

# Athletic Sports.

## GOLF NOTES.

(By "Stymie.")

Mrs. W. R. Bloomfield has won the championship of the Auckland Ladies' Golf Club after a good contest with Mrs. George Bloomfield. It was expected that Miss Gillies would get into the final, but she was put out by Miss Phillips, who on the day was putting more accurately than her opponent.

I see that a golf club has been formed at Otaki, and that already a very fair eleven-hole course has been laid out. The ground has been lent to the club, and they have plenty of room to lay out the full course; moreover the links are close to the town. Dr. Baldwin is acting as hon. sec.

The three Gillies, Charles, Harry, and Harold, form a very "sultry" trio. I don't think there is another triplet of brothers in the colony who would like to take them on at the royal and ancient pastime. They are an exemplification of what natural aptitude and consistent practice can do.

Golfers will be very sorry to hear that Scott, the Royal Sydney professional, was recently drowned at Bondi. He was, it appears, very fond of fishing from the rocks, and while so engaged was swept off by a breaker and carried away. A rope was thrown to him, but he could not catch it, and was swept away to his death. Scott was a fine player. A day or two before his death he lowered the Bondi record from 68 to 67.

The new links at One Tree Hill command some of the loveliest of the many lovely views round Auckland. The greens have been top-dressed, and sown, and by the time they are wanted should be in first-class order. Some of the holes are distinctly romantic, and the whole course is undoubtedly a very interesting one.

The last three holes of the match between Messrs Colbeck and Leatham were very sensational. Both played perfect golf, and each hole was won in three. Colbeck's three for the home hole was a splendid bit of play. His two shots, which left him on the edge of the green, were simply perfect, but I do not think he could guarantee to bring off the putt three times out of five. Leatham's three at the 16th hole was a treat to see. After only a fair drive, he played a wonderful h.assy shot, and lay within three feet of the hole, going out on the putt in three, his opponent taking four.

The most interesting match of the championship round played on Saturday afternoon was undoubtedly that between J. R. Hooper and Harry Gillies. Quite a respectable gallery followed the players round the course, and were rewarded by witnessing some very fine golf. The first half of the game was very interesting. Gillies played a fine 3 at the 4th hole, and Hooper a perfect 3 at the gap. At the ninth hole Gillies was two up. From this out it was a determined struggle for supremacy until Hooper had wiped off his deficit, and the game stood all square, and four to go. At the home hole both were on the green in 3, Hooper, putting rather strongly, overran the hole about four feet. Gillies holed out in 5 to Hooper's six. One up and three to go. Both were on the 16th green in 2, Gillies going out in 4 to Hooper's 5, and leaving him dormy 3. At the next hole Hooper was on the green in two, Gillies being a trifle short with his second. Hooper holed out in 4 to Gillies's 5, leaving Gillies dormy 1. It was Hooper's honour now, and he made a magnificent drive of nearly 200 yards, Gillies's shot being some 20 or 30 yards behind. Gillies played a safe brassy shot across the creek. Hooper, seeing that a half would be useless to him, risked a long drive straight for the hole. It was a splendid shot, but unfortunately for him hit the bank on the opposite side of the creek a few inches below the edge and, bouncing

up, fell back into the water. Gillies holed out in 5, whilst Hooper took 7. Gillies thus won by two up.

Hooper played splendid golf and, considering the comparatively little practice he gets, his performance against such an experienced antagonist, was full of merit. There can be little doubt that if he could get more frequent practice he would soon have to go a long way behind scratch.

Harold Gillies beat Bamford by 6 up and 4 to play. Bamford is a very improving player, but he has not been away from tennis long enough to have a fair chance against his more practiced opponent.

Sykes takes a bye from A. Walker. C. Gillies won his match with A. B. Lawrence without much difficulty.

Peel played Dr. Reid during the week and won comfortably by 7 up and 6 to play. Peel was playing in good form, but I have seen Dr. Reid playing a much better game.

## CYCLING.

The Christchurch City Council will shortly place a cycle stand at the Post Office for the convenience of riders.

At the meeting last week of the Auckland Centre of the New Zealand League of Wheelmen it was decided to take no action with respect to the proposed visit of the American rider Martin, who asks for a guarantee of £150.

The whole of this year's Australasian championships have been won by American riders—Ivor Lawson capturing the mile, whilst Martin accounted for the five and ten miles blue riband events.

About fifty cyclists, including half a dozen ladies, took part on Saturday afternoon in the "cycle path" paper chase, organised by Messrs Skeates and Bockaert for the benefit of the Auckland Cycle Roads League. The two organisers acted as "hares," and started from the Parnell firebell at a quarter past two, the "hounds" setting off in pursuit just fifteen minutes later. The scent was laid with coloured paper, and showed up well. The distance was fourteen miles. The hares were allowed to lay as many false scents as they liked, and to break the true scent in places, and these privileges they freely took advantage of. Some of the hounds failed to realise that they had to follow the true scent all the way, and one man by means of short cuts succeeded in reaching the rendezvous before the hare who was laying the trail. The next two riders to arrive were also proved to have come the wrong way, and were accordingly disqualified. The fourth man, W. Pilkington, had followed the scent right through, and received the first prize, a gold medal and an order for a free wheel, donated by Messrs Skeates and Bockaert. The second prize, an order from the same firm for a free wheel, went to W. J. Colwill. Mr Bockaert also gave a third prize to P. Colman. Out of the fifty who started, 20 succeeded in reaching the rendezvous. After the chase the cyclists were entertained to a feast of grapes in the Government orchard by Messrs Skeates and Bockaert.

## FOOTBALL.

The opening of the football season will be later than usual this year, the date fixed for the opening matches being May 18th. In the Southern centres Cup contests have been in full swing for a couple of Saturdays. As a rule, we start a little later than the Southern provinces, but the trotting races at Potter's Paddock next month makes us even later than is generally the case.

It is stated that Mr J. Arnell will not act as selector of the rep. team this season, and if that is so the local Rugby Union will experience considerable difficulty in filling his place. Mr Arnell has certainly been most successful in the performance of his (as a rule) thankless duty, and has de-

scribedly earned the confidence both of the players and the football public. One might differ from him over the selection or omission of individuals, but it must be admitted that in the past results have proved that he was not very far astray in his opinion. I still have hopes that the powers that be will be able to induce Mr Arnell to reconsider his decision.

The Ponsonby players hope to be able to induce their old skipper, Albie Braund, to again don the Jersey this winter. Needless to remark that, should their hopes be fulfilled, it will be a great gain of strength to their ranks.

Two of the local teams have arranged for outside matches prior to the start of Cup matches. Karangahake meet City at Potter's next Saturday, and on the following Saturday, at Devonport, the local team will meet a team from Ararat.

Suburbs will (on paper) have a much stronger team than usual this season. However, they have so much difficulty in keeping their men together, owing to the scattered nature of their district, that it is hardly safe to predict for them any great measure of success. However, everyone will be delighted should they prove capable of showing a strong front.

It is rumoured that Cunningham, the Thames and Auckland rep. forward, intends playing for Ponsonby this season, but I believe that he has not yet definitely decided upon his movements, and it is quite possible he may go to reside at Waikhi.

It has been suggested on the other side that instead of a team from New South Wales visiting New Zealand this season it should be a team representing the Commonwealth. This would mean selecting the team from New South Wales and Queensland players, as these are the only colonies in which the Rugby game is played. On this side such an arrangement would, I think, meet with general approval; but Aucklanders would not like the further suggestion thrown out, viz., that the Australian team should only play three games, and those against teams representing New Zealand, and that such matches should be played in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

## CRICKET.

Saturday saw the conclusion of the Auckland senior championship contests, the result being that United again carry off the honours, having gone through the season with an unbeaten record. In the early morning on Saturday the weather looked particularly unpromising, but later on it cleared up, and when play started it was fine overhead and the wickets were in first-class order. During the afternoon several showers fell, but they did not interfere with the play to any extent, although, of course, the ball was rendered rather greasy, which handicapped the bowlers to a considerable extent. The play in the two senior matches was rather sensational. In the United-Auckland match a close finish was anticipated, and the latter team looked to have the better chance. However, United's last 3 wickets entirely altered the complexion of the game, and when the last wicket fell it was quite evident that Auckland's chance of winning was particularly hopeless. Owing to illness, R. Nell was unable to take part in the play, and his absence was a very heavy handicap to the Auckland team. The result, in fact, goes to show that he is the mainstay of his club, and that without his services they have little chance. In the Gordon-Parnell match Ohlson, to avoid all chance of a draw, immediately closed, thus leaving Gordon to score 160 runs to win. Much to the surprise of Parnell's supporters, this task was comfortably accomplished for the loss of but four wickets.

## LAWN TENNIS.

(By "Vantage.")

The Eden and Epsom Lawn Tennis Club closed their season last Saturday. The afternoon was anything but an ideal one for tennis, yet all the courts were occupied. The rain held off until late in the afternoon, and some interesting games were played. Among the visiting players I noticed Mr A. L.

Sheppard, who, it will be remembered, with Mr Vaile won the Men's Doubles at the Club's 99-00 tournament. Mr Sheppard, with very little practice, will play a strong game. He volleys well and uses his head to good advantage, which latter point is considerably neglected by our younger players.

One of the greatest mistakes made by players is in their position on the baseline. It is quite a common thing—looking along a row of baselines—to see the players all standing inside or on the baseline. In this position almost any good length return will either beat a player or at best be weakly returned. It is almost an axiom of lawn tennis that a player should not be in the three-quarter court. He should either be a yard or two outside the baseline or else up in a volleying position.

"Twister," in the "Weekly Press," is diligently carrying on the work of "analysing." Speaking of Miss Nunneley, he says:—An instance of Miss Nunneley's remarkable scoring power is that of her game with Miss A. Van Asch, the champion owed 40, and Miss Van Asch received 15 1-6th. In the first set Miss Nunneley scored 59 points to 18, winning the set by 6 games to 5. The second set resulted 51 points to 20 and 6-3, a total of 110 points to 38. There is probably no man in New Zealand could owe points like this lady, and her rate of scoring and low proportion of mistakes is marvellous. In Auckland in 1907 she defeated Miss Whitelaw, receive 30, and actually put up the prodigious record of scoring 176 points to 40. This, of course, may be correct, but it must be remembered that Miss Van Asch depends on safety rather than brilliancy to win; in other words, her opponent's mistakes are her scores, and her game would just suit Miss Nunneley.

Speaking of Miss Nunneley's win against Miss Simpson, he says:—But the fact was fully demonstrated during this match that the average lady's stroke does not, and never will, avail against the game of Miss Nunneley. Until some lady comes forward who can hit hard with a fair amount of accuracy, the present champion need have no fear. This, no doubt, is a perfectly accurate statement as far as it goes. In my opinion, something more is required. We have a few ladies who can hit with a fair amount of pace and also play pretty accurately, as, for instance, Miss Nicholson and Miss Stella Rice, but what is wanted against Miss Nunneley is a lady who can volley. It is a remarkable thing that so able a player as Miss Nunneley can neither lob nor volley effectively. Her deficiency in volleying is all the more remarkable, as her service is a strong over-head delivery, with a distinctly "mannish" touch. If some of our ladies can develop a volleying game and get into good enough condition to play it they will "bustle" the lady champion more than any number of lady hitters.

While I am on the subject of ladies volleying I must mention the marked improvement which I have noticed lately in some of the Auckland ladies' play. Miss Annie Stewart has taken to over-head volleying in a most energetic manner. She hits the ball fairly, and gets a good amount of pace on it. So far it is principally arm work, but she will soon learn to transfer her weight from the right to the left foot as the stroke is made, and she will then be a really good over-head lady volleyer. She will then probably adopt the over-head service, at least for her first service.

Miss Bliss, as I have mentioned before, plays her low volleys almost from any part of the court very effectively. Miss Stewart is not so good on low shots as she is with overhead work, but these two ladies have distinctly shown that there is no reason why ladies should not use the volley practically in the same manner as men do, and I hope that some budding champion will combine their strokes and show us what a really good lady volleyer can do—possibly at next championship tournament.

Eden and Epsom are already making preparations for next N.Z. championship meeting. Top dressing is to start at once, and many other improvements are to be made. This club has a great advantage over the other Auckland clubs, inasmuch as it