

## The Walker Cup Match

When weather is normal along the Massachusetts coast, a southwest breeze whips up white caps on Buzzards Bay and blows briskly across the Kittansett Club's golf course.

The weather was by no means normal, however, during the fourteenth international match for the Walker Cup. It was calm and hot most of the time. Thus the seaside course which had seemed likely to provide cooling winds favorable to the British offered conditions which differed little from those at many an inland course on the hot days of Labor Day week-end.

There is no way of estimating how this freak of weather affected the result. It may be that the United States side, which exhibited remarkable control of the ball, would have been able to find its targets through the wind just as well as the British. However, it was clearly American weather, not British weather.

In this native sultry heat, the United States proved clearly superior in depth and won the Cup for the thirteenth time, 9 to 3.

The United States won the first three of the four foursomes on the first day, and although the British played bravely and stubbornly, it seemed throughout the day that they were fated to trail. The most spectacular play came in the third foursome, where James G. Jackson and Gene A. Littler played alternate strokes in par over thirty-two holes to defeat the two Scotsmen, Roy C. MacGregor and James C. Wilson, 3 and 2.

### Jackson and Littler

This was a whirlaway sort of a victory, for Jackson and Littler were 3 down playing from the fourth tee. Wilson chipped in for a birdie 3 to win the first hole and then Jackson discovered and reported while walking up the second fairway that he had sixteen clubs in his bag, two more than Rule 3 allows. He had neglected to remove his brassie and an extra wedge.

The penalty is, of course, disqualifica-

tion; and the first reaction of the Executive Committee was to invoke it. However, the British immediately asserted their desire to win their points on their play of the game. The Committee then yielded and modified the penalty to two holes, the number which Jackson had played in inadvertent violation, as it was empowered to do by Rule 36-5. Since the British already had won the first hole, the United States pair was penalized the second and third holes and was sent to the fourth tee 3 down. They were still 3 down at the turn, but a homecoming 33 gained them five holes and a lead they never relinquished.

The next best performance was displayed by the British team of Gerald H. Micklem and John L. Morgan, who were only three over par for thirty-three holes in besting William C. Campbell and Charles R. Coe, 4 and 3, to win the only foursome point for their side.

### White Catches Chapman

It was in the singles play on the second day, however, that the heroic match occurred. The United States won six of the eight singles, and certainly incurred no embarrassment over the second engagement, in which Ronald J. White, of Great Britain, defeated Richard D. Chapman, who is a member of the Kittansett Club, 1 up.

After thirty holes, Chapman was 3 up. It looked very much as if White, who had gone unbeaten in both foursomes and singles in three previous matches but had lost his foursome the day before, had come altogether to the end of his string. But not so.

White played the last six holes in three birdies and three pars, three 3s and three 4s, to win four of them and his fourth successive Walker Cup singles. Chapman survived the first two birdies and was still 1 up with two to play, but White hit a superb half shot from the

## The United States Walker Cup Team



*Norman Fortier*

Lined up with the Walker Cup which they defended successfully at the Kittansett Club, in Marion, Mass., are the members of the United States Team, from the left: Charles R. Yates, of Atlanta, Ga., the non-playing Captain; Jack Westland, of Everett, Wash., Richard D. Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C., E. Harvie Ward, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., Donald R. Cherry, of Wichita Falls, Texas, Sam Urzetta, of Rochester, N. Y., Kenneth P. Venturi, of San Francisco, Cal., Gene A. Littler, of San Diego, Cal., James G. Jackson, of St. Louis, Mo., Charles R. Coe, of Oklahoma City, Okla., and William C. Campbell, of Huntington, W. Va.

rough with a No. 4 iron on the thirty-fifth and ran in a ten-foot putt for a birdie 3 to square the match. The last hole is a 455-yarder into a quartering breeze which had sprung up at the end of the day, and White was handsomely on with his second while Chapman was bunkered near the green. The match turned when Chapman did not explode quite close enough to match White's par 4. White's score was 77-70—147 and Chapman, even with 7s on the fifteenth hole in each round, did two 74s.

The best scoring in singles was turned in by E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Gene Littler, of the United States. Both were one under par for thirty-three holes and they needed it, Ward to defeat Joseph B. Carr, the British Amateur Champion,

4 and 3, in the first match and Littler to beat Gerald Micklem, the English Amateur Champion, 5 and 3, in the third match. The depth of the United States strength was apparent, however, in the achievements of Sam Urzetta and Kenneth P. Venturi, who were only one over par, and of Donald R. Cherry, the Canadian Champion, and Congressman Jack Westland, the USGA Amateur Champion, who were only three over in wrapping up four more victories.

John Morgan won the third and last British point when he beat Charles R. Coe, 3 and 2, and he was the only Briton to score in both foursomes and singles. He and Gerald Micklem had gotten the better of Coe and William C. Campbell on the previous day.

**Large Ball vs. Small Ball**

Generally speaking, the United States side played the larger American ball and the British played the smaller British ball. Play with either ball in an international team match is permitted by Rule 2-3a. Discussions of the relative merits of the two balls were inconclusive, however.

Most of the United States players carried a few of the smaller balls against the possibility of high winds, but the winds never really came. Chapman started his singles match with the smaller ball but switched to the larger ball after seven holes. A few of the others put the smaller ball into play for a particular hole only.

The consensus was that the balls act differently in coming off the clubface around and on the greens, and each side seemed reluctant to abandon the ball it understood best around the greens.

As is customary with Walker Cup matches, however, the play was by no means the whole show. The Kittansett Club carried out like a veteran its traditional role as host, and provided not only a most testing course but also an enjoyable week of golf and festivities which enabled the two teams to get to know one another intimately and to compete on the friendliest basis.

There seems no doubt that this match, like its predecessors, served the purposes which the late George Herbert Walker had in mind when he established the competition: to set an example in good golf and good sportsmanship and to tighten the bonds of international friendship. The worth of these purposes was acknowledged by the highest office in the land during the dinner for the two teams, when the following letter addressed to Senator Prescott S. Bush, a former President of the USGA, was read:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Denver, Colorado  
September 3, 1953

Dear Pres:

Some time ago I sent Mr. Reece a formal message of welcome and greeting to the members of the British and American teams participating in the Walker Cup Matches at the Kittansett Club on September 4th and 5th. Now, however, I would like to join with the friends and relatives of George Herbert Walker in saluting his memory on this occasion. He was a distinguished citizen and sportsman, and I am proud to have known and admired him.

Good luck to all who are participating in the Walker Cup Matches at Kittansett!

With warm personal regards to you and Mrs. Bush,

Sincerely,  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  
The Honorable Prescott Bush

**INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE WALKER CUP**

Held at the Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass.

September 4 and 5, 1953

**FOURSOMES**

GREAT BRITAIN		UNITED STATES	
	<i>Points</i>		<i>Points</i>
Joseph B. Carr and Ronald J. White .....	0	Sam Urzetta and Kenneth P. Venturi (6 and 4).....	1
John D. A. Langley and Arthur H. Perowne .....	0	E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Jack Westland (9 and 8).....	1
James C. Wilson and Roy C. MacGregor .....	0	James G. Jackson and Gene A. Littler (3 and 2).....	1
Gerald H. Micklem and John L. Morgan (4 and 3).....	1	William C. Campbell and Charles R. Coe .....	0
<b>Foursomes Totals</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>

**SINGLES**

Joseph B. Carr .....	0	E. Harvie Ward, Jr. (4 and 3) .....	1
Ronald J. White (1 up) .....	1	Richard D. Chapman .....	0
Gerald H. Micklem .....	0	Gene A. Littler (5 and 3) .....	1
Roy C. MacGregor .....	0	Jack Westland (7 and 5) .....	1
Norman V. Drew .....	0	Donald R. Cherry (9 and 7) .....	1
James C. Wilson .....	0	Kenneth P. Venturi (9 and 8) .....	1
John L. Morgan (3 and 2) .....	1	Charles R. Coe .....	0
John D. A. Langley .....	0	Sam Urzetta (3 and 2) .....	1
<b>Singles totals</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>6</b>

**Grand totals**  
**3**

Captain: Lt. Col. A. A. Duncan

Captain: Charles R. Yates