

GOLF!

CHAMPIONS AT POLLOK.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES.

Yesterday afternoon the noted professionals and champions, Jas. Braid, of Romford; Harry Vardon, of Ganton; J. H. Taylor, of Richmond; and Alex. Herd, of Huddersfield, fulfilled engagements over the course of the Pollok Golf Club. The inclusion of Herd vice Fernie, of Troon, is the alteration in the quartette that played at Bogside on Saturday, when Scotland was victorious in the singles, but defeated in the four-ball match.

Yesterday, instead of playing singles and a foursome, it was decided to play a 36-hole four-ball match, the conditions being the best ball of Braid and Herd against the best ball of Vardon and Taylor.

The weather was fair, with a high breeze prevailing, which was bound to affect play. It was decided to play a 4-ball match of 36 holes, Braid and Herd (representing Scotland) being pitted against Vardon and Taylor, representing England. There was a goodly gathering of club members and friends when the players started off, England having the honour. In drilling, Herd and Taylor were equal in distance, Braid being a few yards in advance of Vardon. All got well away with their seconds, but both Englishmen overran the green with their approach, Vardon being unlucky to strike the branch of a tree in pitching.

Herd was successful, by a longish putt, in securing the hole for Scotland in 4 against 6. Although Braid was successful in getting on the second green in 2 (1 less than the others), he failed to get down in his next effort, and Vardon managed to divide the hole in 4. Braid again had the best of it on the third green, but failed in the putt, and a half in five resulted. Vardon got the fourth green in his second, but falling short in the attempt to hole out, a half in 4 was again registered. Vardon just missed the fourth hole by inches in his approach, and Braid equaled him in four by an excellent putt. The champion was seen at his best in the next journey, Vardon going out of bounds with his second, and giving up. Taylor missed his putt, and Braid, getting in in four, Scotland stood two to the good. To Braid's excellent play on the green was Scotland due the next hole, this being taken in three against four. The eighth was halved in five. Both Scotsmen were unlucky enough to slice their drives to the ninth green, on which both Englishmen landed. Again Braid recovered ground by judicious green play, and succeeded in halving the hole with Vardon in three. At the turn Scotland was three up. Details out:—

Scotland	4 4 5 4 4 4 3 5 3—36
England	5 4 5 4 4 5 4 5 3—39

Vardon, holing out in his approach, secured the tenth hole, and first for England in two, a bit of nicely-judged play that was deservedly cheered. The eleventh was halved in three, and Braid annexed the following two in three-four, and Scotland was now four up.

The Warren was halved uneventfully in five. Braid pitched his ball stone dead at the fifteenth, but a good putt by Vardon prevented him and his partner losing another hole. Braid holed a ten-yard putt with his third at the tenth. Taylor failed to make a half, and the Scotchmen's lead rose to five. At the Avenue, however, Taylor made amends for his fault. He pitched up to within a yard of the hole, and was out in three, Braid and Vardon taking four, and Herd five. The Wimbledon professional put in some excellent work at the home hole, laying his ball dead in three. 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 4 5 4 4 4 3 5 3—36; in—3 3 3 3 5 4 3 4 4—32—total, 68. Vardon and Taylor—Out—5 4 5 4 4 5 4 5 3—39; in—4 3 4 4 5 4 4 3 4—33—total, 72. Braid took the fewest number of strokes, and his score is a record for the course. Here it is:—Out—6 4 5 5 4 4 3 3 3—39; in—4 3 3 3 5 4 3 4 5—34—total, 73.

The Scotsmen played a much superior game in the second round, and ultimately won the match by nine holes up and seven to play. The details of the best balls were:—Braid and Herd—Out—5 4 4 4 4 3 4 4—38; in—1 3 3 4 5 5 4 4 3—34—total, 70. Vardon and Taylor—Out—5 5 5 4 4 5 4 4 3—39; in—4 4 3 4 5 4 3 3 4—34—total, 73.