



Abe Mitchell

The story of Abe Mitchell is quite a telling one. It's amazing that the vast majority of golfers don't quite know the significance of this once fine amateur, professional and instructor of golf and what he symbolizes. The significance of Abe Mitchell can be seen on top of the Ryder Cup itself. The small figure on top is always a fabulous quiz question. That is, in fact, Abe Mitchell.

Henry Abe Mitchell was born 18th January 1887, East Grinstead, Sussex, England. His family home bordered what is now known as Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, and it was on those grounds where his love for the game began. Abe was a member of the Cantelupe at Royal Ashdown before moving on to be Head Professional at North Foreland Golf Club in Kent.

The Director of North Foreland Golf Club, Arthur King, described Abe as the greatest golfer to not win The Open. Abe was on course to lift the claret jug at Royal Cinque Ports, Deal, Kent, after leading the tournament after the first two rounds. Unfortunately, a poor 3rd round cost him the chance to win and, in the end, finished 4th, his best result.

Success off the course followed as he married his sweetheart Dora, in Tunbridge Wells, November 1920. His time at North Foreland saw his popularity soar, thanks in part to Lord Northcliffe ensuring his newspapers, which included the Daily Mirror, featured Mitchell and his links to the club extensively.

After his 5-year contract ended at North Foreland, Mitchell was keen to establish himself across the pond. However, it was at this time that a certain Mr. Samuel Ryder founder of the Ryder Cup came to the fore. Ryder wanted Mitchell to come to his home golf course, Verulam Golf Club, and become his personal instructor. Soon thereafter Mitchell became Head Professional.

Not long after Mitchell's arrival, plans for the top professionals in Great Britain to challenge their counterparts from the US were made. The Ryder Cup was born in 1927 at Worcester Golf Club, Massachusetts, the trophy being provided by its namesake, Samuel Ryder.

Mitchell passed suddenly age 60, St. Albans, 11th June 1947.