



# The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County



Number 47 • September 28, 2016



An ad promoting the Ryder Cup Challenge Matches appeared in the *Reading Eagle* on September 18, 1953

## The Ryder Cup Rolls through Reading

### PGA Challenge Team Provides a Stern Test at RCC

The Ryder Cup matches are big in every way. Big crowds. Big television audience. Big media coverage. Big money.

But with all that bigness going for it, the Ryder Cup offers the smallest prize purse in professional golf. Zero. The players do not compete for prize money, at least not in the traditional sense. A player's status as a Ryder Cupper certainly boosts his value in the endorsement and corporate outing markets; that's where the real money is made. Plus they get to keep those hideous outfits and golf bags.

Money has never driven the Ryder Cup. The matches are played to promote the game, for national pride and for bragging rights. But it takes money to stage the matches. These days, the funding comes from corporate sponsors and television rights.

'Twern't always so. In 1953, the Professional Golfers Association put on a fund-raising exhibition for the Ryder Cup team. The event, a match pitting the U.S. Ryder Cup team against the PGA Challenge Team, was played at Reading Country Club on September 19 and 20. The competition included a pro-am tournament at Berkshire Country Club on September 18.

**Reedy's writin'.** Writing in the *Reading Eagle* on September 6, 1953, sports columnist **Bill Reedy** noted that the Berks Golf Association was pleased that the PGA chose Reading as the site for the challenge matches. He expressed surprise that a golf club in a larger market was not chosen. Reedy reports that the matches were brought to Reading chiefly through the effort of Al Cullum of the Berks Golf Association. You can read his column on page 4.

Attention must be paid to Reedy's writing style, an example of the sport writers of his era who produced magical turns of phrasing. For more about Reedy, read TGC 39, *Celebrating the Great Bill Reedy—Who's Your Varipapa?*

So, why did the Ryder Cup team need a fund-raiser? According to golf historian **Pete Trenham**, the Ryder Cup was a money loser in its formative years. The matches produced little or no income for the sanctioning bodies and no earnings for the players. At the time, prize money won on the golf tour was modest and most pros supplemented their income with club jobs. There was money to be made giving lessons, selling equipment and appearing in exhibitions. The honor of playing in the Ryder Cup did not replace the income lost by being away from the shop for several weeks.

**Sammy says no.** Further, a U.P. report on the Eastern Open, played at the Mt. Pleasant golf course in Baltimore, September 10-13, 1953, noted that **Sam Snead** was not in the field to defend his title. Tournament officials explained that Snead was most probably resting an injured hand prior to the Ryder Cup, but allowed that the Slammer may have been dissatisfied about arrangements for appearance money. Appearance fees – a sum paid to a player just for showing up at an event – are at present prohibited by the PGA and LPGA tours.

Appearance fees are paid to a pro golfer for playing a tournament. The way it works is simple: A tournament official contacts a golfer (or the golfer's agent, more likely) and offers a sum for that golfer to play the event. If the golfer accepts, he or she gets the money, then plays the tournament. Tournament earnings are in addition to the appearance fee, which is paid even if the player misses the cut. Appearance fees are common on the tours outside of the U.S.

## Medal Mania

As with the Ryder Cup, the Olympic golf tournament has no prize fund. That doesn't mean the players compete for medals only. Most national Olympic committees pay for performance. The United States Olympic Committee pays medal winners \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000 for gold, silver and bronze, respectively.

Singapore leads in medal generosity, paying about \$780,000 for a gold medal. Singapore's athletes are not breaking the treasury, having won just five medals in Olympic competition. Joseph Schooling, a swimmer, won Singapore's first gold medal in 2016.

In contrast, the United Kingdom's Olympic committee does not pay cash awards to medal winners. Sorry, Justin.

The medals wouldn't fetch much in the scrap market: gold medals are valued at about \$600, silver \$325 and bronze a measly \$3.

Collectors are willing to pay for sentiment. One of **Jesse Owens'** four gold medals (Berlin, 1936) sold for nearly \$1.5 million in 2013. **Wladimir Klitschko**, Ukraine, sold his boxing gold medal (Atlanta, 1996) for \$1 million. Wlad donated the money to a charity that helps needy children. Although some gold medals have sold for more than \$100,000, most go for much less.



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## In the Spotlight

The 1953 Ryder Cup Challenge Matches at RCC attracted national news coverage. Here is an Associated Press article from the Corpus Christi *Caller-Times* on August 30.

READING, Pa. Aug. 29. (AP) America's Ryder Cup team, scheduled to face a British team in October, faces a going-away test here next month. The Cup squad, headed by playing captain Lloyd Mangrum, meets a challenge squad of top flight pros in two days of competition Sept. 19-20. Play will be over the 6,170-yard Reading Country Club course, which has a fairly tough par of 71 despite its relatively short distance.

Play will be similar to the Ryder Cup contest schedule, with an extra added attraction in the way of a better-ball of partners match. It will be the only major competition for the nation's top golf pros in eastern Pennsylvania this year, replacing the Reading Open which has been played here annually since 1948.

Proceeds from the challenge match will help defray the expenses of the Ryder Cup team, which sails for Britain the following week. The four ball partners match is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19, at 18 holes. On Sunday, the experts will team up in 18-hole Scotch foursome matches, and on Sunday afternoon the competition will be singles at match play.

Members of the 1953 U. S. Ryder Cup team, in addition to Mangrum, are PGA Champion Walter Burkemo, Sam Snead, Dave Douglass, Ed (Porky) Oliver, Fred Haas, Dr. Cary Middlecoff, Ted Kroll, Jim Turnesa and Jack Burke.

The U.S. Open champion Ben Hogan declined a bid to the Ryder Cup squad this year.

Colorful Jimmy Demaret, a member of several Ryder Cup squads in the past, has agreed to captain the challenge team, which also will include Henry Williams, pro at nearby Berkleigh Country Club and current Philadelphia district PGA champion. Other members of the challenge team include Al Besselink, Tommy Bolt, Pete Cooper, George Fazio, Doug Ford, Claude Harmon, Johnny Palmer and Lew Worsham.

Yes, the challenge matches helped the players sharpen their game but those on the team were top-level competitors to begin with. They were professionals and that means they played for money. Without the \$15,000 purse, it is likely the challenge matches would not have been played. See page 5 for a summary of the Pro-Am tournament played at Berkshire CC on September 18 and page 6 for results of the two-day competition at Reading CC.

**U.S. holds on.** The United States won the 1953 Ryder Cup, 6 ½ to 5 ½. The Americans took a commanding 3 to 1 lead after the first day's foursomes matches, which were contested over 36 holes.

Great Britain rallied in the 36-hole singles matches, winning the day, 4 ½ to 3 ½. But it wasn't enough to overcome the U.S. team's two-point lead.

**Not the first.** The Ryder Cup challenge matches played at Reading in 1953 were not the first, nor were they the last, such events. Matches pitting the American team against Great Britain scheduled for 1939, '42, '43 and '45 were not played because of World War 2. Despite this interruption, the United States did select Ryder Cup teams in these years. The teams supported the war effort by raising funds for the Red Cross with matches against teams of PGA professionals in 1940, '41, '42, '43 and '44. The events raised more than \$100,000.

**Bobby's back.** The most noteworthy match was played in 1941 when 39-year-old **Bobby Jones** led the Challenge Team to an 8 ½ to 6 ½ win over **Walter Hagan's** Ryder Cuppers at the Detroit Golf Club. Jones retired in 1930 at age 28 after he completed the Grand Slam by winning the U.S. Amateur at Merion CC. His only competitive golf in the interim was an annual appearance at the Masters, where his best finish was tied 13<sup>th</sup> in the first event in 1934. Jones and **Gene Sarazen** were stunned by the team of **Byron Nelson** and **Jug McSpaden**, dropping an 8 and 6 decision in their first-day 36-hole foursomes match. Nelson and McSpaden propelled the Cuppers to a 3 to 2 lead.

Jones redeemed himself in singles, defeating **Henry Picard**, 2 and 1, as his Challenge Team won six of the 10 matches before 12,000 spectators.

Ryder Cup play resumed in 1947 at Portland Golf Club, Oregon. The U.S. overwhelmed Great Britain, 11 to 1. Great Britain's only point came in Sunday's singles matches when **Sam Kirk** defeated **Herman Keiser**, 4 and 3. The high-powered U.S. team included **Ben Hogan**, **Byron Nelson**, **Jimmy Demaret**, **Sam Snead**, **Lew Worsham**, **Ed "Porky" Oliver** and **Lloyd Mangrum**. This was Nelson's last Ryder Cup as a player. The British team, led by captain **Henry Cotton**, may have been travel weary. After sailing from England to New York, they embarked on a four-day train ride across the continent to Portland.

**Battle in Boston.** The Ryder Cup matches returned to England in 1949. To prepare for the journey, the U.S. team faced off against the PGA Challenge Team at Belmont Country Club, Boston, on August 20 and 21. The event was staged to provide the Cup players with an opportunity to test themselves in the Ryder Cup format and to raise money for the trip to the U.K.

Non-playing captain **Ben Hogan**, still convalescing from a near-fatal auto accident, led the Cuppers to a convincing 9 to 3 victory against the Challenge Team selected by captain **Byron Nelson**. The Ryder Cup team earned \$10,500 to be used for travel expenses. The challengers divided \$4,500.

In September, the U.S. won the Ryder Cup, 7 to 5, in the competition at Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire, England. The Americans trailed, 3 to 1, after the first day's foursomes matches. They stormed back in singles, winning six matches and losing two. All matches were contested over 36 holes.



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## Formats. Formats. Formats.

The format for the Ryder Cup matches has changed over the years.

**1927-'59.** The first day featured four 36-hole foursomes (alternate shot or Scotch foursomes) matches. On day two, the teams played eight 36-hole singles matches, for a total of 12 points.

**1961.** Still two days but with matches contested over 18 holes and playing for 24 points. Day one featured four foursomes matches in the morning and four in the afternoon. On day two, the teams played 16 singles matches divided between the morning and afternoon.

**1963-'75.** A third day of competition was added, with the first two days devoted to foursome and fourball (best ball of partner) matches, four in the morning and four in the afternoon. The 16 singles matches on day three were divided between morning and afternoon. The teams played for 32 points.

**1977.** A major change, with five foursomes matches on day one, five fourball matches on day two and 10 singles matches on day three, for 20 points. This was the last event featuring the U.S. against Great Britain and Ireland; players from continental Europe were added to the competition for the 1979 Ryder Cup. The U.S. defeated GB&I, 12 ½ to 7 ½, in England at Royal Lytham & St. Annes.

**1979-present.** The format we enjoy today was adopted in 1979, with the teams playing for 28 points.

**A Texas stomping.** In the 1955 challenge matches at Midland Country Club, Texas, the Cuppers won, 29 ½ to 15 ½. The Ryder Cup team was led by **Sam Snead, Chandler Harper** and **Jack Burke**. **Jimmy Demaret** was captain of the Challenge Team. Winning team members won \$600 each while the losers collected \$500 each from the \$12,500 purse. The Ryder Cup fund received \$2,000.

The Cuppers took the opening day's foursomes matches, 12 to 3, and won the individual matches, 17 ½ to 12 ½. In singles play, Snead shot four-under-par 68, easily defeating **Mike Souchak**, who carded a 74. **Cary Middlecoff** defeated Demaret, 68-70. Harper thrashed **Bob Rosburg**, 69-76. Burke's 71 bested **Al Besselink**, who had 76.

Although **Ted Kroll** of the Challenge Team aced the 180-yard 3<sup>rd</sup> hole with a 4-iron, he lost his match to **Fred Hawkins**.

Four Challenge Team players won their matches. **Don Cherry**, an amateur, defeated **Marty Furgol**; **Bo Winger** beat **Tommy Bolt**; and **Byron Nelson** defeated **Doug Ford**.

Ryder Cuppers **Jerry Barber** and **Chick Harbert** halved their matches with **Billy Maxwell** and **Vic Ghezzi**, respectively.

The 1955 Ryder Cup matches were held November 5–6, 1955, at Thunderbird Country Club, Rancho Mirage, Cal. The United States team won its seventh consecutive competition, 8 to 4.

In 1957, the Ryder Cuppers defeated the Challenge Team, 9 ½ to 5 ½. The matches were played at Wanakah Country Club, Hamburg, N.Y., on September 21 and 22. **Sam Snead**, a six-time Ryder Cup player, was selected as captain of the Challenge Team. Snead did not qualify for the 1957 Cup team.

The Ryder Cup team included **Jack Burke Jr.**, team captain, **Doug Ford, Ted Kroll, Art Wall Jr., Fred Hawkins, Lionel Hebert, Dick Mayer, Tommy Bolt, Dow Finsterwald** and **Ed Furgol**.

The Cuppers won day one, 4 to 1, playing on a rain-swept course. The only Cup team to lose in the foursomes matches was **Dick Mayer** and **Ed Furgol**, beaten 2-down by **Al Besselink** and **Jay Hebert**.

On day two, the Ryder Cup team took a narrow 5 ½ to 4 ½ decision in singles play. Ryder Cup winners included **Dow Finsterwald** over **Porky Oliver**; **Lionel Hebert** over **Al Besselink**, 2 and 1; **Ed Furgol** over **Sam Snead**, 1 up; and **Ted Kroll** over **Toby Lyons**, 1 up.

Winners for the Challenge Team were **Jay Hebert** over **Dick Mayer**, 3 and 2; **Don Fairfield** over **Fred Hawkins**, 4 and 2; **Marty Furgol** over **Tommy Bolt**, 4 and 2; and **Dutch Harrison** over **Jack Burke**, 2 and 1.

Although 1957 was a good year for Chevys and the Milwaukee Braves, it was not so good for the U.S. Ryder Cup team. The matches resulted in a rare—rare for that era—win for Great Britain and Ireland. Played October 4 and 5 at Lindrick Club, Yorkshire, the hosts beat the United States team, 7 ½ to 4 ½ for GB&I's first win since 1933. On the final day, GB&I rallied to win seven of eight singles matches. **Peter Allis** was the only British player to lose in singles, falling to **Fred Hawkins**, 2 and 1.

The U.S. would not lose the Cup again until 1983. By then the format was revised to include players from all of Europe.



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This column by Bill Reedy appeared in the Reading Eagle on September 16, 1953.  
Note the turns of phrase that are typical of Reedy's colorful writing.



## Bill Reedy:



Ryder Cuppers Here With One Man  
Who Helped 1937 Win in England

Twenty of the nation's greatest professional golfers will be here this weekend when the Ryder Cup team of the United States engages a crack squad of challengers in varied matches at the Berkshire and Reading Country Clubs to prepare for an invasion of England and defense of the famous trophy in the biennial competition . . . Each of these shotmakers has achieved some measure of renown on the links, even our own homebred pro Henry Williams, of the Berkleigh Club . . . But the man in the field with the greatest reputation is Sam Snead . . . Aside from his string of successes, he comes here with two specific distinctions as a member of the Ryder Cuppers captained by Lloyd Mangrum . . . He is, first of all, the only hall-of-famer on either team . . . Within the past two weeks, he was elected to the PGA's hall of fame along with Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan . . . He is also the dean of all the Ryder Cuppers in the international rivalry with Great Britain for he played in the series in England as long ago as 1937 . . . It had to be merely a matter of time only when the sports writers and sports casters of the nation would get around to enshrining the names of Nelson, Hogan and Snead in professional golf's hall of fame . . . Here are three supermen of the links who were born within the short period of approximately 15 months; Nelson and Hogan in 1912 and Snead in 1913 . . . They have been the really great competitors of the past 15 years . . . Time will have to prove whether there's any trio in the present crop of campaigners comparable to the Nelson-Hogan-Snead combination.

It was in 1937 that Sam Snead, as a 25-year-old newcomer in topflight competition, made his first appearance in Ryder Cup play at Southport, England . . . He won his singles match, 5 and 4, but did not get into the foursomes . . . Byron Nelson bowed to Dai Rees, famous Welshman of golf, in the singles, 3 and 1, while representing the Reading Country Club, but teamed with Ed Dudley to beat Henry Cotton and Alfred Padgham, 4 and 2, in the foursomes . . . Other members of Uncle Sam's team that year when Nelson was putting Reading on the golf map as the new champion of the Masters' invitation classic were Ralph Guldahl, Denny Shute, Tony Manero, Gene Sarazen, Johnny Revolta and Henry Picard . . . Uncle Sam's team won out, 8 to 4 . . . Only Sam Snead remains from that squad on the present team that will treat Reading and Berks followers of the sport to some fancy shooting Friday, Saturday and Sunday . . . He surely has worn well.

While the matches here are primarily designed to prepare the Ryder Cuppers to operate as a team for the forthcoming tests at Wentworth, England on October 2 and 3, they are apt to produce some startling competition since the challengers under Capt. Jimmy Demaret are certainly going to defeat the men to whom they lost out in competition for berths on the squad . . . The competition here will be radically different only in the Scotch foursomes, however, to be played Sunday before the program is ended the same day with singles . . . In these foursomes, only two balls are used for alternate shots . . . It's a rather antiquated type of golf competition but it still prevails in Ryder Cup play, also in the Walker Cup matches between the top amateurs of the United States and Great Britain . . . It will be a comparatively new experience for many of the pros coming here to wage a Scotch foursome battle . . . "The pros like Scotch foursomes what little chance to get to play them," says Bert Heizmann, chairman of the committee that picked the challengers. "That will be the fun of our matches to them." . . . That's not hard to figure when you stop to think that when you step up to hit a ball on the fairway or off the fairway, in a trap or on the green, you are stroking the one landed there by your teammate . . . The big battle of the local event, however, will be the singles Sunday afternoon when each of Bert Heizmann's challengers tries to defeat the Ryder Cuppers who are being brought here chiefly through the individual effort of Al Cullum as representative of the Berks Golf Association.

Even the Berks Golf Association was greatly and pleasantly surprised when the Professional Golfers' Association decided to have the challenge matches played here . . . The surprise is that a golf club at one of the nation's metropolitan cities did not get such an attraction . . . Local interest in the Ryder Cup matches in England will subsequently be heightened as the result of the promotion here . . . It's been two years since the nation's top pros showed their class in Berks at the Berkleigh in the Reading Open tournament . . . The 20 invaders include present or former U.S. Open and PGA champions, notably Sam Snead, Lloyd Mangrum, Walter Burkemo, Jim Turnesa and Lew Worsham . . . Once again Reading will be in the golf headlines.

The Ryder Cup competition for which the weekend matches here are intended to sharpen up the game of Uncle Sam's representatives was inaugurated in 1927 at the Worcester, Mass., Country Club and the Americans won over the British, 9½ to 2½ . . . On that first U.S. team were Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, Leo Diegel, Bill Mehlhorn, Al Watrous, Joe Turnesa, Johnny Farrell and Johnny Golden . . . The scene of the cup play, waged every two years ever since, alternates between this nation and Great Britain . . . In 1955, the Ryder Cup matches will return to the United States.



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## Day One—Pro-Am at Berkshire CC

The Ryder Cup exhibition in Reading kicked off with a Pro-Am tournament at Berkshire Country Club on Friday, September 18. **Jack Burke Jr.** fired a blistering 32-31—63, nine under par, to lead his team to victory. Burke's score, which included seven birdies and an eagle on the par 5 17<sup>th</sup> hole, was the lowest ever shot at Berkshire, but the record was considered unofficial. **Ben Hogan** set the official record with a 64 in the final round on his way to victory in the 1948 Reading Open.

Burke's foursome posted a 55, 17 under par, in the best-ball-of-foursome event. Burke's amateur partners were **Bud Ollivierre** and **Bill Roberts**, Berkshire CC, and **Don Trout**, Reading CC.

Burke won \$350 from the \$1,500 prize fund. Other professionals winners were **Henry Clay Poe**, professional at Reading, and **Doug Ford**, \$225 each for a second-place tie; **Johnny Palmer**, **Jim Turnesa** and **Tommy Bolt**, \$150 each for tied fourth; and \$125 each to **Sam Snead** and **George Fazio**.

Turnesa's team carded the best front 9, a nine-under-par 27, while the Burke and Fazio teams scored nine-under 27s on the inward trek.

### Pro-Am Results

Jack Burke Jr. Pro; Don Trout	55
Ollivierre, Bill Roberts	55
Henry Poe Pro; Roy Klime, Gordon Lewis Tom Griesemer	57
Doug Ford Pro; Michael Geiger Herman Imber, Carl Post	57
Tommy Bolt Pro; Sam Cocodrill	58
Dick Palmer, Winny West	58
Johnny Palmer Pro; Ira Leonard, Wesley A. Ryan, Charles Golden	58
Jim Turnesa Pro; Lin Cassel, Ed Chrusciel, Russ Yoder	58
George Fazio Pro; Clarence Ulmer	58
Jack Crane, Bill Howard	58
Sam Snead Pro; Dave Blumber, Barrett Finn, Loyal Radtke	58
Ed Oliver, Pro; E. G. Smith, Chick Mosser, John Bertollet	60
Dave Douglas Pro; John Edelman, George Gaul, Bob Matten	60
Walter Burkemo, Pro; Henry King, Bill Lindgren, Harry Shaaber	61
Ted Kroll Pro; Phil Anewalt, Harold Blumberg, Morris Goodman	61
Claude Harmon Pro; Ellis Jones, Don Whitehead, Jim Purcell	61
Cary Middlecoff Pro; Jack Lord, Don Plunkett, Frank Swinkowski	62
Henry Williams Jr. Pro; Allan M. Cullum, Bud Beard, Tom Butler	62
Lew Worsham Pro; C. O. Davis, Dr. S. E. Rager, J. Elmer Lutz Sr.	62
A. BesseLink Pro; Phil Corson, John Franks, Bob Sullivan	63
Lloyd Mangrum, Pro; Lee Smith, Al Kozloff, Steve Petrisky	64
Pete Cooper Pro; Izzy Hecklen, Sam Hettlinger, Roxy Wise	64
Harry Markel Pro; Stan Ross, Emerson Evans, Pat Burkes	64
Fred Haas Jr. Pro; Jack Shapiro, Johnny Markel, Paul Snyder	65
Buddy Heckman Pro; Claude Schell, Ed Ferriday, Walter Gusdahl	65
Jimmy Demaret Pro; Sam Jacobson, Jake Krumholz, Eddie Land	65

The Reading Eagle published the Pro-Am entries. The list includes the professional's name in bold type, the amateur players' with club affiliations and, in parentheses, their handicaps.

10:30 — <b>JOHNNY PALMER</b> , Pro. Ira Leonard (5), Berkleigh; Wesley A. Ryan (11), Reading; Charles Golden (26), Reading;
10:38 — <b>PETE COOPER</b> , Pro. Izzy Hecklen (6), Berkleigh; Sam Hettlinger (9), Reading; Roxy Wise (15), Denver;
10:46 — <b>WALTER BURKEMO</b> , Pro. Henry King (7), Berkleigh; Bill Lindgren (9), and Harry Shaaber (15), Berkshire;
10:54 — <b>JACK BURKE JR.</b> , Pro. Don Trout (6), Reading; Bud Ollivierre (8) and Bill Roberts (21), Berkshire;
11:02 — <b>ED OLIVER</b> , Pro. E. G. Smith (4), Reading; Chick Mosser (10) and John Bertollet (13), Berkshire;
11:10 — <b>JIMMY DEMARET</b> , Pro. Sam Jacobson (5), Jake Krumholz (12), and Eddie Land (14), all of Berkleigh;
11:18 — <b>BUDDY HECKMAN</b> , Pro. Claude Schell (4), Green Hills; Ed Ferriday (10), Chevy Chase, Washington, D.C.; Walter Gusdahl (20), Berkshire;
11:26 — <b>AL BESSELINK</b> , Pro. Phil Corson (4), Plymouth; John Frank (8), Lehigh; Bob Sullivan (20), Berkshire;
11:34 — Starter's Time;
11:42 — <b>JIM TURNESA</b> , Pro. Lin Cassel (4), Plymouth; Ed Chrusciel (8), Reading; Russ Yoder (17), Reading;
11:50 — <b>LEW WORSHAM</b> , Pro. C. O. Davis (6), Lehigh; Dr. S. E. Rager (22), Berkshire; J. Elmer Lutz Sr. (17), Reading;
11:58 — <b>HENRY POE</b> , Pro. Roy Klime (8), Gordon Lewis (13), and Tom Griesemer (15), all of Reading;
12:06 — <b>GEORGE FAZIO</b> , Pro. Clarence Ulmer (6), Reading; Jack Crane (10), Galen Hall; Bill Howard (17), Reading;
12:14 — <b>TOMMY BOLT</b> , Pro. Sam Cocodrill (6), Reading; Dick Palmer (11), Berkshire; Winny West (13), Reading;
12:22 — <b>CARY MIDDLECOFF</b> , Pro. Jack Lord (4), Brookside; Don Plunkett (11), Berkshire; Frank Swinkowski (16), Reading;
12:30 — <b>DOUG FORD</b> , Pro. Michael Geiger (5), Brookside; Herman Imber (12), Berkleigh; Carl Post (18), Berkshire;
12:38 — <b>HARRY MARKEL</b> , Pro. Stan Ross (6), Emerson Evans (12), and Pat Burkes (15), all of Berkshire;
12:46 — Starter's Time;
12:54 — <b>CLAUDE HARMON</b> , Pro. Ellis Jones (7), Don Whitehead (11), and Jim Purcell (28), all of Berkshire;
1:02 — <b>LLOYD MANGRUM</b> , Pro. Lee Smith (6), Lehigh; Al Kozloff (10), Berkleigh; Steve Petrisky (12), Brookside;
1:10 — <b>TED KROLL</b> , Pro. Phil Anewalt (6), Berkshire; Harold Blumberg (9), and Morris Goodman (14), Berkleigh;
1:18 — <b>HENRY WILLIAMS JR.</b> , Pro. Allan M. Cullum (8), Berkshire; Bud Beard (9), Berkshire; Tom Butler (14), Reading;
1:26 — <b>DAVE DOUGLAS</b> , Pro. John Edelman (13), Berkshire; George Gaul (10), Berkleigh; Bob Matten (6), Berkshire;
1:34 — <b>FRED HAAS JR.</b> , Pro. Jack Shapiro (14), Berkleigh; Johnny Markel (10), Berkshire; Paul Snyder (9), Berkshire;
1:42 — <b>SAM SNEAD</b> , Pro. Dave Blumberg (7), Berkleigh; Barrett Finn (9), Berkshire; Loyal Radtke (13), Berkshire;



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## Day Two Fourball Matches

### SUMMARIES

Fred Haas Jr., New Orleans, La., and Jim Turnesa, Elmsford, N. Y., Ryder Cup, defeated Al Besselink, Royal Oak, Mich., and Doug Ford, Yonkers, N.Y., 4 and 3.  
Lloyd Mangrum, Los Angeles, Calif., and Sam Snead, Greenbrier, W. Va., Ryder Cup, defeated Henry Williams Jr., Berkleigh Country Club, and Pete Cooper, Ponte Vedra, Fla., 4 and 3.  
Jack Burke Jr., Concord, N.Y., and Ted Kroll, New Hartford, Conn., Ryder Cup, defeated Claude Harmon, Mamaroneck, N.Y., and George Fazio, Conshohocken, Pa., 1 up.  
Dave Douglas, Newark, Del., and Ed Oliver, Wilmington, Del., Ryder Cup, defeated Lew Worsham, Oakmont, Pa., and Johnny Palmer, Charlotte, N.C., 2 and 1.  
Walter Burkemo, Franklin Hills, Mich., and Cary Middlecoff, Memphis, Tenn., Ryder Cup, halved their match with Tommy Bolt, Durham, N.C., and Jimmy Demaret, Concord, N.Y., each team scoring ½ point.

## Day Three Singles and Scotch-Foursomes Matches

### SINGLES

Fred Haas Jr., Ryder Cup, defeated George Fazio, 1 up.  
Henry Williams Jr., Challengers, defeated Jim Turnesa, 2 up.  
Walter Burkemo, Ryder Cup, defeated Pete Cooper, 2 and 1.  
Claude Harmon, Challengers, defeated Sam Snead, 2 and 1.  
Dave Douglas, Ryder Cup, and Johnny Palmer, Challengers, all even: ½-½.  
Jimmy Demaret, Challengers, defeated Lloyd Mangrum, 2 up.  
Ed Oliver, Ryder Cup, defeated Al Besselink, 1 up.  
Jack Burke Jr., Ryder Cup, defeated Lew Worsham, 3 and 2.  
Tommy Bolt, Challengers, defeated Ted Kroll, 3 and 2.  
Doug Ford, Challengers, defeated Cary Middlecoff, 4 and 3.

### SCOTCH FOURSOMES

Harmon and Fazio, Challengers, defeated Haas and Turnesa, 1 up.  
Burkemo and Middlecoff, Ryder Cup, defeated Worsham and Palmer, 3 and 2.  
Burke and Kroll, Ryder Cup, divided with Williams and Cooper, Challengers, ½-½.  
Douglas and Oliver, Ryder Cup, defeated Besselink and Ford, 2 up.  
Mangrum and Snead, Ryder Cup, defeated Bolt and Demaret, 4 and 3.

## Day Two—Cuppers Dominate Fourball Matches

Playing before a estimated 3,500 spectators, the U.S. Ryder Cup team thrashed the PGA Challenge Team, 4 ½ to ½ at Reading Country Club. The 20 professionals scored five eagles during the course of the matches.

Here are the match highlights. Some of the hole references do not correspond to today's course routing. See page 8 for an explanation.

- The Ryder Cup team of **Fred Haas Jr.** and **Jim Turnesa**, winner of the fifth and final Reading Open at Berkleigh CC in 1951, led 1-up against **Al Besselink** and **Doug Ford** after the first nine holes. Birdies on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes propelled them to a 4 and 3 win.
- Eagles by **Jimmy Demaret** (par 4 12<sup>th</sup> hole) and **Tommy Bolt** helped the Challenge Team avert a shut-out as the duo halved against the Ryder Cup pair of **Walter Burkemo** and **Cary Middlecoff**, who won the 1949 Reading Open at RCC. The newspaper reported that Bolt eagled the par 5 14<sup>th</sup> hole. This is in error, as the 14<sup>th</sup> hole was a par 4 in 1953. Bolt's eagle was on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, which is now the 14<sup>th</sup> hole.
- **Sam Snead** and **Lloyd Mangrum**, Ryder Cup team, shot a five-under-par 29 on the front 9 in their 4 and 3 victory against **Henry Williams Jr.**, and **Pete Cooper**, who scored an eagle 2 on the 268-yard 10<sup>th</sup> hole.
- Ryder Cuppers **Porky Oliver** and **Dave Douglass** each scored eagles as they defeated **Lew Worsham** and **Johnny Palmer** by a 2 and 1 margin. Oliver's eagle came on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole, while his partner chipped in for an eagle 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole.
- **Jack Burke Jr.** sank a four-foot birdie putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole to give him and partner **Ted Kroll** a 1-up victory over **Claude Harmon** and **George Fazio**. Burke and Kroll combined for seven birdies.

## Day Three—The Cuppers Turn Back the Challengers

The U.S. Ryder Cup team defeated the PGA Challenge Team despite losing the afternoon singles competition, 5 ½ to 4 ½. The Cuppers added to their lead with a 3 ½ to 1 ½ win in the morning Scotch foursomes competition. The week-end Ryder Cup Challenge Matches concluded at Reading Country Club with the Cuppers prevailing by a 12 ½ to 7 ½ score.

Winners in singles for the Challenge Team included **Henry Williams, Jr.** over **Jim Turnesa**; **Claude Harmon** over **Sam Snead**; **Jimmy Demaret** over **Lloyd Mangrum**; **Tommy Bolt** over **Ted Kroll**; and **Doug Ford**, over **Cary Middlecoff**. For the cuppers, **Fred Haas Jr.** defeated **George Fazio**; **Walter Burkemo** defeated **Pete Cooper**; **Porky Oliver** won over **Al Besselink**; and **Jack Burke Jr.** bested **Lew Worsham**.

**Johnny Palmer**, Challenge Team, and **Dave Douglas** halved their match.

Each member of the Cup team won \$850 of the \$15,000 prize fund. The 10-member Challenge Team won \$400 each. The remaining \$2,500 helped defray expenses for the trip to England for the matches against the Great Britain and Ireland team at Wentworth, October 2 and 3.



# The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County



Number 47 • September 28, 2016

The cover of the program book.



### More than golf

There were more than celebrity golfers at Berkshire CC for the Ryder Cup Pro-Am tournament. Mrs. America, **Erna Snyder**, Kutztown, enlivened the event with a personal appearance. In this photo from the Reading Eagle, **Sam Snead** helps the pageant winner with her golf game.





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## The Same but Different

Here is the RCC course routing used for the 1953 Ryder Cup Challenge Matches. The illustration is from the Challenge Match program book.

The front 9 played the same as it does today.

The following has changed on the back 9:

- Hole 10 is now a par 3, playing to the same green. The old 10<sup>th</sup> fairway is now the practice range.
- Hole 11 is now a dog-leg left. The current fairway was used as a practice area in 1953.
- Hole 12 is now hole 18.
- Hole 13 is now hole 17 and is now a 510-yard par 5.
- Hole 14 is now hole 12, played at 370 yards.
- Hole 15 is now hole 13.
- Hole 16 is now hole 14.

