

One of Golf's Greatest: The Englishwoman Joyce Wethered

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The purpose of this presentation was to present a biographical portrait of one of the greatest golfers of all time, the Englishwoman Joyce Wethered. After playing a round of golf together in the late 1920s, Bobby Jones remarked that Joyce Wethered was the best golfer he had ever seen.

Joyce's birth in 1901 and early years in Surrey were covered. Her early golf was explained, including the family games on their backyard course, over the cabbage patch and through the hedges. The role her older brother, Roger, played in terms of her more serious golf career was discussed, especially his days as Captain of the Oxford golf team.

Her extraordinary amateur career was briefly covered, including some information about her four British Amateur victories and her five English Ladies Closed Titles. Furthermore, her four-and-a-half year professional career was detailed, from her days selling golf equipment at Fortnam and Mason's to her tour of the United States in 1935.

Finally, her 1937 marriage to Sir John Heathcoat-Amory was mentioned as well as their consuming passion for a number of years, the 25 acre garden at their Devon home, Knightshayes Court, a nineteenth century house which is a prime example of High Victorian Medieval romanticism. The house is now a part of the National Trust system and, as such, has over 50,000 visitors per year.

The presentation concluded with writings about Joyce Wethered by: (1) her greatest golfing rival - Glenna Collett Vare; (2) the greatest golf writer, Bernard Darwin and (3) herself. Finally, slides were shown of this remarkable woman and her home and gardens.