



Glenna's Take

In her book *Ladies in the Rough* (Alfred K. Knopf, New York, 1928) **Glenna Collett** made the following observations about the English weather (page 95):

"No American woman has ever won the British ladies' championship, and it has been left to two French players to show the way. The English players are superior on the whole. Accustomed as we are in this country to playing golf under the burning sun, the merciless onslaught of wind and rain and cold experienced on the seaside courses of England plays havoc with the American woman's game.

"It is likely to rain at almost any time in England during the late spring. Not exactly rain, but a wet, irritating drizzle, with the cold so penetrating that no one goes out without the customary tweeds and woolen jackets. Sometimes the sun shines, but more often the clouds bring rain or sleet or mist before the day is done. At least these are my impressions of English tournament golf, especially in the last attempt of mine at Hunstanton, England, this spring [1928], when I again tried to lift the coveted title."

Miss Collett would return to the British Isles in 1929 for the amateur championship. This time, playing The Old Course at St. Andrews, she became the first American to advance to the championship match. **Joyce Wethered** won her fourth title, defeating Miss Collett by 3 and 1. Glenna led 5-up after nine holes and 2-up after 18. Miss Collett played the first nine in the afternoon poorly, scoring 42 to Miss Wethered's 35 and trailed by four holes with nine to play. Miss Wethered closed out the match on the 34th hole.

The following year at Formby Golf Club, Miss Collett again reached the championship match, only to fall victim to 19-year-old **Diana Fishwick** by 4 and 3.



Edith Quier commented on the challenge of playing in the rainy, cold English weather.

This is another in a series of Golf Chronicles articles about **Edith Quier**, Berks County's first national and international golf star. Stories about Miss Quier appeared in *The Golf Chronicles* Nos. 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 and 109, 115 and 116.

Weathering British Golf

Edith Quier shared her thoughts on playing in Europe with the *Reading Times* on June 14, 1930, an experience that was unlike her American golf.

"I never saw so much rain," she exclaimed. "From the minute we got there 'til the minute we packed and left, it rained almost constantly. And when it wasn't raining, it was so cold you almost froze to death.

"The sleet was terrible and sometimes on the greens it got so soggy that the ball when puttied would leave a track behind it.

"The wind howled and howled. In one of the matches I wore two sweaters, a leather jacket, a woolen scarf and a pair of mittens. Of course, it interfered with play, but after all we couldn't freeze.

"I'll never forget that funny little pro. When I asked him for a pair of mittens, he had to dig them out of his mothballs. He hadn't sole a pair for months and he thought I was absolutely out of my mind to be wanting mittens in the beautiful month of May."

Miss Quier observed that the British players were used to the foul weather. They seemed not bothered by the wind and the rain.

"And here were these luckless players from the United States shivering and soaking. It wasn't uncommon to see one of them standing far out on the links with some kind soul holding an umbrella over her." She estimated that the Americans outdid the British by three to one in the sweater competition.

That's not to say she found the experience altogether unpleasant.

"People over there take their golf much more seriously that we do," she said. "They work hard to win and are disappointed if they lose. They practice hard and conscientiously. Along the roads and in the streets you see young boys with clubs hitting anything they see lying about. And those on the course aren't satisfied with playing just a couple holes. They play far into the night."

English women think nothing of playing 36 holes a day. Most in the United States play 18 and call it a day or a week. For the English, an 18-hole round just about puts them in the playing mood. Many take their lunches to the course and sit under a tree to eat picnic-like between rounds.

The men and the women carry their own clubs, although the better players hire caddies.

"Maybe that's why then don't mind the rain so much," she observed. "There's a lot more exercise to carrying your sticks than just walking."

She also noted the reverence with they treat their golf balls. Most carry a small bag on their shoulder to carry their golf balls safely and securely. Even those

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with caddies don't entrust their valuable hoard to the bag totter. Those that do sometimes have a lock on the bag. The caddy may carry the bag, but the golfer carries the key.

Miss Quier was also taken by the penchant for extremely large double greens.

"Why, you'd be driving your ball over the brow of a hill and when you saw it again, it would be lying between two flags on the same green," she said. "There'd be a white flag for one hole and a red one for the other. Naturally, you wouldn't know which one was meant for you so you had to ask your caddy. The greens are much larger than the average one-hole affair and sometimes you'd have to putt 80 feet before your ball would reach the cup."

English caddies take a keen interest in the outcome of the matches. In the U.S., they merely tote the bag and collect their fee.

"Over there, players have to depend on their caddies to know what clubs to use. One day you'd use a driver on a certain tee and the next day there'd be a high wind and you'd have to use a mashie [5-iron]. Once I asked my caddy for a driver and he handed me a spoon [5-wood]. "It 'er hard, lady,' he said."

An example of the British caddy's attention to the competition showed up in one of Glenna Collett's matches. Her caddy saw she was excited over a hard shot she had to make. He also saw that she was hurrying her shots. So when he offered her a club, he kept hold of it. That little delay calmed her for the shot.

Players don't qualify for tournaments in England. All entrants are placed into brackets for match play. The courses have more traps bordering fairways than do their American counterparts, but fewer around the greens.

The British players used wooden shafted clubs almost exclusively. The steel shafted clubs had not taken over as they had among the American players. The British were also just transitioning away from the traditional mound of sand to the use of wooden pegs on tee shots.

Editor's note: The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, one the game's governing bodies, approved the use of steel shafted clubs in 1929.

Miss Quier was also captivated by the British devotion to tea. Every afternoon, play stopped while the golfers sipped.

"Most people think the British are not hospitable," she said, "but we found them most agreeable and ready to do anything at all for our comfort and entertainment. They opened their houses to us, entertained us and did everything they could. After all, we were nothing more than a group of foreign invaders there for the purpose of hoarding all the glory in sight and bringing it back to the United States. And although a Briton dearly loves his victories, they were all very friendly and cordial to us.

"We did have a wonderful time and I certainly would like to go back again some day."



Umbrellas were up, a typical scene during the Ladies' Amateur Championship matches. This photo from The Liverpool Evening Express, May 15, 1930, shows play in the rain between Helen Hicks, United States, and Enid Wilson, England. Miss Wilson won by 5 and 4.