

LADIES' COMMONWEALTH AT ST. ANDREWS

Recalls other
major women's events
held there

The first quadrennial Ladies' Commonwealth Golf Tournament, played on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, from June 2 through 6, was a memorable occasion for the teams of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and South Africa.

It helped to cement Commonwealth relations, which was its chief purpose, and provided an opportunity for the Commonwealth representatives to form lasting friendships. It also moved Great Britain, winner of the Tournament, to the head of affairs in the women's world of amateur golf—the British hold the Curtis Cup, which they won in 1956 and retain by virtue of a tie in the 1958 Match.

Beyond all this, however, the Tournament marked the playing of another major women's event at St. Andrews, which recalls that its famous links have not been used for a major championship on very many occasions.

Only five Championships of the Scottish Ladies' Golf Association have been held there, in 1903-11-22-28-50. The British Ladies' Championship was not played at St. Andrews until 1908, fifteen years after it was inaugurated. It returned only once, in 1929.

Both were memorable events. In 1908 history was made, for that year Miss Cecil Leitch made her debut in serious competition, and with her arrival came new ideals of power and precision for the fair sex. The Championship was won by Miss M. Titterton who defeated Miss Dorothy Campbell on the nineteenth hole. Miss Titterton's victory was soon overshadowed, however, by her two famous contemporaries. Within six years, Miss Campbell added the USGA, British and Canadian Championships to her Scottish title. By that time too, Miss Leitch had won the first of her four British titles—three were won in succession.

In the 1929 event, Miss Joyce Wethered, lured out of retirement by the prospect of playing a championship on the his-

toric course, contested what many consider the finest final ever played between two women, when she met Miss Glenna Collett (Mrs. Edwin H. Vare, Jr.), the first American to reach the finals, in thirty-five holes of peerless and dramatic golf.

When Miss Collett arrived at St. Andrews in May, she had won the USGA Women's Amateur Championship three times, and was the outstanding woman golfer in America. Miss Wethered was a three-time winner of the Ladies' Championship, and her overall record equalled Miss Collett's.

The two players had previously met only once, in the 1925 Ladies' Championship when Miss Wethered eliminated Miss Collett in the third round. The clash between these golfing giantesses was expected to produce something exceptional, and it did.

Miss Collett took an early lead, going 5 up on the first nine. She had scored a remarkable 34. Miss Wethered had a 39, with four three-putt greens. At the end of the morning round, however, Miss Collett's margin had been cut to 2 up, as Miss Wethered settled down and played the incoming nine in 36. Miss Collett faltered to a 41.

When they resumed play in the afternoon, Miss Wethered went out in 35 to take a commanding lead of 4 up. Miss Collett staged one rally after the other on the incoming nine and kept the match in suspense until the thirty-fifth hole, which Miss Wethered won for a 3 and 1 victory. For the seventeen holes played in the afternoon round, Miss Collett's score was 78, Miss Wethered's 73. Neither player strayed from a fairway with their drives, a remarkable feat considering that they were using hickory shafted clubs which placed a much higher premium on accuracy than that required by modern steel shafted clubs. Both had only one bad hole, the par-5 fourteenth which Miss Collett won with a seven.