

## ONSLow TROTting CLUB.

A MEETING of all those who intended becoming members, or those who had already given in their acquiescence to the formation of the "Onslow Trotting Club," was held at Mr. P. Quinlan's Edinburgh Castle Hotel, on Friday evening last, between fifty and sixty persons being present, nearly all of the faces being familiar to our reporter as sporting and racing men of the best calibre. Mr. McBride was chairman, and after some discussion on general matters, he asked for the opinion of those present regarding tandem racing, and admitting ladies to their meetings free of charge. Mr. Quinlan went further than this, and strongly advocated the free admission of both sexes, contending that they would be better patronised in other ways. Mr. Quinlan's motion having been seconded by Mr. Robinson, an amendment was proposed by Mr. J. Horne—who thought the matter of too serious import to decide hurriedly—that the matter should be left to the financial committee to decide. Mr. Austin seconded the amendment, and it was carried.

In reference to the proposed tandem racing in which the chairman was particularly enthusiastic, he had interviewed Dr. Purchase, the president of the Tandem Club, who had stated that he would be guided entirely by the majority of his members. Mr. Sandall, junr., said it was absurd to talk of tandem racing on the courses we had, it was hard enough to get round the corners in the saddle, and the force of his remarks appeared to be effective, for the discussion took another turn. The general wish was that they should so fix their meetings with other clubs so as to ensure about six meetings in the year, and thus enable an owner to keep his horse in trim for each meeting. Mr. Dennis Harford advocated sulky racing, but his suggestion met with no encouragement, and it dropped. It was announced that the charge for Potter's Paddock (Epsom course) was £15. The fee for membership was fixed at 10s. per annum.

The following members of the Committee met after the above business had been transacted—Messrs. Dennis Harford, P. Quinlan, M. Foley, J. A. Kelly, A. H. Trubshaw, W. Brown, and Geo. Morley, when our representative respectfully addressed the chairman, and gained the consent of the Committee to be present at their meetings. Mr. E. P. Goldsbro' was elected secretary, Mr. Stewart treasurer, Messrs. Jones and H. C. Bell auditors. The question of the secretary's salary was left in abeyance till after the first meeting, which seemed to be taken for granted would be held at Epsom. On the suggestion of Mr. McBride it was decided to ask the Tandem Club to form a procession along the road on the occasion of their first meeting. The same gentleman also said he had a patent clock, which would automatically register the time of every horse, and be visible and intelligible to anyone on the course—the cost being between £5 and £10. Mr. Knight and Mr. "Ted" Halstead were suggested as handicappers, but this, as well as the appointment of judge, timekeeper, etc., was postponed till next Friday, Messrs. McBride, Trubshaw, and Quinlan to act as a sub-committee *ad interim*. It was announced that the Club would in all probability have a membership of between 400 and 500.

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

## MELBOURNE CUP.

THE correct weights for the Melbourne and Caulfield Cups being now to hand, it is my intention to go through them, taking a certain number each week, finally selecting twenty, and reducing them to three as the time approaches. Carbine, 10st 12lb, is of course the top weight, and is even with that crusher on him made first favourite at the absurdly short price of 100 to 8, while in Auckland they even take as little as 6 to 1, though it is nearly four months to the day of the race. That Carbine is a wonderful horse there is no denying. He carried 10st 5lb to victory in this race last year, but it must be remembered that he had great luck in getting through his horses without being blocked, and that neither Highborn or Correze, who followed him home, ran up to the form they afterwards displayed. Carbine is now a year older, and entire horses, as a

rule, begin to go off after they are 5yrs. old, though geldings keep their form longer. His hoof also has given his trainer a good deal of trouble, and will in all probability do so again. There can be no doubt that Penance fairly stretched his neck in the All-Aged Stakes at the V.R.C. Autumn meeting, while Marvel beat him in the All-Aged Stakes at the A.J.C. Autumn meeting. This points to his having lost some of his speed, which is so necessary for a race like the Melbourne Cup. On looking through the performances of the three-year-olds last season, it will be seen that they were not a very brilliant lot, but this year there are some undoubtedly good two-year-olds, that should develop into first-class horses. Taking all things into consideration, I fail to see how Carbine can give the weight away to several others that are in the race, especially the younger division. Tirailleur, 9st 6lb, has got at least 10lb too much on him. Certainly he has done all that he has been asked to do, but he never had anything first-class behind him, and in all probability he will be an absentee. Dreadnought, 9st 6lb, has a taking appearance. As a three-year-old he proved himself almost, if not quite, as good a horse as Carbine at weight for age. He also showed that he could both go fast and stay, so he must hold Carbine safe at the difference of 20lb. One thing, however, against him is that he has had a "leg," which may go at any time. For a race like this a horse requires to be sound, as he has to undergo a severe preparation. Melos, 9st 5lb, is nicely weighted, but during last season he did not run up to his form, and there is reason to believe that he is an infirm horse. Merrie England, 9st 2lb, may be passed over; also Cuirassier, 9st 2lb, as he is a heavy-topped horse, and it is doubtful if his legs will stand the work that he will require; besides, he has never shown good enough form to entitle him to that weight. Megaphone, 9st 2lb, proved himself a racehorse in the early part of the season, but fell off towards the end. However, he is a big colt, and will improve with time. Bungebah, 9st 11lb, will find the distance too far. Highborn, 9st 11lb, and The Admiral, 9st, are about in their proper place. Of those above 9st Megaphone reads the best. Freedom (N.Z.), 8st 12lb, may also be passed over. One now comes to two that are remarkably well treated. Vengeance, 8st 11lb, and Correze, 8st 9lb. The former pulled me through the Caulfield Cup last year, and he also won the Australian Cup with 7st 13lb, beating a good field. This race is a quarter of a mile shorter, which is in his favour, but it is asking him to do a great thing, as he cannot be considered a first-class horse. Correze last year was rather an in-and-out runner. In the Derby he ran nowhere, but in the Melbourne Cup, with 7st 3lb, he ran a good third, beating all the three-year-olds. He then came out and won the V.R.C. Handicap, 1½ miles, with 7st 12lb up, in the fastest time ever known in Australia, viz., 3min. 3secs. Later on, at the V.R.C. Autumn meeting, he did not do much, but at Randwick he won the A.J.C. St. Leger easily in 3 min. 11½ secs., Greygown second, also made a good race with Carbine in the A.J.C. Plate. A horse is supposed to improve 22lb from a three to a four-year-old, so he is in 2lb better than he was last year, and if he runs up to his best form he must trouble the winner. Sir William, 8st 7lb, has been so often going to do a good thing that he may be put on one side for a race like this. Greygown, 8st 7lb, is a colt I have a great respect for, and I am sure that we have not seen the best of him yet. He has shown that he can both go fast and stay. His best performance last season was getting second to Highborn for the Sydney Gold Cup with 8st 5lb. He came with a great rush at the finish, and Ramage, who rode him, thought he had won. From all accounts he is a horse that will greatly improve during the winter, and is by Vespasian—Grey Esperance. Most of Vespasian's stock, like himself, improves with age. Richelieu, 8st 7lb, Whimbrel, 8st 6lb (who has a temper of his own), and Sultan, 8st 5lb (who has turned an arrant rogue, may safely be passed over. Buttons, 8st 5lb, the property of Mr. H. Fisher, is talked about as a good thing, and it is stated that he has been kept for this event. His performances will require a good deal of looking up, as they have chiefly been in Queensland, and one does not get the most reliable accounts from there of the different races. Malvolio, 8st 4lb, is one of the picks of every sporting

writer in Australia, and is described as one of the grandest colts in training, and if he stands a preparation Mr. Redfern will have a good chance of annexing this rich prize. At present I am not prepossessed in his favour, but one must take him in a lot. Tradition, 8st 4lb, has turned out a fraud since he was sold for £3,050, and has never won a shilling. Tantalum, 8st 3lb, was looked upon by his trainer last year as being a good thing, but he has never realised expectations. The Spot, 8st 3lb, by St. Albans—Lady Disdain, by Lecturer, is a great fancy of mine. He is bred to stay; and last season it struck me that he played second fiddle to his stable-companion The Admiral, but in winning the Foal Stakes at Flemington from a good field, and his subsequent running, shows he can gallop. He is to be put up for sale with the others of Mr. S. G. Cook's string, and his destination may give a guide. Gresford, 8st 3lb, has never fulfilled his early promise. John S., 8st 2lb, has never shown that he can stay. Benzon, 8st 2lb, is another that has never run up to his home form, and I believe he has been sold to go up country. Paris, 8st 2lb, and Annesley, 8st 2lb, will prefer the distance of the Caulfield Cup to this race. Lyndhurst, 8st 2lb, and King Olaf, 8st 1lb, are Queensland horses, and from what I can learn at present the latter is the best of the pair. Chintz, 8st 1lb, Fernando, 8st 1lb, Enuc, 8st, Muriel, 8st, and Wandering Willie, 8st, may be passed over. Of those above 8st I like Megaphone, Vengeance, Correze, Greygown, Buttons, Malvolio, The Spot, and King Olaf the best. I will go further into the others next week.

## CAULFIELD CUP.

THE Caulfield Cup at the present time is a most difficult race to attempt to pick the winner of, as the majority of the horses are engaged in both Cups, so until the next payment is made and the betting market is fairly started it is impossible to tell what may go for it. So until I get some information from the other side my remarks will only be what appears, in my idea, best in on paper; later on I may have reasons to alter my opinion altogether. In the last Caulfield Cup Vengeance pulled me safely through, but it was much nearer the day than this when I got hold of him. Of the top weights that first catch the eye is Bungebah, 9st 7lb. He has got 6lb more than in the Melbourne Cup, but the distance will suit him much better. The way he has won all his races show that he has a tremendous turn of speed, which will serve him in a race of this description. Vengeance, 8st 13lb, Correze, 8st 11lb, Sir William, 8st 11lb, Greygown, 8st 9lb, and Malvolio, 8st 7lb, all read well, but the chances are they will be kept for the big event at Flemington. John S., 8st 7lb, reads very well. He has never shown that he can stay, though he can go a mile or a little over well. Paris, 8st 6lb, is one of the picks of the handicap, while Annesley, on his Caulfield Guineas running, has nothing to complain of, but after that he appears to have gone off. Loyalstone, 8st 1lb, will, it is expected, run a better horse this season. Magic Circle, 8st 1lb, has been rather an in-and-out runner. Wilga, 7st 12lb, is let in remarkably light. The only thing against her is that she is a mare, and they are dangerous at that time of year. Further down the list, Bendigo, 7st 10lb, and Meltonian, 7st 10lb, also read well. The Harbour Light, 7st 3lb has been let off light, but as he is in the sale list on the 20th he might as well be left alone until one knows into what stable he goes. Laverock, 7st 9lb, Mikado II., 7st 7lb, Elfie, 7st 2lb, Patrol, 7st, all have a taking look, but those at the time of writing I like best are Bungebah, Paris, Wilga, Loyalstone and Bendigo.

## WELLINGTON RACES.

THE Wellington Racing Club held their Winter Meeting on Saturday last. Rain from the previous day had made the course heavy going, but the weather took up on Saturday, consequently the attendance was large, being about 3,000, including His Excellency the Governor and party. The racing on the whole was good; the fields were also larger than on previous occasions. The Wellington Steeplechase was of course the medium of most speculation, but the scratching of Taurakaitai at the last moment gave rise to a great deal of comment, as he was one of those who were greatly fancied. From what one can learn, Mr. Free-