

POVERTY BAY HUNT CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Gisborne. The club was formed in the year 1891 by the late Mr. R. H. Mason, who imported a pack of hounds and presented them to the hunt club. The club is registered with the New Zealand Hunts Association as a hunt club, and with the New Zealand Racing Conference as a racing club. The last meeting was held in September, 1914, a race meeting being held each year for the past seven years. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the last balance-sheet have been forwarded. The course on which the club has previously held its race meetings, and will continue to do so, is the property of the Gisborne Racing Club, who have always allowed the hunt club the use of the course free of charge. The circumference of the course is 8 furlongs 5 chains. The accommodation is thoroughly up to date and ample for all requirements. The course is fenced all round, both on the inside and outside. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are the Gisborne Racing Club (on same course), Poverty Bay Turf Club, two miles distant, and Tolaga Bay Jockey Club, thirty-six miles distant. The nearest clubs not using the totalizator are the Opotiki Jockey Club, over a hundred miles distant, and the Waiapu Racing Club, sixty miles distant. We consider, as we are the only hunt club in existence between Auckland and Hastings, Hawke's Bay, that we should be granted a permit.

By the Deputation.—The hunt club covers both the Gisborne and Bay of Plenty Electorates. The club has been very successful. This is a very large district of a hundred miles radius, and every one is interested in hunting. We have been hunting continuously for the last twenty-three years. When we first got our hounds we hunted a drag, but we did not consider that sport, so we imported hares, and we have hunted hares ever since. Latterly our race meetings at the park have been held to get in funds and help us along. If we got a permit we could improve our races and kennels. We do not think there are any better hounds in New Zealand than ours. We imported a good strain from South Wales. It is of vital importance to us to get a permit to help our funds. The club has been a heavy drain on a few enthusiasts. We think it is generally admitted that the best horses sent to the front came from this district. We think we are entitled to a permit because we have been racing and keeping the game going for years, unlike some clubs which only started racing when they thought there was a chance of Mr. Hunter's Bill going through. We are absolutely out of touch with the nearest hunts owing to the isolation of our district. If we do not get some outside financial help in a year or two our hounds will have to go.

HAWKE'S BAY HUNT CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Hastings. The club was formed twenty-four years ago, more or less, and is registered with the New Zealand Hunts Association. The last meeting was held in July, 1911. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the last balance-sheet have been forwarded. The circumference of the course is 8 furlongs 116 yards. The tenure is leasehold, and the course is leased from the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club. The accommodation is particularly good, consisting of grandstand for fifteen hundred people, members' stand for six hundred people, tea-kiosk, luncheon-rooms, bars, lavatories, outside stand, &c. The course is fenced on the inside. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club, Hastings, and Napier Park Racing Club, Greenmeadows, eight miles from Hastings. Considering that the Hawke's Bay Hunt is one of the oldest hunts in New Zealand, and has held many successful hunt club race meetings prior to the abolition of the bookmaker, and that the kennels at Pakipaki are freehold of the club, and the district hunted over extends from Takapau to Petane (north of Napier), we hope that you will favourably consider our claim.

By the Deputation.—We had hounds going thirty years ago, but we were not a hunt club then. We omitted to mention in our application that the nearest club not using the totalizator is Petane, twenty miles away. Our club has brought out a number of good hunters; it has been a nursery for good hunters. When the bookmakers were abolished, the hunt club could not hold any more races because we could not give enough stakes. We have freehold kennels and buildings, but there is a debt on the property which we wish to pay off. With a totalizator permit we would very soon clear the debt off. We have fourteen or fifteen couples of hounds. There is no fixed membership fee. Young men schooling horses to get a hunt club certificate pay £3 3s., but the members mostly subscribe £5 5s. Any member subscribing less than £3 3s. has no right to vote at any meeting. The amount of £102 4s. 2d. shown in the balance-sheet is made up by a donation of £25 from the Napier Park Club and an amount of £77 4s. 2d. from the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club, that being the profit from the race that they give us at their meeting—namely, the nomination and totalizator money, less the amount of the stake. We had a totalizator permit for one of our meetings. We propose to race on the jockey club's course if we get a permit.

DANNEVIRKE HUNT CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Dannevirke. The date of seceding from the Woodlands Hunt was the 6th May, 1912, when the present hunt club was formed. The club is registered, and our last meeting was held on the 11th August, 1914. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the last balance-sheet have been forwarded. We propose to race on the Dannevirke Racing Club's course, situated one mile from Dannevirke. The club this year has erected two new stands, altered the course, and laid down a permanent steeplechase course. The circumference of the course is 8 furlongs. The land and buildings are freehold. The course is fenced inside and out with new timber. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are Dannevirke, Woodville, sixteen to seventeen miles distant, and Waipukurau, thirty-five miles distant. We wish to point out that we hunt the hare here exclusively, and we therefore claim that it is a greater trial on the stamina and jumping qualities of a horse. Also, on our hare-hunting