

Britain's Greatest Amateur

Shuttling placidly between his solicitor's office, the Wigan Magistrates' Court and the golf course, Ronnie White, of Birkdale, England, has established beyond doubt his reputation as the greatest British amateur golfer of the day, even though he has not played in the last two British Amateur Championships.

There are many who unhesitatingly describe him as the outstanding British amateur of golfing history, and some Americans call him the best unpaid striker of the golf ball since the incomparable Bob Jones.

The way in which this remarkable young man takes his golf is best illustrated by the story of his first two rounds in the Brabazon Trophy tournament which he won at the Formby golf course. After a hard day's work in his role as a rising young solicitor, White arrived at Formby late in the afternoon, clad in the neat black coat and striped trousers of tradition.

Ten minutes later he was wrapped up in golf waterproofs and facing a howling gale on the first tee. In the worst of the day's weather he was around in 77 shots, which would have been pretty good going even for anyone who had not spent the day wrestling with torts and malfeasances, or whatever they are.

Next morning White was an early starter and clicked around in a record-equalling 69. A few minutes after the last putt had gone down, Mr. R. J. White, Solicitor, once again clothed in sombre respectability, was driving off to court to practice his legal arts.

This sums up the whole story of Ronnie White. When he returned to civilian life after the war, he reflected that he had missed some valuable years and it was high time he got down to earning his living. Since then he has worked hard, first as a student and then as newly arrived professional man.

Supreme though his talents are, golf has always been regarded as a side-line,



Ronnie White

something to be enjoyed in time off. In other words, Ronnie White is a genuine week-end golfer who intends to stay that way and considers it a pleasant accident that nature endowed him with the golfing ability of a world champion.

He plays little competitive golf, except when it is staged conveniently. Of course, when he is committed to something big (like the three Walker Cup events which he has played without losing a game) he practices seriously.

To the Americans, White is an enigma. We remember how puzzled was Charles Coe, that grand American amateur swinger, during last year's Walker Cup contest, when he was told that White would not be playing in the Amateur Championship because he had to work for a living.

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