

The Walker Cup Team

By JOHN P. ENGLISH

The Walker Cup Match to be played August 19 and 20 at the Winged Foot Golf Club near New York will be unique on at least two counts:

1. It will be the first Match in this country in 13 years. A team of British amateur golfers came here in 1936 for a contest at Pine Valley, and that was their last visit. Only two Matches have been held in the interim, both abroad, in 1938 and 1947.

2. It will be the first Match ever



Del Monte Press Bureau

Francis D. Ouimet

played under a written statement of conditions. The Walker Cup series was started in 1922 as a result of a conversation. It continued happily for 26 years on purely verbal agreements. That fact alone demonstrates the complete amity and understanding which have marked this series between teams of amateurs representing the British Isles and the United States. There is no particular reason why the series could not have been continued indefinitely on the same basis. But the two sponsoring organizations—the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and the United States Golf Association—finally

gave in to current custom, and last year put down their understanding in black and white, without altering any of the original ideas.

“Walker Cup” is the popular name for the trophy. Formally, it is “The United States Golf Association International Challenge Trophy.” It is a handsome, massive silver cup and was donated by George H. Walker, USGA President in 1920.

The forthcoming Match will be the 12th in the series. The United States presently holds the cup, as the result of a rally in the final 18 holes of the singles matches in 1947 at St. Andrews. The Match had been very close until the last round, but the Americans finally won by 3 to 4.

None of the players invited by the USGA Executive Committee for the 1949 Match was on the team 13 years ago. Yet, as Walker Cup teams go, they are veterans in golfing years, the average age of the ten members being 34.6. Six of them played in either the 1938 or the 1947 Match.

The team comprises, in alphabetical order:

Raymond E. Billows
Stanley E. (Ted) Bishop
Charles R. Coe
John W. Dawson
Charles R. Kocsis
Bruce N. McCormick
James B. McHale, Jr.
Robert H. (Skee) Riegel
Frank R. Stranahan
William P. Turnesa

The non-playing Captain is Francis D. Ouimet, who has served as player or Captain on every American team in the series.

Should any original Member be obliged to withdraw, an invitation will be issued to one of the following Alternates, in the order listed:



Raymond E. Billows

Wide World



Bruce N. McCormick

Associated Press



James B. McHale, Jr.

Okada Studio



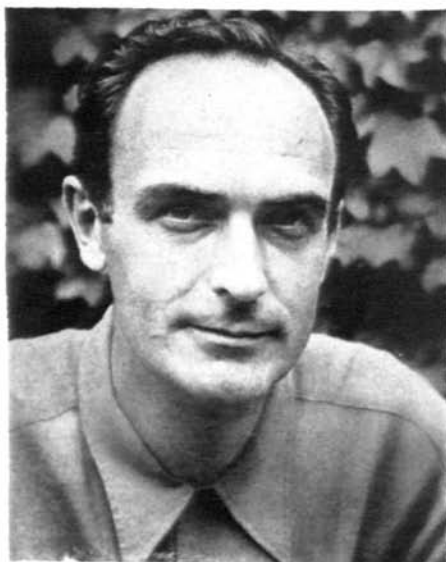
Charles R. Kocsis

Detroit News



Robert H. (Skee) Riegel

Memphis Commercial Appeal



Stanley E. (Ted) Bishop

Boston Herald



Memphis Commercial Appeal
William P. Turnesa



Frank R. Stranahan



John W. Dawson



Charles R. Coe

Oklahoma Publishing Co.

First alternate—Thomas W. Barnes, Atlanta.

Second alternate—Arthur Armstrong, Honolulu.

Third alternate—Richard D. Chapman, Osterville, Mass.

Raymond E. Billows

Mr. Billows is the only player who has reached the final of the USGA Amateur Championship three times without winning the title. Fortunately, he is endowed with a personality which enables him to laugh off the frustration and come back for more.

A resident of Staatsburg, N. Y., and a member of the Dutchess Golf and Country Club, he is a tenacious match player and a hard man to beat on long iron shots.

The Winged Foot Golf Club revives pleasant memories for him—he first drew attention in 1935 by driving there in an \$8 "flivver" and winning the first of his six New York State Amateur titles.

He reached the USGA Amateur final in 1937, 1939 and 1948. He was a member of the 1938 Walker Cup team; he and Charles Yates were a winning combination in foursomes, and he lost to Cecil Ewing in singles.

Mr. Billows is married, has two children, is 35 years old, and is a printing salesman.

Stanley E. (Ted) Bishop

Mr. Bishop lives in Boston and is a member of the Pine Brook Country Club. Several years of devotion to the practice tee were rewarded in 1946 when he won the USGA Amateur Championship. It was an appropriate climax to a year in which he also won the Massachusetts and the New England titles, each for the second time.

He was a member of the 1947 Walker Cup team, winning in foursomes with Skee Riegel and losing in singles to Joseph B. Carr.

Mr. Bishop is particularly effective near and on the greens, and his favorite club is the No. 7 iron. Just before the

war, he played the Woodland Golf Club in 60. He reached the Amateur Championship semi-finals in 1941, before his Army service intervened. In 1947 he went to the fifth round of the British Amateur Championship. He is 36, married, and is a jewelry salesman.

Charles R. Coe

The youngest player on the Team, Mr. Coe is 25 and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma a year ago. His education was delayed by war service as a pilot in the Army Air Force.

Last September he went to the semi-finals of the USGA Amateur Championship. He was a prominent collegiate player, and in 1947 and again this year he won the Trans-Mississippi Amateur. He and John Dawson tied for the amateur prize in the last Masters' Tournament. He has been an officer in the Oklahoma City and State golf associations. He will be making his debut in Walker Cup play. His favorite shot is the No. 4 wood.

Mr. Coe is a member of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. He is married and is an insurance broker.

John W. Dawson

Mr. Dawson, a newcomer to the Team, but its oldest member at 46, is an example of the fact that in amateur golf life can begin after 40. He reached the quarter-finals of the USGA Amateur Championship in 1928 and, because of his connection with a sporting goods manufacturer, did not enter the competition again until 1946. He was a semi-finalist in the 1929 British Amateur. He has long been regarded as one of the finest players in the country, and he proved it by being runner-up in the 1947 USGA Amateur Championship. He says his greatest thrill came in 1942 when he won the Bing Crosby tournament with a score of 66-67-133, leading nearly all the best professionals. He is noted for his spoon shots.

Since becoming a real estate broker and a member of the Lakeside Golf Club in Hollywood, Cal., early in the war, he has won the California and Southern California Amateur Championships, and the California Open.

He has been active in golf administration and is a member of the USGA Sectional Affairs Committee. He is married.

Charles R. Kocsis

An ambidextrous golfer who once broke 80 playing left-handed, Mr.

Kocsis is a veteran of the 1938 Walker Cup Team and a former National Intercollegiate Champion, in 1936. He has won the Michigan Amateur five times and the Michigan Open three times.

Although he has achieved many distinctions in golf since his graduation from the University of Michigan in 1937, his greatest thrill came when, as an 18-year-old schoolboy, he defeated Tommy Armour in a play-off for his first Michigan Open title in 1931.

He sustained a broken back in 1945, but he has gone to the fifth round of the USGA Amateur in each of the last two years. In 1948 he was runner-up in the Mexican Amateur Championship and averaged 70.2 strokes for all rounds throughout the year. In 1936 he was low amateur in the USGA Open, and in 1938 he was a quarter-finalist in the British Amateur. In the 1938 Walker Cup Match he halved in foursomes and lost in singles.

A resident of Royal Oak, Mich., and a member of the Red Run Golf Club, Mr. Kocsis is a manufacturer's agent, is 36 years old, married and has two children.

Bruce N. McCormick

Mr. McCormick has been a strong challenger for amateur golf honors since 1933, when he went to the semi-finals of the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship in his first conspicuous appearance on the national scene. He won that title in 1937.

Last September he reached the quarter-finals of the USGA Amateur Championship, for the second time. He will be making his debut in Walker Cup play.

A Los Angeles salesman and a fellow member of John Dawson in the Lakeside Golf Club, Mr. McCormick was California Amateur Champion in 1945 and 1946 and also has won the Southern California Open and Amateur, the Pacific Southwest and the Los Angeles City Championships, in most cases more than once. He has been runner-up in the Western Amateur. Last year in club team play he set a course record of 35-28-63 for the Riviera Country Club, scene of the 1948 USGA Open.

Mr. McCormick is 40, married, and has two children. He is a salesman for a linen service.

James B. McHale, Jr.

A newcomer to the Team, Mr. McHale came out of five years of Army service to establish a remarkable scoring record



"The old boy is getting a lot more distance with his woods lately."

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in 1947. In the USGA Open Championship, he made a 30-35-65 in the third round to create new all-time records for both nine and 18 holes.

Mr. McHale last year was runner-up in the Western Amateur and low amateur in the Western Open Championships. He also won the Philadelphia Open. He was among the 30 low scorers in the 1949 USGA Open. His favorite shot is the No. 2 iron. As a soldier he won the E. T. O. Championship at Paris.

A Californian by birth, Mr. McHale is a Philadelphia insurance broker and a member of the Overbrook Golf Club. He is 33, married and has three children.

Robert H. (Skee) Riegel

The majority of members of the Walker Cup Team have played golf most of their lives, but Mr. Riegel, who played college football, did not take up the game until 1938.

He set the qualifying record of 136 in the USGA Amateur Championship in 1946 (prior to the present all-match-play system) and won the title the following year. He was a member of the 1947 Walker Cup Team, within 10 years after he started to play the game, and won in both foursomes and singles.

A resident of Upper Darby, Pa., and a member of the Tulsa (Okla.) Country Club, he is an active campaigner in amateur events and occasionally competes in major open tournaments. He was low amateur in the recent USGA Open Championship, and has won the Western and the Trans-Mississippi

Amateur Championships, including victories in both last year. He went to the fifth round of the British Amateur in 1947.

Mr. Riegel is 34 and married.

Frank R. Stranahan

Mr. Stranahan, who took his first lesson from his father, is the most active amateur in the game. In 1948 he won the British, Canadian, Mexican and "All-American Amateur" competitions, the Ohio, Delaware and Miami Open tournaments and was runner-up in both the Amateur and Open Championships in Brazil.

War service as an Army pilot deferred Mr. Stranahan's golf progress but since then he has often competed with the leading professionals and has won a number of open tournaments. In 1947 he tied for second in the British Open Championship, was a member of the Walker Cup team, winning in singles and losing in foursomes, and won the Canadian Amateur. He has also held the Western, the Trans-Mississippi, the Great Lakes, and the Ohio Amateur Championships. In April this year he won the North and South Amateur.

He is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and a member of the Inverness Club. He will turn 27 just two weeks prior to the Walker Cup Match and is single. He is an accomplished weight-lifter.

William P. Turnesa

Mr. Turnesa, who plays with his head as well as his hands, was an outstanding young golfer as a student at Holy Cross. He won the USGA Amateur Championship the year of his graduation, 1938, and that seemed to climax his career.

He probably is a better competitor today than he was then. He earned a place on the 1947 Walker Cup Team, won in both foursomes and singles, and then captured the British Amateur. In 1948 he was beaten in the semi-final in defense of that title, but he retained the USGA Amateur, 10 years after his first victory. This Spring he again reached the final of the British Amateur.

The youngest of seven brothers, six of whom are professional golfers, Mr. Turnesa is a New York executive in the fire-extinguisher business. He was a Naval officer in the war. He has been active in politics in his home town of Elmsford, N. Y., and is a member of the Knollwood Country Club. He is 35, married, and has two children. The wedge is his favorite club.