

GOLF

PROFESSIONALS AT POLLOK.

Braid and Herd v. Vardon and Taylor.

An interesting match was played over the Pollok course yesterday. J. Braid, the open champion, and Alex. Herd engaged in a tussle with Harry Vardon and J. H. Taylor, and the international character of the contest attracted a large gathering of members of the club, to whom admission to the course was almost wholly confined. The four professionals gave a very fine exhibition of golf. The Scotchmen were in exceptionally good form, and beat their opponents rather easily. Two rounds were played, with an interval of an hour between them. Braid and Herd finished the first 18 holes with a lead of four, and in the second round they won the match on the eleventh green. Four balls were played, and the better of the two counted on each side. Throughout the day fine weather prevailed. There was a rather high wind, however, and in the long game it was sometimes a little difficult to judge accurately. When the "cracks" drove off at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon there were a good many spectators. At the first hole the Huddersfield man got down a three-yard putt in four after Vardon and Taylor had run from the edge of the green to within a few inches of the hole. Braid was the only one of the quartette who reached the next green in two. He had a chance for a three, but halved in four with Vardon and Herd. Vardon's putt for a four at the Clump just stopped short of the disc, and he halved with Braid and Herd. At the Table the Huddersfield man holed nicely in four, and left Vardon a six-yard putt for the hole. Vardon played, and left his ball a yard and a half from the circle, and he had to be content with a half. Braid and Taylor requiring one more each. With a beautiful long run up of about 20 yards Vardon holed the fifth in four, but Braid with a fine putt of seven yards secured a half. Braid won the Cowglen hole in four. Vardon having got among the trees and Taylor having lipped the hole with his putt. The Scotchmen increased their lead at three at Darn shot, where the champion, who lay best on the green, ran down with his third, while Vardon and Taylor just missed the disc. The eighth was halved in 5 and at the ninth, which was halved in 3, Herd was the only one who took 4. The Scotchmen turned with a lead of three. Vardon, however, played the Cockerhill in fine fashion, and reduced his opponent's advantage. With a nice little pitch from the edge of the green he holed off his second. On the Rhamman green, which Taylor and Braid reached from the tee, the latter lipped the hole with his second, and, as Vardon got down a putt of about three yards in 3, a half was declared. Braid had the best of the game to the next hole. He used his iron at the tee, and lay within two yards of the hole, while the other three were at the far side of the green. Braid won the hole for Scotland in 3, Taylor and Vardon missing rather easy putts for a half. In an excellent 3 Braid secured the next hole, and he and Herd were now four up. The Warren was halved uneventfully in 5. Braid pitched his ball stone dead at the fifteenth, and it was only a good putt by Vardon that prevented him and his partner losing another hole. Braid was cheered at the sixteenth, when he holed a ten-yard putt with his third. Taylor should have had no difficulty in halving, but he did not rise to the occasion, with the result that the Scotchmen's lead rose to five. At the 17th, however, Taylor made amends for his fault. He pitched up to within a yard of the hole, and was out in 3, Braid and Vardon taking 4, and Herd 5. The Wimbledon professional put in some excellent work at the Home hole, laying his ball dead in 3. He left Herd with a two-yard putt for a half, which was successfully accomplished. The details of the best balls were as follow:—Braid and Herd—Out—4 5 4 4 3 5 3—36; in—3 3 3 5 4 3 4—32; total, 68. Vardon and Taylor—Out—5 4 5 4 4 5 3—39; in—2 3 4 4 5 4 4 3—33; total, 72. Braid took the fewest number of strokes, and as his score is a record for the course, it is worthy of mention:—Out—5 4 5 4 4 3 5—39; in—3 3 3 3 4 3 4 5—34; total, 73. The number of spectators had increased considerably when the match was resumed at half-past five o'clock. Fully 600 persons were present, and it was with some difficulty that they were kept within a reasonable distance from the players. The Scotchmen commenced with a lead of four holes. Taylor, Vardon, and Herd took five to the first hole, and Braid, who missed a short putt, required six. Herd managed to play the next in four against 5 for the other men, and thus added a hole to his and Braid's lead. The champion lipped at the Clump hole with his fourth, but Herd with a useful long putt got down in four to five for Vardon, who had topped his second. The fourth was halved in four. Braid and Vardon had each a lovely pitch at the Hippenstones, and holed in four, and Taylor and Herd, missing short putts, could not get out in fewer than five. Braid topped his next tee shot, and as the ball fell into the buzz he gave up and trusted to his partner to do his best. Herd did all that was needed. Taylor and Vardon played rather inferiorly, and the Huddersfield man easily beat them, as his ball was dead in three. The Scotchmen had now a lead of seven. Herd also won the seventh in a lovely three against four for the other man, and increased the lead to eight. Braid was successful with a four-yard putt in four at the Long hole, and halved with Vardon, who had less to do on the green. Then the Ganton man holed a three-yard putt in three at the Half-way, and Herd had rather hard lines in his attempt to half. The lead of seven in favour of the Scotchmen was increased at the tenth, where Herd holed in three against four for Braid, Vardon, and Taylor. At the eleventh hole Braid put down a five-yard putt and finished the match, the Scotchmen winning by nine holes and seven to play. The game was continued, and the next three holes were halved in three, four, and five respectively. Vardon won the fifteenth in an excellent four, the sixteenth with a nice putt in three, and the seventeenth in three; but Herd took the Home hole with a putt of six yards in three, so that the Scotchmen were seven holes up on the two rounds. The details of the best balls were:—Braid and Herd—Out, 5 4 4 4 4 3 4—36; in, 3 3 3 4 5 4 3—31; total, 70. Vardon and Taylor—Out, 5 5 5 4 4 5 4 3—39; in, 4 4 3 4 5 4 3 3—34; total, 73.

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