

ATHLETICS, ETC.

[BY NIMBLEFOOT.]

THE Committee of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club held a meeting at the British Hotel on Friday evening last, to consider the alleged "stiff" running of three members in the handicaps at the last championship meeting. After hearing Messrs. Chatfield and Hailes' evidence the Committee exonerated them from all blame.

Mr. Madigan's evidence was not considered satisfactory, and he was informed so to that effect by the Committee, and cautioned. During the evening it came out that an attempt had been made to square one of the competitors, and it was decided by the Committee to make an example of any person detected in any such practice in the future.

The programme for the next sports meeting on March 14th, will be found in our advertising columns, and I would draw intending competitors attention to the fact that the entries close this Saturday evening, February 28th, at the British Hotel, before 9 p.m.

There is another matter I am pleased to hear the Committee intend to deal vigorously with at the next meeting, and that is to stop the betting on the ground. The Committee rightly see that if they permit it to go on any longer it simply means the extinction of the Club, and as they consider that bookmakers are neither use nor ornament to them, they intend expelling anyone laying the odds on the ground at their next meeting.

The N.Z. Amateur Athletic Association held a meeting last week to consider the proposal to send a team of amateurs to England. Mr. Cuff stated that he had communicated with several of the prominent athletes on the matter. Batger would go if he could get the leave, and so also would Hempton. Hutchinson could get leave, so also can Morrison, while Wood was doubtful. The N.Z. Shipping Co. offered to give a handsome donation towards the funds, and so also did Mr. P. Cunningham, on behalf of Shaw, Savill & Co. It was proposed to leave New Zealand about the middle of April, arriving in England in plenty of time for the Championships held in June. The cost for five men was reckoned about £575, and it was suggested that each city pay the cost of sending their own men. The N.Z. Association and Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club would probably contribute £25 each. After a considerable amount of discussion it was proposed and seconded "That the Association think it desirable that a N.Z. athletic team should compete at the English Championship meeting." On being put to the meeting the motion was declared carried, three voting for it and two against, the rest present refraining from voting.

At a Committee meeting of the Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club held on Tuesday evening last, it was decided by three votes to two to support the Association in their efforts to send a team to England.

The local Club has not, I understand, received any communication re the proposed trip yet, and from what I can gather it does not seem to meet the approval of athletes here. The general opinion is that the matter has been rushed on too hurriedly, and that the trip should not be made until next season. I, myself, am of the same opinion, and consider if it was put off until then, the necessary funds would be forthcoming to send a thoroughly representative team. As it is now I think it would be impossible to collect the large sum required in so short a time.

Messrs. Coats, Esam, Grierson, and Halyday received a vote of thanks at the last meeting of the Association for their efforts on their behalf at the Championship meeting.

The Domain presents quite a busy appearance every evening, and from the number training I anticipate large fields at the Club's Autumn meeting.

I hear that B. Owen has decided to retire from the track.

Messrs. Cotter and Speight will frame the bicycle handicaps for the next sports.

Neither Hutchinson, Laird, or Winks intend competing at the next meeting.

I hear that a lot of new men intend competing in the bicycle events. The more the merrier, as the form displayed by the Club's cyclists at the Championship meeting shows that there is room for fresh talent.

LAWN TENNIS.

Now that the Championship Matches and Club Tournaments have commenced there has been quite an interest taken in tennis. The weather has not been very favourable up to the present, but there is every promise of an improvement, for which I am sure all tennis players will be thankful.

In the first round of the Championship (Ladies) Miss Spiers, who played in her usual good form, beat Miss Atkinson, 6-1, 6-1; Miss M. Paton beat Miss Kempthorne, 6-1, 6-2; Miss Durrieu received a bye from Miss Hall, and the same may be said of Miss Nicholson from Miss State; Miss Torrie beat Miss Reese after some good play, 6-1, 6-5; Miss Ring beat Miss Robertson after close games, 9-7, 6-1; Mrs. Chapman beat Miss Tordall, 6-1, 6-2; Miss Whitney beat Miss Bull, 6-1, 6-2.

In the second round, which was played off on Friday last, Mrs. Chapman beat Miss Nicholson, 6-1, 6-2.

In the second round of the Gentleman's Championship single on Saturday last Morrison met Hooper, which resulted in a very good game, but on account of the wet the game had after the third set to be postponed, and will be continued again to-day, Saturday. Three sets played ended—Hooper, 6-3; Morrison, 7-5; and the third set two games all.

On the same day McFarlane had an easy win from Gledhill, 6-4, 6-2, 6-0. Tonks was to meet Rich, but as the latter did not put in an appearance Tonks has the right to claim a bye, but has given Rich the chance to play any day through the coming week.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, February 19th.

CYCLING.

SINCE the return of the local men from the Auckland meeting considerable ill feeling has been aroused by Heywood, the P.B.C. man, averring that he was the victim of foul play in the mile championship. Steadman, of Dunedin, backs up his statement, and between them they have raised quite a diversion amongst the local cyclists. The P.B.C. seem inclined to favour Heywood's statement, but the public generally feel assured that Wilmot is altogether above suspicion in such a matter.

During the re-union given by the P.B.C. to welcome the local wheelmen their return from Auckland, opportunity was taken to present Nat Hall, last year's champion, with a medal, sent to him by the Humber Cycling Co. The medal, which was a very handsome one, was sent to Hall as a mark of his skill in winning all the N.Z. championships on a Humber machine.

It is universally stated by those who had the pleasure of being present at the championship meeting, that the Auckland riders use machines much too large for them.

AQUATIC.

On 17th inst the Lake Forsyth regatta, the principal one of the season, was decided under most favourable circumstances. The racing all through was of first class description, and the interest of the large number of spectators never flagged. It was generally taken for granted that the Star and Wellington, two visiting crews, would have matters all their own way in the senior races, and these opinions were confirmed in the Senior Sculls Pairs, and Single Sculls, the former being annexed by the Star, and the latter by Wellington representatives. In the Senior Fours a great boil over took place, as the C.R.C., a local crew, put down both the Wellington crews, much to the surprise of all present.

The Lyttleton R.C. accounted for all the Maiden events, as well as the Junior Pairs, and Canterbury got home in the Ladies Plate, Junior Fours, and Junior Sculls.

It has been definitely settled that the C.R.C. crew who won the Senior Fours will journey to Wanganui to compete in the Championship events. I hardly think they will be a match for Wellington on neutral water, however.

CRICKET.

Owing to the heavy rain which fell here on Saturday last, it was found impossible to go on with the usual cricket matches.

A match was played last week between the local pencilers and jockeys at Hagley Park. In

the first attempt the layers of odds made only 22, and in their second the last wicket fell with the score at 82. The knights of the pig-skin compiled 102 in their first attempt, and knocked off the remaining 3 runs for the loss of 1 wicket.

There is a great probability of a team from Westland visiting Otago and Canterbury some time next month, when a series of matches will be arranged.

The Cup matches advanced another step at Dunedin on Saturday last, when the Warehousemen beat the Wanderers by 56 runs, and Carisbrook served Albion in a like manner to the tune of 8 wickets.

On the same day the return match between Timaru and Oamaru took place on the latter's grounds. The game, a one-innings one, ended in a draw in favour of Timaru, who scored 121 to their opponents 14 for 5 wickets.

ATHLETICS.

At the presentation of prizes to the successful C.A.A. men last week, the question of sending a team of N.Z. athletes to England was fully gone into. After considerable discussion it was resolved to communicate with Messrs. Hempton, Batger, Hutchinson, Morrison, D. Wood, and Cuff (as manager), to see if they would be prepared to undertake the journey. It was stated that fully £575 would be required to cover the teams expenses, each city to contribute their representatives costs.

It is generally thought that the idea is premature, and should not have been thought of till at least next season.

DUNEDIN CUP AND PUBLICANS' PURSE.

(BY WIRE—OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DUNEDIN, Thursday.

The following is the result of the principal races run at Dunedin last Wednesday.

THE DUNEDIN CUP of 600 sovs., 2 miles and a distance—

Mr. D. O'Brien's Freedom, 8st 3lb (White)..... 1
Mr. J. Stephenson's Occident, 8st 9lb (Leeson)..... 2
Mr. Clifford's Cruchfield, 7st 8lb (Brown)..... 3
Hilda, 8st 9lb (Gallagher), Prime Warden, 7st 3lb, and Assyrian King also ran. Prime Warden and Cruchfield made most of the running at a slow pace for the first mile, when the pace was increased, when Assyrian King, who was with them, fell back beaten. Hilda at this time was running a long way back last, and in a bad position considering the pace, and when it came to real business could not make up the ground and have much chance of success. If Gallagher rode to instructions he rode a very bad race. Even if the mare had been better ridden she would probably not have beaten Freedom, into whose hands the pace was made. The race all through was a false one. A better pace would have suited Hilda and Occident. Freedom won with something to spare by a length and a half. He was really only called upon once for an effort, and that was in the last furlong. Hilda ran up well in the straight, and was nearer to the winner at the finish than at any other part of the race. Prime Warden, who went out a strong favourite, cut up badly. Hilda, it is said, has not been feeding as well as usual. Occident ran in a bandage.

THE PUBLICAN'S PURSE of 200 sovs., seven furlongs.

Hon. G. McLean's b f Pique, 3yrs, 6st 3lb..... 1
Major F. N. George's ch c Reprisal, 3yrs, 7st 8lb..... 2
Mr. G. G. Stead's b c Palliser, 3yrs, 7st..... 3
Cissy, 8st 12lb, Quadrant, 8st 2lb, Ruby, 7st 13lb, Dispute, 7st 7lb, Red Cross, 7st 2lb, Mariner, 7st Fiesole, 6st 12lb, and Lady Bell, 6st 8lb, also ran. The race was spoilt by a bad start, of which Reprisal had the best and Ruby the worst. Major George's colt was fairly worn down by the Hon. G. McLean's Pique, and though he contested every inch of the ground was beaten by a neck. Neither Quadrant or Cissy showed anything like good form, but Palliser would have won if he had got away all right.

The racing in most of the events was marred by the bad starting. The attendance was very large, and over £12,000 was put through the machine. The bookmakers had a complete skinner through the victory of Pique, as she was neither backed outright or in doubles. She paid the best dividend of the day.

The A.J.C. Committee, as the Metropolitan Club, are carrying things with rather a high hand. Last year they compelled the Hawkesbury Racing Club to hold their meeting after theirs, though the H.R.C. has been in existence for twenty years, holding their meetings on the same date. A deputation waited on the A.J.C. and pointed out that they had already surrendered Boxing Day, their best holiday, to them, and had also lost considerably by their Spring Meeting, and asked to be allowed to return to their old dates. The Metropolitan Club refused to rescind their mandate on the grounds that it would injure their meeting; the consequence is that the H.R.C. will have to curtail their expenses.