POLO.

THE SAVILE CUP.

WON BY MANAWATU.

The championship matches of the New Zealand Polo Association's annual tournament were concluded last week, when Manawatu handsomely defeated Auckland in the final round of the Savile Cup matches, the handicap tournament being subsequently commenced. A victory for Manawatu was generally anticipated, but they were none the less expected to have a tough struggle for the coveted cup. As it turned out, they had not so difficult a task, and at no time in the game did they look like being. Men and ponies were both superior to Auckland's elect, and from the jump the visitors had the measure of their opponents. The game was, however, interesting throughout, while there was some exceedingly brilliant play on both sides, the hopes of the Aucklanders being battered several times before the score of the cup-holders had put the issue beyond doubt. An unfortunate accident happened in the second spell, Walter Strang having his collar-bone broken as the result of a fall. McDonnell took J. Strang's place at full, and the latter going up to No. 3, and even with this alteration there was no failure in the combination of the team.

Manawatu got the best of the throw-in, W. Strang rushing down to the quarter, but missing his third drive. Lloyd started a return, but a stoppage resulted from a broken girth. From the resumption of play, Manawatu carried the ball to the line, Auckland being penalised for a bit behind. J. Strang followed up the hit and notched a goal within a couple of minutes of the commencement of play. Allan Strang scrum through the throw-in and carried the ball to the goal line, a force resulting. Lloyd initiated an attack from the 1ft off, but A. Strang returned, another behind resulting. Lloyd returned nicely, but A. Strang again got going and carried play back to the goal, Lloyd saving smartly twice. Fast play ensued up and down the field, but mostly in Auckland's half. Tonks doing some nice work. Abraham made a fine run from the Auckland quarter, but his final drive lacked direction. Auckland were attacking for some time, and in a scrimmage Lloyd was called on ace of scoring. Abraham and A. Strang then broke away, and the latter hitting the ball straight for the goal, but Lloyd slipped in and saved cleverly. The opening of the second spell was marked by a behind, from which Baker made a fine run up the field, but the advantage was neutralised by a free hit, from which Abraham and A. Strang initiated an attack. Lloyd again stopped in fine style. The attack was sustained, and Baker missing a drive, W. Strang had a clear 8ft drive in front of the goal, notching Manawatu's second goal. In a rally shortly after W. Strang's pony fell in turning, and the rider's collarbone was broken. His place was taken by McDonnell, of the B team. On resuming, Manawatu were awarded a penalty, but Abraham failed with the shot. After a little loose play Auckland were forced. From the bully Baker got away with a run, but McDonnell saved, and assisted by W. Strang relieved the danger. Time was then called. Auckland kept up their attack on the opening of the third spell, and from a clean drive Tonks just missed the goal posts. Another behind followed. A Strang made a fine kick, the ball going out of bounds near mid-field. From the throw-in Tonks and Lloyd bustled a fine rush, which resulted in Tonks notching Auckland's first goal. J. Strang returned to Auckland's goal from the throw-in, and from a penalty for a hit behind Manawatu had a shot at goal, the ball going behind the line. Auckland started from the 8ft off, but J. Strang took away and with a fine sailing run took the ball down to the goal and, overt for the Auckland man, hit through, notching Manawatu's third goal. Auckland then rallied and kept up the attack, Manawatu being forced twice. At the opening of the fourth spell J. Strang not going away, the ball was checked by Lloyd, who, with a fine drive, put the ball out of the field. J. Strang then made a fine sailing run from his own quarter. A rush followed, the ball rolling to save the fourth goal for Manawatu. Fast play on both sides followed. Auckland rushing a series of chances through poor hitting. Tonks then broke away with a fine sailing gallop, and drove the ball through for O'Rorke to sling Manawatu's fourth goal, and the goal was disallowed, the ball going back to the Auckland goal line. Manawatu then had a free hit, which gave the ball close as it was to the goal. Another shot at goal was saved, the ball rolling clearly the same judge. Baker then got away with a fine sailing run, but was checked by a fine run and kick by Abraham, who took it on Auckland's 25yds line. This ended the game, the final score being Manawatu, 5 goals, to Auckland's 1. The goals were kicked by A. Strang (2), J. Strang (2), and Abraham.

For the first seven fast play took place, with a scrimmage in front of Auckland's goal. At this point one through Manawatu, 7; Auckland, 1. O'Rorke was credited for the good work from the bully, but A. Strang equalised matters from a free hit, which resulted Auckland being forced to the goal, and remedy the defence. This was called with Manawatu threatening Auckland's goal. In the second half Lloyd got the ball in hand and carried it down into Manawatu's quarter, Auckland getting up in time to save the sixth goal. Immediately after A. Strang scored another attack, which was well carried on J. Strang notching the seventh goal. Auckland then assumed the offensive and forced Manawatu. The attack was continued, but the visitors soon rallied and took the play into the home team's territory, the game ending with the score at 7 goals to 1.

NOTES.

The play of the winners was characterised by forceful, clean, hitting, backed up by excellent combination. As before stated, there was little interference with the latter after the accident to Walter Strang, indeed, it may be questioned whether this did not open up the game, for Jack Strang, when moved up to No. 3, had more scope for his ability, and he is undoubtedly a better three than his brother, while McDonnell, the substitute back, did all that was asked of him in workmanlike style. Right through the game the hitting of the winners was wonderfully accurate, backhand, fore-hand, or screw hitting being accomplished with equal facility. J. Strang was the best of his side, hardly making a mistake all through, while he turned and got to the ball remarkably quick. Abraham played a rattling game for so young a player. He is only in his second season, but he is already a fine free hitter, both as to force and direction. The Auckland men did not show the combination of their opponents, nor was their work of so even a character. Flashes there were as brilliant as anything on the Manawatu side, but the opportunities thus made were seldom taken full advantage of. The side was greatly handicapped by the relative inferiority of their mounts, but this had nothing to do with the number of easy drives that were missed, or the opportunities that were lost. Lloyd was the pick of the bunch, being responsible for some excellent saving, while he met the ball in due style and returned it continually. He nipped in several times and saved splendidly when the ball was in the mouth of the goal. Tonks played a good game, but attempted too much; while Baker, who has not been in good health of late, was distinctly below par. O'Rorke, too, failed to show his best form. He did a lot of riding off, but frequently missed his drive. The winners have a fine lot of ponies, faster all round than those of the home team, and, on the whole, more easily handled. There was no disgrace in defeat at the hands of such a team.

CUP PRESENTATION.

On conclusion of the championship tournament Dr. A. C. Purchas, President of the Auckland Polo Club, on behalf of Mrs Morris, wife of the President of the New Zealand Polo Association, presented the winning team with the Savile Cup. He gave a brief history of the trophy, and congratulated the victors on their win, saying that it was by such exhibitions as they had witnessed that afternoon that polo was improved in the colony. A. Strang, captain of the visitors, suitably responded.

MANGAHEIA WINS THE HANDICAP CUP.

The final for the New Zealand Polo Association's Handicap Cup was played on March 11th, Mangaheia, 7 goals, meeting Auckland (2 goals). The game ended in a victory for the visitors, in an additional spell following a tie, by one goal. Half-way through the game the result seemed a foregone conclusion for Auckland, who had made up their handicap and were a goal to the good. The visitors, however, played a plucky uphill game, and were two goals to the good in the final spell. Auckland then livened up, and equalised scores just before the call of time. The game was accordingly continued until one side scored. Mangaheia being the first to notch a point. The winners were very heartily cheered, and not even the loser grudged them their victory, for they have proved themselves thorough sports and dashing players all through.

THE SPORTS.

The gymkhana held by the Auckland and Remuera Polo Clubs at Alexandra Park on Saturday attracted a fair number of people to see them, for the visiting polo club's entries promised to make the meeting interesting. The principal event, the Auckland Polo Cup, was won by Mr A. G. McDowell's Pahwahi after a good race from the Dodger, Mr E. D. O'Rorke's pony. The results of the races follow:—

Bending Competition—First heat, Bangs; second heat, Brenda; third heat, Rattan; fourth heat, Ladybird; fifth heat, Rona. Final: Rattan 1, Rona 2, Ladybird 3.

Hurdle Race, one mile; over three flights of hurdles 3ft high; Mr J. C. Ports' Colson, 1; Mr A. Hamid's Scarecrow, 2. Won by several lengths. Time, 2m. 7s.

Polo Ball Race. From starting post over five 250yds and back, through coloured sticks. Final—Maggie, 1; Banjo, 2; Rusty, 3.

Polo Cup. Four furlongs: Mr A. G. McDowell's Pahwahi, 1; Mr E. D. O'Rorke's The Dodger, 2; Dr. Graham's Tapita, 3. Also started: Texas, Kit, Chalmer, Rona, Kiwi, Sunlight, Fizz, Gobby, Settling Day, Mirage, Cat, and Jubilee. The Dodger made a fine start, but Pahwahi struck clear and took the lead at the straight, winning easily by two lengths. Time, 53 4-5secs.

Obstacle Race: Mr J. Murphy's The Spud, 1.

Polo Pony Test, twice round flags 100yds apart, catch weights: Final heat—Vanity, 1; Ratan, 2; Brenda, 3.

Kerosene Tin and Nightshirt Race: J. Murphy, 1; M. Murphy, 2.

Ladies' Bracelet—(Competitors gallop to clothes line 100yds, back to a line 20yds from lady, dismount, run to lady, when bangle threaded, run to pony, mount, gallop to clothes line, and back to winning post). Final: Sunbeam, 1; Bamboo, 2; Rusty, 3.

Final Flatter (three furlongs): Mr Allan Strang's Charmer, 1; Mr M. C. Tucks' Settling Day, and Mr A. C. McDowell's Kiwi (dead-heat), 2.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the annual meeting of the New Zealand Polo Association, held at the Grand Hotel, delegates from all the affiliated clubs were present. It was decided to hold the next annual tournament at Wellington, and the following officers were elected:—President, His Excellency the Governor; vice-president, Mr. James Coates (Wellington); committee, Messrs. A. Cooper, E. D. O'Rorke, H. Russell, Allan Strang, and S. Williamson; hon. auditor, Mr. E. Buchole; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. J. Crawford. After a lengthy discussion the incoming committee was instructed to take into consideration the advisability of increasing the limit of height of ponies to 14 hands 2 inches.

BOWLING.

Saturday's weather was very favourable, and a number of pleasant inter-club games were played. Some progress was also made in the club matches, the scores being appended.

INTER CLUB MATCHES.

REMUERA V. MOUNT EDEN.

The Remuera and Mount Eden Clubs played an eight-rink inter-club match, four rinks playing on the Mount Eden green, and four rinks on the Remuera green. On the Mount Eden green Remuera won by 88 to 76, and at Remuera the home team won by 101 to 79, the aggregate scores thus giving Remuera a lead of 34 points. Scores:—

Remuera—Beatty (skip)—16, v. Mount Eden—Brimblecombe, 20.

Remuera—J. M. Caron, 21, v. Mount Eden, C. G. Brookes, 14.

Remuera—Clark, 30, v. Mount Eden—H. W. Brookes, 23.

Remuera—Dingwall, 19, v. Mount Eden, Garland, 21.

AT REMUERA.

Remuera—Dingwall, 19, v. Mount Eden, Ross, 18.

Remuera—G. Court, 29, v. Mount Eden—Rankin, 22.

Remuera—Hardie, 14, v. Mount Eden—Hooper, 21.

Remuera—Kingswell, 30, v. Mount Eden—Burns, 18.

Afternoon tea was kindly provided and dispensed by Mesdames Mackay, McDougall, and Jowitt.

PONSONBY V. CARLTON.

An inter-change contest of four rinks on each green resulted in a win for Ponsonby by 21 points, the aggregates being: Ponsonby 171, Carlton 150. Scores:—

AT NEWMARKET.

Ponsonby—Littler 17, v. Carlton, Holmes 18.

Ponsonby—Jones 18, v. Carlton—Cutler 23.

Ponsonby—Ballantyne 18, v. Carlton—Wilson 14.

Ponsonby—Veale 30, v. Carlton—Thompson 21.

AT PONSONBY.

Ponsonby—Stewart 29, v. Carlton—Laurie 17.

Ponsonby—Brown 11, v. Carlton—Kilgour 25.

Ponsonby—Webb, 23, v. Carlton—De King 13.

FIRST YEAR'S PLAYERS.

Ponsonby—Rennie, Clarke, Crabtree, Gentles (skip) 31, v. Carlton—Bourke, McNaughton, McKnight, Lowry (skip), 19.

ROCKY NOOK V. DEVONPORT.

An inter-club match, six rinks a-side, was played between Devonport and Rocky Nook (three rinks playing on Devonport green and three at Rocky Nook), and resulted in a win for Devonport on the aggregates by three points. The totals were:—Rocky Nook, 123; Devonport, 126. Scores:—

AT ROCKY NOOK.

Devonport—Eagleton 28, v. Rocky Nook—Hodgson 11.

Devonport—Armstrong 15, v. Rocky Nook—Hasselden 30.

Devonport—Dawson, Harvey 15, v. Rocky Nook—Bouskill 26.

AT DEVONPORT.

Devonport—Nicoll, 20, v. Rocky Nook—Kilgston 20.

Devonport—Harrison 24, v. Rocky Nook—Scott 18.

Devonport—Ralfe 24, v. Rocky Nook—Fletcher 18.

AUCKLAND GREEN.

The Auckland greens were fairly occupied on Saturday, when the chief interest centred in the Edwin stars match, played between Auckland and Devonport. During the first half of the game the Shorties had much the best of it, being 14 to Auckland's 7, but Auckland then pulled up in great style, putting up 15 to Devonport's 4. Totals: Auckland, 22; Devonport, 18. Scores:—

Auckland—Donald, Ronayne, Garland, Buttle (skip), 22, v. Devonport—Eyre, Tregaskis, Gardner, Mitchell (skip), 18.

Handicap Singles: Geo. Main Trophy—Mennie, 16, v. Lyons, 22. Dawson's Prize—Dingle, 29, v. Garland, 12; Dingle, 7, v. Lambert, 21; Pirie, 19, v. Oliphant, 23; Coombes, 22, v. Culpan, 11. Ross-Ehrenfried Prize—Lambert, 19, v. Lyons, 24; Buttle, 21, v. Mennie, 20. Stewart Dawson Prize—Thornes, 22, v. Oliphant, 20; Handcock, 28, v. Coombes, 19; Plummer, 21, v. Ronayne, 6. Dingle and Buttle's Prize—Crawford, 23, v. Towsey, 14. Championship (second game)—Buttle, 12, v. Mennie, 22; (first game) Cameron, 10, v. Lyons, 23.

ROCKY NOOK GREEN.

Pairs: Farrington, Dadson (skip), 23, v. Rennick, Pilcher (skip), 12. Pilcher, Cunningham (skip), 16, v. Farrington, Rennick (skip), 18.

Handicap Singles: Rathbone, 15, v. Butler, 21.

Afternoon tea was kindly provided and dispensed by Mesdames Hodgson and Pilcher.

PONSONBY GREEN.

CLUB MATCHES.

Club Pairs: Crabtree and Arnell, 21, v. Darby and Blomfield, 23.

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