

JACK WHITE'S RECORD-BREAKING CLEEK

by

EDWARD S. KNAPP, JR.

USGA Executive Assistant

THE British Open Championship was instituted in 1860 and held annually until World War I, except in 1871, but it was not until 1904 that a competitor succeeded in breaking 300 for 72 holes.

In that year Jack White, the professional at the Sunningdale Golf Club, in England, not only scored 296 to win but also, by closing with a 69, became the first man to break 70 in the event.

"Golf House" is fortunate in having in its Museum several clubs made by Jack White, who was fully as well known as a club-maker as he was a player. And recently we received a club used by him in winning his Open Championship and setting the record.

Capt. A. Bullock-Webster, of Los Angeles, Cal., a member at Sunningdale when White was professional there, had been given by White the iron cleek which White used in the 1904 Open. Recently, the Captain made the acquaintance of Jimmy Thomson, of New York, who besides being famous as a mighty hitter of the golf ball is also a nephew of Jack White. The two men decided that the place for the famous cleek was the USGA Museum in "Golf House."

Photo of Score Cards

Accompanying the club was another gift from Bullock-Webster, a photograph of the four score cards turned in by White in making his historic score of 296. The scores, made at Royal St. George's, in Sandwich, England, are: 80 - 75 - 72 - 69.

An indication of the greatness of this performance can be gleaned from the fact that the next two British Opens to be played at Sandwich were won by Vardon in 1911 with 303 and by Hagen in 1922 with 300, scores which did not even approach White's 296.



JACK WHITE

Exactly twenty-five years later, while on a visit to this country, Jack White all but stole the show, in the first round of the 1929 USGA Open Championship. At

He scored a 72, even par, at the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y. At that point he was fifth and, even though he weakened and was forced to withdraw in the second round, he proved beyond doubt that he retained all his old-time skill, but his heart was too big for his legs to carry around.

As this edition of the USGA JOURNAL went to press, 5,573 individuals, clubs, associations and other sources had enrolled as Founders by contributing \$102,565 to the "Golf House" Fund, and another \$7,500 is needed to complete the financing. The most recent Founders have been:

Mrs. Charles C. Barnes
Harry Gottlieb
Henry A. Johnson