

# A BONUS OF VALUES IN THE WALKER CUP

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A Walker Cup Match when played in Great Britain, once every four years, has values beyond the immediate event, so far as the American visitors are concerned. The record book will show a 9-3 victory for the United States in this year's Match, but it cannot reflect the full meaning of the occasion, especially for the four young college students who were making the trip for the first time.

This Walker Cup Match was played at Muirfield, east of Edinburgh. To visit there is to have a sort of spiritual renewal in the fine things of golf. To play before 8,000 spectators there is to learn how truly appreciative and well-mannered a golf gallery can be, for all of those 8,000 play and know golf keenly and they applaud the stroke rather than the stroke-maker or his country.

Just to be at Muirfield is to breathe the atmosphere of historical golf, for Muirfield is the home of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, and the Honourable Company is the oldest golf club in the world, with a recorded history dating to 1744. They played then on the links at Leith, moved to Musselburgh in 1836, and finally located at Muirfield in 1891. (Golf has been played at St. Andrews more than 400 years, but the Royal and Ancient Golf Club is younger than the Honourable Company by about ten years.)

To play Muirfield is to have your game examined by perhaps as fine and fair a test of golf as exists anywhere in the world. It is a truly great course, laid over pure linksland near the Firth of Forth, though there are no water hazards; it has wonderful, close-cropped turf, beautiful putting greens, tight bunkering with brown sand, exceedingly heavy rough, and length enough in its 6,806 yards.

When the wind sweeps over the linksland, as it usually does, Muirfield can be an ever-changing test, but it was unusually quiet and balmy and kind to the Americans last month. Muirfield has

## Walker Cup Personnel — or What's in a Name?

E. Harvie Ward, Jr., has many attributes in golf, and one seems to be his ability to find nicknames for his friends. Here are his appellations for the 1959 American Walker Cup Team:

Captain Charles Coe—Wyatt Earp.

Thomas D. Aaron—Cottonmouth.

Deane R. Beman—Bee Bee Eyes.

William Hyndman, III—The Praying Mantis.

Jack Nicklaus—Snow White.

William J. Patton—White Lightning (with reference to his backswing).

Dr. Frank M. Taylor, Jr.—Bulldog Drummond.

H. Ward Wettlaufer—Babyfat.

E. Harvie Ward, Jr.—E. Mickey Mouse, the Playing Pro from Disneyland.

been kind to other Americans—to Jess Sweetser when he became the first American to win the British Amateur in 1926, and to Walter Hagen in his victory for the 1929 British Open. But our Curtis Cup ladies lost there in 1952, and Big Bill Campbell was the defeated finalist in the 1954 British Amateur at Muirfield.

A Walker Cup Match overseas is also an occasion for exchange of views between representatives of golf's legislative bodies, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the United States Golf Association. There is warm friendship between them, and since they both approach their responsibilities from the simple standpoint of what is best for golf, their conferences are meaningful.

Finally, a Walker Cup match abroad can weave another strand in the fabric of friendship among nations. Our affinity

## BRITISH WALKER CUP TEAM



Members of the British Walker Cup Team which was defeated by the United States, at Muirfield, Scotland, are, seated from the left: Arthur H. Perowne, Joseph B. Carr, Gerald H. Micklem, Captain, R. Reid Jack, Guy B. Wolstenholme; standing from the left: Douglas N. Sewall, Alec E. Shepperson, Michael F. Bonnallack, Michael S. R. Lunt, David M. Marsh, W. Dickson Smith.

with Britain needs little reassurance, but every meeting of friends is a good thing, and the Walker Cup Match is a meeting of friends. Our nearness in time was pointed up recently when John Beck, former British team Captain, played nine holes at Berkshire, near London, in the morning and 15 holes at Piping Rock on Long Island the same afternoon, thanks to a jet-powered airplane.

### Series of Close Matches

This was the seventeenth match for the Walker Cup, presented by the late George Herbert Walker, former USGA President; it produced the sixteenth American victory. The final score, 9-3, was not an accurate mirror of the closeness, for six of the twelve matches went to the 35th or

the 36th green, and America won five of those six.

Despite the British loss, there were obviously good results from the development program undertaken in recent years by Gerald Micklem, the team Captain; Raymond Oppenheimer, Tony Duncan, Mortie Dykes and others of the RandA Selection Committee. They had brought along a team which had actually defeated a strong side of British professionals. In all quarters the British were thought to have skill enough to score their first victory since 1938. It very nearly turned out that way, and Messrs. Micklem, Oppenheimer and their colleagues are to be applauded.

But the United States has its own development program in the form of

junior competition, and it bore abundant fruit at Muirfield. Four of our nine players are college students who have come up through the USGA Junior Amateur Championship and other events for boys. Three of the "Whiz Kids" won in singles. They helped account for two of our foursome points. (The Match comprises four foursomes and eight singles.)

It had been expected that the American youngsters might be at a disadvantage in the windy, moist weather expected at Muirfield, for the low-flying, run-up game is normally the game to play there. But the weather was mild, on the whole; further, Charlie Coe was not our Captain for nothing. He helped gear his team of five veterans and four youngsters so well that they were fit and ready technically and mentally. They had to be so when six of the twelve matches went at least as far as the 35th and we won five of those six.

The ability to finish the game strongly has long been a characteristic of American amateur golfers, and it was so at Muirfield. Their firm play on and around the greens helped swing the scales in their favor.

#### **Americans Sweep Foursomes**

Foursomes golf is an every-day game in Scotland but a rarity in the United States. Most Americans think a foursome is a four-ball match, rather than the alternate-stroke style which it is.

Foursomes is the best form of team golf. It is a tribute to the team spirit developed by Captain Coe, and to his acumen in pairings, that the foursomes at Muirfield sent his side into an overpowering lead. They swept all four matches the first day.

Harvie Ward holed a long putt for a birdie 3 on the 36th green to give him and Dr. Frank Taylor a point against Reid Jack and Douglas Sewell. Next came William Hyndman, a veteran, and Tommy Aaron, a freshman, with a similar 1-up victory over Joe Carr, the British Amateur Champion, and big Guy Wolstenholme. It was a classic foursome most of the way; the Americans played the morning round in a great 70, two under par, to 71 for their opponents and a lead of 2 up.

Captain Coe and Billy Joe Patton won by 9 and 8 from Michael Bonallack and Arthur Perowne. Then the "Whiz Kids,"

Ward Wettlaufer and Jack Nicklaus, came through by 2 and 1 over two British youngsters, Michael Lunt and Alec Shepperson.

#### **5 to 3 in the Singles**

It is a tribute to the Scottish affection for fine golf that the second day's play, in singles, drew another huge gallery even though the British were trailing, 4 to 0. They were well rewarded.

Much of the day was gray, with a thin, chill mist off the sea (the Scots call it a haar). The Britons, at home in this weather, took three of the eight singles, including two of the top three matches.

The national Champions met in the No. 1 match, Charlie Coe vs. Joe Carr, and the delightful Irishman won by 2 and 1, for his first Walker Cup singles victory since 1951. Coe did not strike his stride until the turn in the morning, and by that time he was 5 down. He retrieved four holes in the next nine, but Carr was not to be denied in the afternoon. Carr's putter was broken when a spectator stepped on it at the 11th hole in the afternoon. He could have replaced it, but preferred to putt with a No. 3 iron, as he used to do.

Next came Harvie Ward, and he was held to 2 up in the morning by Guy Wolstenholme. Ward's putter could do no wrong in the afternoon, and he went out in 33 for an 8-up lead which promptly turned into a 9 and 8 victory.

Reid Jack, former British Champion, squared accounts for a 1957 defeat by turning back Billy Joe Patton, 5 and 3. His third nine of 34 was decisive.

Billy Hyndman evened the singles for America, leading practically all the way against Douglas Sewell, who succumbed by 4 and 3, but not until a splendid third-nine struggle in which both players did 33.

The four remaining singles were entrusted by Captain Coe to his four "Whiz Kids," and three of them came through. Tommy Aaron just failed against young Alec Shepperson of Britain, who won by 2 and 1 in a tremendous rally after being 4 down with 9 to go.

Little Deane Beman, who did not play in foursomes, never stopped trying even though Michael Bonallack threw a 69 at him in the morning to be 2 up. Deane hung on gamely and won on the home hole, 2 up.

Ward Wettlaufer turned in the most spectacular golf of the day, being five under par for 31 holes; he was around in 69 in the morning. Neither Michael Lunt nor anyone else could have stood up against that, and the Buffalo boy won by 6 and 5.

The other "Whiz Kid," 19-year-old Jack Nicklaus, was a great anchor man. He whirled off the morning round in 70 to be 5 up against W. Dickson Smith, and he ended it by the same margin, 5 and 4.

The Match was beautifully organized, by a pair of clubs with some slight experience in such matters—the RandA and the Honourable Company. It was the last appearance of N. C. (Bob) Selway as Chairman of the RandA Championship; Committee; he has been one of the most effective and forward-looking officials in golf for a number of years. Much credit for the conduct of the Match is due also to the RandA Secretary, Brig. Eric Brickman and to two officials in particular of the Honourable Company—Ronald M. Carnegie, the Captain, and Col. Brian Evans-Lombe, the Secretary.

#### Future of the Series

For some years there has been public questioning as to the future of the Wal-

ker Cup series in view of Britain's frequent defeats. Officially, there appears to be no doubt as to its continuance. Here is how it was expressed by Frank Pennink, British journalist and a former Walker Cupper, in the official program at Muirfield:

"Since its institution in 1922, the Walker Cup match has built a tradition of the friendliest rivalry. The preparation for it is serious, few putts of more than a foot are conceded during it, but any problems that this imponderable game habitually creates have been solved promptly, amicably and without leaving any unpleasant taste in the mouths of either side . . .

"Whilst the result is important, especially to us, there is no question of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the United States Golf Association deciding to end this fixture. Apart from the immense amount of good it does, it would be grossly unfair to coming generations, for it has always been the summit of ambition of every golfer, Briton or American, to play for his country in this match."

And if you doubt, just ask any of the "Whiz Kids."

## 1959 INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE WALKER CUP

Held at the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Muirfield, Scotland

May 15 and 16

### GREAT BRITAIN

### UNITED STATES

#### FOURSOMES

R. Reid Jack and Douglas N. Sewell .....	0	E Harvie Ward, Jr., and Dr. Frank M. Taylor, Jr. (1 up) .....	1
Joseph B. Carr and Guy B. Wolstenholme .....	0	William Hyndman, III, and Thomas D. Aaron (1 up) .....	1
Michael F. Bonallack and Arthur H. Perowne 0		William J. Patton and Charles R. Coe (9 and 8) 1	
Michael S. R. Lunt and Alec E. Shepperson .. 0		H. Ward Wettlaufer and Jack W. Nicklaus (2 and 1) .....	1
Total .....	0	Total .....	4

#### SINGLES

Joseph B. Carr (2 and 1) .....	1	Charles R. Coe .....	0
Guy B. Wolstenholme .....	0	E. Harvie Ward, Jr. (9 and 8) .....	1
R. Reid Jack (5 and 3) .....	1	William J. Patton .....	0
Douglas N. Sewell .....	0	William Hyndman, III (4 and 3) .....	1
Alec E. Shepperson (2 and 1) .....	1	Thomas D. Aaron .....	0
Michael F. Bonallack .....	0	Deane R. Beman (2 up) .....	1
Michael S. R. Lunt .....	0	H. Ward Wettlaufer (6 and 5) .....	1
W. Dickson Smith .....	0	Jack W. Nicklaus (5 and 4) .....	1
Total .....	3	Total .....	5
Grand Total — Great Britain .....	3	Grand Total — United States .....	9

Non-playing Captain—Gerald H. Micklem  
Reserve—David M. Marsh

Captain—Charles R. Coe