

SPORTS & PASTIMES.

GOLF.

On Saturday the first round of the Ladies' Club Championship was played at the Miramar Links, Wellington, over 15 holes, and some very good scores were made. The championship is to be decided by the aggregate of three medal rounds. As it was a perfect day, there was a very large attendance at the links. The principal scores were:—Mrs Lees, 100; Miss G. Rose, 103; Miss Johnston, 117; Miss H. Williams, 121; Miss Cooper, 122; and Miss Morrah, 128.

The play off in Wellington between Mr J. Duncan and Mr F. Harcourt for the silver cleeck resulted in a win for Mr J. Duncan, the scores being as follows:—J. Duncan, 101, 12—89; and F. Harcourt, 114, 20—94.

At the Hutt Golf Club the ladies also played the first round of the championship at the Hutt Links on Saturday, and Miss L. Wilford won with the splendid score of 91, she having holed the first 2 holes in 53, and 12 in 72, thus reducing her record by 2. The other principal scores were:—Mrs Sales, 103; Miss Fitzherbert, 112; Mrs Clime, 120; and Miss N. Burnett, 121.

The ladies of the Hutt Golf Club held a Driving, Approaching, and Putting Competition at the Hutt Links, the prizes being presented by Mrs Riddiford, the captain of the Club. The driving competition was won by Miss L. Wilford, carry only, with two drives of 110 yards and 113 yards. A tie resulted between Miss Bodmin and Mrs G. H. Scales for the second prize, with two drives of 85 yards each. Miss L. Wilford also won the long approach and putting competition, and the short approach and putting competition was won by Mrs Clime, Mrs Scales being a good second. All the competitors were afterwards entertained at afternoon tea by Mrs Riddiford.

Amongst the Christchurch golfers for Dr. Palmer's prize things are being brought to a climax, and the silver chataleine now rests between Mrs Vernon and Mrs G. Gould. The former has been playing an excellent game all through the season, so the keenest interest is evinced at this stage.

There was a large meeting of the Poverty Bay Golf Club at the Masonic Hotel, Gisborne, on Saturday, when Mr G. M'Lean was presented with a handsome putting club bearing the following inscription:—'Presented to Geoff M'Lean by Frank Moeller for the best record score, 91, on the Te Mata Links, July, 1897.' Mr M'Lean, in replying, thanked Mr Moeller through Mr Rees, and said that he was very proud of having won the trophy, though it was only luck on his part. Mr Nolan proposed the health of Mr Moeller, and Mr Rees on behalf of Mr Moeller said that when the Poverty Bay Golf Club returned to Napier he would give another trophy.

BOWLING.

At a special general meeting of members of the Auckland Bowling Club, it was resolved that the Club should become incorporated under 'The Unclassified Societies Registration Act, 1895,' by the style and title of 'The Auckland Bowling Club.' Dr. Hooper presided at the meeting. The Treasurer, Mr W. Ledingham, said that the next balance-sheet would show a good round surplus. The question of a new pavilion was relegated to the new Committee to consider. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr W. A. Thomson; Vice-presidents, Messrs J. J. Holland and Wm. Coleman; Secretary, Mr J. A. Hazlett (re-elected); Treasurer, Mr Wm. Ledingham (re-elected); Auditor, Mr Wm. Culpan; Committee, Messrs A. J. Denniston, Wm. Gorrie, A. Holden, A. Myers, J. Carlaw, and D. Ross. In proposing Mr Hazlett for the position of Secretary, Mr Denniston said that Mr Hazlett had displayed tact and energy beyond all praise. He was the right man in the right place. Mr Thomson said that Mr Hazlett had been a popular, efficient, and painstaking Secretary. The Treasurer, Mr Ledingham, was also highly eulogised. The retiring President attached the President's gold medal to Mr Thomson's breast, and congratulated him upon his election for another term.

The Remuera (Auckland) Bowling Club held their annual meeting in the pavilion on Friday night, Mr Jas. Russell presiding. The report, as shown by the secretary, Mr R. A. Bodle, was eminently satisfactory, there being over 85 members. The following officers were duly elected:—President, Mr J. Hardie; ex-president, Mr Jas. Russell; vice-presidents, Messrs Jas. Brown, T. Finlayson, Colonel Dowell, V.C.; committee, Messrs A. Holden, A. C. Stevenson, Geo. Court, Chas. Ranson, D. S. Cattaneh, H. Maxfield; auditor, Mr A. Walsh; hon. treasurer, Mr D. E. Clerk; hon. secretary, Mr R. A. Bodle. Some handsome prizes were given for competition during the coming season by Messrs J. Hardie, A. Holden, J. W. Wingate, P. A. Vaile, and Wright; trophies by Mr D. E. Clerk and Mr Graham Bruce; Club flag, Mr A. C. Stevenson.

HUNTING.

(BY ONLOOKER.)

THE Pakuranga Hounds had an exceptionally good day at Mount Albert last Wednesday. The weather was all that could be desired for hunting. Shortly after twelve o'clock we made a move and drew along the gully near 'Alberton House' on the north-eastern side of Mount Albert. At the first jump to be negotiated—a fence with a ditch on the take-off side—three of our riders came to grief, the first leaving his horse to make a complete somersault in the air and arriving neatly on his feet—quite a circus feat; the second one's horse brought the fence down, his steed getting entangled in wire. A considerate onlooker of the event rushed to the rescue, but slipped and fell, getting rather mixed up with those in trouble, but happily after a little exertion on the part of the other hunt gentlemen, they all got up unhurt. These, I am glad to say, were the only accidents that occurred. We then continued to draw in a westerly direction through the scoria in front of 'Alberton,' next the adjoining paddock, where the hounds found a hare and gave a burst of music so dear to the heart of the sportsman, accompanied with the cry, 'See-ho,' which was re-echoed throughout the field. About thirty gentlemen and five ladies sat down to ride in earnest. The hounds rattled their hare in steeplechase time towards the mountain. The riders having to negotiate the double in 'Alberton' Avenue, the first jump was rather unpleasant—a stone wall with wire along the top, and a nasty drop on the landing side, another wall, then came a four-rail fence, which brought us into Mr Willis' paddock, and away on to the Mount Albert and Onehunga road, when a stiff stone wall with barbed wire had to be taken; then up the steep incline of Mount Albert with two small walls to be negotiated, and along through the Mount Albert Reserve. Another wall brought us into Lee's scoria, then a check, as the hounds are at fault for a time. A cast forward and Bridesmaid hits off the line, some more walls to be taken in the direction of Point Chevalier, and here another check, then on her again, and a kill in the high tree at the back of Mr McBride's. Before the hounds had time to enjoy their repeat another hare was on foot and away, making for Lee's Scoria, followed by the anxious pack. During the rest of the afternoon we were kept constantly on the move by various hares, one running from Mr Stewart's swamp in a ring through Lees, then towards Avondale, and back again to its starting place, scoria walls innumerable to be negotiated. At last one pussie took a bee line for Mr Woodward's property, where some exceptionally stiff stone walls had to be jumped. Here we lost one quarry in a Chinaman's garden, and as the owner of the land did not wish us to continue our pursuit, and it also was getting late and all the enthusiasts were satisfied that they had had sufficient sport for one day, we turned homewards, and many were the expressions of pleasure at the afternoon's outing. Amongst those present were Mrs W. Bloomfield (Blue Peter), Miss Dunnett (Opawa), Miss M. Backland (Villiers), Miss B. Bull (who was amongst those ladies who rode particularly straight, was mounted on her new steed Roman), Miss Kerr-Taylor (Nimrod), Misses Henderson, P. Backland, Mr Wells (from H.M.s. 'Gold-finch'), Mr Feilding (M.B.), Mr Pollock (Grenade), Mr Philips (Oceola), Mr Harrison (Robin Adair), Mr Varum (Awatuna), Mr V. Kerr-Taylor (Premier), Messrs Carminer, Gordon, Paul, O'Dowd (Laddie); Mr Goodman was riding Miss Dunnett's grey; Misses Bullen and Smith, etc. Mrs Markham followed the hounds as far as possible on foot.

The hunting season in Hawke's Bay was brought to a close last Monday at the Ruataniwha end of the country with a bye-day at Ashcott. Mr J. B. A'Deane acted as huntsman. It was a perfect day, and there were very few accidents. Amongst those present were Messrs Donnelly, Hobson, D. Grant, Herbert, Rhodes, Russell, and Sunderland, the Misses M. Donnelly, M. Herrick, I. Inglis, L. Miller, and E. Simcox, Messrs H. H. Bridge, F. Herrick, E. Herrick, Ellingham, Ireland, Hobson, Guy Cooper, T. Groom, L. Shaw, Polts, G. L. Sunderland, F. White, A. B. Williams, W. Kinross White, Druce, etc.

We have received a sample tablet of Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Toilet Soap, manufactured by T. Harvey, which proves to be a very nice thing of its kind. Despite the somewhat formidable suggestion in the word 'arsenical,' the soap is guaranteed perfectly harmless. It makes a delightfully soft lather, and has a very pleasant fragrance, and in every respect should prove a desirable adjunct to the toilet.

Verdi has lately asked permission to erect two tombs in the garden of his Villa of St. Agatha, one for himself and one for his wife. It was after a visit to the authorities of Piacenza, for which he had to rise at 4.30 in the morning, that he said, in evening: 'Per Bacco! I feel a little tired. Ha! I'm beginning to get old.' He is 83 years of age.

Personal Paragraphs.

THE new Governor's aide-de-camp, Captain D. H. Alexander, hails from Yorkshire. He was at first in the York Militia, and in 1884 was commissioned to the West York Line Regiment. He has been acting as adjutant of volunteers in Bedfordshire for nearly three years.

SIR GEORGE R. DRIBBS has returned to Sydney.

CAPTAIN LOBB, of the 'Taupo,' is to be congratulated on his escape from what might have been a very serious injury. His steamer was sent to the French Pass to aid the stranded 'Wainui.' A large wave struck the small boat in which the captain was standing, assisting two sailors to push off from the beach. The officer was pitched into the shallow water on his head. Most fortunately, he managed to roll himself out of the way of the boat, which an advancing wave was carrying over him, when he would have been terribly crushed.

THE stevedore of Post Chalmers, Mr John Mill, who is a well-known and respected personage in those parts, has returned home after a brief stay in Auckland.

MR W. MORGAN, of East Pukekohe is agitating for a penny postage in New Zealand. This would be a great boon to people living three or four miles out of the larger cities, who have to spend a good many shillings every year over 'deficient postage and fine' for letters received from their friends in town who cannot be brought to understand why they should put 2d on a letter to Sydney and pay the same to send a letter within walking distance of the General Post Office.

SOME well-known Remuera ladies left Auckland for Sydney last week. They were Mrs and the Misses Cotter, who are going over for a change.

MR WHEB-BOWEN, who is in the head office of the Bank of New Zealand in Wellington, left per s.s. 'Mararoa' last week for Sydney, whither he has been transferred.

THE Stipendiary Magistrate of the Chatham Islands, Major Gascoyne, is visiting Hastings. He has been relieved of his duties for a time, as his health is far from satisfactory.

MR TRENKLE, Secretary of the New Zealand Veterans' Association in Wellington, hopes to establish branches all over New Zealand so as to include all those who have taken part in New Zealand Wars.

MR RICHARD GARLICK, of Auckland, has gone to the Islands for a trip.

DR. CLIFFORD, the celebrated English Baptist Minister, was unlucky enough to have wet weather en route to Taupo. Consequently he did not care to linger, and he and his party proceeded at once to Napier.

THE 'Mahinapua' last week brought one of the 'Gothic's' passengers to Auckland—Mr C. J. Hutchinson.

THE Rev. W. Marshall has kindly offered to conduct divine service in Christ's Church, Ohapepe, every second Sunday evening. The offer was gratefully accepted.

MR T. W. RHODES has been appointed valuator under the Government Valuation of Land Tax Act for Coromandel county.

AN address and a silver kettle were the farewell mementoes presented to the postmaster at Feilding by members of the Presbyterian Church there last week. Mr and Mrs J. H. Stevens are going to Hawera.

MR H. E. WATTS, formerly purser of the 'Dingadee,' has been transferred to the 'Mahinapua.'

A MUCH-EXPERIENCED mining expert, Mr Owen Jones, who has been in a low state of health at the Grand Hotel, Auckland, for some weeks, is decidedly better in health.

THE Rev. Percy C. Wyndham Baré, late assistant to the Rev. F. Hunt, M.A., of Palmerston North, has been appointed to the vacancy in Masterton, caused by the resignation of the Rev. A. C. Yorke.

BERESFORD-STREET Congregational Chapel, Auckland, is about to lose its pastor, the Rev. Geo. Burgess, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR BROWN, of the Auckland University College, has been elected to be a member of the Council of the Auckland Institute. The professor works hard and takes great interest in his work, therefore he well merits the honour.

UNFORTUNATELY for Mr Doidge, the Auckland Crown Lands Board has decided to give notice to quit to him as occupier of the small island known as Motukaraka, near the entrance to the Taranga Creek. He has only been there 17 years without authority from the owner—the Government. Had he been in possession for twenty years, it is believed the island would have become his own property.

THE Inspector of machinery, Mr Duncan, left Auckland for Wellington by the 'Mahinapua.'

A NAME-WELL-KNOWN and respected all over the colony, that of the Rev. Isaac Harding (Wesleyan) will be no more signed to articles on New Zealand or elsewhere appearing in the English papers. Mr Harding died recently in Brisbane.