

Mr. Stagg

# EARLY RUSH TO GOLF 'OPEN'

From **GEOFFREY COUSINS**

CARNOUSTIE, Monday.

**O**NE of the most interesting of Open golf championships for many years opened here today.

Hundreds of early spectators made their way through the streets of this golf-mad town to the Carnoustie championship links and the neighbouring Burnside course.

They were the vanguard of what were expected to be record crowds. All Scotland is keenly interested in the tussle between star players of many parts of the world and most interested of all in the activities of favourite Ben Hogan.

Six rounds will be played in five days, two of them in the qualifying stages and the last four in the championship.

Friday should provide the answer to the question whether Hogan is the world's greatest golfer.

Holder and four times winner of the U.S. championship, he started today the hottest-ever favourite, backed at 6 to 4 to win this title at his first attempt and so complete the double.

Second favourite is the holder, Bobby Locke, of South Africa.

Both Locks and Hogan were late starters today on Burnside, but the early spectators had plenty of attractions.

Tomorrow the players change courses and the leading hundred will qualify for the real battle beginning on Wednesday.

The final stages over 36 holes will be contested by 50 players on Friday and if there is a tie the competitors concerned will replay over 36 holes on Saturday.

6/7/53.

## FIVE CHAMPIONS OUT OF GOLF OPEN

By **MAURICE HART**

CARNOUSTIE, Monday.

**B**IG surprise at the start of the Open Golf Championship on Carnoustie Links here to-day was the withdrawal of 23 players including five champions—Gene X. Sarazen (U.S.), Robert Sweeny (U.S.), Harvie Ward (U.S.), H. Lemaze (France) and Henry Cotton (Gt. Britain).

Because they had not notified the Championship Committee before the draw had been made, these absentees forfeited a total of £20 in entrance fees.

There was another surprise when John O'Donnell, another American, failed to appear on the first tee. His partner, John Jacobs (Sandy Lodge), had to play on his own with a spectator marking his card.

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# Mangrum the man to beat Hogan

*New Sharon*

From JOHN CAMKIN  
CARNOUSTIE, Sunday.

**T**HE verdict of Britain's Dai Rees on this Open Championship is that the man who beats Lloyd Mangrum wins.

I think he is right. And among half the population of East Scotland, who are gathered in this grey village today, the one topic of talk is: Will Hogan beat fellow American Mangrum?

It is a question I cannot answer. My only conviction is that by next Friday the championship trophy will be leaving Britain for the fifth time since the war.

A home victory this week seems as remote as Scottish sunshine on this rainy evening. That, in its way, may be a golfing blessing in disguise.

## New standards

The absence of the leading Americans from the championship since 1946 has led to a certain slackness and insular approach among leading tournament performers.

This week I suspect Hogan, Mangrum and one or two other invaders may throw in bold relief the state of British golf.

That may be pessimistic, but it could be that the new standards which will probably be established on these 7,200 yards, Britain's longest championship test, will lead to a renaissance of home golf.

Hogan is desperately keen to win. This is his first, and probably his last, effort to join a roll of fame which includes every great American.

This winter, at 42, he plans to announce his retirement from the tough tournament circuit which has made him a millionaire. He has been U.S. champion four times.

In the past 12 days Hogan has given the Carnoustie links meticulous examination. No possible danger is left unexplored. Yet Hogan, the hottest favourite this championship has known, is only one of six good enough to win.

## Rub of the green

The others, in my opinion, are Bobby Locke, three times champion in the past four years, Mangrum, Argentina's Roberto de Vicenzo, Flory Van Donck of Belgium, and perhaps an Englishman from Shropshire, Harry Weetman, for there is still such a contingency as "the rub of the green."

If a cold east wind comes in from the North Sea, Hogan, Mangrum and the rest of the warm weather people may be nowhere.

Nor is Carnoustie the billiard table test which the Americans expected. The fairways are fiery and the lies none too good. The sand hillocks will provide kicks which can settle titles.

But it is a worthy setting for this gala Open. Its tremendous finishing three holes, 250 yards, 454 yards and 503 yards, all heavily entwined by the tortuous Barry Burn, will permit no upstart victory.

The links have a part of 72. So far, in spite of two championships, no one has broken into the sixties.

In 1931 the American Tommy Armour won with 296. Six years later 291 brought the title to Cotton, whose unfortunate absence this week is the only blemish on a fine scene.

## Tremendous length

If the wind behaves, I fancy 285 will win this week. For my money Mangrum is the man to do it. He has the tremendous length which this stretch demands. His placid temperament has won him 14,000 U.S. dollars this season and will not let him down here.

The championship course here with the par figures goes like this:

1-406 yds. 4.	10-446 yds. 4.
2-442 yds. 4.	11-388 yds. 4.
3-346 yds. 4.	12-467 yds. 4.
4-430 yds. 4.	13-188 yds. 3.
5-382 yds. 4.	14-473 yds. 5.
6-587 yds. 5.	15-457 yds. 4.
7-389 yds. 4.	16-250 yds. 3.
8-161 yds. 3.	17-454 yds. 4.
9-483 yds. 4.	18-503 yds. 5.
3,612 yds. 38.	3,686 yds. 38.

The 175 competitors play 18 qualifying holes here and another at neighbouring Burnside on Tuesday. A maximum of 100 go into the championship proper on Wednesday, and 50 will be left for Friday's final two rounds.