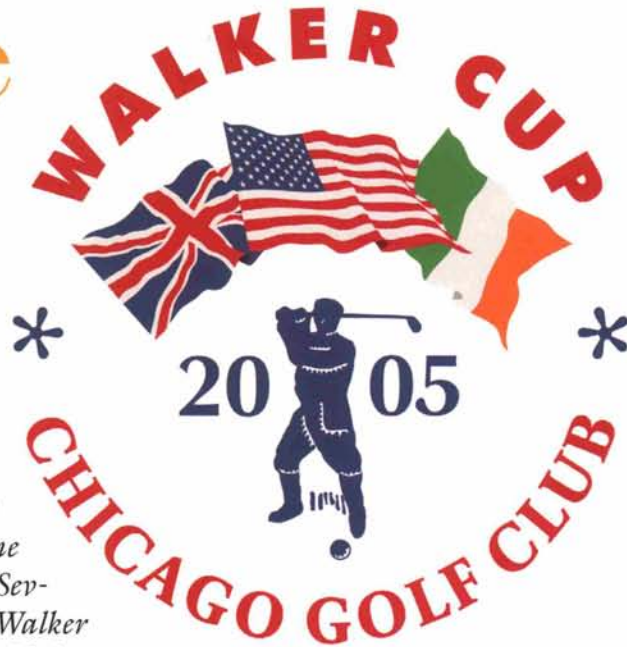


The Return of the



When Chicago Golf Club last hosted the Walker Cup, Babe Ruth and the Yankees were en route to winning the World Series, the Summer Olympics were in Amsterdam and Calvin Coolidge was our nation's President. Six years prior, golf course architect Seth Raynor had renovated Chicago Golf Club under the direction of C.B Macdonald. 1928 was a long time ago and many things have occurred since then. Seventy-seven years later, August 13-14, 2005, the Walker Cup is once again being played at Chicago Golf Club.

Walker Cup Matches

CHICAGO GOLF CLUB
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

The Walker Cup Matches will be played at the
Chicago Golf Club

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 1928
10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 1928
10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

The competing teams will be:

BRITISH	AMERICAN
Dr. William Tweddell, Captain	Robert T. Jones, Jr., Captain
J. B. Beek	George von Elm
R. H. Hardman	Francis Ouimet
Major C. O. Hezlet	Charles Evans, Jr.
W. L. Hope	Jesse Sweetser
G. N. Martin	Maurice J. McCarthy, Jr., Alternate
	Eugene Homans, Alternate
	Roland MacKenzie
	Watts Gunn
	Harrison Johnston

First day matches will be 4 two-ball foursomes, 36 holes, match play.
Second day matches will be 8 twosomes, 36 holes, match play.
On the above two days the grounds will be open to the public upon the payment of an
ADMISSION FEE OF \$2.00 EACH DAY.

Luncheon will be served at a reasonable cost on the Club's Polo Field in the center of the course, by one of Chicago's leading caterers.
Chicago and Northwestern trains to and from Wheaton, Illinois, with a Bus service between Wheaton and Chicago Golf Club.
Chicago Aurora & Elgin R. R. trains between Wells Street Station, Chicago, and Chicago Golf Station, one minute walk from Club House.
A public parking space for automobiles has been arranged, with entrance from Roosevelt Road, one-quarter mile West of Chicago Aurora & Elgin tracks at Wheaton. An entrance has been provided from this parking space directly to the Chicago Golf Station of that railroad, where a ticket selling booth will be established.

For further information call Chicago Golf Club on telephone, Wheaton No. 2

The Walker Cup is a series of golf matches conducted biennially in odd-numbered years between teams comprising the leading amateur golfers of the United States and Great Britain/Ireland. The teams consist of not more than 10 players and a captain. The matches are co-organized by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and named in honor of George Herbert Walker. If that name sounds familiar, it's because he was the maternal grandfather and namesake of the former President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, and great-grandfather of the current President. George Herbert Walker was president of the USGA in 1920 and donor of the trophy at the series' inception. Described as "a devoted patron, a fine sportsman and a great gentleman," Walker presented a plan for an international golf championship to the USGA Executive Committee on December 21, 1920. In his capacity as president of the USGA, Walker had witnessed the growing interest of his countrymen in international golf competition.

In 1920, Walker was also a member of the USGA delegation that met with the R&A Rules Committee in Britain around the time of the British Amateur. The chairman of the newly formed R&A Championship Committee played golf with Walker and was supportive of Walker's initiative. The USGA approved his plan; Walker offered a trophy and though the event was formally entitled "The United States Golf Association International Challenge Trophy," it was immediately renamed "The Walker Cup" by an enthusiastic press.

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The official event debuted in 1921 and ran annually until 1924. From that time forward, the matches became a biennial event, with a later switch to odd-numbered years. The United States and Great Britain/Ireland alternate in hosting the tournament.

The matches employ a combination of individual, alternate-shot, best ball and doubles competition in a format similar to the professional Ryder Cup, which also began as a competition between the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Unlike the Ryder Cup, the Walker Cup has never been expanded to make all European amateur golfers eligible to compete.

An interesting feature of the Walker Cup has been the selection procedure over the years. Apart from the respective national championships, a few notable open amateur competitions and the Amateur in Britain, in the early years few competitions of stature existed in which all top players participated, giving the selectors opportunity to judge the comparative abilities of potential team members.

Nevertheless, the USGA established three sound principles to guide the selection of American Walker Cup teams, which were:

1. Merit as a competitive golfer based upon tournaments of importance.
2. Sportsmanship and general ability to represent the United States.



Major Charles O. Hezlet, a mainstay of the British team, tees off on the first hole during the 1928 Walker Cup.

3. Unquestioned status as an amateur golfer.

The USGA chose America's oldest club to host the fifth Walker Cup matches. Chicago Golf Club was founded by Charles Blair Macdonald in 1892, and by 1893 boasted the first 18-hole golf course in America. Chicago Golf Club is one of the five founding members of the USGA and through its history has hosted three U.S. Opens and four U.S. Amateurs.

In 1921, after many years of deliberation and the intervening war, the club's committee approved an extensive renovation by Seth Raynor, a protégé of Macdonald. By June

1923, the newly renovated course was ready for play. Little has changed since then on the parkland, 6,710-yard, par-70 course.

The 1928 Proceedings

The USGA and the R&A used the occasion of the 1928 matches to debate the size of the golf ball, which the Americans wanted to standardize at 1.68" in diameter and 1.55 ounces in weight. The R&A preferred to keep the "British Ball," measuring 1.62" in diameter and weighing 1.62 ounces. The matter would, in fact, not be finally resolved until 1990!

Also on the agenda in 1928 for the game's rule-makers was a ruling on steel shafts. The USGA had first permitted their use in 1924. A year after the 1928 Walker Cup, and principally due to the imminent shortages in the supply of hickory, steel shafts were eventually legalized in Britain.

The organizers in 1928 anticipated the matches would attract a sizable crowd, as evident from the announcement of the event in a Chicago newspaper. Included in the information about the teams and dates was the following:

On the above two days the grounds will be open to the public upon payment of an admission fee of \$2.00 each day. Luncheon will be served at a reasonable cost on the Club's Polo Field in the center of the course by one of Chicago's leading caterers. Chicago and Northwestern trains to and from



The 1928 U.S. team. Legendary Bobby Jones is front row, center.



This view of the back of Chicago Golf's clubhouse from the first tee evokes a bygone era.



Hole no. 9 at Chicago Golf. Mastering the greens may be critical to winning this year's Walker Cup Match.

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The 1928 Great Britain/Ireland team that was trounced by the American squad.

Wheaton, Illinois with bus service between Wheaton and Chicago Golf Club. Chicago Aurora & Elgin R.R. trains between Wells Street Station, Chicago and Chicago Golf Station, one-minute walk from clubhouse. A public parking space for automobiles has been arranged, with entrance from Roosevelt Road, one-quarter mile west of Chicago Aurora and Elgin tracks at Wheaton. An entrance has been provided from this parking space directly to the Chicago Golf Station of that railroad where a ticket-selling booth will be established.

In 1928, Robert Jones was the playing captain and driving force behind the USA team's one-sided 11-1 win. At the time, four 36-hole foursomes were played on the first day followed by eight 36-hole singles matches on the next day. The USA squad was a perfect 4-0 after the foursomes. Jones won his singles match by a record margin, 13-and-12. Other notable players for the USA were Chick Evans, Watts Gunn, Francis Quimet and Jess Sweetser.

Preparing for 2005

Fast forward to 2005 and the course is essentially as it was in 1928. Maintenance standards have changed dramatically, though, enabling us to provide near-perfect playing conditions from tee to green.

The USGA has been working with us over the last five years preparing for the event. This has entailed numerous site visits, telephone calls,

e-mails and meetings. Each visiting committee has a little more to add in regard to changes and logistical ideas. This includes merchandising, catering, press, television, player accommodations, volunteer coordination, parking and spectators. We have been fortunate to have two USGA staff members onsite since September 2003. Sarah Adams and Emily Hobart worked during the 2003 U.S. Open at Olympia Fields Country Club. Robbie Zalzneck, U.S. Open manager for odd years, is overseeing the entire operation. For Robbie, this is an especially busy year seeing that the U.S.

Open was at Pinehurst.

Robbie will be at Chicago Golf Club from the beginning of July through the end of the tournament in mid-August.

Tom Meeks and Tim Moraghan, both of the USGA, are directing us for setting up the golf course. With regard to how the course will play, it will depend entirely on the weather. Here are some of the specifics desired for the tournament.

Fairways: As tight as you can get them, generally around 3/8".

Intermediate Rough: Tom Doak, our consulting architect, requested that we remove our intermediate rough three years ago due to the vast width of our fairways. In regard to this, the USGA also felt that our fairways were wide enough to not require a cut of intermediate rough around them. We do, however, mow a 21-inch strip of intermediate rough around the collars of greens.

Primary Rough: The primary rough is to be 3" on Monday, August 8 of Walker Cup week. The USGA will evaluate it then and decide if it needs to be topped off or let it go. This, of course, will be contingent upon the weather and the growth rate of the grass.

Teeing Ground and Collars' Grass Height: Slightly lower than fairways. During the practice rounds, no

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This map illustrates the extensive space allocated for the television compound.

tee markers will be used and Enka mat will be used to cover any teeing area that could be subjected to excessive divoting. During the two days of competition, we will be using the white markers normally used by the club.

The Putting Greens: The putting greens should measure between 11 feet 6 inches to 12 feet on the USGA Stimpmeter. This speed should also be in effect on Monday, August 8. *“Please understand we might try to have the greens a little faster, or slower, depending on our reaction to putting on them once we arrive and test them on Monday at that speed. We plan on using a different hole location for each of the four segments of the Walker Cup matches on Saturday August 13 and Sunday, August 14. Also, in order to avoid tournament hole locations we plan to use, we will determine hole locations for practice rounds.”*

Mowing Putting Greens: Aside from morning and evening mowing, the greens will be single-cut in between morning and afternoon matches. This mowing is to smooth the putting greens, not to pick up



Now one of the top-rated players in the world, Phil Mickelson (back row, fourth from left) was once a member of a Walker Cup team.

additional speed. As I write this article in the early part of June, we are presently mowing the greens at the height of .095" with Toro Flex mowers. Double-cutting and rolling in the morning provides green speeds of 10.5 to 11 feet. We will be mowing

and rolling in the evening as well for the tournament in order to achieve the USGA-desired green speed. We may lower the height of cut incrementally if we are not able to meet the goal of 11.5 to 12 feet.

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In order to meet the maintenance demands of the USGA, we have enlisted the assistance of 65 volunteers to supplement our staff of 22. The volunteers, the majority of whom are from local courses, will be joined by others from across the United States and as far away as the United Kingdom. The greenkeeper from Ganton Golf Club, host of the 2003 Walker Cup, and the deputy greenkeeper from Royal Jersey Golf Club

will be with us for the week. We have been planning a maintenance schedule for the past year and anticipate it taking three hours to mow the entire golf course, rake all 114 bunkers and set hole locations and tee markers.

The volunteers will attend an organizational meeting Wednesday evening, August 10 at 5:00 p.m. Beginning Thursday morning, August 11 at 4:30 a.m., we will start our first day of tournament maintenance. Vol-

unteers will have a chance to check back at their home facilities after the morning set-up. Evening mowing will commence at 4:00 p.m.

A major portion of the planning has resembled that for a wedding. We will have an air-conditioned volunteer hospitality tent for meetings, meals and resting in between morning and afternoon shifts. A large television will be provided for viewing the matches during the day. Breakfast,

FIGURE 1.
Chicago Golf Club
Hole-by-Hole
 (as it will play for the Walker Cup)
 6,782 yards, par 35-35-70

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	4	35
YARDS	450	450	219	550	328	395	211	445	409	3,457
HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN
PAR	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	35
YARDS	149	414	442	149	356	400	525	465	425	3,325



A view of no. 18 looking from green to tee.

lunch and dinner will be served to the volunteers Thursday through Sunday, all catered by local restaurants. MAGCS member Mark Gilmour will close our event with a pig roast for our volunteers and staff.

Saturday morning will be the real thing. Our group will gather at 4:30 a.m. for a meeting and job assignments. At 5:00 a.m., we head onto the course for morning set-up and maintenance to accommodate the schedule of play. On Saturday, August 13, and Sunday, August 14, there will be four foursomes matches (18 holes each) each morning and eight singles matches (18 holes each) each afternoon. Starting times on Saturday are 7:30 a.m. for foursomes, 12:30 p.m. for singles [tentative]; on Sunday, 7:30 a.m. for foursomes, 12:30 p.m. for singles [tentative].

We will remove all bunker rakes from the course during competition. We will have one person walk with each group in the morning and afternoon who will rake any bunker into which a player may hit a ball.

Recapping 2003

The Great Britain-and-Ireland squad won five of the eight afternoon singles matches and halved another on the last day as it rallied from two points down to capture its fourth consecutive win, 12½-to-11½. In the closing two matches, reigning British Amateur champion Stuart Manley beat the USA's Trip Kuehne, and Nigel Edwards halved USA's Lee Williams. The USA had built a 7-5 lead after the first day and held a 9-7 advantage heading into the final singles matches. Brock Mackenzie of Yakima, Washington went 3-0 for the USA. He was the only player on either squad to go undefeated.

After losing the last three matches of Walker Cup competition, we are hopeful that some of the magic from 1928 will return, leading the United States to victory in 2005.



References

The Walker Cup 1922 – 1999, Golf's Finest Contest. *Gordon G. Simmonds.*

The United States Golf Association.



Bobby Jones' pride in the U.S. team's victory at the 1928 event is evident.

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