

THE CHAMPION DETHRONED

Miss Joyce Wethered Succeeds to the Title Held by Miss Cecil Leitch for the last Eight Years

By ARTHUR T. ROSS

EIGHT years is a long span over which to hold a golf title, even though four of them were extended over a period of wartime and non-tournament years. Therefore, in the dethroning of Miss Cecil Leitch as the British Women's champion and the crowning of Miss Joyce Wethered as the new titleholder there is both remorse and joy. Remorse because such a figure in the world of sport should have to step down, and joy because the valiant efforts of Miss Wethered have finally been rewarded.

For the good of competitive sport, changes in leadership usually are beneficial, and although the passing of Miss Leitch, no matter how temporarily, is to be regretted, undoubtedly it will work as a great incentive for the other title aspirants. It has proved conclusively that there is always the chance to win and win decisively, such as Miss Wethered's victory by nine and seven at the Prince's Club, Sandwich.

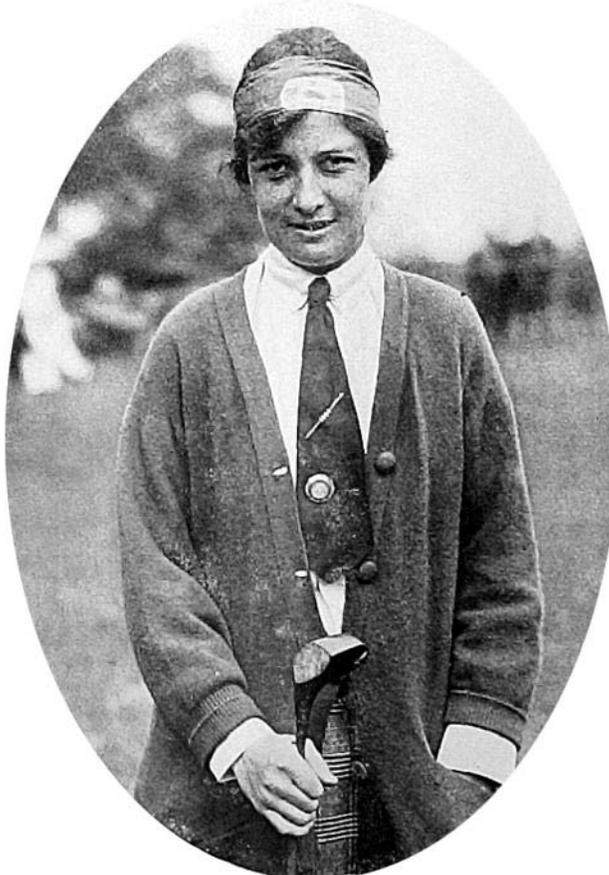
It is regrettable to record Miss Leitch as the ex-champion because her game has provided a background that for local color will be hard to surpass. Her splendid strength and terrific driving power has been one of the remarkable things of this age. She has exceeded all her rivals in distance achieved and her sportsmanship has always been of the highest standing, which made her all the more interesting because she carried her laurels so nonchalantly. Further, her victories were so consistent that they called her the non-pareil.

Miss Joyce Wethered, the new champion, is not a newcomer by any means. Her name, next to Miss Leitch, has been particularly prominent in post-war British golf and like her famous brother, Roger Wethered, has time and again nearly achieved the ultimate. As a stylist in golf, she is considered one of the best among women ranks in the world and her splendid playing has borne out the ease and accuracy with which she makes her shots. Her manner of playing is very much similar to that of Harry Vardon or "Chick" Evans, and as a master-shot player probably excels Miss Leitch, although the latter invariably was longer off the tee and through the green. Miss Wethered has won the English Women's championship, a closed event, for the last two years, but in the final of the British Women's championship last year she met Miss Leitch and was defeated by four and three. A similar fate overtook her in the final of the French Women's championship. Then the fates decreed that they should come together in the British classic again this year and this time the tables were turned. The result was not entirely unexpected although the margin was. The most sanguine of Miss Wethered's supporters believed in her ability to defeat the champion but the majority of the critics looked for her to accomplish this feat within the next year or two. Peculiar interest is also manifested in Miss Wethered's victory because of the possibility of her visiting America this year, and if she does so she will probably play in the Ca-



Photograph by P. I. C.

MISS JOYCE WETHERED, THE NEW CHAMPION



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MISS CECIL LEITCH, THE EX-CHAMPION

nadian and in the American Women's championships. Further, as Miss Leitch has also made known her intention to compete here they may meet again on American soil to battle it out for the premier honors.

The lone American entry in this championship was Miss Rosamond Sherwood of St. George's, L. I., but unfortunately she was eliminated in the first round and was defeated by Mrs. M. Fletcher with a score of three and two. In the second round, Miss Molly McBride, of Montreal, runner-up to Miss Leitch in the Canadian championship last year, was defeated by Mrs. A. C. Johnston by four up and three. In the third round, Mrs. W. A. Gavin, formerly of the Belleclair Club, L. I., who entered from the Huntercombe Club, England, was defeated by Miss M. Cox by two up and one. Miss Joy Winn defeated Miss Janet Jackson of Ireland and Miss Edith Leitch defeated Miss Lathom. The fourth round saw Miss Winn defeat Miss Johnston, Miss Bastin defeat Miss Scroggie and Mrs. Bond defeat Miss Edith Leitch, a sister of the champion. In the semi-final round Miss Leitch defeated Miss Gladys Bastin by five up and four, after winning her fifth round earlier in the day by defeating Miss Joy Winn by four and three. Miss Bastin had defeated Miss M. Cox by the same score. Miss Wethered reached the final by defeating Mrs. Bond in the fifth round by two and one, and Miss Joan Stocker in the semi-final by five up and four. Miss Stocker eliminated Mrs. Browne in the fifth round.

When the finalists came together nearly every one was ready to write "for the fourth time" to celebrate Miss Leitch's fourth consecutive win of this title. Miss Wethered forced the pace in the morning round and stood one up at the end of the first eighteen holes. In the afternoon Miss Leitch went completely off her game, and after halving the first hole Miss Wethered won the second, third, fourth, fifth and eighth, making her six up and ten to go. Miss Leitch's position was almost hopeless at this stage and when she missed a brassie shot at the ninth was seven down at the turn. The experts were amazed at the collapse of the champion. She stopped at once while putting on the tenth green until spectators ceased talking; then missed a putt and became eight down. The match ended on the next green, when Miss Leitch, seeing she had lost, kicked the ball away and congratulated her opponent. The cards were as follows:

<i>Morning Round</i>	
Out—	
Miss Wethered . . .	5 4 3 4 3 5 5 5 7—41
Miss Leitch	5 4 3 5 4 4 6 5 5—41
In—	
Miss Wethered . . .	4 5 6 6 3 4 5 5 5—43—84
Miss Leitch	5 4 5 5 3 4 6 6 5—43—84
<i>Afternoon Round</i>	
Out—	
Miss Wethered . . .	5 4 3 5 3 5 5 5 4—39
Miss Leitch	5 5 4 6 5 4 7 6 5—47
In—	
Miss Wethered	54—9—48
Miss Leitch	65—11—58