

cock fell on it. Murray failed to notch a goal, and the scores were even. The excitement now became intense, and the display of skill and tactics by both teams was a treat to see. Smith had several shots at goal, and though he failed, Masefield profited by one of them to collar the ball and dash through the Parnell backs like a shot from a gun. A prolonged yell from the barrackers proclaimed a try, but no goal resulted. Time was called a few minutes afterwards, and Ponsonby walked off the field of victory, proud in the knowledge that they had inflicted defeat on their old adversaries.

CITY V. GRAFTON.

PLAYED ON NO. 2 GROUND—REFEREE, MR EDMONDS.

City had all the better of this game, their superior back play giving them an immense advantage over Grafton. A very pretty passing run by Corles, Caradus and Smith resulted in the latter getting over Grafton's line, but the angle was too great, and the shot at goal failed. Shortly afterwards city was awarded a free kick for a breach of the rules by Grafton, and Absolum kicked a fine goal. Towards the close of the first spell Grafton were awarded a free kick near City's line, and a goal resulted, making the score—City 6, Grafton 3. Play was very even and exciting for some time after the opening of the second spell, grand defence work being displayed by the backs on both sides. The brothers Hay were most conspicuous for Grafton, whilst Absolum Caradus, and Corles, for City, were always on the ball. Another breach of the rules by City caused a free kick to be given to Grafton, and Smith kicked a neat goal. This brought the scores to 6 all, and some very vigorous play now ensued to score the winning points. The luck lay with City, and after being penned on their line for some time, they managed to shift play to the centre, where Absolum made a couple of splendid runs, reaching Grafton's 25; here he passed to Siddle, who got over the line. The goal was a failure, and the game resulted—City 9, Grafton 6. Creagh and McConnell were the best of City's forwards, whilst Cuksey, McGregor, and Laird played splendidly for Grafton.

NORTH SHORE V. NEWTON.

This match was played at the North Shore ground, and the refereeship was conducted by Mr Beck. North Shore Captain won the toss, and decided to take advantage of the wind and protect the western goal. Wilson kicked off for Newton. North Shore with the wind in their favour, pressed Newton hard, but the passing of the latter's backs, finishing up with a judicious kick, relieved them. Just before the conclusion of the first spell, the North Shore forwards, headed by Dacre, crossed the line, and looked like scoring, but the ball struck a spectator. The first spell ended with neither side scoring. After the usual five minutes' interval Marshall kicked off. It was thought that Newton would prove easy winners with the breeze in their favour. After some give and take play the ball was passed to Freeman, who, with Roberts at his side, evaded the three quarters, and with a clever feint got past the full-back and scored; the kick at goal was fruitless. The North Shore forwards, who were showing much better form than on the previous Saturday, at this stage were on their metal, and pressed Newton hard, Freeman relieving. Clark marked and Pitt failed at goal. North Shore forwards hemmed Newton on their line, and the ball coming out, Cardno attempted a pot, but the ball struck a Newton forward, and rebounded at an angle. From a scrum, Nicholson secured the oval and passed to Lipscombe, who took the hint and dropped over the coveted line, amidst cheers from the local barrackers. Clark took the kick and landed a beauty. North Shore 5, Newton 3. Time was then called.

For the losers, the full-back, Rely, and Freeman were a tower of strength in the back division; the latter made many most effective runs, but the North Shore collaring was too good. Of the forwards Heffernan, Wilson, Lewis, and Airey worked hard to prevent defeat.

For North Shore, Cardno as full back, again proved his ability in that position; Pitt as three-quarter put in a lot of useful work, although he was winged in the early part of the game by injury to his shoulder; Nicholson as centre half was a success, this being his first venture in that capacity. It is hard to choose amongst the forwards, as they all played well. C. Marshall's (the old war horse) presence was felt, and although out of form, played a sterling game. Dacre, Purdie, Irvine, and Lipscombe also put in good honest work.

Mr Beck, as referee, gave every satisfaction both to players and spectators. The game was a fast one, and played on very good terms.

NORTH SHORE II. V. NEWTON II.

Newton won the toss and decided to kick against the wind. Kitt started the game for the Shore, and Newton mulled the return. North Shore forwards played a great

game, and the heeling out was all that could be desired, but the backs did not take advantage of it. Newton was pushed hard, and Mays securing the ball, passed to Willetts, who crossed the line, but was called back owing to a throw on. Frankham made a good pot at goal from nearly half-way flag, the ball falling short. North Shore forwards crossed Newton line three or four times, but the ball struck the deadline fence, which is but a few feet from the goalposts. Mays had a shot at the bar from a penalty; the attempt was a good one, the ball just dropping under the bar. The first spell ended with no score on either side. In the second spell the Shore forwards, now playing against the wind, kept the ball at their feet. From loose play, Newton took the oval down the North Shore line, and by some neat passing secured a try; the kick at goal did not increase the score. North Shore rallied and pressed Newton, but could not get a score, and the game resulted in a win for Newton by three points to nil.

For the Shore, Mackenzie and Doyle were weakness in the back division; the forwards all played well; Kitt and Hallett did fine work on the line.

Newton full-back and the three three-quarters did good service both in attack and defence; Mills on the wing played a fine game. Mr O'Keefe gave every satisfaction as referee.

NORTH SHORE III. V. NEWTON III.

North Shore won after an interesting match by 9 to 3. Sutton and Wells secured a try each, and Pitts landed a goal from a penalty. Tilly gained a try for Newton, which was converted by Bayne. Mr Campbell officiated as referee.

RESULT OF MATCHES PLAYED ON SATURDAY, MAY 15TH.

- Ponsonby beat Parnell by 10 points to 7.
- City beat Grafton by 9 points to 6.
- North Shore beat Newton by 5 points to 3.

Previous to the commencement of the match, Parnell v. Ponsonby, at Potter's on Saturday, a ceremony of interest to footballers was gone through in one of the dressing-rooms under the stand. This was the presentation by Mr G. S. Kiesling (president of the Parnell F.C., and vice-president of the A.R.U.) of a gold watch and sleeve links to Mr W. Elliott. The gifts were purchased with money raised by a shilling subscription amongst Mr Elliott's admirers, and the value of the presentation testifies to his popularity. Mr Elliott has played in representative football in New Zealand for the past ten years, and went Home with the native football team in 1888-89. It is very pleasing to be able to record such recognitions of a man's ability.

The snow-white 'amateur' footballer must now take a back seat, and slink away to a quiet corner of the earth where the bookmaker ceaseth from troubling, and the punter is at rest. Whereby hangs a tale:—A fortnight ago a Hokianga Maori football team rode twenty miles on Friday to play a match at Whangape on the Saturday. Disappointment awaited them, however, for the rain came down in torrents, and the game could not be

played on Saturday. They were there to play the match, though, and they determined to see it through. Being a great deal more scrupulous than most white footballers in their observance of the Sabbath, they slept all that day, and at six o'clock next morning the two teams were in the heat and scramble of a most exciting game. They played till 8 o'clock, and then returned to the village, where a grand feast awaited them. The Hokianga men left for home about twelve o'clock, and I believe they arranged for a return match at a very early date.

To-night the annual social of the Auckland Grammar School Old Boys' Association will be held in the Grammar School Buildings. All old boys are cordially invited to attend, and a jolly time is promised in fighting the grand old football and cricket games of yore.

SWIMMING.

Elsewhere will be observed a pretty group of lady members of the Napier Swimming Club, each of them being a credit to her painstaking honorary instructors, Messrs A. E. Eagleton (hon. sec. of the Club), and J. Hamilton (captain). The past season was one of continued success for the Club, the three sports meetings held at Swan's Baths proving most attractive. At the beginning of the season the Committee decided to start a learners' class for ladies, and 41 members were enrolled. So well did the instructors fulfil their duties that before the end of March last 39 of the ladies could swim well. The Club deserves the highest commendation for their efforts in the direction of teaching ladies the art, and the ladies themselves are to be congratulated both on their success in learning and on their evident contempt for the idiotic conventionalities that prohibit ladies from joining with men in this most delightful exercise.

BOWLING.

We give in this issue a picture of the Ponsonby team of bowlers that won the championship fours of Auckland for the season 1896-97. This is the first occasion on which a championship has been arranged by the Bowling Association, and the young suburban club are to be congratulated on their win. Three teams representing the Ponsonby Club were very prominent in the Pennant matches, having to play off the final with the Auckland Bowling Club, which at present holds the honour. Appended are brief particulars relative to the players whose photographs we publish:—

R. Ballantyne, the skip of the team, learned the game of bowls in Napier some six or seven years ago, and when but quite a young hand earned a reputation as a good single player. He is a very able skip, and a clever driver and drawer.

H. W. Brookes, the third player, joined the Ponsonby Club at its formation some four years ago, and learned his first step under the guidance of the skip of this team and Mr M. McDermott. He is a fair all-round man.

A. S. Russell, the second player, is one of the most consistent players in the Ponsonby Club. He is always there or thereabouts, very cool and quick to take advantage of an opening.

A. H. Brookes, the leader, is the youngest player in the Ponsonby Club, and like his brother, is only a four seasons' player. He is looked upon as the best lead in Auckland, having beat all his men in each contest, and is the largest prize-winner in his Club.

AUCKLAND BOWLING ASSOCIATION.



Hanna. photo.

REPRESENTATIVES OF PONSONBY BOWLING CLUB.

WINNERS OF CHAMPIONSHIP FOURS, 1896-97.

- H. W. Brookes (No. 3).
- A. S. Russell (No. 2).
- A. H. Brookes (No. 1).
- R. Ballantyne (Skip).