

# Sixteenth Annual Spring Tournament

By Jack Twiss

He who has sipped the cup of happiness is loath to stop until the cup is empty. So it was with the golf lovers of Pinehurst during the Spring Tournament. They had sipped the cup of spirited competition and friendly rivalry all during the event and hated to see the passing of the best tournament that the great winter golf center ever enjoyed. Fine weather, close matches, and a record breaking entry list! Surely the Spring Tournament of 1920 at Pinehurst has left an indelible mark in the memory of many. F. C. Newton, of the Brookline Country Club, Brookline, Mass., carried off the top honors by defeating S. J. Graham, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, Conn., in the finals of the first division in one of the closest and most interesting matches ever staged at Pinehurst.

The first eighteen holes of the Qualifying Round, played on Monday, found three hundred and eighteen golfers all eager for the event. The early starters were handicapped by the cold frosty morning air, but as the sun rose higher the weather lost its chill, resulting in several of the favorites turning in low cards. S. J. Graham lived up to the good things said about his game by leading the field in the first day's play with a medal of 77, closely followed by W. E. Truesdell, Fox Hills, L. A. Hamilton, Garden City, and B. P. Merriman, Waterbury, all of whom were around in 81. Other favorites who turned in low cards were F. H. Gates, Pinehurst, 83; G. J. Murphy, Woodland, 84; W. A. Whitcomb, Worcester, 84; F. S. Danforth, North Fork, 85; and C. F. Newton, 85. J. N. Stearns, Nassau, considered by many as the ultimate winner of the event, found the cold weather not to his liking and finished with a 91.

The final eighteen holes gave many of the good golfers a chance to redeem themselves for their poor scoring on the first day and as a result several new names appeared on the first sixteen. Graham, playing well within his power, was around in 81 which gave him a total of 158, and secured for him the golf medal and honor of Low Medalist. Merriman continued to play well and finished second with a total of 161. W. E. Truesdell landed in third place with 162, closely followed by W. A. Whitcomb, and C. F. Watson, Jr., Garden City, who both had a total of 165. F. C. Newton and F. S. Danforth were next with 166.

#### Summary of first sixteen scores:

S. J. Graham, Greenwich	77	81	158
B. P. Merriman, Waterbury	81	80	161
W. E. Truesdell, Fox Hills	81	81	162
W. A. Whitcomb, Worcester	84	81	165
C. F. Watson, Garden City	85	80	165
F. C. Newton, Brookline	85	81	166
F. S. Danforth, North Fork	85	81	166
Allan Lard, Chevy Chase	83	84	167
F. H. Gates, Pinehurst	83	85	168
L. A. Hamilton, Garden City	81	87	168
C. H. Banes, Pinehurst	88	81	169

F. B. Elliott, Woodland	85	85	170
H. G. Phillips, Pinehurst	87	83	170
C. H. Jennings, St. Andrews	84	86	170
C. Messmore, Ardsley	89	82	171
T. S. Fuller, Ardsley	93	78	171

The record breaking entry list necessitated seventeen divisions and one special division. The first round of match play on Wednesday was productive of several close matches in all divisions. In the first division S. J. Graham defeated C. F. Watson, Jr., five and four; F. H. Gates, Pinehurst, defeated Allan Lard, five and three; C. Messmore eliminated L. A. Hamilton, two and one; W. A. Whitcomb won from C. H. Jennings, six and five; C. H. Banes, Pinehurst, defeated F. B. Elliott, Woodland, three and two; B. P. Merriman eliminated F. S. Danforth, one up in the best match of the division; F. C. Newton defeated W. E. Truesdell, two and one, and T. S. Fuller, Ardsley, won by default from H. G. Phillips. Mr. Phillips was taken ill on Tuesday night and unfortunately could not continue the tournament.

In the second division most of the favorites came through with their matches; J. N. Stearns winning by default from F. T. Keating and W. H. Fuller, Worcester, winning by default from L. G. Spindler. Spindler evidently got confused over his starting time for he was not on hand.

The second round of match play on Thursday produced several tight matches and in the first division helped throw some light as to who would go through to the finals. F. C. Newton was opposed in the lower bracket by the youthful Whitcomb in the most important match of the division and succeeded in turning the Worcesterite back to the tune of four and three. Newton was out in 36, mighty fine golf, and was three up on Whitcomb at the turn. Whitcomb died, however, gamely, by sinking long putts on the 10th and 11th holes for wins, but he could not stand up under Newton's steady pace and faded rapidly from this point.

Graham in the upper bracket showed the best golf of the tournament in his match with C. H. Banes, being around in 75. He won as he pleased by a margin of eight and six which indicated just how well he was playing. In the other two matches of this division C. Messmore defeated F. H. Gates one up in the best match of the division and B. P. Merriman took T. S. Fuller into camp three and two.

On Friday the semi-finals in all divisions were played and with cutting down of the large field interest in the remaining matches increased greatly. Considerable discussion arose as to who would be the finalists in the first division, many figuring that either Newton or Graham might go down in defeat.

However, Graham and Newton were not to be denied and succeeded in winning their matches without much trouble. Graham was pitted against Messmore

and Sam's game was so good that the match ended on the 15th green. Newton defeated Merriman three and two and thereby won his way into the finals.

Saturday the finals of all the divisions were played, the finalists in the first division having to play 36 holes. Graham was the logical favorite to beat Newton for the big honors, because of the remarkable game he had been displaying in his previous matches. However, Newton had many backers who realized that he was a fine match player, very steady, and capable of playing his best game when the test was greatest. When the players teed off for the long grind the tee was surrounded by one of the largest galleries that has ever watched a match at Pinehurst. Graham had the honor and was plainly nervous while taking his distance. He got away poorly and nearly caught the trap to the left of the fairgreen on No. 2 course. Newton was down the middle, not far, but safe. Both made poor second and third shots, Graham barely missing the trap to the right of the green. Both were on the green in their fourth with Newton away. Newton brought applause from the gallery by sinking his twelve foot putt and this evidently rattled Graham for he missed his and lost the hole. However, he came back strong by winning the second, as Newton played the hole poorly after a good tee shot and took a six against Graham's five. The third was halved in four while Newton won the fourth with a four. Graham came back and won the fifth which made the match all even. On the short six Graham had a fine shot just off the green while Newton was thirty feet short of the green with a hard uphill shot. He never hesitated, however, and his beautiful approach never stopped until it had nestled in the cup for a birdie two. Graham tried hard but missed his by inches. Newton won the seventh with a par five and the eighth was halved in three. The short ninth found Newton's mashie catching the trap short of the green while Graham was on the edge of the coveted area. Newton took two shots to get out and then brought another round of applause from the spectators by again holing a twenty-foot approach for a four. Graham laid his approach dead, however, and won the hole with a three which cut Newton's lead at the turn to one. Newton was out in 38 against a 40 for Graham.

Newton halved the 10th hole after Graham had laid him a beautiful stymie by a fine curving putt which circled Graham's ball and found the cup. The 11th and 12th were halved in fives and the 13th in four. On the 14th Graham again stymied Newton and won the hole. This was rough luck on Newton, but it did not seem to bother him much, for he won the 15th with a four, and the 16th with a five. This made Graham dormie two. Both were short of the green on the 17th, but Newton evidently got careless, for he missed an easy putt for a half. On the last hole both got away fine tee-shots and the interest of the gallery was at a high pitch when Newton's second found the trap in front of the green. Graham refused this opportunity to even the match, however, and proceeded to keep Newton company

in the same bunker. Both were well out on their third shot, but Newton was barely on the green on his fourth. However, he proved his class by again sinking a long putt and halving the hole in five. His lead of one up starting the afternoon round won him many of the gallery and he showed that he was a steady player and a fine putter while Graham was very erratic and inclined to be nervous. Newton had a medal of 81 to Graham's 83.

In the afternoon Graham was well away with a fine tee shot while Newton's drive found the trap to the left of the fairgreen. He made a fine recovery, and a beautiful mashie to the green enabled him to halve the hole in five. The second was halved in five and Newton won the 3rd and 4th which made him three up. The 5th was halved in five, but Newton won the 6th with a par three. Graham's tee shot found the trap in back of the green and the best he could do was a five for the hole. With a lead of four up Newton looked like a sure winner as he was going strong. The 7th was halved in six, but on the short 8th Graham again stymied Newton and won the hole with a three. The 9th was halved in four, both being over the green on their tee shots. Newton was out in 40 and had a lead of three up on the start of the last nine. Graham was out in 43.

Graham proceeded to go wild again on the 10th tee by hooking his tee shot into the woods and lost his hole. Just when it looked as though the match were about over Graham showed his pluck by winning the 11th, 12th, and 13th with par fours and was loudly applauded by the gallery for his splendid comeback. Newton, however, came right back and won the 14th and 15th which made him three up and three to go. Graham, by a beautiful iron shot to the green, won the 16th, but Newton ended the match on the 17th by a fine shot from the trap in front of the green which was dead to the pin. Graham succeeded in sinking a long putt for his three, but it was too late. They played out the last hole and both got par fours.

#### Newton's cards:

Morning: Out 5 6 4 4 5 2 5 3 4—38  
In 5 5 5 4 6 4 5 4 5—43—81  
Afternoon: Out 5 5 4 4 5 3 6 4 4—40  
In 5 5 5 5 4 3 5 3 4—39—79

#### Graham's cards:

Morning: Out 6 5 4 5 4 3 6 3 3—40  
In 5 5 5 4 5 5 6 3 5—43—83  
Afternoon: Out 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 3 4—43  
In 6 4 4 4 5 4 4 3 4—38—81

J. N. Stearns after his poor qualifying scores played fine golf in all his matches in the second division and won as he pleased. It was regretted that he could not have been in the finals of the first division, as he rightly belonged there.

#### Summary of Division Winners and Runners-up:

##### FIRST DIVISION

##### FIRST ROUND

F. H. Gates beat Allan Lard, 5 and 3; C. Messmore beat L. A. Hamilton, 2 and 1; S. J. Graham beat C. F. Watson, Jr., 5 and 4; C. H. Banes beat F. B. Elliott, 3 and 2; B. P. Merriman beat F. S. Danforth, 1 up; T. S. Fuller beat H. G.

(Continued on Page Six)