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SPORTS & PASTIMES.

(BY ARGUS.)

TO SECRETARIES OF SAILING, ROWING, SWIMMING, CYCLING, CRICKET, BOWLING, TENNIS AND GOLF-CLUBS.

(It having been suggested to the editor of the NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC that members of athletic clubs are desirous of better representation in the press, as to their doings, we have decided to set apart a special space for the purpose of chronicling the events in the several branches of sport mentioned, and will be obliged if secretaries will forward each week any interesting items of news. Our columns will also be open at all times to correspondence relative to matters affecting sport, and we will be glad to answer queries of a similar character.)

CRICKET.

NOTICE that Hugh B. Lusk, the well-known Napier cricketer, has again distinguished himself with the bat during the season just closed. Lusk batted in twenty innings without scoring a 'blob,' and he only failed to reach double figures on one occasion. During the season Lusk scored 1,114 runs—a feat rarely accomplished in this colony. His best scores were 133 not out and 129 for his Club, the United, against Waipatu, 122, 88, and 83 v. Scinde, and v. County 76. In representative matches the crack Napier batsman made 59 and 23 for New Zealand against Queensland, 51 and 4 for Hawke's Bay v. Queensland; 52 and 15 for Hawke's Bay against Taranaki, and 16 and 30 against Wellington. Lusk's averages are:—In cup contest 8.3, in cup and representative matches 58.8, and in all matches 58.6. Truly a record Lusk may well feel proud of.

The two teams of cricketers from Bay of Islands and Whangarei that paid Auckland a visit at Easter-time, each played three contests, against somewhat weak elevens as representing senior Clubs. The Whangarei team suffered three defeats, while Bay of Islands, after being beaten by United and Gordon, gained a victory over the team representing Auckland C.C. by eight runs.

In the match played at Auckland on Good Friday between United C.C. and Bay of Islands elevens, L. A. Cuff captured nine of the latter's wickets for six runs. In the first innings he secured five wickets for six runs, and in the second innings he took four wickets for no runs.

It is evident that the cricketers of Western Australia know how to handle the bat and ball, for eighteen Freemantle players defeated the team taken to Westralia by George Giffen on April 16th. The team from East Australia was composed of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australian players, and was considered a very strong one. The visitors defeated eighteen of Perth, which was their second contest.

The 1st Junior competition is now concluded, and North Shore have secured the coveted piece of honour with the splendid record of never having been beaten. The North Shore 2nd Juniors also annexed the cup given for superiority in their class.

The Licensed Victuallers were to have met the North Shore team on Saturday last, at Devonport, and led the local team to believe they would turn up. The home team had their best available talent in the field, but after waiting till three o'clock for their opponents, who failed to appear, they claimed the match, and confined their efforts to a scratch game with other members of the Club.

With reference to the above paragraph I wish to draw the attention of the Cricket Association to the fact that this is not the first time such a case has happened, and suggest that steps be taken before next season to obviate the possibility of its recurrence. The Associated Clubs of Victoria have a rule compelling teams to give at least 48 hours' notice of their intention not

to contest a match, and as it has worked exceedingly well over there, why should not it be tried here? If I remember rightly, the penalty for non-compliance with this rule was disqualification for the season where the offence was deliberate; and where through mistake, the culprits were compelled to pay the costs of the ground engaged for the match. In the case of North Shore and the L.V., the latter could easily have sent word that they were unable to play, and it behoves the Association to deal sternly with teams that are so neglectful of their obligations.

AQUATICS.

The Championship Regatta held at Picton on Easter Monday was the most perfect success. Everything went well from start to finish. The judges—Messrs H. F. Logan and M. J. Kilgour—gave unlimited satisfaction. Mr A. G. Johnson was umpire and timekeeper, as usual, and Mr John Duncan, of Picton, as starter, received cheers upon cheers from the crowded steam launches which followed the races for the perfect manner in which the starts were made—the boats starting off like a regiment of soldiers, each one taking the water at the same instant at the word of command. The umpire declares he never saw a better managed or more interesting regatta. The first race was the Champion Skulls, which was won by Chapman, of Wairewa, the Picton man coming in second, and Wellington third. The public had hardly warmed up to it, and the winner through that was coldly received. The Champion Fours was the next race. For that the Port Chalmers crew was the favourite, though many still cling to their old love, 'Queen's Drive.' There was great excitement during this race, and for some time—mistaken by the similarity of colours—it was thought that 'Queen's Drive' leading, Port Chalmers was second, but it was otherwise; the Wellington 'Stars' came second, Port Chalmers third, and Wellington and Blenheim came in neck and neck for fourth and fifth places. In the Maiden Fours Wellington came in first, Picton second. For the Champion Double Skulls there were only three entries, Chapman, and Reid, of Wairewa, taking first honours, McCormick brothers second. The Junior Fours was an interesting race, Wanganni, who only arrived at midday by excursion boat, having been delayed in Wellington by bad weather, being the favourites, and winning by a boat's length. Champion Pairs being the only champion race entered for by Picton, there was naturally much local feeling, and the two boys when they were carried on the shoulders of their supporters into the Club's shed from the boat, and received an ovation. The Ladies' Plate race, rowed immediately after the Champion Pairs, was really given to Picton for a row over; they could not have won it. Two of the men, Fredericks and Smith, were too much exhausted with their exertions in the Pairs just rowed, but the other clubs were anxious to return by excursion boat, so gave up their chance. It seemed foolish to have the same men pulling in consecutive races. Cheers were given for Picton by departing crews, who like the place, the people, and the little outing the Championship Regatta gives them.

BOWLING.

AUCKLAND CLUB.

On Saturday last the Grafton Green presented a lively appearance, and some really close games eventuated, amongst them being the final in the Easter tournament fours, in which Gorrie beat Kingswell by two points, Mr Gorrie's rink thus winning the bowls presented by the Auckland Bowling Association, while to Mr Kingswell's rink fall the medals presented by Messrs Stewart Dawson and Co., as second prize. During the afternoon Messames Thorne and Elliott dispensed afternoon tea to players and visitors. Below are given the scores of some of the games:—

Perrott	v. Phillips	
Beere	Lewis	
Shaw	Rose	
Winks, skip ..	26 Scott, skip ..	19
Spreckley	v. Jones	
Connelly	Foster	
Miller, skip ..	21 Heguan	20
Thorne	v. Dr. King	
Fraser	Crawford	
Morrison	Rev. West	
Towsey, skip ..	20 Dr. Hooper, skip ..	34
Smart	v. Mahoney	
Littler	Swetapple	
Ballantyne	Lawson	
Ledingham, skip ..	20 Culpin, skip ..	18

FINAL IN THE EASTER TOURNAMENT.

Ross	v. Handcock	
James	Hasett	
South	Cuff	
Gorrie, skip ..	17 Kingswell, skip ..	15

In the second draw for tournament pairs Ballantyne and Littler beat Handcock and Hasett by 6 points. Next Saturday (May 1st) two rinks from the Auckland Club go on invitation to play a friendly game with the Newmarket Club.

PARNELL CLUB.

There was a good attendance of members on the Green of the Parnell Bowling Club on Saturday afternoon, when the final match of the season was played between sides chosen by the president (Mr Von Sturmer) and the vice-president (Mr J. M. Brigham), with the following results:—

No 1 RINK.	
H. C. Haselden	v. R. A. C. Kerry
Dr. Lashley	W. Gault
A. Stewart	W. Tait
S. Von Sturmer, skip ..	26 J. M. Brigham, skip ..
19	
No 2 RINK.	
Dr. Watson ..	16 R. L. Hunt ..
20	

At a meeting of members held in the club house it was resolved to close the green for the season to admit of the necessary pot dressing being carried out at an early date. A circular from the secretary of the Northern Bowling Association, Wellington, with reference to proposed tournament in 1898 was submitted, and an expression of opinion on the various points raised, unanimously agreed to. Mr Von Sturmer tendered his resignation as president, being about to proceed to Europe on a prolonged visit. Members resolved to place on record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the club by Mr Von Sturmer during his two years' presidency, and their regret at his departure from among them for so long a period.

REMURUA CLUB.

There was a good attendance on the Remuera Green, and a few very interesting matches were played, with the following results:—

No. 1 RINK.	
Colonel Dowell	v. A. Walsh
P. Vaile	Rev. G. B. Moore
Major George	Rev. W. Beatty
G. Bruce, skip ..	24 H. D. Ruddle, skip ..
22	
No. 2 RINK.	
T. Finlayson	v. Steele
R. A. Boddie	King
D. E. Clerk	Stevenson
Wright, skip ..	17 Ching, skip ..
20	

The final was played for the President's Prize (two pairs of silver mounted bowls presented by Mr James Russell), with the following results:—

D. Fallon	v. Dr Eron
A. Holden, skip ..	22 B. Hall, skip ..
17	

Messrs Fallon and Holden thus winning the bowls. In the Subscription Doubles the following match was played:—

W. Dinnison	v. McLean
J. W. Wingate, skip ..	24 F. W. Court, skip ..
14	

Leaving the final in this match to be played by the following teams:—

W. Dinnison	v. H. Maxfield
J. W. Wingate, skip	George Court, skip

DEVONPORT BOWLING CLUB

Quite a busy scene was witnessed at this popular little green last week. The following are the results of a few of the contests:—

RINK 1.	
Best	v. Harvey
Murchie	Dalton
Eagleton	Hulbert
Harrison, skip ..	17 Nicol, skip ..
13	
RINK 2.	
Brooks ..	21 v. Dinsdale ..
14	
RINK 3.	
Dutton ..	25 v. Hulbert ..
15	
RINK 4.	
McCallum ..	16 v. Montgomery ..
24	
RINK 5.	
Harvey ..	22 v. Duder ..
13	
RINK 6.	
Eagleton ..	22 v. Cameron ..
19	
CLUB CUP.	
McCallum ..	21 v. Eagleton ..
14	

The final for the Cup will be played during the week between Messrs McCallum and Dutton.

PONSONBY CLUB.

There was a fair attendance of members on the green, on Saturday afternoon last, when the following games were played:—

FINAL FOR CLUB FOURS.

No. 1 RINK.	
J. Blades	v. R. Noonan
J. Hutchison	A. Sutherland
C. Blomfield	C. Blomfield
J. M. Geddis, skip ..	16 D. B. McDonald, skip ..
22	

Mr McDonald's team thus become the winners of the gold medals presented for this contest.

SEMI-FINAL FOR CLUB DOUBLES.

No. 2 RINK.	
J. Blades	v. W. Hutchison
H. W. Brookes, skip ..	25 J. Hutchison, skip ..
15	

The final for this event takes place on Saturday, May 1st, between J. C. Robinson and A. H. Brookes v. J. Blades and H. W. Brookes.

No. 3 RINK.	
D. Stewart	v. J. Stutchbury
J. Buchanan, skip ..	13 C. G. Brookes, skip ..
20	

No. 4 RINK.	
J. Edmiston	v. C. Blomfield
J. M. Geddis, skip ..	22 D. B. McDonald, skip ..
9	