

KNOTTY PROBLEMS

FACE GOLF SOLONS

One Individual Should Not Be Eligible for Two Sectional Championships

Dave Herron Is Learning That to Be a Champion Is to Be a Target

BY PERRY LEWIS

Golf officials—the men who shape the destinies of the sport of millions—have many new problems to meet ere the season of 1920 gets under way. With the tremendous growth of the game during the season just coming to a close, fresh problems have arisen, and some old ones, long ignored, thrust themselves forward for immediate solution. One of the most important, and at the same time a knotty one, is embodied in the following:

How many State, District or Sectional titles can an individual golfer hold simultaneously?"

It is because the above query can be answered, "just about as many as he may win," that the whole situation requires attention. The injustice of a man being eligible for the Staten Island title and the Massachusetts State Championship at one and the same time is patent; no gigantic intellect is required to recognize the lack of logic in a golfer winning the New Jersey championship and later striving for the Pennsylvania State crown. A resident of New Jersey is not a resident of Pennsylvania, and by no stretch of the imagination nor abracadabra can he be considered a bonafide inhabitant of Massachusetts nor Staten Island.

Frank C. Newton, of the Brooklyn Club, near Boston, recently won the Staten Island title. Some time ago Newton made his home on Staten Island, and was a member of the Richmond County Club. He moved to Boston, became a member of the Brookline Club, but still retained connection with the Staten Island organization. In the Leslie Cup matches he played for Massachusetts.

Max Marston is a member of both the Merion Cricket Club and Baltusrol, in New Jersey. Playing from the latter organization, he won the New Jersey State Championship. Later Mr. Marston played in the National Championship at Oakmont from Baltusrol and also entered both the Pennsylvania State Open and Amateur Championships. That he did not win either of the latter events has nothing whatever to do with it. Under the present regulations, Mr. Marston is present champion of the State of New Jersey and a potential champion of the State of Pennsylvania. In the Lesley Cup matches he was one of the Keystone State victors.

These are but two cases in point. It is not the fault of either of these two golfers that such an abortive development is possible. Some time ago the metropolitan district officials saw the incongruity of permitting a golfer to compete for the district championship simply because he was connected with a club within the district. They needed only one scare, and that was furnished when Eben Byers, of Pittsburgh, was runner-up.

A discussion of State Championships brings to mind the case of Davidson Herron, National Amateur Champion. The new title holder has been severely criticized by some, and mildly toasted by others for his failure to contest in the Pennsylvania State Championship recently held at Whitemarsh and won by Pat Grant, of the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Furthermore a lot of hammers were produced when Herron met defeat in the Leslie Cup matches.

It is to be regretted that the National Champion was unable to appear in the big event of his own State, for it opened an avenue for his detractors to assert that he did not care to risk withering his laurels so recently gathered. Herron, however, later played in an invitation event at Piping Rock and took a chance on suffering defeat in a tournament far less important than his own State event.