

Views on the Walker Cup Match

The Short Games

By PERCY B. (LADDIE) LUCAS
CAPTAIN, BRITISH WALKER CUP TEAM

So the Walker Cup Match of 1949 has gone the way of its predecessors!

Before we left England for the United States, I said publicly that this British Team was certainly the best prepared Side that had ever left our shores. I did not say that this was the best Team we had ever had, although this was also my opinion.

Everything possible had been done by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to give our boys the best chance. In short, when we sailed out of Southampton, we knew that if we got licked this time, there could be no excuses. The Selectors and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club had done their best. It only remained to be seen what the result would be.

We arrived in New York in the middle of one of your worst heat waves. "Never knew anything like it for years," they said.

This was the one thing we had feared. We knew the heat, and particularly the humidity, could beat us.

For a week it persisted. The boys found that sleep did not come easily and that your excellent food could not be eaten in the quantities they would have liked.

Then, blessed thought, came "the break." The rains came and with them the cool breezes.

On the first morning of the Match, the boys walked out on the practice tee wearing sweaters. This, then, was just what we had wanted. We could not have asked for more.

What happened is now history.

Why it happened is another story which will be written by every journalist in this country and in ours.

My view is this: We were beaten by a magnificent United States Side because their short game was in a different class from ours.



Wide World Photo

Ronald J. White, the English Champion, played in the No. 1 match in both four-somes and singles and won each day.

Their use of the wedge was remarkable. This, allied to their admirable holing out, brought them victory and the British Side defeat.

One final thing I would say. We could not have been beaten by a nicer bunch of fellows than there were on this United States Team. Nor could they have had a greater or more generous Captain.

Purpose Achieved

By CDR. (S) J. A. S. CARSON,
V.D., RNVR

SECRETARY, ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS

Once more a British Walker Cup Team has visited the United States to try and wrest the Trophy from the hands of the holders. Once more the attempt has been unsuccessful. The journey was none the less a delightful

experience for every member of our Team.

Quite apart from golf, several of us had never been to America, and we were anxious to see and meet the Americans on their home ground, so to speak. The opportunity was afforded throughout the stay. I personally would not have missed the trip for worlds.

Arrangements for the Match, for the practice rounds and for the accommodations of our Side could not have been surpassed. Indeed, I take away the impression that 90 per cent of the United States people were keen to see our Side win.

This getting together was, after all, the main object of Mr. George Herbert Walker, the donor of the Cup. That it should be done through the medium of golf was all the more fortunate. I do firmly believe that this year, anyhow, his hope was more than realized.

I return home taking a lasting impression of American kindness, hospitality and efficiency. I trust you have been left with a similar feeling about the British.

The Elements Conspired

By RICHARD S. TUFTS

CHAIRMAN, USGA CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

We knew, of course, that the United States was assembling at the Winged Foot Golf Club one of the strongest Teams ever to represent this country in Walker Cup competition. Not only was the Team well seasoned but also it was under the direction of one of the most experienced golfers available to either side, Captain Francis Ouimet.

Our interest, therefore, lay chiefly in the British Side—in the men who composed their Team and their capabilities. At the first introduction, it was obvious that their Team was headed by a leader who would certainly inspire his men to great heights of accomplishment, and a most charming and magnetic personality, Mr. Laddie Lucas. The members gave every evidence of being capable golfers and most earnest in their desire to win. We still believed that we could win, but it was the general opinion that the task would not be easy.

In the face of these prospects, why

INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE WALKER CUP Held at Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y. August 19 and 20, 1949

Great Britain		United States	
FOURSOMES			
		Points	Points
Joseph B. Carr and Ronald J. White (3 and 2)	1	Raymond E. Billows and William P. Turnesa	0
James Bruen, Jr. and S. Max McCreedy	0	Charles R. Kocsis and Frank R. Strananhan (2 and 1)	1
R. Cecil Ewing and Gerald H. Micklem	0	Stanley E. Bishop and Robert H. Riegel (9 and 7)	1
Kenneth G. Thom and Arthur H. Perowne	0	John W. Dawson and Bruce N. McCormick (8 and 7)	1
Total	1	Total	3
SINGLES			
Ronald J. White (4 and 3)	1	William P. Turnesa	0
S. Max McCreedy	0	Frank R. Strananhan (6 and 5)	1
James Bruen, Jr.	0	Robert H. Riegel (5 and 4)	1
Joseph B. Carr	0	John W. Dawson (5 and 3)	1
R. Cecil Ewing	0	Charles R. Coe (1 up)	1
Kenneth G. Thom	0	Raymond E. Billows (2 and 1)	1
Arthur H. Perowne	0	Charles R. Kocsis (4 and 2)	1
Gerald H. Micklem	0	James B. McHale, Jr. (5 and 4)	1
Total	1	Total	7
Grand Total — Great Britain	2	Grand Total — United States	10
Captain: Percy B. Lucas		Captain: Francis D. Ouimet	
Reserve: Ernest B. Millward			

The Challengers from Great Britain



Wide World Photo

The British Walker Cup party included (standing) Joseph B. Carr, James Bruen, Jr., Ernest B. Millward, Kenneth G. Thom, Arthur H. Perowne, Ronald J. White, Fred Robson, the coach; (kneeling) Cdr. (S) J. A. S. Carson, the Secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club; Percy B. Lucas, the Captain; R. Cecil Ewing, Gerald H. Micklem and S. Max McCready.

were the results one-sided? As a careful observer, I can suggest only two reasons.

In the first place, the British Side was under far greater pressure than was our Team. They were competing on a foreign shore and representing a country which is waging a courageous, uphill fight toward recovery. They were naturally anxious to prove that Great Britain is on the way back in sport as well as in economic affairs. Their players therefore did not enjoy the relaxed approach that was possible for our players.

Secondly, the elements conspired against the schedule of the British Team. Their practicing was done when the course was dry and fast and when the cups were placed in the front portions of the greens. By the time the wet weather

came, their schedule called for a tapering off of practice rounds. Consequently, on Friday morning they faced a course which was strange to them, a situation further confused by a high wind during the morning play.

Whatever may have been the score of this international competition, the results must benefit the game in both countries. The value is priceless in the pleasant associations and friendships formed and in the joy of matching two such fine groups of men in sporting competition, but above all there has been the opportunity to exchange thoughts, understanding and ideas that we may both work together in betterment of the game to which we are so deeply devoted and indebted.