, or G. Marwood, the Yorkshire title-holder, who meet in the first round.

CROWDED SECTIONS

Other sections seem more crowded with "possibles," and less good progress for H. R. Hardman, J. P. Marston, S. E. Banks or Rex Hartley (first round option), A. C. Critchley, F. Ricardo, the survivor of early battles in which S. Lunt, W. L. Mortier, and J. de Poerw, with Englands, S. R. Gray and H. G. Bentley, Scott, J. Thirk, C. D. Gray or J. S. Thomas, and T. A. Bourne match.

But paper prophecy and imagination are a series of surprises.

There were three unexpected appearances in the draw, too, in the draw in 1929, a same number at Hoylake.

I am prepared for more shocks this week, even "awful slaughter" if so the blame must rest partly on the inconsistency of amateur golf. But why blame that which provides thrills for spectators of amateurism?

The Hon. Michael Scott (Kent), who has been chosen as captain of the British team, and Eric Fiddian (Worcestershire), another member of the Walker Cup team, were among the seventy-six players, representing nineteen counties, and Fiddian, with two rounds of 76, set an example of steadiness which was faithfully followed by fellow-members of the team.

W. M. R. King, British golfer, who is a guest in a Birmingham hospital (76 and 76), Chris Buckley, the former Aston Villa footballer (77 and 76), and Alan S. Newell, an English international (78 and 74) also contributed towards yesterday's success, and the Beckingham best still Medieval Knight.

It was his third success off the reel, and a son of noted classic winners in Solihull and Love-in-Idleness is breed well enough for anything, but it is as well not to exaggerate the value of his latest success, and the Beckingham best.

We shall get further line to the Knight when his easy conqueror, Zelina, endeavours to gain weight to become a worthy winner of the Tudor Stakes at Sandown on Friday.

I hope, too, that Butters will send Osmund Pashas to present the previous day's trophy to the British. And others to a tilt in the British Open and others to a lead of three strokes over the French Plate, for it may help to show how supreme Colombo is.

A 6 to 4 favourite for the Derby before the Epsom Spring Meeting time, and it compares to a modern record.

By a lead of 14 to 4, the Steve Glavin for the Derby, the third in Derby's

successes, and Timms dropped two strokes, and Cheshire began to lose ground.

The Worcestershire players, on the other hand, equalled or improved on their first-round scores, and the midlanders forged ahead. Newell's effort of 74 put him in what proved to be an unassailable position.

FIRST TWELVE

The first dozen counties were Worcestershire 610, Oldham 610, York 610, Yorkshire 624, Middlesex 646, Lancashire 648, Suffolk 652, Durham 653, Essex 655, Staffordshire 672, Derbyshire 688, Leicestershire 692, and Warwickshire 704.

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Woolam and Timms dropped two strokes, and Timms' record of 622.

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