

# Big Moments in the Walker Cup Matches

By JOHN P. ENGLISH  
USGA ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Walker Cup competition was begun in the wake of the first World War with a view to stimulating golf interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

It was born in an era of dawning internationalism and grew, at least in part, out of two international matches between Canada and the United States. In 1919, the Royal Canadian Golf Association invited the USGA to send an amateur team to Canada. The invitation was accepted, and William C. Fownes, Jr., was appointed captain. His 10-man team consisted of John G. Anderson, Eben M. Byers, Charles Evans, Jr., Robert A. Gardner, Robert T. Jones, Jr., Oswald Kirkby, Max Marston, Francis D. Ouimet, George Ormiston and Jerome D. Travers. Playing foursomes in the morning and singles in the afternoon, it defeated the Canadians, 12 to 3, at the Hamilton (Ont.) Golf Club on July 25, 1919. The USGA Team won a return match the following year, in September, at the Engineers Country Club, in Roslyn, N. Y., 10 to 4.

Simultaneously, British and Americans were seriously seeking each other's championships. In the spring of 1920, Bob Gardner had gone to the final of the British Amateur at Muirfield, losing to Cyril Tolley on the 37th hole. The USGA Amateur that fall also had an international aspect. In addition to members of the Canadian team, Tolley, Roger Wethered, Lord Charles Hope and Tommy Armour came from Great Britain. Most of these failed to qualify, and the last foreign contender, Armour, was beaten by Ouimet in the third round.

The Executive Committee of the USGA, meanwhile, was invited abroad to confer with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club's Rules Committee regarding the advisability of amending or modifying various rules. The invitation was accepted and the USGA representatives sailed in the spring of 1920. The conferees met fre-

quently in England and Scotland and played many of the well-known links.

## Mr. Walker's Plan

Among the participants was George Herbert Walker, of the National Golf Links of America, Southampton, N. Y., President of the USGA in 1920, who passed away last June. Mr. Walker had been a low-handicap player in St. Louis and was a keen advocate of the game.

Upon the Executive Committee's return to the United States, the possibility of international team matches was discussed. The idea so appealed to Mr. Walker that, at a meeting of the Committee at the Links Club, in Manhattan, on the afternoon of December 21, 1920, he presented a plan for an international golf championship and offered to donate an International Challenge Trophy. When the newspapers printed the news, they called it, to Mr. Walker's chagrin, the "Walker Cup", and the name has stuck.

Early in 1921, the USGA invited all countries interested in golf to send teams to compete for the Trophy, but no country was able to accept that year. The American urge for international competition was rampant, however, and Fownes, who had twice assembled the amateur teams which played against Canada, rounded up a third team in the spring of 1921 and took it to Hoylake, England, where in an informal match it defeated a British team, 9 to 3, on the day before the British Amateur.

If there had been any sentiment that the Americans could not provide adequate competition, this must have dispelled it. The members of that informal United States team were: Charles Evans, Jr., William C. Fownes, Jr., Jesse P. Guilford, Paul Hunter, Robert T. Jones, Jr., Francis D. Ouimet, J. Wood Platt and Frederick J. Wright, Jr. They won all four of the morning foursomes and five of the eight afternoon singles.

Although the Americans were not successful in the British Amateur, Wright did go to the quarter-finals and Jock Hutchison later that year won the British Open, after a play-off with Roger Wethered.

The following spring, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, announced that it would send a team to compete for the Walker Cup in the United States that year, 1922.

Howard F. Whitney, who had succeeded Mr. Walker as President of the USGA in 1921, made the arrangements for the match, selecting as the site Mr. Walker's home club, the National Golf Links of America. The dates were Monday and Tuesday, August 28 and 29.

The plan was for each side to select eight players and to play foursomes the first day and singles the second day.

The team selected to represent the United States was again captained by Fownes. The other members were Charles Evans, Jr., Robert A. Gardner, Jesse P. Guilford, Robert T. Jones, Jr., Max R. Marston, Francis D. Ouimet and Jess W. Sweetser. Guilford held the Amateur Championship.

Robert Harris was nominated to captain the British team. His side consisted of Cyril J. H. Tolley, Roger H. Wethered, Colin C. Aylmer, C. V. L. Hooman, W. B. Torrance, John Caven and W. Willis Mackenzie. A notable absentee was Ernest W. E. Holderness, the British Champion, who was unable to make the trip.

#### Bernard Darwin's Role

Bernard Darwin, the golf writer of the *TIMES* of London, came with the team as a correspondent. When Harris fell ill before the match, Darwin was invited to compete in his stead and serve as playing captain. He defeated Fownes, 3 and 1, in an interesting singles match after losing the first three holes.

In the final singles match, Hooman defeated Sweetser on the first extra hole. It was the only extra-hole match ever played in Walker Cup competitions. Since that time, matches which finish even have

not been played out, and no points are awarded to either side.

Although many of the matches in that first meeting were close, the United States won three of the four foursomes and the first five of the eight singles to score an 8 to 4 victory in the first official match for the Walker Cup.

The members of the British team went from the National to Brookline, Mass., for the USGA Amateur and only Tolley went as far as the quarter-finals in quest of the title which Sweetser won so impressively.

An invitation to send a team to St. Andrews, Scotland, to defend the cup was quickly accepted the following winter, and the Americans nearly received their comeuppance in May, 1923. There had been many changes in personnel. Robert A. Gardner succeeded William C. Fownes, Jr., as captain, and ten players were selected so that alternates would be available on the scene. In addition to Gardner, Francis Ouimet, Jess Sweetser and Max Marston continued as members. S. Davidson Herron, Harrison R. Johnston, J. F. Neville, George V. Rotan, Dr. O. F. Willing and Frederick J. Wright, Jr., replaced Evans, Fownes, Guilford and Jones, who was studying at Harvard.

In the British Amateur at Deal, which preceded the Match, Ouimet, who had won the Gold Vase, went to the semi-finals, along with Douglas Grant, a fellow-American who was living abroad. Roger Wethered defeated Robert Harris, 7 and 6, in the final, and he remains the only Briton who has won a British Amateur in a year when a United States Walker Cup Team was playing abroad.

On the first day of the Match at St. Andrews, with Cyril Tolley and Roger Wethered leading off, the British won three of the four foursomes, so that the Americans went into the eight singles needing five victories to tie and six to win. The prospect became even more gloomy when most of the Americans were trailing in their singles matches at noon. At one point the Team, collectively, had been 24 holes down.



Robert T. Jones, Jr., then 20, putting on the third green at the National Golf Links of America, Southampton, N. Y., in the first Match for the Walker Cup. He defeated Roger H. Wethered, right, 3 and 2.

Then their competitive fire was kindled. Ouimet, 2 down with three to play, made 3s on the 34th and 36th holes, the latter by holing an 18-foot putt around a partial stymie, to halve with Wethered and equal the course record of 70. Rotan, who had been 6 down after 14 holes, rallied to win 11 of the next 12 holes and defeat Mackenzie, 6 and 4. Marston, who had been 1 down at noon, came back to beat W. L. Hope, 5 and 4. Wright, 2 down with three to play, won the last three holes, the final one with a seven-foot putt for a birdie 3, to defeat Holderness.

These comebacks, coupled with Gardner's 1-up victory over Harris, the British Captain, tied the match, and the decision rode on the contest between Dr. Willing and William A. Murray. They were the last on the course, and with three holes to play, they were even. But Dr. Willing won the 34th and 35th to give the United States a 6-to-5 victory and retain the Cup.

In his report to the Executive Committee, Howard F. Whitney, chairman of the International Matches and Relations Committee, wrote: "Your committee is of the opinion that international competition in golf has done as much for the development of the game as any other factor."

Another Match was scheduled for Sep-

tember, 1924, at the Garden City Golf Club. Captain Gardner's American team was particularly strong that year, every member having been a veteran Cup player. It won, 9 to 3, over Captain Cyril Tolley's side, although not one of the Americans clinched a victory earlier than the 33rd green.

This Match was the last to be played on an annual basis. It was felt that the financial strain of annual Matches was too severe and that interest might drop if the Matches were played too frequently. A decision was made to meet in alternate years thereafter.

In 1926, the Americans, again captained by Gardner, went first to Muirfield, Scotland, for the British Amateur. Jess Sweetser, suffering severely from near-pneumonia, became the first American-born winner of that Championship. Then the team, comprising a nucleus of veterans, with George Von Elm and the two youngsters, Roland MacKenzie, who was only 17, and Watts Gunn, returned to St. Andrews for the Match and defended the Cup by the narrowest of margins.

Bob Jones, who later that year was to win his first British Open, started his series of one-sided victories in singles play by defeating Cyril Tolley, 12 and 11. Jones never was defeated in five singles matches. But the Americans won only six contests against Captain Harris's side, and

their 6 to 5 victory traced to Von Elm's tie with Major Charles O. Hezlet in a grim singles contest on the final day.

After that Match, Jones assumed the captaincy of the Team and, in 1928 at the Chicago Golf Club and in 1930 at Sandwich, inaugurated a period of ascendancy which saw the Americans winning, 11 to 1 and 10 to 2.

Jones set the pace in 1928 when he defeated T. Philip Perkins, 13 and 12, in the first singles match. It was the widest margin in the history of the series.

George J. Voigt and Donald K. Moe joined the team in 1930, and Moe won one of the great matches of the series from James A. (Bill) Stout. Stout played the course in 68 in the morning and stood 4 up. He started the afternoon round 3-3-3 and went 7 up, and he was still 7 up with 13 to play. Moe then took back every one of the seven holes and won the match with a birdie 3 on the last hole. His score for the round was 67. After the match, Stout remarked reverently: "That was not golf; that was a visitation from the Lord!"

#### Quimet's Cup Career

Upon Jones's retirement after his Grand Slam in 1930, Francis Quimet, who had participated in every international Match, took over the captaincy in 1932 and retained it for six matches, through 1949. His personal record reveals four victories and two defeats in eight singles matches and five wins and three losses in eight foursomes. He last played in 1934 at St. Andrews but continued as a non-playing Captain.

The personnel of the teams changed rapidly, too, after the Jones era, as Charles H. Seaver, Gus T. Moreland, George T. Dunlap, Jr., William Howell, Jack Westland, a player in 1932 and 1934 and again in 1953; Maurice J. McCarthy, Jr., W. Lawson Little, Jr., John Goodman, the veteran H. Chandler Egan, who played in 1934 at the age of 50; John W. Fischer, Albert E. Campbell, Reynolds Smith, Charles R. Yates, Walter Emery, Harry L. Givan, Ed White, Charles R. Kocsis, Marvin H. Ward, Raymond E.

Billows and Fred Haas, Jr., successively entered the scene in the prewar years.

#### Crawley Dents the Cup

They were capable replacements for the veterans of the early matches. At The Country Club in 1932, when the Match was played during a total eclipse of the sun, the biggest dent the British made in the Cup was by Leonard G. Crawley. He not only won the only point for Captain T. A. Torrance's side, defeating George J. Voigt by a hole, but his errant iron shot to the 18th green at noon hit the Cup on the fly. The Americans won the dented Cup, 8 to 1. The British side that year included two brothers, Rex W. and W. Lister Hartley, and they were paired together in the first foursome.

Playing at St. Andrews in 1934 and then at the Pine Valley Golf Club in 1936, the Americans won their eight and ninth successive victories, by 9 to 2 and then, in the only shutout of the series, by 9 to 0. The British side in 1934 was captained by the Hon. Michael Scott, who had won the 1933 British Amateur at the age of 55 and the following year became the oldest competitor in the Walker Cup series. Again the American invasion included a victory in the British Amateur. Lawson Little winning at Prestwick.

The British went down fighting, however, in 1936. In the foursome play at Pine Valley, Alec Hill and Cecil Ewing were 7 down to George Voigt and Harry Givan with 11 to play. They squared the match on the 35th hole and halved the last to gain a tie. And Jock McLean, of the British Team, nearly carried away our Amateur Championship; Johnny Fischer had to play the last three holes in birdies to beat him on the 37th green in the final.

The succession of nine victories, the last four decisive, set the stage for the come-uppance which had been so narrowly averted in 1923. There was every reason for the Americans to be confident again when they went to Scotland in 1938, and Charles R. Yates, the Captain this year, won the British Amateur at Troon, prior to the Walker Cup play, to increase this confidence.

The British, however, were most serious about the Match. Captain John B. Beck conducted trials for a squad of players in an effort to end the American string of nine successive victories. When the teams met at St. Andrews, the British won two and halved another of the four foursomes to take a lead they never relinquished. An indication of their excellence was the fact that James Bruen, Jr., and Harry G. Bentley, 3 down at noon, came back with an approximate 68 to halve Fischer and Kocsis.

#### The Sole Defeat

The Americans needed five victories in singles to insure defense of the Cup. Ward played the Old Course in 67 in the first round and beat Frank Pennink, 12 and 11. Fischer, 4 down at noon, was 6 under 4s for 16 holes in the afternoon to beat Leonard Crawley. Yates also won. But their victories were not enough. Great Britain finally took possession of the Cup, 7 to 4, in its tenth challenge.

It took a decade for the United States to regain the Cup. The War intervened and no Match was played until the USGA sent a team to St. Andrews in 1947. Under normal circumstances, the Match would have been played in this country, but postwar conditions would have made the trip difficult for the British.

The Match was another close one, closer than the score indicated. Captain Ouimet's side won two foursomes, and Captain Beck's side won two. After 13 holes of singles play, four British players were ahead and four Americans were leading. It was anyone's Match, but the Americans were equal to the occasion. Bud Ward, 3 down at noon, played 15 holes in three under 4s to beat Leonard Crawley, 5 and 3, in the No. 1 contest. Frank Stranahan, 2 down at noon, went to the turn in 34 and defeated Charles Stowe, 2 and 1. The four Americans who had been ahead at noon held their advantages, and the United States regained the Cup, 8 to 4. The Team stayed abroad for the British Amateur, at Carnoustie, and Willie Turnesa won.

Only one member of this 1947 Team

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

### REGULAR

Alexandria Golf and Country Club, La.  
 Alvin Golf and Country Club, Texas  
 Bend Golf Club, Ore.  
 Blackwell Country Club, Okla.  
 Burlington Country Club, Vt.  
 Butler Country Club, Pa.  
 Columbia Golf Club, Minn.  
 Coral Gables Biltmore, Fla.  
 Country Club of Barre, Vt.  
 Cushing Country Club, Okla.  
 Edgewood Golf Club, Conn.  
 Fairfax Country Club, Va.  
 Fayetteville Country Club, Ark.  
 Feather River Country Club, Cal.  
 Fremont Golf Club, Ohio  
 Geneva Country Club, N. Y.  
 Harmon Golf Club, Ohio  
 Hubbard Trail Country Club, Ill.  
 Humboldt Country Club, Iowa  
 IBM Country Club (Sands Point), N. Y.  
 Joliet Country Club, Ill.  
 La Belle Golf Club, Wis.  
 Laredo Golf Association, Texas  
 Lee Park Golf Club, Va.  
 Marshfield Country Club, Mass.  
 McAlester Country Club, Okla.  
 Mt. Graham Golf Club, Ariz.  
 Nevada Country Club, Cal.  
 Newburg Country Club, N. Y.  
 New Castle Country Club, Pa.  
 Oakcrest Country Club, Ill.  
 Oak Hills Golf and Country Club, Okla.  
 Ontario Golf Course, Ore.  
 Paris Golf Club, Texas  
 Patty Jewett Golf Course, Colo.  
 Ruth Lake Country Club, Ill.  
 Sakonnet Golf Club, R. I.  
 Sierra View Country Club, Cal.  
 Springdale Golf Club, Mich.  
 Tapeka Country Club, Kans.  
 Unionville Country Club, Mo.  
 Valley Country Club, Pa.  
 Valley Country Club of Ledgemont, R. I.  
 Wallingford Country Club, Conn.  
 Whitinsville Golf Club, Mass.

### ASSOCIATE

All View Golf Course, Md.  
 Bend of the River Golf Course, N. Y.  
 Northernnaire Golf Course, Wis.  
 San Marcos Golf and Country Club, Ariz.  
 Vacation Valley, Pa.

had played in 1938 — Bud Ward. In the War decade, Ted Bishop, Dick Chapman, Fred Kammer, Smiley Quick, Skee Riegel, Stranahan and Turnesa achieved Cup status and took over from the veterans. In 1951 Turnesa replaced Ouimet as

Captain. These players were joined in the following two Cup Matches by Billy Campbell, Charley Coe, John Dawson, Bobby Knowles, Bruce McCormick, Harold Paddock and Sam Urzetta.

When the Match was next held in the United States, in 1949 at the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y., it was not so close. Laddie Lucas, a left-handed golfer, provided outstanding leadership as a non-playing captain, but United States skill with the sand wedge and putter could not be overcome. Ronnie White, the British lead-off player, won his singles and his foursome, the latter with Joe Carr, but these were only points the British took. The United States won, 10 to 2.

This superiority was maintained at Birkdale in 1951, although on English soil the margin of this twelfth United States victory was a less emphatic 6 to 3. As a matter of fact, after 18 holes of first-day foursomes, the British led in three matches and the fourth was even, but Captain Turnesa's men rallied to win two of the foursomes and halve the other two. The next day they won four and halved one of the eight singles. Paddock saved the half after being 3 down with four to play and 2 down with two to play, finishing 3-4-3-4. White again was the mainstay of the British side, playing thirty-five holes in three under fours to edge Coe in singles after pairing with Carr to halve his foursome. White had never been defeated in Cup play.

Following the Match, Dick Chapman won the British Amateur, defeating Coe in an all-American final. It marked the seventh successive occasion on which a member of a visiting United States Walker Cup Team had won.

During this visit, representatives of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and of the USGA met in London and St. Andrews, with representatives of Australia and Canada, and drafted a uniform code of Rules. Thus the series which had developed in part from the 1920 conference on Rules itself spawned another and more successful conference on Rules.

Every Match until 1949 had been

played under a purely verbal, informal agreement. Early that year, however, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the USGA finally wrote a covering agreement which was signed by Commander J. A. S. Carson for the R. and A. and by Isaac B. Grainger for the USGA. It formalized the basic principles under which the Matches had been held, and its terms are:

#### HISTORY

1. Arising out of a conversation between Mr. G. H. Walker of the United States and the late Mr. W. Norman Boase of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, a Cup was presented by the former for international competition to be known as "The United States Golf Association International Challenge Trophy," popularly described as "The Walker Cup."

#### COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE

2. The Cup shall be played for by teams of amateur golfers selected from Clubs under the jurisdiction of the United States Golf Association on the one side and from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire on the other.

#### FREQUENCY OF PLAY

3. The International Walker Cup Match shall be held every two years in the United States of America and Great Britain alternately.

#### TEAMS

4. The teams shall consist of not more than ten players and a captain.

#### FORM OF PLAY

5. The Match shall consist of four foursomes on the first day and eight singles on the second day.

#### CUSTODY OF CUP

6. The Country winning the Cup shall have custody of it until the next Match is played and shall be responsible for its safety from the time it is handed over until the time when it is relinquished.

#### RULES OF PLAY

7. The conduct of the International Match shall be governed by the Rules of Golf obtaining in the country in which the Match is being played.