

Drives and Putts

Being Gossip About Golf and Golfers

By JOE BUNKER

WHILE Mrs. Clarence H. Vanderbeck, the amateur golf champion, had decided definitely not to enter the coming championship in the Boston district next month, her presence in the Berthelwyn tourney last week shows that she has by no means lost her interest in golf. After winning the national last year, she had a nervous breakdown and whether it was attributable to golf or whether golf held it off for a time, she has made up her mind that there will be no recurrence of the trouble if she can possibly prevent it. Just at present she is in the finest possible condition of health and very sensibly she would prefer to remain healthy than win the national championship again.

During the Berthelwyn tournament, she played some excellent golf and it was a pleasure to see her again on the links, for there are few women players who are more popular among her own sex than the champion. When women can go through a hard golf match and lose and then shake hands with the victor and tell her honestly that they are glad she won, it shows just how the victor stands in their estimation. And that is the way Mrs. Vanderbeck stands with the other women. No woman and no man likes to lose, but it is curious, but true, that Mrs. Vanderbeck never beats a woman yet who harbored any grudge after the match and you cannot say that of all women or all men, either.

If anyone in this country knows a player when he sees one, it is Chick Evans, and after playing with Mrs. Vanderbeck, Miss Caverley and Arnold Service over the Country Club course, the amateur and open champion said that no other woman in this country has a sounder style of play than Mrs. Vanderbeck. He was impressed with her woodwork especially, and her short work and the play on the greens also came in for commendation.

Fortunately Mrs. Vanderbeck is a young woman and she has many years in which to regain her title. We have had but two local champions in our time, but it looks as if Mrs. Vanderbeck will win the title more than once. In the last ten years Mrs. Hurd has won it twice, Miss Margaret Curtis three times, Mrs. Jackson twice and Miss Harriott Curtis, Miss Davenport and Mrs. Vanderbeck once.

The Pacific Coast may supply us with the tennis stars, but we have to go to Georgia to get the golfers. Every one remembers what a fine showing young Jones made in the recent national championship, and Perry Adair played some excellent golf while he lasted. Yet there was a girl of fourteen or fifteen a few years ago who was creating a sensation long before young Jones broke into the limelight. Alexa Stirling gave Mrs. Vanderbeck the hardest match she had in the national championship last year, and it was not until the twenty-second hole that the match went to Mrs. Vanderbeck. Miss Stirling is not yet eighteen and her playing features any tournament in which she is entered.

Two of our Philadelphia youngsters are going to have a chance to distinguish themselves, for they have been invited to represent Pennsylvania in the Lesley Cup matches. The fortunate pair are Norman Maxwell and Mortimer Jack. Jack had the honor of winning the junior championship every time it has been played for and the only thing that will prevent him from winning it next year is that he will be over the age limit. He was one of the five Philadelphians to qualify for the national championship, and although he was beaten he put up as fine an article of golf at one time during the match as any other player in the tournament.

Maxwell first came into prominence a few years ago when he won the Clarence H. Geist Cup, at Whitemarsh, by defeating one of the strongest fields that ever played for the trophy. Since then his golf has been steadily improving, and in the national, he just missed qualifying by a single stroke. He now ranks among the best players of the city, and

you will see him standing out a string of defeats.

He has only one weakness and that is that he fights himself. He is rarely satisfied with his shots, and this has hurt his game. If he would stop worrying about his strokes, and take them as they fall to him, his mental attitude would be greatly improved. He has a fine style, and his work on the course is as sound as that of any player in this city.

There was an incident during the morning round of the match between Gardner and Evans that many missed. Evans had shot his third into one of the mounds of the fifth green, and he was a little strong in playing it out, so that it ran over the green and almost went into the brook. Howard Perrin was refereeing the match, and there was some uncertainty as to who was away. Perrin was so busy keeping the line of play in sight, that he did not notice the brook was so near, and in he went.

In speaking of it later he said: "I do not know whether the gallery laughed when I went in, but when I came up I was mud from head to foot. But as I walked up to the pin there was not a smile and I thought it showed as much as anything else the splendid way in which the gallery behaved all during the tournament."

The tendency among the clubs which give an annual invitation tournament, seems to be to restrict the entries to certain classes of players. This year, for the first time, no invitations were sent out by the Philadelphia Cricket Club to any golfer whose handicap exceeded fourteen strokes. And even at that, nearly a thousand invitations were issued.

Yet the Cricket Club is not exactly satisfied with the new plan. What the Cricket Club would like to do would be to hold a tournament, and have as its guests the men they wanted, irrespective of their handicaps rather than restrict the entry to certain low-handicapped men.

Whitemarsh this year invited no player whose handicap was over ten, and this gave it the appearance of another Philadelphia championship. But something went wrong, and there were quite a number of players whose handicaps were nearer fifteen than ten. And even at that, the tournament did not attract the field it should. Just at present, the one big invitation tournament in the Lynnewood Hall event and entrants are those with handicaps of eight or less, and the Huntingdon Valley is strict about this.

The result is that it draws some of the best players in the country. Whether there is a field big enough to get other stars remains to be seen. It takes a lot of personal work on the part of those in charge of the tournament to get the big fellows. Whitemarsh had a fine opportunity of having the tournament just after the national had ended, and if this, and some missionary work, had been done during the national tournament, we should have had a host of out-of-town stars playing for the Geist Cup. It is a pity someone at Whitemarsh did not think of it in time.