

# Athletic Sports.

## LAWN TENNIS.

(By VANTAGE.)

West End and Mount Eden had fairly easy wins in their respective events in the inter-club doubles. Mount Eden won all their matches against Devonport, but Ponsoy lost two of their second team matches against Parnell.

The greatest battle of the first round was that between Mrs Chapman and Miss Gorrie (Mount Eden), and Misses Patterson and Harvey (Devonport), at the Mount Eden lawn, the scores, 10-8, 7-9, 6-3, ending in a win for Mount Eden, shows that the game was a good one, but it was even closer than the scores show. The Mount Eden pair should have won much easier. Mrs Chapman is a good volleyer, and should do more of it, and not allow a miss or two to put her off it. She will win more strokes outright at the net than elsewhere, as ladies' doubles are played in Auckland now. Miss Gorrie also volleys well, and after coming in to a short one should stay up, instead of which she was caught up in the three-quarter court again and again. Some of her back-hand shots were a treat to see, and taken as they were, with her back almost to the net, and right foot well across, they were a lesson to many players, who neglect this most important detail. Miss Patterson interfered with her partner a little, but I understand she has not played for a long time, and until a pair "find themselves" this is inevitable. Miss Harvey was very steady. This match was one of the most striking examples that I have seen for a long time of what volleying might do for ladies. Time and again there were splendid opportunities for anyone at the net simply to hold up the racket and allow the ball to fall off it, and make a certain score. The ball was positively asking to be killed, or allowed to die an easy death every other rest, and no one would take pity on it. Now and again, however, there was quite a good little volleying rest, which showed clearly what the players could do when they would risk trying.

Fisher and Peacock will play together in the Men's Championship doubles, and will also probably play against one another in the Singles. They should make a good pair, and I cannot pick one to beat them, although if the Marshalls play together they should be equal to making a good game of it. If Fisher should be in good form, a match between him and Peacock should provide some good tennis. He played a great game against Dunlop at Christchurch last year when he got within one stroke of putting the Victorian out.

While two well-known lady players were engaged in a match at Surbiton a lady spectator who had been watching them for some time turned to another lady and asked, "Would you mind telling me whether it is after the third or the fourth stroke that the players hit the ball into the net?" The reply was a short and good-natured effort to explain that the great object in view of the players was to try to win the stroke and not to hit the ball into the net. But the questioner was convinced against her will, and replied: "Oh, but I see them hitting the net very hard indeed."

I hear that Dr. Marshall will play at the coming tournament, and also that his brother, the Rev. J. Marshall, of Wanganui, is coming up. I have seen it stated that Laisley and the Gore brothers will not come, but this, I hope and believe, is slightly premature.

Several of our lawn tennis clubs have elected a large number of new members this season. Devonport, at one sitting, added about thirty, and Mount Eden's new members tot up to over half a century; indeed the energetic committee of the latter club will have to seriously consider the

question of further accommodation before long.

Reginald Biss is one of Mt. Eden's most promising players. He is a left-handed player, serves well, and hits hard, and yet with method. I expect him to make great strides in the game this season.

Brabant played a great game with Peacock against Parnell on Saturday. The Ponsoy metal was a trifle too heavy for their opponents.

In Miss C. Patterson Devonport has a player who with practice will be a great acquisition to her club. She has a fair overhead service, volleys well, and places cleverly. Some of her strokes are very severe, and her backhand is generally good.

I should like to see a match for ladies' doubles arranged, one of the conditions of which should be that the server's partner must stand at the net while the service is being delivered. This would tend to give ladies the idea of playing at the net, and would do away with a lot of the dreadful monotony which there is at present in even our leading colonial events of this description.

Somebody's writing is doubtless responsible for the most delightful misprint which we have ever seen in connection with the game of lawn tennis. It refers to the All England Mixed Doubles at the Northern last week, and appears in the "South Wales Daily News," which has been kindly sent to us by an old subscriber. The report as it appears is as follows:—"All Engaged Mixed Doubles Championship. — Second Round.—Mr S. H. Smith and Miss Martin beat Mr G. F. Goodman and Miss Makinson, 6/2, 6/1."

Heather and Rice played a good game against Devonport. Heather particularly volleying well. Rice just arrived in time to take Vaile's place, which was lucky for Mount Eden, as it would have been hard to fill the vacancy without disarranging some of the pairs.

Miss Harvey, of Devonport, plays a very steady game. She gets good pace and length on her returns, and is moreover very active on the court.

Mair and Billing defeated Buddle and Young after an interesting match, in which they always had a little the best of the play, except when the Devonport players reached 4-3 in the second set. Mair and Billing make a very good pair. They have the advantage of knowing each other's game thoroughly, and this is an essential to good double play. Billing is very good at the net.

## GOLF NOTES.

(By "Stymie.")

Mr A. E. D'Arcy has presented a prize to be played for by Messrs Colbeck, Lawrence, C. and H. Gillies, H. and C. Gillies will try conclusions again, and it will be interesting to see how the match goes. H. Gillies is a very confident player, and it is an open secret that he does not think the task set him beyond his abilities, and indeed C. Gillies will have to put his best foot foremost from the jump if he desires to win. It will be remembered that Mr H. Gillies defeated his brother in the N.Z. championship, but in this event there is a chance of the positions being reversed. Colbeck should beat Lawrence if he is on his game, but Lawrence is such a solid player that he will not be able to allow himself the luxury of a few bad holes. C. Gillies should win an interesting competition.

Last Thursday the Auckland Ladies' Golf Club held a general meeting at the club house, One Tree Hill. There was a fair attendance, Mrs Hope Lewis being in the chair. The meeting was called to consider

the raising of honorary member's subscription. As the old one of 5/ a year was considered too small it was decided to raise it to 10/ for the entrance fee and 10/ a year. It was also decided to raise the visiting members' subscription to 5/ a month. A very desirable new rule was formed by which any one wishing to join the ladies' club after the half year could become a member by paying 2/6 a month till the financial year commenced in March.

The professional engaged by the club has arrived, and it is anticipated that during the coming season there will be a marked improvement amongst those who are availing themselves of his services. His terms are 2/6 an hour, and at present his time is much occupied. He is also an experienced club maker, and his coming supplies a long felt want, as up till now it was difficult to have one's clubs repaired.

## CRICKET.

The Auckland Cricket Association championship competitions were continued on Saturday. In the senior grade the third series of fixtures were completed, the results being wins for Gordon, Ponsoy and United on first innings scores. In the second grade contests the matches between Auckland A and Parnell II, and United II, and Y.M.C.A., resulted in draws, and Wanderers defeated Gordon by an innings and 38 runs.

At Wellington on Saturday Midland in their first innings against Wellington scored 138, and Wellington 80. In the match, Old Boys v. Phoenix, the former scored 86 in their first innings, and Phoenix lost four wickets for 187.

## AQUATICS.

### PARNELL SAILING CLUB.

The Parnell Sailing Club opened the season on Saturday afternoon by a series of races at Judge's Bay. The yacht Thelma (Jagger Bros.) was the flagship, and Mr F. W. Coombes acted as starter and judge. The winners in the various races were Pastime (26 footers), Merlin (22 footers), Eka (patrikis), and Tuttle (model yachts).

### PONSOBY SAILING CLUB.

The first cruise of the season in connection with the Ponsoy Sailing Club was held on Saturday afternoon. About 30 yachts took part, assembling off Shelly Beach under Commodore Jettany early in the afternoon. The fleet sailed down to Howick, making a fine picture as they ran down the harbour with a strong fair breeze. In the evening an enjoyable concert was held in the Howick Hall. Sunday afternoon the yachts returned to Ponsoy, having a long thresh up against the stiff westerly blowing.

### ROWING.

The Auckland Rowing Club's picnic and trial fours took place on Saturday afternoon at Pine Island, and attracted a large attendance, the party conveying the excursionists and oarsmen up to the island. The final race was won by Brown's crew (Brown, H. G. Nevill, Diamond, Markwick), with Negus second. Dr. Maitland acted as judge, and Mr T. Player as starter. The prizes were valuable trophies presented by Dr. Stuart Reid, a vice-president of the Club.

The North Shore Rowing Club held their second trial fours of the season on Cheltenham Beach on Saturday

afternoon, for trophies presented by Mr G. M. Reid (vice-president). The semi-final was won by Wynyard's crew, who beat Lyons' by three feet, and after a short interval also came and contested the final with Burgess' again winning, by a length and a half. The winning oarsmen were G. Wynyard, D. Richardson, P. Cleghorn, and F. Drew.

## BOWLING.

### AUCKLAND CLUB.

A close game was played for the challenge buckies, with the following result:—Thomson, Buttle, Haslett, Lambert (skip), 17, v. Donald, Garand, Butts, Curlaw (skip), 19. The winning team has again been challenged by Thornes, Dingle, Sprackley, and Ledingham.

### NEWMARKET CLUB.

The following teams are selected to practise for pennant matches:—Cahill, C. C. Laurie, T. Wilson, J. Klougour, R. Eagle, Club Southwell, A. Stewart, H. W. Brooks.

### PONSONBY CLUB.

The following teams were selected to practise for the pennant matches, and after a very close game all through resulted in a tie:—A. H. Hurndell, J. Newell, A. S. Russell, J. Veale (skip), 15, v. J. Montague, T. R. Watson, Jno. Court, A. Litter (skip) 15.

### REMURUA CLUB.

The Match Committee have selected the following members to compete for the pennant flag and shield: Messrs Lennox, Horon, Kent, Jno. Court (skip), Messrs McEld, Ranson, F. Court, and Luxon (skip).

### MT. ALBERT CLUB.

The Mt. Albert Bowling Green was opened for play on Saturday. The President (Mr Bouskild) welcomed the visitors in an appropriate speech, and giving them a hearty welcome on the occasion of the Club joining the association. About 120 visitors were present, and one and all expressed pleasure at the green and its surroundings.

The following teams were chosen to represent the club in the pennant contest:—Garlick, Ashton, Haseloen and Bouskild (skip); Parry, Harrison, M. McLean, Neil McLean (skip).

A meeting of the Auckland Bowling Association was held on Friday afternoon in the Chamber of Commerce Room, Victoria Arcade, Mr E. Manoney (President) occupying the chair. The Chairman announced that according to the votes of the various clubs as to the number of rinks to compete in the pennant tug contest, four were in favour of there being two contestant rinks and three in favour of one. It was decided that two rinks from each club should compete in the contests which were to start on November 30 and be played consecutively until December 21, at the rate of two rounds per day. The secretary stated that every green would meet on the club in its own ground. Players might be changed during contest, but not during the matches, except in case of sickness. The following scheme of play, compiled by Mr C. H. Haselden, the secretary, was approved:—

Saturday, November 30, 1901.—First round (half-past one p.m.): Auckland v. Mt. Eden, at Devonport; Remuera v. Ponsoy, at Auckland; Devonport v. Mt. Albert, at Auckland; Newmarket v. by. Second round (four p.m.): Newmarket v. Mt. Eden, at Devonport; Remuera v. Devonport, at Auckland; Mt. Albert v. Ponsoy, at Auckland; Auckland v. by.

Saturday, December 1, 1901.—Third round (half-past one p.m.): Remuera v. Mt. Albert, at Newmarket; Auckland v. Devonport, at Mt. Eden; Ponsoy v. Newmarket, at Mt. Eden; Ponsoy v. by. Fourth round (four p.m.): Mt. Eden v. Mt. Albert, at Newmarket; Devonport v. Newmarket, at Mt. Eden; Auckland v. Ponsoy, at Mt. Eden; Remuera v. by. Saturday, December 14, 1901.—Fifth round (half-past one p.m.): Mt. Eden v. Devonport, at Remuera; Newmarket v. Remuera, at Ponsoy; Mt. Albert v. Auckland, at Ponsoy; Ponsoy v. by. Sixth round (four p.m.): Ponsoy v. Mt. Eden, at Remuera; Remuera v. Auckland, at Ponsoy; Devonport v. Newmarket, at Ponsoy; Devonport v. by.

Saturday, December 21, 1901.—Seventh round (two p.m.): Newmarket v. Auckland, at Remuera; Mt. Eden v. Remuera, at Auckland; Devonport v. Ponsoy, at Newmarket; Mt. Albert v. by.

It was decided that country subscribing clubs beyond the radius of 10 miles be exempt from the operation of rule 9.

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