

LAWN TENNIS NOTES

By the Man at the Net.

COMING EVENTS.

March 28 — Marlborough Championships and Handicap Tournament, at Hienlen.

April 17th, 18th, and 20th—Gisborne Open Championship and Handicap Tournament, at Kaiti, Gisborne.

April 17th, 18th, and 20th—Canterbury Championships and Handicap Tournament, at Linwood Club's courts, Christchurch.

The finals of the school tournament were played at the Eden and Epsom courts on Saturday afternoon. The play, from what I saw of it, was, on the whole, surprisingly good, and I shall be very much astonished if some of the girls and boys who appeared in the finals do not eventually become the crack players of the district. The final of the Boys' Doubles I noticed in particular, for the neatness and skill with which at least three of the four boys played. Evidently all that most of these youngsters want is regular play against people better than themselves. The following were the results:—

Boys' Singles.—Newell beat Frater, 6-3, 6-0, 6-3; Duffy beat Sumner, 6-0, 6-3. The final was a very fine contest between Newell and Duffy, and the latter ultimately won, 6-3, 6-4.

Boys' Doubles.—Gorrie and Fraser beat Newell and Iversen, 3-6, 3-2, 6-1. In the final Gorrie and Frater beat Sumner and Hall, 6-5, 6-3.

Girls' Singles.—Semi-final: Miss Tompkins beat Miss Rose, 6-0, 6-0; Miss Popham beat Miss Rogers, 6-2, 6-3. In the final Miss Tompkins beat Miss Popham, 6-5, 6-4.

Last Saturday's "Sports" edition of the "Star" contained the following items relating to Saturday's play:—

The Devonport Tennis Club held their "Bachelors' Dinner" on Saturday. There was a large number of guests present, including many of the fair sex, and all were hospitably entertained by the bachelor members of the club. The weather was glorious, and the dinner, all of which were in excellent condition, were well occupied. No competition matches were played, and mixed doubles were the only games indulged in. All present spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The Eden and Epsom club matches were continued, and several of them reached the semi-final stage.

Men's Handicap Singles.—Henry Hesketh (scratch) beat Billing (who 36-3-40), 6-7, 4-6, 8-6. Hesketh, who has played well throughout the contest, is now in the final with Haddock. On the other side of the board, Buttle and Sheffers are in the semi-final, and there should be a hard fight between the four men for the final.

Men's Handicap Doubles.—Lougnet and Haddock (tove 15-24) beat Grossman and Cave (tove 15-14), 6-5, 1-8, 8-6. In the final, W. A. Brown and Bliss (tove 15) beat Haddock and Lougnet, 6-4, 6-4.

Ladies' Handicap Singles.—Miss I. Walker beat Miss T. Walker in the final, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.

Ladies' Handicap Doubles.—Misses T. Walker and Haddock in the final beat Misses Brown and Stewart.

Combined Handicap Doubles.—Barnard and Miss Hesketh have reached the final on one side of the board, and Henry Hesketh and Miss Brown are in the same position on the other.

In the final of the Men's Championship presented by W. A. Brown, 6-4, 6-4, 6-1. Brown was hardly up to his usual form, and seemed to be more troubled than his opponent by the softness of the ground.

Of the various club championships, Eden and Epsom has now worked its way through the Singles, but Auckland, West End, Parnell, and Devonport are still unfinished. I understand that Mowbray and Rippon play off next Saturday at Parnell, Robinson and Macky at Devonport, and Upton and Dr. Keith at West End. This last match ought to be worth going a long way to see — always assuming that the weather is decent, and that Keith is in good training and is clear of rheumatism; but I am almost a fruitless man to wish to hope for a combination of all these favourable circumstances at once.

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the following communication from the secretary of the Auckland Club:—

All handicap matches played on the Auckland Club's courts are now finished, the following being the results:—

Men's Handicap Singles. — Mr H. A. Miles.

Men's Handicap Doubles. — Won by Messrs Arkell and Gillett, who beat Miles and A. J. Black last Saturday, by 6-5, 4-6, 3-0. Black and Miles should never have been beaten had they played up to their true form. Arkell played a really good game, his net play being excellent, but Gillett was out of his place the whole time, continually being in Arkell's ground, and Black beat him several times on that account. Arkell deserves every credit for his popular win, and also game was most exciting throughout.

Combined Handicap Doubles. — Gillett and Miss Goble.

Ladies' Handicap Singles. — Miss Wood-rose.

Ladies' Handicap Doubles. — Mrs Dr. Wors and Mrs Palethorpe.

It may interest my readers to know that our old friend J. C. Peacock while, it may interest my readers to know that our old friend J. C. Peacock has beaten F. M. B. Fisher for the Thorndon championship in three straight sets: 6-4, 6-3, 6-1. Those who saw Fisher play up here a few weeks ago will be inclined to think that he can hardly have been up to form to fail so disastrously. But whatever be the cause of his collapse, there is no doubt that Peacock, when in condition, and on his game, is a most brilliant performer, and with proper practice would stand in the front rank anywhere. Fisher, like all brilliant men, is inclined to be erratic, and I think that this, with possibly some staleness, may account, not for his defeat, but for the fact that he was beaten so decisively.

As an antidote to that rashness which in the case of Fisher or Peacock often takes the form of brilliancy, but which for the average second-rater simply invites disaster, I suggest that all young players who are afflicted by a burning desire to hit the cover off the ball every stroke, should ponder on the following: Any observant player who has ever watched H. L. Doherty must have been impressed by the facts—among many others that make for success—that he never seems in a great hurry to win his points, that he never tries of giving his opponent a chance to lose, and that he never misses any shot that he ought to win. In other words, whether by design or intuition, his defence and offence are invariably regulated according to position.

I observe that R. D. Harman, who has secured the Canterbury Singles Championship, after about 25 years of play, still holds on his triumphant course. Says the "Canterbury Times":—R. D. Harman still continues in winning vein, for after playing through a big entry for the Handicap Singles at the United Courts, he beat A. D. Cox in the final. He took the first set, but his younger opponent was in great form during the second, and set all was called, but Harman came with one of his prize-packet sets for a finish, winning by two sets to one.

Aubrey Cox, who is a younger brother of Cecil Cox, the ex-N.Z. champion, is a very neat and clever player, and those who saw him play here in the Inter-University College tournament some seasons ago, will thoroughly appreciate Harman's victory.

Of course, the general tendency everywhere is to pay too much attention to the recognised "crack" players, who, for their part, generally pay too little attention to the rising generation, and will not as a rule, trouble to give them advice or assistance. Here are a few remarks to the point from the "Daily Mail," referring, it is true, to English tennis, but equally applicable here:—If one were asked to say why it is that so few young players advance to the front rank—why England is so bankrupt of rising talent at the present moment—the present method of conducting tournaments would be accounted in some measure responsible. Too much energy and enterprise are centred on the handful of cracks, most of whom are now past their prime; very little is ever done to encourage the promising novice. The players are themselves in some measure to blame—the cracks, because they encourage so much of this pampering, rarely going out of their way to stimulate any young hopeful; and the rank and file, because they never take measures to improve their prospects. What is wanted is fewer tournaments and fewer events at each; meetings for juvenile players, at which the crack may be seen in an entirely new guise—that of the talent-searcher and mentor; and a wider recognition of the value of club and county matches. If some of the more efficient tournament machinery were devoted to these reforming measures, England would soon recapture her lost supremacy, and the quest for home-bred champions would not be in vain.

Talking about the amount of consideration shown nowadays to the best players and the comparatively shabby treatment that the rank and file receive. I have heard complaints of that sort made at colonial tournaments frequently enough, but it may be some small consolation to learn that the same sort of thing prevails at Home—only more so. Here is what Mr. Wallis Myers has recently thought it necessary to say on the subject:—That the best players have the best time at a lawn tennis tournament there can be very little question, and the only plea that can be urged in defence of the many privileges extended

to them is that they draw paying spectators to the ground. On lines of strict equity it is puzzling to know why a crack should sometimes be given the option of contesting a tie at once or at a time more suitable to his convenience (say, when the weather is fine or the light agreeable), while the average competitor is arbitrarily ordered into court in any atmosphere and at all times of the day. Nor can the principle be defended of supplying new balls to experts at their casual solicitation. Frequently I have seen comparatively unknown exponents robbed of victory because their justifiable appeal for new balls at the beginning of the third set has been refused, while on a neighbouring court, tenanted by cracks, perhaps the third half-dozen has been served out. Again, there are cases where lesser lights, hardened to the use of "black" balls, have lost matches against "superior" players because the latter's request for new balls has at a critical period in the middle of a set been granted. Such favours—naturally extended with a view to propitiating the gate-drawing cracks—are not calculated to establish complete confidence between competitor and executive. I don't think that this sort of thing has yet run to any serious excess here; but it is well to be forewarned in time.

Here are a few notes from the "Daily Mail" on the prospects of the coming season at Home:—

International interest will once more be paramount in lawn tennis during the coming season, and the competitions in the Olympic Games should be even more attractive to followers of the game than those for the Davis Cup last year.

The Olympic contests will include covered court as well as grass court competitions, and for each of these there will be a ladies' singles championship and men's singles and doubles championships. Nominations may only be made by the countries entering for the games, and each country may enter twelve competitors for the ladies' singles, twelve for men's singles, and six couples for men's doubles. Players will not be allowed to compete unless entered by their country.

The covered courts contests have been fixed for May 6 at Queen's Club, and the grass courts games will be played at Wimbledon on July 6.

The championships at Wimbledon this year should provide magnificent sport. Mr. N. E. Brookes has expressed his intention of coming over again to defend his title. Mr. H. L. Doherty has definitely decided to make a welcome reappearance, and with Mr. S. H. Smith possibly competing as well, there should be some heroic matches.

If Mr. Brookes does make the journey, Australasia, who vanquished all opposition last year, will probably be represented once more by himself, Mr. A. F. Wilding (who, with Mr. Brookes, holds the doubles championship), and very possibly, Mr. L. O. S. Poidevin, and if these play in the Olympic Games as well, they may add yet another success to last year's. They will, however, have a harder task than in 1907.

Births, Deaths and Marriages.

[The charge for inserting announcements of birth, marriages, or death in the "Graphic" is 2/6 for the first 14 words, and 6d. for every additional 7 words.]

BIRTHS.

BELL.—On 29th March, at Vermont-st., 60 Mr. and Mrs. T. Bell, a daughter.

TAYLOR.—On March 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. Percy W. Taylor, Belle Vue-rd., Mt. Eden; a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

GUILDFORD—NESS.—On March 4th, 1908, at the bride's father's residence, Waiuku, by the Rev. Sommerville, Charles Edwin, the eldest son of the late Edwin Clarence Guildford, of this city, to Margaret (Maggie) Brown, second daughter of David Ness, of Waiuku.

HUNTER—LAMBOURNE.—On March 4th, at St. David's Church, Auckland, by the Rev. W. Gray Dixon, Alexander William, youngest son of Mr. F. Hunter, late of Collingwood, to Olive Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. F. Lambourne, Grafton-rd., Auckland.

MENTZER—METCALFE.—On February 26, 1908, at St. Matthew's Church, by the Rev. W. Gilliam, Hugo, son of the late Captain Mentzer, of Göteborg, Sweden, to Grace Marion, eldest daughter of the late J. L. Metcalfe, of Townville, N.Z.—Australian papers please copy.

SOUTER—BROWN.—On February 26, at St. Mary's Church, Parnell, by the Rev. Canon MacMurray, Arthur Souter, 80, Rosie Mac; both of Auckland.

WHYTE—FALLWELL.—On March 17th, 1908, at St. Andrew's Church, Epsom, by the Rev. F. W. Walker, Norina Alexander, youngest son of Alexander Whyte, of Otago, to Alice Fanny, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Fallwell, of Papakura.

DEATHS.

BRADY.—On April 1st, at her daughter's residence, 16 Cook-st., West, Mary Brady, relict of the late John Brady, and only surviving daughter of the late Daniel and Ellen O'Brien, late of Auckland and County Cork, Ireland.

BRUCE.—On February 27, at 720, Rath-avenue, North Clarendon, Melbourne (and only), Jean Jamieson, the beloved daughter of William and Fannie Bruce, late of Parnell, Auckland; aged 9 years 4 months.

CRUDGE.—On April 3, 1908, at Mount Eden-road, after a brief illness, Albert Allan, youngest son of R. H. and Jessie Crudge; aged 41 years. Internment private.

DEAN-FITT.—On April 3rd, 1908, at her late residence, Alexander-rd., Remuera, Annie Isabella Lloyd, relict of the late Major William Augustus Dean-Fitt; aged 80 years.

EDSON.—On March 30th, 1908, at his residence, Crummer-road, Grey Lynn, Norman Percival, the beloved husband of Phoebe Edson, and elder surviving son of John Edson, Chemist, in the 41st year of his age.

GRISTON.—On March 20th, at Mataura, Otago, suddenly, Samuel Griston (and "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord").

GRIFFITHS.—On March 28, 1908, at her late residence, Tauranga, Isabella, beloved wife of H. B. Griffiths, and youngest daughter of the late T. T. Dickinson. Deeply regretted.

HALL.—On April 2nd, at the residence of her grandfather, Mr. F. J. Lawrence, Henderson, Mona Rita, the dearly beloved daughter of David and Daisy Hall; aged 1 year and 7 months.

HALLY.—On April 1st, 1908, at Manukau-rd., Avondale, Helen Ruby, the beloved daughter of Rudolph and Ruby Hally, aged 3 months.

HANKINS.—On March 31st, at the Auckland Hospital, after a painful illness, Leonard Seymour, the dearly beloved infant son of Harry and Edith Hankins, aged 8 months. Deeply regretted. Asleep in Jesus.

Southern papers please copy.

HERON.—On April 1st, 1908, at Auckland Hospital, John Becham, youngest son of David Heron, Birkenhead, aged 36 years.

KENNERLEY.—On March 29, at the residence of her grandmother, Mrs. D. White, Lower Hesperus-st., Winnifred Irene, the eldest dearly beloved daughter of Tom and Mary Kennerley, of Waikumete; aged 2 years and 8 months. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

MASKREY.—On April 2nd (suddenly), William Maskrey, Woodside; aged 73 years.

MURDOCK.—On March 30th, 1908, at her parents' residence, Queen-st., Onehunga, Phyllis Irene, the dearly beloved infant daughter of Edward and Caroline Murdoch; aged 11 weeks. R.I.P. "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

MCCULLOCH.—On March 30, 1908, at his residence, Charlotte-st., Eden Terrace, the dearly beloved husband of Jessie McCulloch; aged 71 years. Deeply regretted.

MCCLOUGHEN.—On Friday, youngest daughter of W. and B. McCloughen, of Paeroa.

OAKES.—On April 1st, 1908, at her daughter's residence, Mrs M. J. Coleman, Hay-st., Caroline, relict of the late Charles P. Oakes, master mariner; aged 75 years. "Rest in peace."

Southern papers please copy.

SKUDDER.—On April 2nd, at her residence, Surrey-crescent, Grey Lynn, after a long illness, borne with great fortitude, Harriet, the beloved wife of Charles Skudder, aged 75.

SUTHERLAND.—On Feb. 14th, at the Gwanid District Hospital, Rangoon, North Africa, of enteric fever, Hugo, youngest and dearly-loved son of Donald and Margaret Sutherland, Avondale, late of the 15th (N.Z.) Contingent, and Lieutenant of Lord Methuen's Column, No. 2404, No. 11 Company, Auckland Section, Fifth Contingent. Aged 27 years. Deeply regretted.

SWINTON.—On March 31st, 1908, at her late residence, No. 16, Waungau-avenue, Jennie, the dearly beloved wife of James Swinton; aged 55 years. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed are they that die in the Lord.

Southern papers please copy.

TAIT.—On April 1st, 1908, at the District Hospital, Alice Tait, of Sackville-st., Grey Lynn; aged 10 years and 4 months. "Not lost, but gone before."

WALKER.—At Brougham-st., New Plymouth, on March 31st, 1908, Mair McArthur, aged 94, wife of George, elder son of Ernest and Lillian Walker.

WHITEHEAD.—On March 21st, 1908, at the residence of his son-in-law, Harold Hildwick, Mount Stuart-rd., Penrose, William Whitehead; in his 68th year.

WILSON.—On April 8, 1908, at Greenmeadows, Napier, Arthur Kenady, second youngest son of John Wilson, late of Rattray's Avenue, Mount Eden.