

GOLFERS CLASH IN TWO BIG EVENTS

Play at Springhaven and Merion Mixed Up Local Players and Mixed Tourneys--Cricket Club Boasts of Best Series of Short Holes in Country

Golfers yesterday found themselves with an embarrassment of riches. There were tournaments everywhere, and to cap the climax, one of the finest courses ever laid out in this country was opened to the club members at Merion. Unfortunately, two of the events interfered with the annual contest for the Philadelphia Cup at the Springhaven Country Club and thereby hangs a tale.

The Philadelphia Cup tournament is one of the oldest held under the auspices of the Philadelphia Golf Association. Ever since it was won by J. I. Lineweaver, way back in 1901, the best golfers have contested for it. It is a regular part of the local association schedule just as much as the individual championship of the city. Now the date for most of these big events, the local championship, the Philadelphia team championship, the Joseph Henry Patterson Memorial Cup, the Philadelphia Cup, the Ancient and Honorable Trophy and the Fathers and Sons' competition are assigned at the annual meeting of the association in the winter time, and at that meeting the courses to which the various events are awarded are named.

Springhaven got the event this year. Everything went along in a lovely way until a week or so ago. At that time Howard W. Perrin and George A. Crump, both of them officials of the local golf association, sent out invitations to about the thirty best golfers this city possesses to play in a series of events at the Philadelphia Cricket and the Huntingdon Valley Country Clubs, the object being to select the men who, with Pittsburgh, will represent Pennsylvania in the annual contest for the Lasky Cup, which will be decided at one of these clubs later in the month with the pick of the golfers of Massachusetts and the Metropolitan Golf Associations, as Pennsylvania's opponents.

They were unfortunate enough to select yesterday as their first day, which also happened to be the day when the semi-finals and the finals for the Philadelphia and the added cups given by the Springhaven Country Club were played. Now Philadelphia does not possess two men who work harder to keep Philadelphia foremost in the golfing world than Perrin and Crump, and both are splendid types of sportsmen for sport's sake. It is safe to say that neither realized at the time the date was fixed that it interfered with the dates for the Philadelphia Cup competition.

Yet of the thirty men invited to play at the Philadelphia Cricket Club only two or three appeared for the competition at the Springhaven Country Club. Finding that the two dates conflicted and fearing the possibility that three or four of them might be in the semi-finals the thirty men decided to stay out of the Philadelphia Cup. It is only natural when it is remembered that the thirty are at the top of the heap, so far as golf in this city is concerned, that if they had all gone to Springhaven the first sixteen and the better part of the second sixteen would have been made of these players. With the majority of them it was probably felt that there would be no sense in quabfying for at least two or three of them would be forced to default on the last day, if they were to play at the Cricket Club. Hence the only sensible thing for them to do was not to enter the tournament at all and that was what happened. It was a case of one or the other of the two events suffering and the Philadelphia Cup Competition paid the penalty.

Right on top of this it was decided to have two big days at the Merion Cricket Club, the first last Thursday to close the old links, the second, yesterday, to open the new. Very naturally these were two big days at Merion and all the members very properly wanted to be in at the death of the old club and in at the birth of the new. Merion has a course in which nearly every hole is patterned after some famous hole abroad.

Thousands of dollars have been spent in constructing the links which are said to be the equal of any course in this country and the first really first class links ever constructed in this city. Here again the competition at Springhaven was forgotten and the result was that the Merion players who entered the competition for the Philadelphia Cup were few and far between.

It would seem in justice to the local golf association that the Philadelphia Cup competition, which had been sched-

uled months ago and of which every one should have been cognizant, for the golf association issued a thousand or more schedules of the events, was entitled to three days to itself. While the selection of the Philadelphians for the Lasky Cup is most important, and as a matter of fact, next to the national championship, the biggest thing in which Philadelphia is represented, some other date could have been arranged which would not only not have interfered with the scheduled event, but which would also have permitted every golfer who is worth while to compete for the Philadelphia Cup. The winning of it is worth while, and it should have had the preference over the other competition. It would have been possible for the thirty men to have met on some other date. The golf association event had been scheduled months ago, and it would have been difficult to change the dates.

Merion could have celebrated her two big events on some other day, although in her case it was strictly a club affair. It seems a pity that there should have been a conflict in dates.

There is not a course in this or any other city where golf is played that has not a distinctive and characteristic hole. Wherever a golfer plays he is immediately struck by the fact that later on in discussing that particular course at least one hole sticks out most prominently in his memory. It may be a water hazard over which he has to drive, a brook which guards the green, the peculiar formation of the putting green, or something else which makes that one hole one long to be remembered.

Possibly few courses around Philadelphia possess more characteristic holes than the Cricket Club. The short second, whose green is surrounded by traps; the short sixteenth, the eighteenth are three characteristic holes, for instance. The fame of the course rests, however, on the famous triangle, if it may be called such, formed by the eighth, ninth and tenth holes. These have a national reputation and form the most famous succession of sporty short holes in the country.

The eighth hole is approximately about 250 yards long; in fact it may be somewhat shorter. To the right, extending the entire length and separating the three holes from the main part of the course, are the woods. Directly in front of the tee and winding along to the left and finally, in front and around the green to the right is a small brook. Back of the green is a road and woods. The fairway is narrow. The old green has been driven by Fred Herrehoff and other long drivers. The new green, patterned after another famous hole, is the only other one of its kind in the country, and is in form of a plateau elevated considerably above the surrounding ground. It is protected in the rear by a trap or trench. It is almost impossible now to drive this green. It is essentially an iron shot with a pitch to the green, and unless the tee shot is fairly long, permitting of a short pitch shot, it is very hard to hold the green, trouble presenting itself on all sides by the brook, traps and out of bounds.

The ninth is located on the top of a hill, with rough grass between the tee and the top, and with boundaries to the right and left. This approach shot, about 150 yards, must be carefully played, for both the short and long ball, as well as the hank and slice, are penalized. It forms one of the best mental hazards possible.

The tenth is another pitch shot to the green below. In front is a road protected on either side by high hedges while a brook guards the green. The green is undulating. At the time the open championship was played the tee was chopped to pieces by the professionals, all of whom lay the iron tee shots by lacing the balls on the turf instead of using sand for a tee, as with the amateurs. With each shot the divot is sent flying and after the first day's play there was scarcely a spot on the tee which had any turf left. Carefully played the ball will drop on the green and stick. Any kind of a forward spin will shoot the ball over the green. Each hole is characteristic and distinctive and bears no resemblance whatever to the other two, while taken together they form a series of consecutively splendid short holes to be found in no other course in this country.