

CURTIS CUP WON IN SPORTING MATCH

By

MRS. HENRI PRUNARET
Captain, United States
Team

On May 11 the United States Curtis Cup team met at "Golf House" in New York and was entertained for dinner and theatre as guests of the USGA.

The following day the team practised foursome play at The Creek Club, Locust Valley, L. I., where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Dey, Jr., and friends. We are all indebted to them as well as the members of the Creek for this courtesy.

Miss Barbara McIntire, the Women's Amateur Champion, had the added pleasure while in New York of appearing on the television program, "To Tell the Truth." The panel of well known people failed to identify Barbara.

Our departure on Friday, May 13, held little apprehension for the enthusiastic young players. After a quick jet flight to London Airport, a large welcoming committee was on hand to greet us. It was

THE UNITED STATES TEAM



The successful Challengers are, seated from the left: Miss Barbara McIntire; Non-Playing Captain, Mrs. Henri Prunaret; Miss Joanne Goodwin. Standing from the left: Miss Anne Quast; Miss JoAnne Gunderson; Miss Judy Bell; Miss Judy Eller; Mrs. Ann Casey Johnstone.

a great pleasure for me to see again Mrs. B. R. Bostock, Doris Chambers and Molly Gourlay among old friends in the group and to accept the official welcome of the British Captain, Mrs. Maureen Garrett. We then had the pleasure of traveling through the English Midlands on a chartered bus, gaily decorated with Curtis Cup banners and the flags of Britain and the United States.

The arrival at Ye Olde Bell at Barnby Moor was a fitting climax for the day. Our stay at this Old World inn with every luxury will long be a pleasant memory. Even before getting settled and unpacked, the girls could not wait to see the Curtis Cup course at nearby Lindrick.

Two members of the Women's Committee— Mrs. Owen West and Mrs. William McWane—joined us for the match.

With the compliments of the Ladies' Golf Union, we found three motor cars at the disposal of our team. This was but one of the many examples of careful planning that our hosts had provided for our comfort and pleasure during our stay.

A Fine Course

It took but one glance for the entire team to decide that Lindrick would be to their liking—6,528 yards in length with a par of 73. The course, in spite of a severe drought in 1959, was in excellent condition. The Lindrick greens staff had done a great job. Little need be said about the excellent greens and the challenge they held, as they are well known in the world of English golf.

Caddies were supplied by the Artisans' Club and they were all low handicap players, thoroughly acquainted with every whim of Lindrick's rolling terrain.

Fine Galleries

Practice began the next day and was constantly followed by an interested gallery. The holiday mood of our young and colorful team quickly won the hearts of the British. Weather was ideal the opening days. Several members of the team felt that they had not brought enough Bermuda shorts, but typical English spring weather accommodated them with cold and rain. With the change in weather we produced a wide assortment of rain gear that delighted newspaper cartoonists and photographers.

Practice continued in the cold rain until the day before the match. With the decision to use the small ball, we concluded our preparation.

Friday, May 20, dawned gray and cool—however, no rain and little wind. Our team, attired in combinations of red, white, and blue clothing—even to the red, white, and blue wood club covers (knitted by Judy Bell's mother, Mrs. Carl Bell of Wichita, Kansas)—made a picturesque sight on a gray day.

With two tremendous tee shots Miss McIntire and Miss Elizabeth Price, the British Champion, started the 11th Curtis Cup match. In this foursome, as well as in the two following, we seized early advantages. At the finish of the first eighteen holes at noon, Miss McIntire and Miss JoAnne Gunderson were 4 up; Miss Anne Quast and Miss Judy Eller 3 up, and Mrs. Ann Casey Johnstone and Miss Joanne Goodwin 6 up.

What apparently seemed substantial margins began to melt in the afternoon under a courageous counter-attack by our opponents. In the first match, Miss Price and her partner, Mrs. Angela Ward Bonallack, overcame their 4-hole deficit with a great display of foursome play to finish 1 up over Miss McIntire and Miss Gunderson, and give the British Isles the first point. Miss Quast and Miss Eller, faced with equally determined opponents, managed to preserve their morning advantage until the holes ran out. This ended with a 4 and 2 victory over Miss Belle McCorkindale and Miss Janette Robertson and gave the United States a point. In the final match Mrs. Johnstone and Miss Goodwin saw their lead reduced by Miss Ruth Porter and Mrs. Frances Smith as the afternoon wore on. A brilliant recovery from the rough by Mrs. Johnstone, followed by a critical putt by Miss Goodwin, staved off a brilliant and determined drive on the part of the veteran Curtis Cup player, Mrs. Smith, and her young partner, the English champion, Miss Porter. The 3 and 2 victory gave the United States a second point. While a two victories to one advantage was gratifying after foursomes, we well realized that our early leads had saved at least one match for us.

An estimated gallery of 7,000 had turned out on Friday and a huge, possibly record breaking crowd was expected

THE BRITISH ISLES TEAM



The Defenders who played gallantly but lost are, seated from the left: Miss Elizabeth Price; Non-Playing Captain Mrs. Maureen Garrett; Miss Janette Robertson. Standing from the left: Mrs. Frances Smith; Miss Ruth Porter; Mrs. Michael Bonallack; Miss Belle McCorkindale; Miss Philomena Garvey; Mrs. Marley Spearman.

to witness the singles on Saturday.

A brief fire during the night at Ye Olde Bell was insufficient to disturb our team. However, the British, quartered nearer the source of the smoke, were aroused and were in the center of confusion. The magnificent fire apparatus and efficient department plus the police of Retford were most reassuring, and those that had been alerted were soon back in dreamland.

Good Weather

Saturday dawned, as one Yorkshire man expressed it, "a positively decent day." I saw little difference between it and the day before, a little less wind and a faint trace of sun occasionally.

Miss McIntire and Miss Price teed off first for their respective teams. Noon time found Miss McIntire 3 down. The afternoon eighteen produced a battle seldom equalled in Curtis Cup competition. Miss McIntire with a two under par 71, overcame her deficit and stood on the 36th tee all even. The match was halved when Miss Price made a phenomenal recovery from a bad lie in a bunker to end 36 holes of great golf all square.

In the greatest scoring display of the event, Miss Gunderson defeated Mrs. Bonallack 2 and 1. Miss Gunderson was 73 in the morning round, 2 up at lunch, and when the match finished on the 35th hole, Miss Gunderson had not gained a hole on her opponent in the afternoon round. Seldom have players exhibited more brilliant golf. Miss Gunderson was four under par for the afternoon round.

During the tense match a broadcast appeal was made to a Mrs. Cohen who was thought to be in the gallery, that she had been given the wrong medicine earlier in the day and that she was not to take it.

Miss Quast, ever-dependable point winner, enjoyed a 1 up lead in the morning round against Miss Robertson. With methodical precision she added one more, in the afternoon, for a 2 up victory.

The Clincher

Miss Eller, our youngest team member and in this her first Cup match, finished the morning round 3 up with a display of power golf. Her personality won the hearts of the gallery. Her 4 and

3 victory over the Irish champion, Miss Philomena Garvey, assured the return of the Curtis Cup to the United States.

Miss Bell, also in her Curtis Cup debut, had a fine morning round of 76 and found herself 7 up on Miss McCorkindale of Scotland. In the afternoon, Miss McCorkindale recovered her game and displayed amazing power off the tee, but the morning advantage of her opponent was too great, and Miss Bell with an 8 and 7 victory added another point to the United States total.

Finale

The final match between Miss Goodwin and Miss Porter was hard fought for 36 holes. Miss Porter was a last-minute substitution for Mrs. Smith who became ill shortly before starting time.

Henry Longhurst, writing in the London Sunday Times, said of the substitution of Miss Porter, "I could not help feeling that, perhaps, if you were due to play in your first Curtis Cup single, you might get a far better night's sleep if you were under the impression that you weren't going to play."

Miss Goodwin was 1 down at lunch. Several times in the afternoon she

evened the match and in spite of a fine 73 ultimately lost to Mrs. Smith's fine young substitute.

The final score: United States 6½, the British Isles 2½.

A gallery, estimated at 12,000 people, one of the largest ever to attend a women's golf event, were generous in their admiration and applause for our players. The facilities were most complete: A mobile bank, refreshment and luncheon tents, including a special tea tent at the 12th hole, were available. The match was well marshalled.

I am sure, however, the appreciation of the golden gorse and the white thorn in bloom was an advantage enjoyed only by the gallery.

The main highway from Sheffield to the east was closed so there was no disturbance to the players.

A very colorful presentation ceremony by Sir Stuart Goodwin brought the 11th Curtis Cup match to a close.

I was very proud of our young team on and off the course. I believe they fulfilled completely the dedicated purpose of the donors of the Curtis Cup.

1960

INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE CURTIS CUP

Held at Lindrick Golf Club, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, England

May 20 and 21

FOURSOMES

BRITISH ISLES		UNITED STATES	
	Points		Points
Mrs. Angela Ward Bonallack and Miss Elizabeth Price (1 up)	1	Miss JoAnne Gunderson and Miss Barbara McIntire	0
Miss Belle McCorkindale and Miss Janette Robertson	0	Miss Judy Eller and Miss Anne Quast (4 and 2)	1
Miss Ruth Porter and Mrs. Frances Smith	0	Miss Joanne Goodwin and Mrs. Ann Casey Johnstone (3 and 2)	1
Total	1	Total	2

SINGLES

Miss Elizabeth Price (halved)	½	Miss Barbara McIntire (halved)	½
Mrs. Angela Ward Bonallack	0	Miss JoAnne Gunderson (2 and 1)	1
Miss Janette Robertson	0	Miss Anne Quast (2 up)	1
Miss Philomena Garvey	0	Miss Judy Eller (4 and 3)	1
Miss Belle McCorkindale	0	Miss Judy Bell (8 and 7)	1
Miss Ruth Porter (1 up)	1	Miss Joanne Goodwin	0
Total	1½	Total	4½
Grand Total—British Isles	2½	Grand Total—United States	6½

Non-playing Captain—Mrs. Maureen Garrett

Non-playing Captain—Mrs. Henri Prunaret