

Eminent Golfers.

XX.—ARCHIE SIMPSON.

A very remarkable illustration of how the game of Golf tends to become a family possession is afforded in the case of the Simpsons. All six brothers have been players of ability, golfers of whom their native village of Earlsferry has had no cause to be ashamed; and that quaint little East of Fife hamlet, as everybody knows, or ought to know, has turned out some notable exponents of the game. Of the six brothers the names of three are familiar to golfing circles, namely, Jack Simpson, winner of the championship in 1884, and now located at Elie as green-keeper; Robert, who combines with a similar position at Carnoustie an extensive club-making business; and Archie, the subject of the present notice—who a short time ago entered upon his duties as professional and green-keeper at Bembridge, Isle of Wight—has latterly gone to Prestwick. For the last seven years Archie Simpson has been recognised as deserving of a place in the front rank of golfing celebrities. His record is a most brilliant one, yet we feel justified in believing that his career has even more to hope from the future, for Archie Simpson is still a very young man. So constantly has his name been before the public of recent years in connection with big Golf events that it is hardly any wonder if he should appear to the uninformed imagination as a solid-built, square-shouldered Scotsman, upon whom the hand of Time has begun to show. The idea might be natural, but it would nevertheless be as far from correct as could possibly be. A little over medium height, with slight but well set and agile frame, you would certainly imagine that Archie is much older than he looks, even were you to forget how long he has been gaining honours as a professional golfer. Yet he is only twenty-five years of age, and this fact impresses one with the phenomenal character of his success.

Born at Earlsferry in the year 1866, Archie Simpson, like so many other boys of the place, grew up a golfer. When little beyond school age he was winning prizes in the local competitions, and in his fifteenth year he had the remarkable honour of coming in with the lowest score of the day in a club match played at St. Andrews. With the development of his powers he soon began to make a name for himself, his taking style and strong driving being the admiration and envy of all whom he encountered. He was only eighteen years of age when he threw in his lot with the professionals, being then in the employment of his brother Robert, at Carnoustie. A big tournament held at Leven gave him the opportunity of justifying his choice. It appeared as if the slim stripling of eighteen were to have a walk over, as he secured a lead on the first round of six strokes, coming in with the low score of 80. The second round was done at 85; but his brother Jack had put on one of his characteristic spurts, and took the first prize with 86 and 78, so that Archie took second place, while Willie Campbell was third with 86 and 84. A notable feature of this match was the circumstance that both brothers broke the existing record for the Leven course. Following upon this came a tournament at Carnoustie in which Archie Simpson also took the second prize. The same year at St. Andrews the greatest ambition that can possess the desire of the professional golfer came so near being realised in his case that we can imagine the youth, not yet nineteen, must have felt keenly the hard chance which snatched the cup of victory from his lips. In the first round he played a magnificent game coming in at 83, the lowest score of the day. The second round was done at 89, but a single putt decided the championship in favour of Bob Martin.

In the following year Archie Simpson distinguished himself in a number of competitions. At Elie and Kinghorn he took



third prizes, and he also got third place at Montrose after a most exciting match in which a tie for the second prize resulted with Ben Sayers, Willie Campbell and himself. In an open tournament at North Berwick a stiff encounter took place between Archie Simpson and Willie Fernie for the premier position, but the latter came out the winner on the tie being played off. In the great two days' tournament at Troon he secured the third prize. It was, however, in the tournament with which the Sandwich green was inaugurated that Archie Simpson secured his first great professional success. The meeting extended over eight days, and was attended by the whole professional talent in the country, most of whom, fresh from engaging in a tournament at Littlestone, were in the pink of condition. Archie beat all his opponents, and in the final round found himself opposed to Rolland. The two Earlsferry men treated the spectators to a display of driving of a most prodigious nature, and an intensely interesting match resulted in a tie, which being played off decided the victory in favour of Simpson.

In May of last year in a tournament at Bridge of Weir, got up by the members of the Ranfurly Castle Golf Club, Archie Simpson again came decisively to the front and carried off the chief honours, producing in the four rounds of the links the splendid card of 151, made up as follows, 39, 36, 37, 39. Fernie took second place and Sayers the third.

In the championship contest at Prestwick last year, as readers of GOLF hardly require to be reminded, Archie Simpson tied with Fernie at 167, Mr. John Ball, jun., winning the cup and badge at 164.

In the professional tournament at North Berwick in October last, Archie was a winner, defeating Sayers upon his own green, much to the annoyance of the local golfers. Archie's latest appearance in a contest of this nature was at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea in the following month, when a tournament was held under the auspices of the Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club. Here he took second place, Fernie being first and Hugh Kirkaldy third.

Archie Simpson has won a splendid reputation for himself as a match player, even though on one occasion fortune seemed to have turned her back upon him.

This was in the famous match with Willie Campbell for £100 a-side, played over four greens, a contest which excited extraordinary interest, and drew together the biggest throngs that ever assembled to witness the game of Golf. It was in the year after his Sandwich success that Archie accepted Campbell's challenge, but

since that performance Simpson had "gone off his play," and there can be no question that he committed an error of judgment. Though worsted in this encounter Archie had no reason to be ashamed of the result when the trying circumstances under which the match was contested are borne in mind. "Frequently," says Mr. Everard, in his very impartial account of this meeting, "did the men have to drive down a living avenue of human beings, extending from hole to hole, the spectators being packed ten to twelve deep on each side; and the wonder was how play could be carried on at all under such conditions."

In a home-and-home match for £25 a-side Archie Simpson not long after inflicted a severe defeat upon J. O. F. Morris. In playing over the Carnoustie course Archie secured a lead of seven holes. Morris showed improved form upon his own green, and the first round at St. Andrews was halved at £2, the play being of an intensely exciting nature. In the second round the Carnoustie man still kept to the front with very strong play, and at the close had increased his majority by five holes, having done the round at 81. Archie was thus 12 holes up in this match. Another famous fight of which the young Carnoustie professional was the hero was his match with Willie Park, jun., in 1887. The latter had just won the championship at Prestwick when he was called upon to accept a challenge thrown down by Archie Simpson "to play any man in the

world" for £100 a-side. Conditions were soon arranged and the first stage of the match was played over Musselburgh course. Simpson gave a magnificent display, beating the champion on the day's play by as many as nine holes. Archie has seldom played better than he did that day, and his score of 153 was a remarkable achievement. It was thus made up—38, 36, 38, 41. At Carnoustie the match was more equally contested, but the local man maintained his advantage so well that with eight holes to play Park had to admit defeat. The round was played out, however, and Simpson got three more holes to the good of his opponent.

The characteristics of Archie Simpson's style are an easy and far from ungraceful suppleness and pliancy of frame, a long swing, and extraordinary power of wrist. He throws his whole body into the stroke, though the exertion seems to cost him nothing. Playing every part of the game with scientific accuracy, it is nevertheless in driving that he excels, and some of his achievements in this direction have become historical. One of his shots at St. Andrews, Mr. Everard records, "was from the medal tee, going out from the fifth to the sixth hole, and he practically compassed the distance in that one shot, having to play but a short run up to the hole with a putter for his second. The distance from hole to hole is marked at 359 yards." Among other performances which may be put to the credit of Archie Simpson is that of having established a record for Dornoch course. His score of 74 made on Carnoustie links also stands unapproached, and remains for the record on that green.

Courteous and affable in his manner—ever ready to render assistance or to impart instruction to beginners with a patience that never seems to weary and a good nature that nothing would appear to be able to get the better of—Archie Simpson has the happy knack of making friends. It is needless to say that his many admirers have a strong and abiding faith in his future, and anticipate—not without reasonable grounds of hope, it must be admitted—no inconsiderable addition to the honours which he has won as a professional golfer.

F. BOYD.

THE ROYAL GAME OF GOLF.

Tune—"There grows a bonnie briar bush."

Our first King James was fond o' games,
But gowff he liked the best,
And aye since then our wisest men
Its virtues hae confess'd.
For far an' near fresh greens appear
Increasin' day by day;
New Clubs arise and greatly prize
Our Royal game to play.
There's nocht I ken sae guid for men
As exercise and air,
And gowff's the game that gies that same,
A' sports beyond compare.
Sae tee your ba', and drive awa'
Whene'er a chance ye hae;
'Twill gie ye health, mair worth than wealth
Our Royal game to play.
A foursome set o' lads weel met
Has pleasures nane can feel
Except the few, 'gainst foemen true,
Quite worthy o' their steel.
For nane e'er thinks when on the Links
O' cares that on us weigh;
We travel miles wi' cheery smiles
Our Royal game to play.
Eachither Club should hae a rub
Against its neebor men,
And tho' aince beat the match repeat,
And fecht it ower again;
'Twill gie new zest to dae our best—
Bring friendship by the way;
Sae let us mix and matches fix
Our Royal game to play.

W. DOUGALL, Ex-Captain,
Royal Musselburgh Golf Club.



ASCOT LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

The monthly competition for club prizes resulted in a tie for the handicap prize between Miss Barron and Hon. E. Milman, with net scores of 86, Miss Barron being returned the winner of the scratch prize with a gross score of 92. Scores:—

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.	
Miss Barron	92	6	86	Miss E. Barron	94	5	89
Hon. E. Milman	94	8	86	Baroness Berkeley	100	10	90
Miss R. Maitland	105	17	88	Miss V. Hanbury	109	19	90

Over 100: Miss A. Maitland and Miss E. Frankland.

ASHDOWN FOREST AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS GOLF CLUB.

The autumn tournament of the above club has just resulted in a deservedly popular win for Mr. T. Hyde (5), who, in the final, defeated Mr. W. R. Lee (19) handsomely, 5 up and 3 to play. Mr. Hyde's play throughout has been most sound, and his matches with the Rev. A. T. Scott, Mr. F. A. Lee and Mr. Newington were productive of excellent Golf. The entries, twelve only, were miserably small for the size of the club; whether from a diffidence on the part of members worthy of a better cause, or from a lamentable inability to appreciate the joys of match play, we have hitherto failed to discover.

The usual competition for the monthly medal took place November 28th. The attendance was but meagre. The winner, an exceedingly promising golfer, who after the manner of young players, has progressed "by leaps and bounds," and so baffled the handicapping committee, should do yeoman service for the club at a future day. Scores:—

	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.	Gross.	Hcp.	Net.	
Mr. H. A. Curteis	97	19	78	Mr. A. Crerar	98	11	87
Rev. A. T. Scott	91	5	86	Mr. J. O. Scott	111	18	93
Captain Lyell	111	25	86	Mr. H. H. Turner	101	5	96

ASHDOWN FOREST AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

On Thursday, November 19th, a handicap tournament by holes was held for a handsome go'd bangle kindly presented to the club by Mrs. Burrell, of Brighton. There were eighteen entries, but unfortunately the weather was so wet and unsettled in the morning only eight ladies played. The match ended in a tie between Miss Birch and Miss Andrews, which was played off the following day, and Miss Andrews proved victorious by 5 holes up and 3 to play.

First Round.—Miss Birch, giving 13, beat Mrs. Lucas, 7 up; Mrs. Wilson, giving 5, beat Mrs. Hyde, 11 up; Miss Lee, giving 5, beat Mrs. Green, 1 up; Miss Andrews, giving 18, beat Mrs. Astbury, 4 up and 3 to play.

Second Round.—Miss Birch, giving 18, beat Mrs. Wilson, 1 up; Miss Andrews, giving 5, beat Miss Lee, 4 up and 3 to play.

Final.—Miss Birch and Miss Andrews, even, tied, Miss Andrews won.

TAYNUILT.—A meeting of residents favourable to the forming of a Golf club was held in Taynult Hotel on the evening of Friday last Mr. A. L. Campbell, of Lochnell, occupied the chair. It was unanimously resolved that a committee should be appointed, consisting of Dr. Macnaughton, Mr. D. Macdonald (Taynult), and Mr. David Baird, to select a suitable course, and to take steps towards the formation of a club, to be called the Bonawe Golfing Club.