

**GRAFTON V. NORTH SHORE.**

This match, which was played at the Shore, produced a close and exciting game, and resulted in a win for Grafton by one point, the scores being 4 points to 3. For the first ten minutes after play opened the locals had all the best of matters, and after persistently attacking for some ten minutes, they were rewarded by obtaining a try. Roused by this reverse Grafton livened up, and shortly afterwards Kiernan succeeded in potting a very pretty goal. During the remainder of the first spell the play was fairly even. In the second spell Grafton had rather the best of matters right through, though they did not succeed in increasing their score.

Considering that the game was mainly a forward one it was highly interesting, much more so than forward games usually are. Though the scores were so even, Grafton were decidedly the better team, and should have put up a bigger score. Some of the black and white forwards appeared, at times, to take matters a bit easily, and only to play their utmost when the game was going against them. This is a fatal error, and has lost many a game. On the other hand, the Shore forwards played with tremendous vigour right through, almost too much so, in fact, and I was rather surprised that the referee did not check one or two of them, who showed a tendency towards roughness.

Stewart again played a good game at full back for Grafton, and he gives promise of turning out a first-rate man in that position. Campbell, at three-quarters was good, and D. and C. Hay showed greatly improved form, both playing excellently. Taylor at five-eighths played a strong game, but he should learn to pass lower, some of his passes being far too high. Kiernan was again in great form, and, in addition to potting the goal which won the match, played a splendid all-round game. Of the forwards Brady and McGregor were the most noticeable, the latter at times doing some brilliant work.

Gerrard was the best back on the Shore side, and he got through a tremendous quantity of work, and did it well, too. He was well supported by Wyward and Walsh, and Smith at full back also played well.

The forwards are a lot of grafters, but they would do well to learn some of the finer points of the game and trust less to mere brute strength.

**RESULTS OF SENIOR MATCHES.**

The following table shows the positions of the various senior teams up to last Saturday:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.	For.	Agst.
Newton ...	3	3	0	0	32	3	
City ...	4	2	1	0	28	38	
Grafton ...	4	2	1	0	19	11	
Ponsonby ...	4	2	2	0	24	14	
Parnell ...	3	0	3	0	3	26	
N. Shore ...	3	1	2	0	18	21	
Suburbs ...	3	0	3	0	0	39	

**WELLINGTON MATCHES.**

The match Petone versus the Athletics on Saturday was mainly a forward game with exciting rushes, the Athletics winning by 6 to nil.

The result of the match, Melrose v. Wellington, was a foregone conclusion, Melrose having the game in hand from the start, and frequently rushing the ball down to their opponents' line. Wellington played a good defensive game, but they were outmatched, Melrose winning by 8 to nil.

The match, Old Boys v. Oriental was an evenly contested and exciting game from start to finish, and resulted in a draw with 3 points each.

**ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.**

Tabernacl v. North Shore II.—This match was played at Devonport, and resulted in a win for North Shore by 5 goals to nil. The following were responsible for the goals:—Heald (2), E. Lind (1), J. Garrett (2), Bowler (1).

**ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.**

**FIRST ROUND.**

The following is the result of first round of the Senior Championship:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.	For.	Agst.
United ...	3	1	—	2	7	5	
Grafton ...	3	1	1	1	6	7	
Y.M.C.A. ...	3	1	1	1	4	3	
Bhoru ...	3	1	1	1	6	7	

**WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.**

The Bovers played the Diamonds one man short in the first game of the second round, the heat resulting in a victory for the Diamonds by one goal. Neither side scored in the first spell,

but in the second O'Connor, who played a dashing game throughout, sent the ball up well, and Lennett passing on to Wilson, the latter got into a good place and banged the ball through the posts in fine style.

Petone played the Swifts with two of their best men absent, Bernutsen and McKinnon, but the suburban team scored a win by one goal to nil. The goal was scored by Thompson.

**GOLF NOTES.**

**(My Bogey.)**

When in Dunedin I had the pleasure of seeing two genuine "Philp" Clubs. To those of my readers who have never heard of the great St. Andrews maker I may say that Philp's clubs are looked on by golfers with the reverence that attaches to a Nandyk Titians or Reubens in the estimation of the world of art. The clubs are in the possession of one of the fathers of golf in Maoriland, Mr C. R. Howden, who still plays a fine game, especially in a foursome. Mr Howden told me he purchased an old set of clubs in Dunedin in 1867, and they proved to be genuine "Philps." The set has one by one been broken or has disappeared, and two only are now left, namely a wooden putter and a short spoon. The short spoon is a long thin graceful club of beautiful workmanship, but it would have a very short life in modern forcing play. The putter is, however, the club which appealed to my fancy, and I must confess I broke the tenth commandment when handling it. Its lines are very graceful from every point of view, and it differs from the modern wood putter in that the thickest part instead of being behind the point of impact is nearer the toe of the club. It is beautifully balanced and is in every way a masterpiece.

In reference to the remarks of my Poverty Bay correspondent on the subject of handicapping mixed foursomes I may say that these are the most difficult matches to handicap. Where the play of both partners is well known it is somewhat easy to determine their handicap, but in the case of players who have no settled form handicapping is most difficult. The respective handicaps of the players must not alone be taken as a guide, but the handicappers must exercise a great deal of natural wit in estimating how various players will do in continued play. I know of no definite system on which to conduct such handicaps. So far we have been very lucky in bringing out extremely close finishes in mixed foursomes, but I can quite understand and sympathize with my correspondent whose handicap has gone wrong.

**POVERTY BAY GOLF CLUB.**

No communications have been sent to the "Graphic" for some time, so I will try and find a few points to mention. It is rather uphill work because golf so far has not flourished this season. There are some evident reasons for this, but not sufficient to quite account for all the apathy. We have lost a few of our keenest players, E. A. Rees and Allen are in South Africa, Barns-Graham is on his way to Scotland, and Staitie is away from the district. We have some five very keen indeed, and about eight others fairly so. The rest are absolutely indifferent at present, but we live in hopes. The links are in fair condition, although our magnificent autumn weather has caused an abnormal growth of grass. The only man in really good form at present is Mr H. Bull. He won the first monthly competition with a gross score of 100. No one else gave in a card so no one could have been near him. This seems a big score as compared with those of the Auckland links, but the ground was not in good order, and the greens are small, and at that time not in good order. They are better now. There is little or no opportunity for running on on our ground, and I fancy this is against low scores. We have a 6th and 7th holes. The new 6th is a little easier, but most of the players seem to like them. Bogey has been lowered from 100 to 90. I fancy he will keep "pride of place" for some time. Mr G. Maclean (our President), and Mr Reynolds (Vice-President), have both been generous in the matter of prizes. I do not suppose the details will be of interest, but I enclose a match list containing them.

On May 6th we had Mixed Four-

somes, but only 20 players entered. The handicapping was very wild, and gave great dissatisfaction. The writer was one of the abused ones, and he owns that the effort was weak. It really looks as if in a foursome one must handicap almost entirely on the men's form, and with the exception of about four players ignore the ladies'. Is that how you do in Auckland, or have you a definite system of combining the two? We averaged the two with wretched results. The three prizes were won by Miss Mills, Miss Adair, and Mrs Willock, their partners being Messrs H. Bull, Cuthbert and Grant.

The ladies had their first Monthly Competition on April 27th, when only eight entered. Mrs A. Rees won. The course is an eleven-hole one, ten of the men's, and an extra short one. The winner's score was 99-15-84, nearest to her were Miss Rees 92-5-87, Mrs King 95,5-90, Mrs Morgan 100-8-92.

**NOTES ON THE N.Z. CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING.**

The meeting was a pronounced success, in spite of the most unfavourable weather conditions. It was very hard work battling with wind and rain throughout the week, and one had quite enough play for the day after the completion of the afternoon round.

The fine new tees prepared by the Otago Club were spoiled very early in the week and became in some cases so bad as to give no adequate foothold when driving.

After the continued heavy rain many of the greens, especially in the last nine, became saturated with water, the 13th being almost a quagmire, and even the fine home green, which is to my mind the best and fairest green on the links—sometimes suffered from excess of moisture. The turf in Wilson's Paddock is undoubtedly very fine, but I am by no means alone in thinking that many of the greens are distinctly unfair. There are many positions

from just about 4 feet to 8 feet above the hole where a really good putter must consider himself satisfied if not lucky to get down in two. He dare not putt for the hole. He must trickle and trust mere or less to chance.

At the request of the Golf Council the Otago Club marked with white-wash several of the large boulders at the Hawthorn Hole which is the last in Wilson's Paddock. Any player's ball lying within one Club length of these boulders could be lifted and dropped without penalty. It was also declared that, owing to the presence of odd rushes over the course, if the ball lay on fair grass, even though touching a rush, it should not be treated as being in a hazard and the Club could be grounded. Both these moves were in the right direction and gave universal satisfaction where trouble might otherwise have arisen.

The tournament was most ably managed by Mr R. T. Wheeler, the hon. sec., who gave the whole of his time to his secretarial duties, and did not play at all during the week. His efforts were so much appreciated by the visitors that they presented him with a small token of their good wishes.

We were all sorry for the green-keeper, whose work was robbed of its proper appreciation by the fury of the elements.

Too much praise cannot be given to Mrs Annan, the caretaker of the Club-house. To dry the players' clothes and about 50 pairs of boots each night was no small task, but in spite of all difficulties the Club-house was spotlessly clean and in order each morning.

What a comfort the splendid Club-house which is the finest in Australasia was to the players, can only be appreciated by those who experienced its hospitality.

Dr. Brown the ever-green Captain of the Club, was here, there, and everywhere, attending to the comfort of the visitors, and only once was he perturbed, and rightly so, when the final

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